CAPE COD
COMMISSION

New England Wind 1 Connector (CCC. File No. 22005) Development of Regional Impact Subcommittee Meeting

DRAFT Minutes | March 27, 2023 at 5:00p.m.

Held virtually via Zoom

Summary of Actions Taken/Votes at Meeting

- Vote to continue the public hearing to March 27, 2023 at 5:00pm to be held virtually.

List of Materials Used/Presented

- DRI Staff Memo
- PowerPoint Presentation

Fred Chirigotis, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. He read the hearing notice and provided instructions on how to use the Zoom platform. He then called roll, with himself, Kevin Grunwald, Harold Mitchell, Richard Roy, and Thomas Wilson in attendance.

The Chair then asked for the Applicant's presentation.

Hans van Lingen of Avangrid provided comments with the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation. He provided an overview of the routing analysis that was done as part of the project planning, additional information on a landscaping plan, and a supplement to the Natural Resources Inventory.

Ken Fitzgerald, project engineer, of Stantech provided an engineering review of the preferred and alternative routes. He said that the preferred route is shorter, is better electrically, and provides greater synergies for the Town.

Mr. van Lingen then said that he and the rest of the project team was available for questions.

The Chair then asked for comments from Commission staff.

Jeffrey Ribeiro, Cape Cod Commission Regulatory Planner, provided brief comments on the staff memorandum distributed prior to the meeting. With the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation he discussed the two proposed onshore cable routes for the project. He said the preferred route was preferential from a natural resources protection perspective, while the alternative route is preferential from a cultural heritage protection. He said that with conditions as proposed both routes meet the approval requirements related to Regional Policy Plan (RPP) consistency.

The Chair asked for further subcommittee questions.

Mr. Roy asked for further information about the construction process, and he said that projects could be installed without damaging old buildings. He asked Mr. Fitzgerald if the road would be saw-cut, and Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed. Mr. Roy asked if the sewer would be installed side by side, and Mr. Fitzgerald replied that they would be installed one per lane. He also confirmed for Mr. Roy that trenching would be back-filled within days of opening.

Mr. Mitchell asked if there was an inconsistency between the plans shown. He asked how close the alternative route gets to wetlands. Holly Carlson Johnston of Epsilon confirmed they would pass within wetland buffers but work would be within the roadway. Mr. Ribeiro confirmed that there was also a row of houses between the roadway and the pond.

Mr. Wilson asked about the timeline for sewering as related to the proposed project. Pat Johnson of Avangrid said that they were actively coordinating with the Town, but Charlie McLoughlin, Barnstable Town Attorney, was present and may have more to add. At the Chair's request, Atty. McLoughlin said that he was aware of the coordination but would confirm with the Town's Department of Public Works. He also said that the Town's priority was sewering along the preferred route, and there are additional technical concerns of the town related to the alternative route.

The Chair asked Atty. McLoughlin if he had further comments. He said Avangrid has been exceptional in their response to town concerns on hazardous materials containment and that they have worked with the applicant to prevent a new wind project in Nantucket Sound. He said that he would like some parts of the Host Community Agreement (HCA) to be incorporated into an approval.

The Chair asked for further subcommittee comments and, hearing none, he proceeded to public comment starting with public officials. Hearing no public officials he called for general public comment.

Matthew Brodeur said that the project is important to deal with climate change and is needed to provide clean power and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He said that the applicant has adequately met local concerns.

Douglas Warren asked if the alternate route would impact the nursing home, and he said it could also impact his business. He asked if work would occur on the weekend. He asked what the exact time of year restrictions would be.

Paul Falan asked how long a construction season is and how wide trenches are. He said that the Commission is not concerned with the welfare of residents. He said that he was confused as to the corporate structure of the proponent. He said that there would likely be impacts to oak trees in Centerville.

Bob Schulte said that he provided written comments, and the alternative route was preferred based on the public comments submitted. He said that he has concerned about the status of the applicant's power purchase agreements and the economic viability of the project. He asked the subcommittee to require the use of the alternate route. He said there would be greater financial benefits to the Town if the alternate route is used.

Jennifer Lynch spoke in support of the preferred route as it is more direct. She said that there were resources along both routes that could be disrupted. She said that the preferred route would also have fewer impacts on natural resources. She said that local polls were taken previously and the local preference between the routes was split.

Chuck Tuttle said that he supports clean energy, but people do not understand how disruptive the project will be. He said that the project is not viable and should not be approved at this time. He said the detriments of the project outweigh the benefits.

Susan Rohrbach said that there are questions over whether Avangrid will be able to complete the project. She said that there should be an adequate look-back period for impacts to historic structures. She said that there are large old trees along the preferred route that may be harmed, and any replacement trees must be of sufficient size.

Hearing no more public comment, the Chair asked the applicant if they would like to reply to any comments.

Mr. Johnson said that they have had conversations with the owners of the potentially affected properties on both routes, including the owner of the nursing home. He said construction would be coordinated with police and emergency medical services to ensure access at all times. He said work would mostly occur on weekdays. He said that the HCA defines the construction season as September 15th to May 15th. He asked Mr. Fitzgerald to provide the dimensions of the ductbank, which were confirmed as 8' wide. Mr. Johnson provided an overview of why there were different names for various permitting processes and confirmed they were largely the same. He said that he knows that preserving trees along the route is a priority and is working to prevent impacts to the extent possible. He said impacts would be reviewed by the Town's tree warden. He said that significant financial benefits beyond those stated by public commenters remained to be negotiated.

Ken Kimmel of Avangrid said that they were not required to provide a power purchase agreement, and there was a clear statement of the need for renewable energy. Mr. Johnson said that construction measures would be undertaken to reduce disruptions. He said that the applicant would be constructing the project. He said that concluded their responses.

The Chair saw that an additional member of the public wanted to speak and asked her to comment. Kathleen Defeo said that Avangrid may not go forward with the project and is concerned if it will be

completed. She said that she is concerned about work occurring at the Covell's Beach parking lot and if there would be impacts to beach goers.

Mr. Johnson said that any work there would either be by the Vineyard Wind project or by the Town. He said there would not be impacts to beach goers.

The Chair asked Jane Carlson if she would like to provide comment, and she said that the area was too environmentally, historically, and economically sensitive for the project, and the alternative route should be used.

Mr. Grunwald said that ~~he is prepared to move forward with the project~~ the presentations answered his questions. He said he did not want to cut off debate but would be prepared to make a motion to move the project to the full Commission. The Chair said that more subcommittee discussion was necessary.

Mr. Mitchell asked for confirmation on the amount of clearing at the Shootflying Hill site. Ms. Johnston said that the clearing would be 4 acres. Mr. Mitchell said that he ~~was prepared to move forward~~ would also like to move the project to the full Commission. The Chair said that the subcommittee would first have to review a draft decision

The Chair said that he understands the concerns about the potential impacts to Centerville, but the roads will be opened for sewering. He asked if other services would be undergrounded and if there could be conduit installed to allow for such undergrounding.

The Chair then asked for a motion to instruct staff to prepare a draft decision with conditions as discussed for review by the subcommittee. Mr. Mitchell made the motion, and Mr. Roy seconded. The Chair took the vote by roll call with himself, Mr. Grunwald, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Roy, and Mr. Wilson all in favor.

After discussion regarding the date for continuance, Mr. Mitchell made a motion to continue the hearing to April 24, 2023 at 5:00pm to be held virtually and Mr. Grunwald seconded. The Chair took a vote by roll call with himself, Mr. Grunwald, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Roy, and Mr. Wilson all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.