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For Immediate Release

Maryland PSC Schedules Public Hearings for Offshore Wind Project Applications

(BALTIMORE, MD-March 10, 2017) – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold two public hearings for comment later this month, in Berlin and Annapolis, on the applications for proposed offshore wind projects. US Wind, Inc. and Skipjack Offshore Energy, LLC have filed applications for Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Credits (OREC) for projects to be built between 10 and 30 miles off the coast of Maryland. Members of the public are encouraged to attend one of the hearings listed below:

Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 12 noon

Stephen Decatur Middle School Cafeteria
9815 Seahawk Road
Berlin, MD 21811

Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 6 pm

Legislative Services Building, Joint Committee Hearing Room
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Commission must approve, conditionally approve, or deny the proposed offshore wind project applications no later than May 17, 2017. The project applications, witness testimony, exhibits and other filings are available in the electronic docket file (Case No. [9431](#)), which may be viewed or downloaded at www.psc.state.md.us.

In addition to the hearings, members of the public may also submit written comments by **Friday, April 7, 2017** to:

David J. Collins, Executive Secretary
Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower
6 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Please be sure to include the case number ([9431](#)) with all comments.

(more)

Background: The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013 established a number of provisions to incentivize the development of a qualified offshore wind project, which is required to be located on the outer continental shelf, between 10 and 30 miles off the coast, in an area designated for leasing by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in consultation with the State.

The Act also created a carve-out for offshore wind energy in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard for up to 2.5% of total retail electricity sales. The Act would require electricity suppliers to purchase ORECs to create a demand for the offshore wind resource, and pass along the cost of the ORECs to Maryland electric customers, not to exceed \$1.50 per month on an average residential customer's electric bill. Also satisfying several ratepayer impact protection measures, the offshore wind project must demonstrate positive net economic, environmental and health benefits to the State as a condition of approval.

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About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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