

# Sunrise Wind Environmental Mitigation Plan Environmental Technical Working Group Meeting Summary

Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting

## Background

This meeting summary describes key discussion points and action items from the Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG) virtual meeting, which was held on Thursday, October 28, 2021 through a virtual meeting platform. There were 15 E-TWG members present along with the Sunrise Wind Project Team, and staff from NYSERDA, Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), and Cadmus Group providing technical, facilitation, and logistical support. Opinions below are not attributed to specific E-TWG members. This summary is loosely organized according to the structure of the meeting agenda (Appendix A) and identifies areas of agreement as well as the different perspectives offered during meeting presentations and discussions.

## Action Items

- The Sunrise Wind Project Team will:
  - Follow up with additional information for the E-TWG on the Long-term PAM Monitoring Plan and the connections between this plan and the Protected Species Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.
  - Communicate with the E-TWG regarding the timeline for review and feedback on the Avian and Bat Monitoring Framework and the Long-term PAM Monitoring Plan.
  - Share the final version of the Fisheries and Benthic Monitoring Plan with the E-TWG once comments have been incorporated.

## Update from Sunrise Wind

- Reduced project envelope, with decision to use 11 MW turbines, reduced number of turbines from 122 to 102, and updated total capacity to 1,122 MW. Updating Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to reflect change.
- Notice of Intent (NOI) issued August 31, 2021, COP available on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) website, update and supplemental filings shortly based on changes to turbine size and number, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) expected October 2022.
- Federal permit application proceeding in 2021 and 2022 (National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS], U.S Army Corps of Engineers).
- Cooling Water Intake System –turbines are AC power, converter station converts from AC to DC to bring energy to shore, on land converted back to AC for connection into grid. Heat is produced by conversion process, requiring a cooling system. The system uses 4-8 million gallons of water per day; Sunrise is 1) undergoing hydraulic modeling to examine the zone of influence to understand entrainment of eggs and larvae, 2) conducting thermal pool modeling to define mixing zones, and 3) working to ensure no impingement of juvenile/adult fish or disturbance to benthic resources. There will be a separate permit process to the EPA for this system.

## Discussion of eNGO comments to BOEM's Notice of Intent

- *E-TWG members expressed interest in how the level of uncertainty of requirements plays into the approach for the Environmental Mitigation Plan (EMP). Sunrise indicated that there are challenges related to sequencing, and that the EMP was first drafted well before the COP, leading to high levels of uncertainty, and it can be updated as details are worked out in consultation with federal agencies and through the permitting process. Moving forward, there are plans for additional resource-specific monitoring plans that are being developed but may not have been submitted with the COP. E-TWG members indicated that additional clarity on requirements from federal regulators would be beneficial.*
- *E-TWG members were interested in how the change in the size and number of turbines relates to habitat alternatives based on complex habitat. Sunrise indicated that they will be updating the COP based on the change of turbines, and that habitat was taken into consideration for the current reduced turbine layout. NOAA indicated that this change would be taken into consideration during discussions among federal regulators regarding potential alternatives during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.*
- *E-TWG members encouraged Sunrise to use the comments submitted by the eNGOs on the NOI and other public comments previously submitted as guidance in the development of the specific resource monitoring plans, particularly as they pertain to right whales and birds.*

## Sunrise Wind Future Plans

There are multiple approaches that could be taken for EMP discussions. The Sunrise Wind team, in consultation with NYSEERDA, is proposing to focus on topic-specific components individually (e.g., avian monitoring, marine mammal monitoring) rather than waiting for overall updates to the full EMP. These components would likely be appended to the EMP rather than being incorporated into the body of the document.

### Avian and Bat Monitoring Plan

- **Conceptual Framework for Monitoring** – Initial shorter document will outline components; anticipate sharing framework with stakeholders in late 2021-early 2022 and holding meeting to solicit feedback on approach; the framework will be submitted to BOEM for inclusion in DEIS;
- **Detailed Post-Construction Monitoring Plan** – build from the conceptual framework – solicit stakeholder feedback prior to submission to BOEM, plan to be approved by BOEM prior to construction.

### Marine Mammals Monitoring Plans

- **Protected Species Monitoring and Mitigation Plan** – focused on construction and will be included in NMFS Incidental Take application (May 2022) and inclusion in DEIS (Oct 2022); Stakeholder review is anticipated during the NMFS public comment period in June 2022.
- **Long-term Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) Plan** –informed by the requirements from BOEM for Vineyard Wind and South Fork projects related to PAM monitoring arrays, the development of the plan is in progress; if timelines align, the discussion of this plan may coincide with the stakeholder meeting on the Avian and Bat Monitoring Framework.

### Discussion

- *Multiple E-TWG members indicated support for the overall approach of dividing the mitigation plan into components, and suggestions were made regarding consideration of a unified approach for all Ørsted projects and more broad consistency across developers. The challenge, as*

*indicated by the Sunrise Wind team, is that from a regulatory perspective, plans will need to be project-specific, but the team will consider opportunities for oversight across projects.*

- *E-TWG members indicated the willingness to review and discuss possible plans earlier in the process to provide greater opportunities for input.*
- *E-TWG members indicated the importance of timing considerations to ensure there is enough time between getting stakeholder input and submissions to federal agencies.*
- *E-TWG members encouraged the Sunrise Wind team to provide as great a level of detail as possible in the avian and bat conceptual framework, and also consider during the revision indicating how particular stakeholder comments have been addressed.*
- *E-TWG members were interested in additional details on the long-term PAM monitoring plan in regards to the degree it addresses monitoring versus mitigation, as well as how the two marine mammal plans interact or connect to each other.*

### **Comments related to Fisheries and Benthic Monitoring Plan**

Details of the Fisheries and Benthic Monitoring Plan were shared during the previous EMP meeting, and comments were solicited from the E-TWG, Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG), as well as other state and federal agencies. The draft plan will be revised based on these comments and submitted to the Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council in November 2021. The final plan will be submitted to BOEM.

#### **Overarching Themes from Comments**

- **Acoustic monitoring notification of receivers** – a notice to mariners will be sent out with changes to the acoustic array to ensure transparency and reduce potential conflicts.
- **Source of revenue and landings data**– this information was taken from the commercial and recreational technical report and was used to provide context for the chosen survey design.
- **Choice of survey type** - Given the primarily sandy sediment type at the Sunrise Wind project, trawl surveys were determined to be the most effective in collecting a diversity of species.
- **Engagement with the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)** – The Sunrise Wind team is continuing to work with ROSA and following their monitoring guidelines.
- **Cod spawning in the region** – Given uncertainty in funding for a BOEM study related to Atlantic cod spawning activities around Cox’s Ledge, Ørsted with be providing additional acoustic tags for the study (~100 tags) that will be opportunistically applied to cod caught during the trawl surveys.

#### *Discussion*

- *E-TWG members were interested in the degree to which the comments received led to substantive changes in methods. The Sunrise Wind team indicated that the overarching study design has remained the same, with most changes related to language.*
- *The Sunrise Wind team indicated that they would share the final version of the plan with the E-TWG and F-TWG once all comments were incorporated.*

## Appendix A: Meeting Agenda

### Sunrise Wind Environmental Mitigation Plan

1-3pm EST, 28 October 2021

Start time

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|-----------|--|
| 1-1:05    | Welcome, introductions, and ground rules   |
| 1:05-1:20 | Project status update  |
| 1:20-2:05 | Review eNGO comments in response to the BOEM Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement |
| 2:05-2:30 | Review comments on Fisheries and Benthic Monitoring Plan and next steps                                    |
| 2:30-2:55 | Propose methods and timeline for future mitigation plan review and meeting format                          |
| 2:55-3:00 | Wrap-up and next steps   |