

SEASERVICES

NORTH AMERICA

9/30/2023

Jeffrey Willis, Executive Director
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
Suite 116, 4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900
jwillis@crmc.ri.gov

RE: Coastal Resources Management Review

Dear Program Manager:

My name is Gordon Videll, and I am the CEO of the Sea Services North America, LLC and I am writing support Avangrid's effort to seek approval. We are a consortium of commercial fishing vessels with the mission to provide scout and safety vessels to offshore developers. We founded this effort in 2018 after my co-founders Gary Yerman and Michael Theiler spoke with offshore wind developers and recognized the impending changes and potential opportunities that offshore wind will have for our local fishermen.

Like most fishermen, our group originally viewed the developers with great skepticism and potentially threats to their livelihoods. Maybe not as great as regulations or quotas, but an unknown that could be the final straw for struggling fishing operations. Knowing the need to diversify our electric production and address carbon concerns, we decided to do the hard work of understanding the issues from other perspectives. It took months of meetings and conversations with developer before we began to see the transformative potential of offshore wind for commercial fishing.

Today, Sea Services has three years of experience supporting commercial fishermen through training, logistics, safety upgrades and providing opportunities to supplement their incomes through offshore development work. Avangrid has been a good partner in creating these opportunities and has displayed a commitment to local content. The commercial fishermen receive approximately 80% of the contract value which is excess of \$6,000,000.00 to date. As development continues and we are able scale operations as construction starts, we hope to bring in dozens more fishing vessels which will create new economic opportunities for commercial fishermen while protecting our waters and raising safety standards.

None of this would be possible without Avangrid's commitment to working with local fishing boats. They could have easily used non-fishing vessels, but they understood the value the experience fishermen can bring and are fully committed to working together. I believe this project will present a unique opportunity for Rhode Island fishermen and could kickstart an entirely new revenue stream for additional local fishermen and keep real money in the most affected ports. Avangrid is committed to working with the U.S. fishing industry and we must do our part to build on these partnerships and coexist with offshore wind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Gordon

CEO

Sea Services North America, LLC

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Waterford, CT 06385

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