The Coastal Resources Management Council (“CRMC”) is in receipt of a federal consistency certification filed by Deepwater Wind South Fork, LLC (“Deepwater Wind”) on October 22, 2018 for the proposed construction and operation of an offshore wind energy project known as the South Fork Wind Farm (“SFWF”). It will consist of up to 15 wind turbine generators and an export cable that will make landfall on Long Island, NY. The SFWF project will be located in offshore waters approximately 19 miles southeast of Block Island, RI within BOEM Lease Area OCS-A 0486 and the CRMC’s 2011 Geographic Location Description (GLD). No portion of the project will be located within Rhode Island state waters (i.e., within 3 nautical miles of land).

Deepwater Wind filed its Construction and Operations Plan (“COP”) with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) on June 29, 2018 for a federal license to construct and operate the proposed SFWF project. BOEM issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed SFWF project on October 19, 2018 and held a public scoping meeting in Narragansett, RI on November 8, 2018. Deepwater Wind’s federal COP along with other project information is available on the BOEM website at: https://www.boem.gov/South-Fork/.

Pursuant to 15 CFR Part 930 Subpart E (Consistency for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Exploration, Development and Production Activities), the CRMC as the State’s authorized coastal zone management agency must make a determination as to whether the proposed SFWF project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the State’s federally approved coastal management program, in particular the CRMC’s Ocean Special Area Management Plan (650-RICR-20-05-11). The State’s concurrence is required before BOEM may approve or approve with conditions the Deepwater Wind SFWF COP pursuant to 30 CFR § 585.628(f).

The CRMC and Deepwater Wind have entered into an agreement to stay the CRMC’s six-month review period in this matter in accordance with 15 CFR § 930.60(b). The agreement was executed on February 14, 2019 and the CRMC’s consistency decision in this matter will be due no later than October 25, 2019. Deepwater Wind’s consistency certification, the COP and other information have been assigned CRMC file number 2018-10-082 and can be reviewed at the CRMC office during regular office hours (Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm) or on the CRMC website at http://www.crmc.ri.gov/windenergy/dwsouthfork.html.
The CRMC is providing this public notice on Deepwater Wind’s consistency certification in accordance with 15 CFR § 930.61. All interested parties are invited to submit written comments concerning the proposed Project on or before April 30, 2019. Comments should be specifically directed to the issue as to whether the proposed SFWF project is consistent with the enforceable policies and standards of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program. The CRMC will hold a public meeting in this matter on a date and place to be announced at a later date.

Mailing Address for Public Comment Submissions:
Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879.
ATTN: Grover J. Fugate, CRMC Executive Director.

Comments may also be electronically filed with the CRMC at: cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov

Signed this 4th day of March 2019.

Jeffrey M. Willis, Deputy Director
Coastal Resources Management Council