The Coastal Resources Management Council (“CRMC”) is in receipt of a federal consistency certification filed on June 7, 2021 by Revolution Wind, LLC (“Revolution Wind”) for the proposed construction and operation of an offshore wind energy project. If approved by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”), Revolution Wind would be permitted to construct and operate the offshore wind energy facility consisting of up to 100 wind turbines located in federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf (“OCS”) approximately 13 nautical miles east of Block Island, RI within BOEM Lease Area OCS-A 0486. The Revolution Wind project will supply 704MW of offshore wind-generated electricity by contractual obligations to Rhode Island (400MW) and Connecticut (304MW). The project also includes up to two offshore substations, an inter-array submarine cable network and two submarine export cables co-located within a single corridor to be installed within federal and state waters with a landfall location planned at the Quonset Point Business Park in North Kingston, RI via the West Passage of Narragansett Bay.

Revolution Wind filed its Construction and Operations Plan (“COP”) with the BOEM on March 13, 2020 seeking a federal license to construct and operate the proposed project. On April 30, 2021 BOEM issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.
pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (40 C.F.R. § 1500 et seq.) for the proposed Revolution Wind project. Revolution Wind’s COP along with other project information is available on the BOEM website at: https://www.boem.gov/Revolution-Wind.

The portion of the proposed Revolution Wind project that is located within federal waters is subject to CRMC federal consistency review pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (“CZMA”), 16 USC § 1451 et seq., and the CZMA’s implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. 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 issue a decision as to whether the proposed Revolution Wind project located within federal offshore waters 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 the Revolution Wind COP pursuant to 30 C.F.R. § 585.628(f).

The Revolution Wind project also includes construction within Rhode Island State waters to include the installation and operation of two new 23-mile submarine export cables co-located in a single corridor running from the federal waters to the two transition joint bays at the landing location in North Kingstown. In addition, an onshore transmission cable will be installed between the Quonset Business Park landing location and construction of a new onshore substation and interconnection facility with associated interconnection circuits to the existing Davisville electric substation. The CRMC has assigned file numbers 2021-07-005 for the export cable installation within state waters, onshore substation and associated work, and 2021-07-010 for the interconnection facility. The CRMC will be issuing separate public notices for these in-state activities under files 2021-07-005 and 2021-07-010, as they require a state assent.

Revolution Wind’s federal consistency certification request, which is the subject of this public notice, has been assigned CRMC file number 2021-06-029 and can be reviewed at the CRMC office by appointment during regular office hours (Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm). The consistency certification is available online in Appendix B of the Revolution Wind COP along with other project information as found here: https://www.boem.gov/Revolution-Wind.

The CRMC is providing this public notice concerning the federal consistency certification for the portion of the Revolution Wind project located in federal waters only in accordance with 15 C.F.R. § 930.61. All interested parties are invited to submit written comments concerning the proposed project on or before November 28, 2021. Comments should be specifically directed as to the issue of whether the proposed Revolution Wind project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program. The CRMC will hold a public meeting on this federal consistency 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: Jeffrey Willis, CRMC Executive Director.

Written comments may be emailed to the CRMC at: cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov

Signed this 28th day of September 2021.

Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council