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Press Release

RMLD Participates in MLP Bid for Offshore Wind

Reading, MA – The Reading Municipal Light Department’s (RMLD’s) Citizens’ Advisory Board (CAB) and Board of Commissioners (Board) approved RMLD’s participation in the “Commonwealth Wind” bid proposal for offshore wind that is under consideration by the State of Massachusetts.

Announced in October, Commonwealth Wind is a first of its kind partnership between Vineyard Wind and Energy New England (ENE), who is representing 20 participating Massachusetts Municipal Light Plants (MLPs), including RMLD. It is the first time MLPs were allowed to bid for Massachusetts offshore wind power.

If awarded, the Commonwealth Wind portion will be a part of the larger Vineyard Wind project proposed in an area 22 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard that was designated by the federal government in 2015 following a multi-year stakeholder process.

The Commonwealth Wind bid proposal is for 25 megawatts or 146,000 MWh per year (maximum available to the MLPs), plus the associated non-carbon certificates (specifically, Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)). If the Commonwealth Wind bid is selected, RMLD’s share will represent less than 1% of its total annual power supply needs. The State of Massachusetts is managing the bid process and plans to announce bid winners by December 17th.

“While the amount of offshore wind that the 20 MLPs may be awarded to split is small, the efforts of formulating the partnership of Commonwealth Wind and ENE to enable MLP participation, is truly significant and unprecedented. The RMLD envisions this first potential foot in the door as an opportunity for MLPs to gain more opportunities for future wind proposals to help meet decarbonization goals in the Climate Bill,” said Coleen O’Brien, RMLD General Manager.

Visit <https://ene.org/first-in-the-nation-mlp-green-partnership/> to read the full announcement.

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RMLD



Reading Municipal Light Department
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About Reading Municipal Light Department:

Established in 1894, Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) is a municipal electric utility serving over 70,000 residents in the towns of Reading, North Reading, Wilmington, and Lynnfield Center. RMLD has over 30,000 meter connections within its service territory.

About Vineyard Wind:

Vineyard Wind LLC is an offshore wind development company that will build the first commercial-scale offshore wind energy project in the U.S., to be located 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard. Vineyard Wind, based in New Bedford, Massachusetts, is 50 percent owned by funds of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and 50 percent by Avangrid Renewables, a subsidiary of AVANGRID, Inc. (NYSE: AGR). For more information, visit www.vineyardwind.com.

About Energy New England (ENE):

ENE is the largest wholesale risk management and energy trading organization serving the needs of municipal utilities in the northeast. ENE works with numerous businesses, residents and utilities to help promote the principles of conservation, efficiency, and environmental stewardship, and advances the many benefits available through integrated sustainability planning. www.ene.org