

**Memorandum of Understanding**

**Between**

**The States of Delaware and Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia**

**Related to Common Interests Associated with Offshore Wind Energy Development**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was made and entered into on November 9, 2009 by and between the States of Delaware and Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia (hereinafter "the Parties").

WHEREAS, The Mid-Atlantic region is home to significant offshore wind resources which have the potential to supply a considerable share of the energy needs of each of the Parties;

WHEREAS, The environmental benefits and economic growth potential of offshore wind offer an unprecedented opportunity to protect the environment while expanding the Parties' economies in a manner that would benefit the entire Mid-Atlantic region;

WHEREAS, The Parties are coastal states that rely on ocean resources to provide jobs, food, energy resources, ecological services, recreation, and tourism opportunities;

WHEREAS, The Parties share coastal resources and can benefit from coordination of resource assessment activities;

WHEREAS, The Parties are vulnerable to the effects of climate change which can be mitigated by using renewable sources of energy such as offshore wind energy;

WHEREAS, The Parties have enacted Renewable Portfolio Standards and require new sources of renewable energy to fulfill these goals;

WHEREAS, The Parties can benefit from highlighting the advanced research and technology capabilities of the Mid-Atlantic region;

WHEREAS, The Parties can benefit from coordinated development of manufacturing capabilities and supply chain resources in support of offshore wind energy deployment;

WHEREAS, The Parties all have excellent academic institutions and can benefit from coordinated efforts to transition the regional workforce to appropriate skills and capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Parties share common transmission and interconnection challenges and can benefit from coordination between the States and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as well as the PJM Interconnection Regional Transmission Organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Parties agree as follows:

A. The following actions are considered by The Parties to be of prime importance:

1. The Parties will coordinate potential common electric transmission strategies that recognize the benefits of regional planning and deployment of transmission services and which could reduce cost for the Parties' ratepayers.
2. The Parties will develop strategies to encourage sustainable market demand for offshore wind power, including state and regional policies and incentives that can be used across state boundaries for the benefit of the industry as a whole.
3. The Parties agree to work collaboratively in fostering federal energy and regulatory policies that further the development and use of offshore wind resources and in communicating our collective concerns to Congress, the Executive Branch, and its various agencies.

B. Furthermore, the Parties agree that other areas of interest for later examination include:

1. Regional needs and benefits for supply chain facilities to support the robust expansion of offshore wind energy generation;
2. The role of research and development within our collective academic and professional institutions in aiding the growth of the offshore wind energy sector; and
3. Benefits of regional workforce development efforts.

C. In execution of this agreement:

1. Each of the Parties will appoint one or more key personnel that are responsible for developing collaborative processes related to offshore wind under this MOU.
2. The Parties agree that other Atlantic coastal states should be welcomed to join in this agreement.
3. This MOU shall be reviewed annually for substance, timeliness and responsiveness. The MOU may only be revised in writing by mutual agreement.
4. This agreement shall be automatically renewed for a period of one year on its anniversary unless one or more of the parties gives 90 days notice of its intention to withdraw.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the contents of this agreement have been accepted and approved by the States of Delaware and Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia

FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE



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FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND



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FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA



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