

Empire Offshore Wind LLC

Empire Wind 1 Project
Article VII Application

Appendix D
Public Involvement Plan

June 2021

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
BP	BP Wind Energy North America Inc.
CP-29	CP-29 Environmental Justice and Permitting
Empire, the Applicant	Empire Offshore Wind LLC
Empire HoldCo	Empire Offshore Wind Holdings LLC
Equinor	Equinor ASA
EW 1 Project	Empire Wind 1 Project
HVAC	high-voltage alternating-current
km	kilometer
kV	kilovolt
Lease Area	BOEM-designated Renewable Energy Lease Area OCS-A 0512
mi	mile
MW	megawatt
nm	nautical mile
NYCRR	New York Codes, Rules and Regulations
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSPSC or Commission	New York State Public Service Commission
PIP	Public Involvement Plan
POI	Point of Interconnection at the Gowanus 345-kV Substation
Project	EW 1 Project transmission facilities in New York
PSL	New York Public Service Law
SBMT	South Brooklyn Marine Terminal

D.1 Introduction

Empire Offshore Wind LLC (Empire, or the Applicant) proposes to construct and operate the Empire Wind 1 (EW 1) Project as one of two separate offshore wind projects to be located within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) designated Renewable Energy Lease Area OCS-A 0512 (Lease Area) (**Figure D-1**). A portion of the proposed transmission system for the EW 1 Project is located within New York State jurisdictional boundaries (Project) and subject to review and approval by the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission or NYSPSC) as a major electric transmission line under Article VII of the New York Public Service Law (PSL) and the requirements of Title 16 of the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR) § 85 (**Figure D-2** and **Figure D-3**).

Empire has prepared this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) as part of its ongoing commitment to meaningful engagement and dialogue with interested stakeholders, including the community, and the general public. The key outreach objectives of Empire are to:

- Ensure the public is aware of and provided with information about the Project;
- Explain and encourage public participation in the Article VII application process;
- Provide easily accessible means for stakeholders to locate Project information;
- Identify the stakeholders that have a potential interest in the Project;
- Gather information and input from stakeholders, including feedback on how the Project affects the local community, its goals and its needs;
- Document feedback and public comments received on the Project; and
- Respect the principles of Environmental Justice, especially the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, income or other considerations.

In order to achieve these objectives, this PIP outlines the processes, methods, channels and documentation Empire will employ to support its efforts to identify, engage, share information with, and obtain comments from Project stakeholders. It also serves to document public outreach conducted for the Project to date.

In implementing this PIP, Empire will take into consideration the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will entertain policies that can address concerns related to social-distancing requirements and related public health and safety guidelines that may be issued by the Center for Disease Control, the State, and/or local entities. These policies will include providing virtual engagement alternatives for stakeholders and limiting in-person gatherings for as long as the pandemic continues and the public health and safety guidelines are in place.

The implementing regulations for Article VII do not specifically set out requirements for engaging the public in the facility siting and review process. However, in its guidance document, *The Certification and Review Process for Major Electric and Fuel Transmission Facilities*, the Commission strongly encourages voluntary public outreach efforts by applicants to communicate with the public early in the planning phase and throughout the Article VII process. The guidance suggests that applicants:

- Alert the public to Empire’s proposal through a public awareness campaign;
- Explain and provide information on the Project proposal;
- Collect input and provide feedback;
- Establish a presence in the community; and
- Keep the public informed and updated.

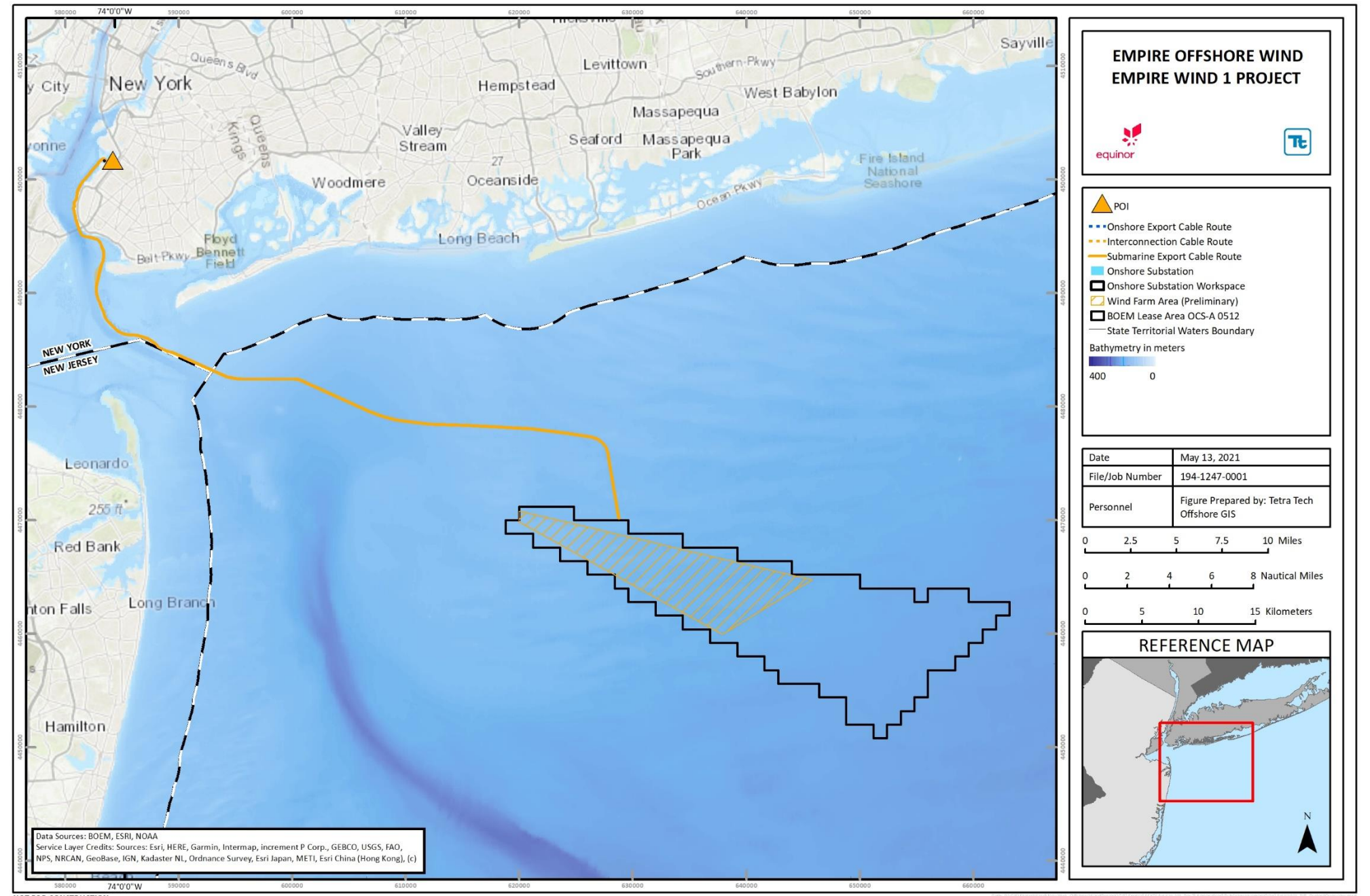


Figure D-1 Overview of the EW 1 Project

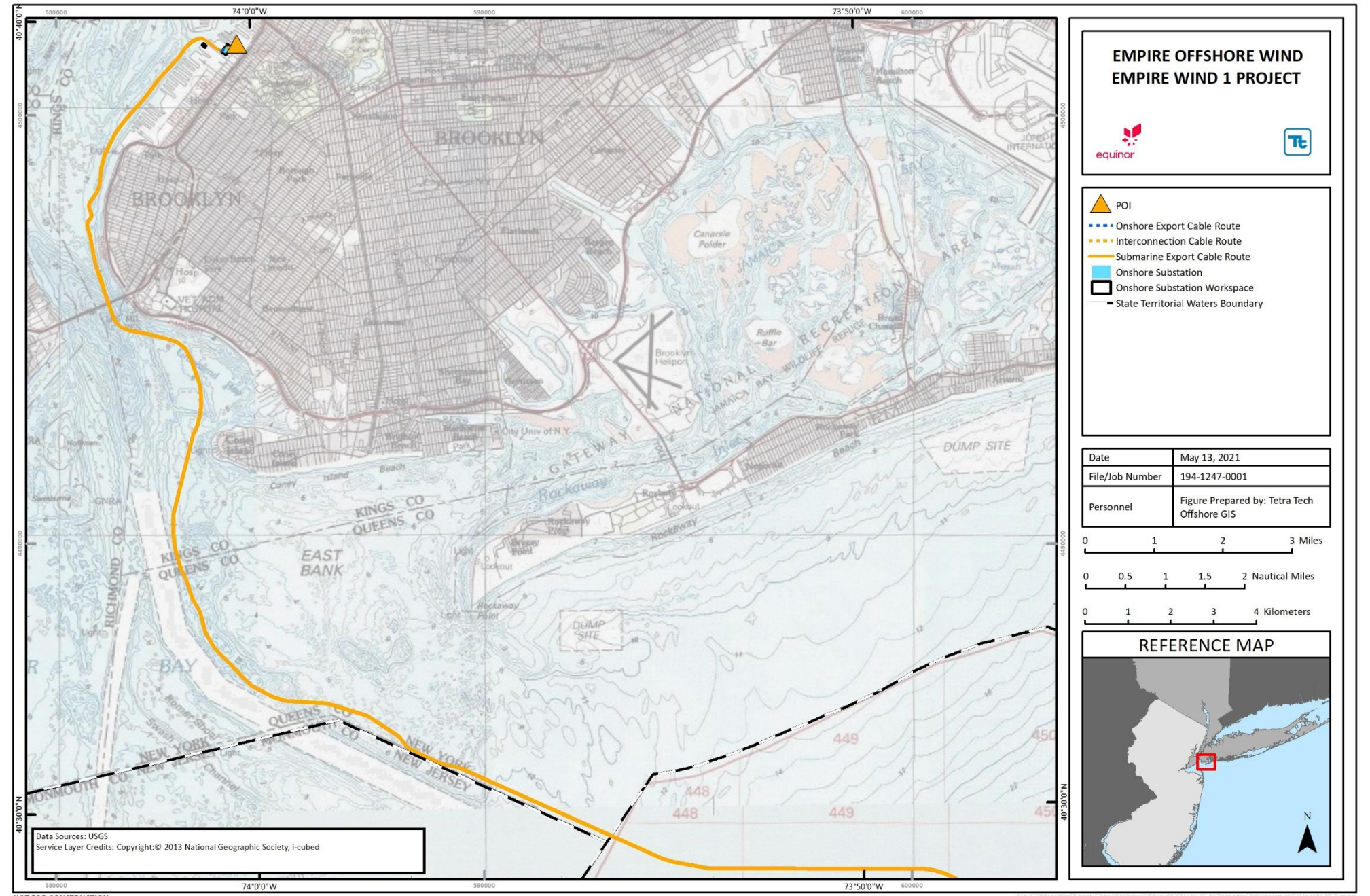


Figure D-2 Overview of the EW 1 Project Subject to Article VII within New York State

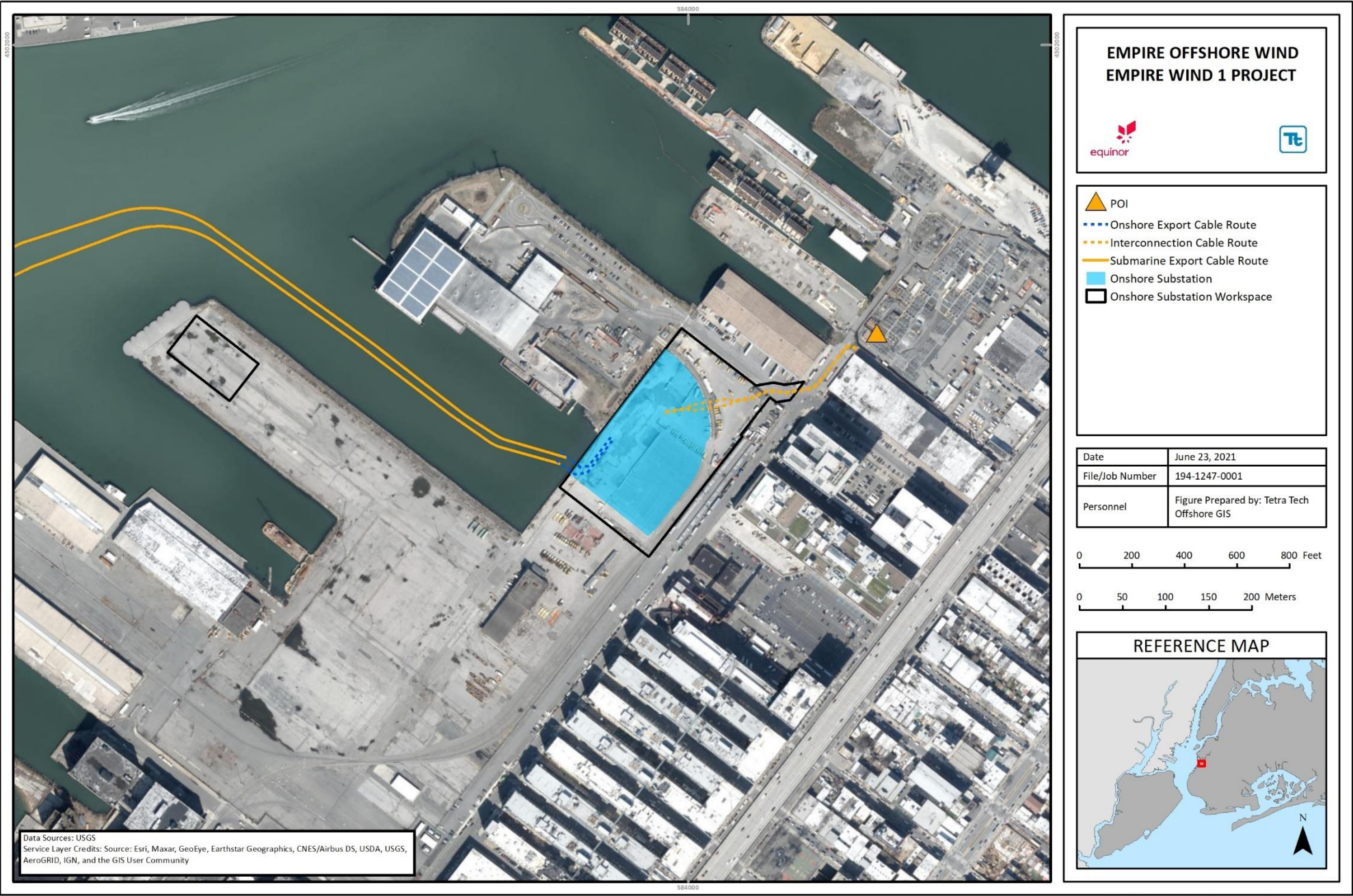


Figure D-3 Overview of the Onshore Facilities of the EW 1 Project

Understanding the importance of public involvement, Empire has prepared this PIP to address each of these five aspects of the public engagement process and to ensure that the Project meets or exceeds the public participation guidance provided by the Commission. Empire’s aim in executing this PIP is to ensure that the public is informed about the Project and to cultivate relationships with stakeholders that will extend through the Project’s operational life.

D.2 Applicant Description

Empire is a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of Empire Offshore Wind Holdings LLC (“Empire HoldCo”). Empire HoldCo is jointly owned by (1) an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Equinor ASA (collectively, “Equinor”); and (2) an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BP Wind Energy North America Inc. (“BP”). BP acquired ownership interest in Empire HoldCo in a transaction that closed on January 29, 2021.

Equinor is an international energy company, headquartered in Norway, with operations in over 30 countries. Equinor has approximately 22,000 employees worldwide, is listed on the New York and Oslo stock exchanges (NYSE: EQNR, OSE: EQNR) and has a current market capital valuation in excess of \$50 billion¹. With an extensive portfolio of offshore wind, oil, and gas facilities developed over its 40-year history, Equinor has a proven track record of successfully developing large-scale energy projects in some of the most challenging ocean environments around the world.

With significant in-house capabilities and resources focused specifically on meeting the challenges of offshore energy development, backed by ample financial resources, Equinor is quickly becoming a leader in the development of offshore wind throughout the world:

Equinor has developed, constructed, and operates two major bottom-fixed offshore wind farms in the United Kingdom: (1) the 317 megawatt (MW) Sheringham Shoal offshore wind farm and (2) the 402 MW Dudgeon offshore wind farm.

Equinor also is the developer, owner, and operator of the 30 MW Hywind Scotland wind farm, the world’s first floating offshore wind farm.

Equinor is a partner in the Arkona Offshore Wind Project, a 385 MW wind farm located in the Baltic Sea approximately 22 miles (mi) (35 kilometers [km]) from the German coastline. The Arkona offshore wind farm is in the final stages of development and has started delivering power to the grid.

Equinor also owns an interest in the Dogger Bank offshore wind farms, a series of projects in the United Kingdom that entered construction in January 2020 with a projected total nameplate capacity of 3.6 gigawatts, resulting in one of the world’s largest offshore wind farms.

Equinor is a global energy producer with experience in safely developing and operating large-scale offshore assets and infrastructure, including offshore wind resources and electric transmission systems.

Since 2008, Equinor has been pursuing renewable energy opportunities on both the west and east coasts of the U.S., with Lease OCS-A 0512 in New York representing the company’s first significant U.S. offshore wind investment. Beacon Wind LLC, an affiliate of Equinor and BP, holds Lease OCS-A 0520, located offshore New England; it was acquired in 2018.

¹ As of September 2020.

Additional information about Equinor can be found at www.equinor.com, and information about Empire Wind and the Article VII process is at <http://www.equinor.com/article-vii>.

D.3 Project Description

The Article VII components of the EW 1 Project include:

- Two three-core 230-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage alternating-current (HVAC) submarine export cables located within an approximately 15.1-nautical mile (nm, 27.9-kilometer [km])-long, submarine export cable corridor from the boundary of New York State waters 3 nm (5.6 km) offshore to the cable landfall in Brooklyn, New York;
- A 0.2-mile (mi, 0.3-km)-long onshore cable route and substation including:
 - Two three-core 230-kV HVAC EW 1 onshore export cables buried underground from the cable landfall either directly to the cable terminations or to a vault within the onshore substation;
 - An onshore substation located at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT), which will increase the voltage to 345 kV for the onshore interconnection cables; and
 - Two 345-kV cable circuits, each with three single-core HVAC onshore interconnection cables, buried underground from the onshore substation to the point of interconnection (POI).

D.3.1 Project Area Demographics

As defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Justice is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.” Environmental Justice is based on the principles of fair treatment and meaningful involvement. Fair treatment means “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.” Meaningful involvement means that “people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health,” that the public’s concerns will be considered, that the public will have an opportunity to influence the regulatory agency’s decision, and that those who may be affected will be sought out and encouraged to be involved.

Additionally, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which codified New York State’s ambitious climate change goals, including 9 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2035, recognizes that “Climate change especially heightens the vulnerability of disadvantaged communities, which bear environmental and socioeconomic burdens as well as legacies of racial and ethnic discrimination. Actions undertaken by New York state to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions should prioritize the safety and health of disadvantaged communities, control potential regressive impacts of future climate change mitigation and adaptation policies on these communities and prioritize the allocation of public investments in these areas.”

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is responsible for implementing and incorporating the State of New York’s environmental justice policy, detailed in CP-29 Environmental Justice and Permitting (CP-29), as part of NYSDEC’s permit review process and application of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act. In accordance with CP-29, when a project is located within a potential environmental justice area, the applicant must provide a Public Participation Plan, which requires active public participation throughout the application process, and a completed full environmental assessment form. While not required for this proceeding under PSL Article VII, Empire is committed to implementing and will continue

to implement the spirit of CP-29 through a significant outreach plan as detailed in this PIP. Maps of potential environmental justice areas are provided in **Figure D-4** and **Figure D-5**.

Onshore, the Project is located entirely within the Sunset Park West neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, which is identified as a potential environmental justice area, as defined by the NYSDEC. Other potential environmental justice areas within 0.5 mi (0.8 km) of the Project, including both the onshore and offshore components, have been identified in the Carroll Gardens/Columbia Street/Red Hook, Park Slope Gowanus, and Bay Ridge neighborhoods. Empire has consulted with community-based organizations and leaders, elected officials, business owners, and other citizens (including local residents and property owners) in each of these potential environmental justice areas since the process for considering potential cable landfall locations began. As part of this PIP, Empire will continue to consult with these stakeholders (see Section D-4 Project Stakeholders for a more detailed list), as described in detail in Section D-5 Public Involvement Methods and Channels.

D.4 Project Stakeholders

Empire is committed to understanding the unique needs of each group of stakeholders, and to maintaining the most effective communication approach to ensure that those needs are considered. In formulating this PIP, Empire first identified potential stakeholders and then assessed their unique communication and information needs. By creating and implementing different communication strategies for different stakeholder groups, both the distribution of information and the effectiveness of those distributed messages will be greater than relying on a “one-size-fits-all” approach to public outreach. Empire identified the following stakeholder groups (categories) for the Project Area:

- Elected leadership and policymakers;
- Federal, state, and local agencies;
- Property owners in the immediate Project Area (properties traversed by the Project route or abutting);
- Civic, community, business and labor groups;
- Fisheries and marine-based businesses;
- Special interest/advocacy groups and political groups;
- Native American tribal groups;
- Emergency responders; and
- Media.

Within these categories, Empire prepared the following preliminary list of stakeholders in **Table D-1**, based on initial outreach activities conducted to date, past experience and guidance documents. Empire will continue to update the list of stakeholders throughout the development and permitting of the Project.

If restrictions on in-person gatherings resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic continue or recur in the future, and if it is not possible or prudent to hold the in-person meetings, Empire will implement alternative meeting options for stakeholders, such as virtual gatherings.

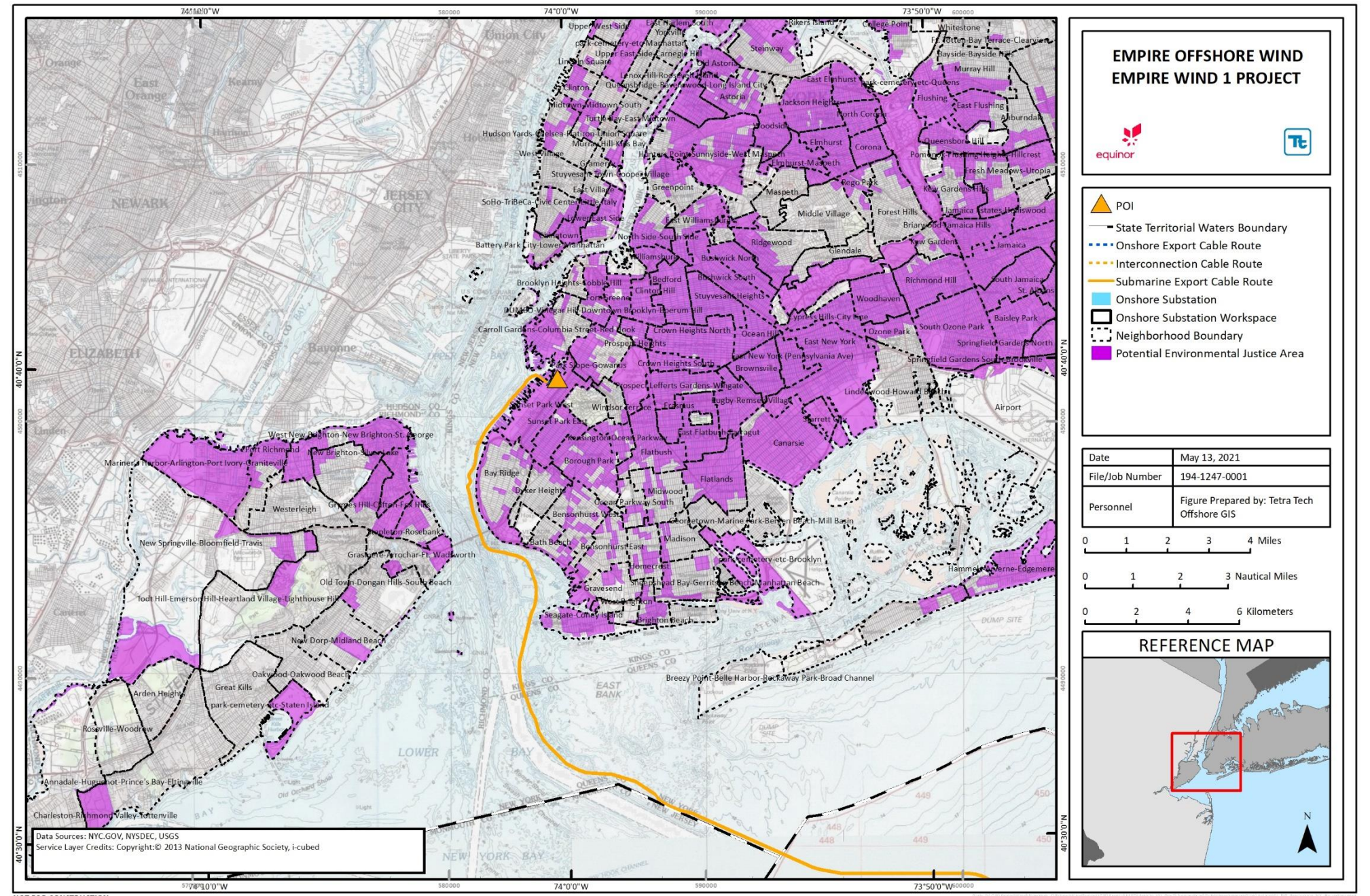


Figure D-4 Potential Environmental Justice Areas

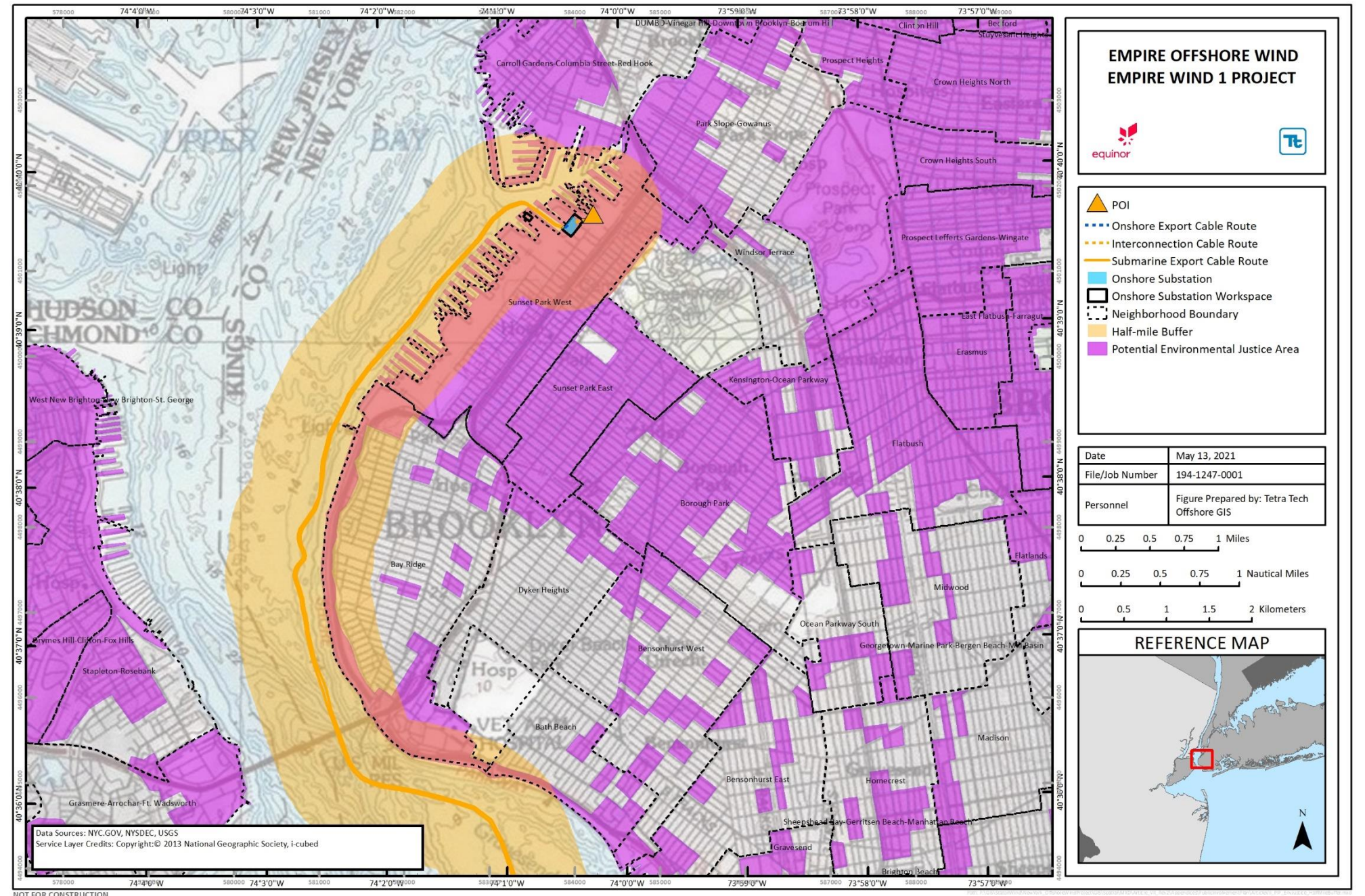


Figure D-5 Potential Environmental Justice Areas within a half-mile of the Project

Table D-1 Preliminary List of Stakeholders

Elected Leadership and Policymakers
Senator Jabari Brisport, New York Senate District 25
Senator Joseph Addabbo, New York State Senate District 15
Senator Diane Savino, New York State Senate District 23
Senator Andrew S. Gounardes, New York State Senate District 22
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor, New York City a/
Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President
Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes, New York State Assembly District 51
Assemblymember Michael Tannousis, New York State Assembly District 64
Assemblymember Mathylde Frontus, New York State Assembly District 46
Assemblymember Stacey Pheffer Amato, New York State Assembly District 23
New York City Council Member Carlos Menchaca, District 38
New York City Council Member Justin Branna, District 43
New York City Council Member Mark Treyger, District 47
New York City Council Member Eric Ulric, District 32
Brooklyn Community Board 6
Brooklyn Community Board 7
Brooklyn Community Board 10
Brooklyn Community Board 12
Native American Tribal Groups
Shinnecock Tribe
Unkechaug Indian Nation
Federal, State and Local Agencies
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Federal Aviation Administration
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Fisheries
New York City Board of Standards and Appeals
New York City Department of Buildings
New York City Department of City Planning
New York City Department of Citywide Administration Services
New York City Department of Design and Construction
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
New York City Department of Small Business Services
New York City Department of Transportation
New York City Landmarks Preservation Committee
New York Harbor Operations and Safety Committee
New York Hudson River Operations and Safety Committee
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

Federal, State and Local Agencies (continued)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Department of Health

New York State Department of Public Service

New York State Department of State

New York State Department of Transportation

New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

New York State Empire State Development

New York State Energy Research and Development

New York State Office of General Services

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

New York State Public Service Commission

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

United States Army Corps of Engineers

United States Coast Guard

United States Department of Defense

United States Department of Homeland Security

United States Environmental Protection Agency

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

United States National Park Service

Property Owners, Property Interest Holders and Intervenors

Astoria Generating Co.

ConEdison

Industry City

New York City

New York City Economic Development Corporation

New York State

Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal

Potentially affected landowners and property interest holders

Civic, Community, Business, Labor Groups and Organizations

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

Climate Jobs New York

First Energy

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Kingsborough Community College

Labor Unions local chapters

Long Island Building Trades

McAllister Towing, Staten Island, New York

Millers' Launch

New York Building Trades

New York Green Bank

Civic, Community, Business, Labor Groups and Organizations (continued)
New York Utilities
NY Environmental Justice Alliance
NY Maritime Association
Opportunity for a Better Tomorrow
Ports America
Red Hook Community
Red Hook Initiative
Red Hook Terminals
Red Hook Terminals
Rockaway Beach Community Members
Sandy Hook Pilots Association
Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corp
SUNY Maritime
SUNY Stony Brook
Vessel Traffic Services -VTS New York
Special Interest, Advocacy and Political Groups
All Our Energy
Alliance for Clean Energy New York
Atlantic Marine Conservation Society
American Clean Power Association
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Clean Water Action
Columbia University Students and Faculty
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
New York Audubon
New Yorkers for Clean Power
New York Interfaith Power and Light
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York Offshore Wind Alliance
Operation Splash
Renewable Long Island
Sane Energy
Seatuck Environmental
Sierra Club
Surfriders
Sustainability Institute at Molloy College
The Nature Conservancy
UPROSE

Special Interest, Advocacy and Political Groups (continued)	
Waterfront Alliance	
Wildlife Conservation Society	
Win With Wind	
Emergency Responders	
New York City Police Department	
New York City Fire Department	
US Coast Guard	
Note: a/ Through 2021	

D.4.1 Stakeholders' Information Needs

This section provides an overview of the involvement of the identified stakeholders in the Project and an assessment of the stakeholders' information and communication needs. This section also identifies key information and input that these stakeholders may be able to provide to Empire.

D.4.1.1 Elected Leadership and Policymakers

Empire is committed to ensuring that elected leadership and policymakers at the local, county, state and federal levels remain informed about Project progress so they can respond to the questions and concerns of their constituents. Additionally, Empire will ensure that elected leadership and policymakers have the ability to contact key company representatives with any questions as they arise.

Empire will seek input from elected officials and policymakers to understand their constituents' concerns and identify outlets for communicating with the public in the community. Empire also will seek information on local regulations and ordinances and the status of other planned developments and improvements in the area.

Initial outreach to elected leadership and policymakers will be in the form of a brief introductory meeting. As part of the Article VII process under PSL § 122, Empire must provide written notification and a copy of the application to the chief executive officer of each municipality and each member of the legislature whose district the Project would traverse, as well as to those whose districts would be traversed by alternative locations in the Article VII application. At this time, Empire anticipates that the onshore facilities and alternatives will be located in Brooklyn, New York. The submarine export cable corridors traverse Kings and Queens Counties, New York. Empire will continue to brief the relevant stakeholders throughout the Project via in-person meetings, e-mail, videoconference, and/or phone to share Project status updates and to receive feedback. Additionally, Empire will provide informational materials to elected leadership for subsequent distribution to their constituents.

D.4.1.2 Native American Tribes

Native American Tribal representatives fully understand the concerns and needs of their members, including their specific interests and concerns about the land to be developed within the vicinity of the Project. As such, it is important that Tribal representatives are provided with information about the Project and kept informed as the Project progresses, so they are able to answer questions from their constituents as they arise. Within the State of New York, there are nine recognized Native American Tribes, eight of which are also federally recognized. Empire does not anticipate that any of the nine Native American Tribes will be affected by the

Project; however, Empire will seek their input during the Article VII process in order to identify any potentially culturally significant areas, resources, or practices that could be affected by the Project.

Empire has conducted initial outreach to New York Native American tribes, including introductory meetings with the Shinnecock Indian Nation and the Unkechaug Indian Nation. Empire will continue to brief interested Native American tribes throughout the Project by phone, email, and/or postal mail.

D.4.1.3 Federal, State, and Local Agencies

Empire will coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies throughout the Project development process to ensure that they have accurate information so they can satisfy their regulatory obligations and answer questions from members of the public. Through in-person introductory meetings, Project update meetings, and regular phone and email communications, Empire will continue to ensure that these representatives have up-to-date Project information. Empire also will support any required agency processes for public involvement by committing to meet or exceed related notification and outreach requirements, educating the public on the regulatory processes applicable to the Project, and disseminating information on how the public can become involved where applicable. Empire anticipates that federal, state and local agencies will also provide key information to Empire throughout the Project's development regarding regulatory requirements, guidelines and ordinances.

Pursuant to the Article VII process under PSL § 122 and the Commission's Rules and Regulations under 16 NYCRR § 85-2.11, Empire will provide written notification and a copy of the application to New York State's Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, Commissioner of Economic Development, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Commissioner of Department of Transportation, and Commissioner of Recreation, Parks, and Historic Preservation, as well as the local municipality in which the proposed facility will be located.

D.4.1.4 Property Owners and Intervenors

Public Service Law Article VII § 120 defines a landowner as the holder of any right, title, or interest in real property subject to a proposed site or right of way as identified from the most recent tax roll of the appropriate city or county. Empire considers affected landowners to include the owners of properties crossed by the Project where Empire will have real estate agreements, as well as abutters to those properties. Project intervenors may include other private individuals or entities who request intervenor status in application proceedings, because they have specific interests and issues of concern relative to the Project. Interested individuals and parties can also sign up for the service list (without becoming intervenors) in order to receive updates and monitor the Article VII proceedings at:

<https://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/FCFC9542CC5BE76085257FE300543D5E?OpenDocument>
t. by entering the Commission issued docket number shortly after the Application is filed with the Commission.

Throughout the planning, development and construction of the Project, Empire will maintain and update the list of affected landowners, intervenors, and any others who have signed up to receive Project information. Communications and Project updates will address the information needs of those parties in appropriate detail. Empire will also seek out comments from affected landowners and intervenors to help identify their specific concerns and obtain information relevant to the Project.

On or about June 21, 2021 Empire provided written notice of the Article VII application filing by sending a notification letter sent via first-class postal mail to affected landowners as defined under Article VII § 120, as well as to property owners with property abutting the proposed onshore cable corridor, onshore substation or shoreline properties within 1,200 feet of the submarine export cable route. This written notice provided

recipients with information on how to request party status during the Article VII proceedings, as well as how recipients can access and view Project filings and communicate with Empire.

D.4.1.5 Civic, Community, Business, and Labor Groups

Many civic, community, business and labor groups are active in South Brooklyn and have an interest in the types and locations of development projects. These groups will be invaluable in developing the plan for the onshore assets throughout the Project's development. Typically, members of these groups encourage the industries within their community as a way to ensure that well-paying local jobs and economic development remain in their communities. At the same time, it is important that other attributes of these local environs and neighborhoods be considered along with industrial and commercial activity. Empire expects that civic, community, business, and labor groups will continue to play an important role in communications related to the Project, and those stakeholders will be kept current about the Project through invitations to join public information meetings and opportunities to sign up for email updates, newsletters, and website postings.

D.4.1.6 Fisheries and Marine-based Businesses

Fisheries and marine-based businesses are among the current users of the waters traversed by the Project's submarine export cable route, and these businesses have important knowledge of the area as well as concerns that require ongoing attention during Project construction and/or operation. Empire will continue to conduct outreach to fisheries groups and businesses, invite their participation in public information meetings, and provide opportunities to sign up for email updates, newsletters, and website postings. Communications and outreach with the commercial and recreational fishing industries will be guided by the Fisheries Mitigation Plan (**Attachment D-1**), which will be updated during Project development.

D.4.1.7 Special Interest, Advocacy, and Political Groups

In addition to the representatives of civic, community, business, and labor interests described above, a variety of other special interest, advocacy and political groups will be stakeholders in the Project, representing various economic, environmental, recreational, and political interests in the Project vicinity. This includes maritime interest groups and stakeholders, and New York Harbor Operations. These groups are often able to identify special community concerns, resources, opportunities, and interests. These groups may also seek to become intervenors or sign up on Project service lists (see Section D-4.1.4). Special interest, advocacy, and political groups involved as stakeholders in the Project will be invited to attend public information meetings and to sign up for Project email updates, newsletters, and website postings.

Empire has conducted environmental non-governmental roundtables and hosted open houses within the local communities.

D.4.1.8 Emergency Responders

Throughout the Project, Empire has and will continue to engage with emergency responders to provide the Project information required for these stakeholders to properly fulfill their job functions. Emergency responders' knowledge of emergency response planning in the community, as well as potential natural and environmental hazards, infrastructure, resources, and local response capabilities can contribute to Project safety in the design, construction, and/or operations phases. Empire will schedule Project development and introductory planning meetings and will continue to brief these stakeholders throughout the Project, with in-person meetings or by phone, to share Project status updates and receive feedback.

D.4.1.9 Media

Empire will issue regular press releases related to Project milestones, and offer Project updates and briefings to local media outlets serving the communities in the vicinity of the Project, in order to keep the media and the public apprised of the Project's progress. This media outreach also will include the circulation of required public notices as part of the Article VII application process. Empire will distribute fact sheets and other materials to the media, and media representatives will be invited to attend public information meetings and to sign up for email updates, newsletters, and website postings. A list of media outlets is provided in **Table D-2**. A sample brochure is included in **Attachment D-2**.

Table D-2 Media Outlets

Nassau County		Queens County	
Cablevision/News 12 TV		Queens Chronicle	
Newsday		The Wave	
Long Island Herald (Long Beach Edition)		Queens Daily Eagle	
AM 970 The Answer			
Brooklyn/Kings County		New York City Metropolitan Area	
Brooklyn Reporter		ABC 7 NY (WABC-TV)	
Brooklyn Eagle		Spectrum News NY1	
Shorefront News		New York Daily News/New York Post	
Patch-Sunset Park		100 Wins Radio/WCBS 880 AM	
Patch-Gowanus		El Diario (Spanish-language)	
Red Hook Star Revue		World News/Chinese Daily News, NY (Chinese-language)	

D.4.2 Environmental Justice Community Participation

Additional efforts will be conducted to reach out to and encourage participation by potential environmental justice areas in Brooklyn, including low-income, minority, and non-English-speaking populations. This includes ensuring that information is available to community members who may not have internet access, by distributing easy-to-read Project informational materials, presented in an understandable format and translated into languages other than English (e.g., Spanish, Mandarin), to local community centers and libraries and via postal mail. Application documents and supporting materials also will be made available in publicly accessible locations. Contact numbers and information on opportunities for the public to provide comments and feedback directly to Empire and government agencies during the permitting processes also will be provided. Empire also will hold public information meetings throughout the permitting process within potential environmental justice areas to keep them informed of Project progress.

D.5 Public Involvement Methods and Channels

As part of Empire's desire to ensure that all members of the stakeholder communities have easy access to information, can have their questions answered, and can provide valuable feedback, Empire will communicate with stakeholders through the channels that are easiest and most convenient for them. The following communication methods will provide stakeholders with ample access to information and to the Project team when desired and will assist in identifying additional potential stakeholders. As part of the Article VII process, individuals and groups can request party status to participate in the case, monitor the proceedings by subscribing to the service list, and/or submit written comments for the Commission's consideration of the Project..

Empire’s outreach materials will provide information about the various options for involvement in the Article VII process, including options to subscribe to Empire’s distribution list and telephone and email contact numbers.

D.5.1 Website

Project and contact information is available on www.empirewind.com and <https://www.equinor.com/en/what-we-do/empire-wind-article-vii.html>. Specifically, the websites contain:

- Project and developer descriptions;
- Project benefits information;
- Contact information;
- Mailing/email list sign-up;
- Key documents;
- Information on the Article VII process; and
- Schedules of meetings and outreach events.

D.5.2 Pre-Application Outreach

Empire has been meeting with Article VII stakeholders since prior to acquiring the Empire Wind Lease Area in 2016 and will continue to organize and engage in such meetings. Empire has conducted extensive outreach in the community and with elected leaders in Brooklyn, New York prior to submittal of the Article VII application. Additional outreach has also been conducted for the Project as part of the processes established by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and as part of the overall development of the Empire Wind Project Lease Area and EW 1 Project. That outreach has included a series of open houses throughout New York in the fall of 2019.

D.5.2.1 Meetings and Outreach Events

Empire will continue to hold meetings with stakeholders throughout the Project’s development. In addition, the Article VII process includes a public statement hearing that will be held between 60 and 90 days after the Commission finds that Empire’s Article VII Application is compliant with PSL. Empire will comply with public notification requirements for public statement hearings and comment periods and will support the Commission with outreach to stakeholders by providing legal notices, display advertisements, an email contact, and press releases. If the restrictions on in-person gatherings resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic continue, it is Empire’s understanding that the public statement hearings might be held virtually. If that is the case, Empire will coordinate with Department of Public Service and provide any assistance that Department of Public Service Staff may need. In addition to supporting hearings required by Article VII, Empire will host informational sessions (virtual or in-person, depending on the pandemic restrictions) to provide stakeholders with ample opportunities to obtain Project information and share questions and comments. Empire also will continue to conduct direct outreach to elected officials and agency representatives to provide Project updates and information on the Article VII process, as appropriate.

D.5.3 Presentations to Local Groups, Boards, and Elected Officials

Empire will continue to coordinate presentation opportunities with local groups, boards, and elected officials within the Project Area. Meeting materials such as comment cards and/or questionnaires will be utilized as appropriate.

D.5.3.1 Direct Mail

On or about June 21, 2021, notices were mailed via first-class postal mail directly to landowners along the proposed Project route, providing notice of the Project's upcoming Article VII filing. Project introductory letters have also been sent as appropriate to federal, state and local agencies and Native American Tribes.

D.5.4 Public/Legal Notices and Advertisements

Public notices will be prepared in compliance with all applicable regulations. Empire, at minimum, has published a statement of Article VII Notice once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the filing of the Article VII Application, in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in all the areas through which the facility would pass, both as primarily and alternatively proposed. Notices of public meetings and Project filings such as the Application and the Environmental Management and Construction Plan will be published in, at minimum, the *Brooklyn Eagle*, *Brooklyn Home Reporter*, *Bay News/Brooklyn Graphic*, *Bay Ridge Courier* and *Park Slope Courier*, the newspapers of record in the Project Area. Notices will also be posted on the Project website. A sample public notice is provided in **Attachment D-3**.

At appropriate times, Empire also will place voluntary advertisements in daily and weekly newspapers to promote attendance at outreach events.

As part of the overall Empire Wind Project, additional public notices will be issued by the BOEM and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at various stages of the overall Federal permitting process. These public notices will include the Project, as proposed in the Article VII application.

D.5.5 Ongoing Outreach Activities

Empire is committed to continuing community outreach and stakeholder engagement throughout the Article VII process and construction to communicate with the public, respond to questions, and provide important updates.

D.5.5.1 Electronic Communications/Newsletters

Empire maintains a database of stakeholders who have opted-in for Project communications, as well as those who have attended an event or otherwise expressed interest in being kept informed about the Project. Communications may include project updates sent to everyone and/or emails to inform specific groups of upcoming events or other opportunities. The database meets strict electronic data privacy standards and stakeholders can easily opt-out from communications. Empire will continue to grow the database.

D.5.6 Community Outreach Office

Empire plans to establish a community outreach office in the fall of 2021.

A toll-free hotline has been established for the Project as follows: 833-699-1965. This hotline will allow individuals to contact Empire for more information or to have specific questions or concerns answered. The public can also contact Empire via the project email address: EmpireWind@Equinor.com. The hotline number and email address will also be provided on educational materials that will be distributed as part of Empire's public outreach efforts for the Project.

D.5.7 Tabling and Participation at Events

Booths, display tables, or exhibits may be used at local events such as fairs to bring Project information to local residents, supplementing the formal meeting structure. If COVID-19 related restrictions continue during the Article VII proceeding, Empire will focus on contact-free information distribution for local residents, such as

directing any interested individuals to the Project website for more information and conducting virtual meetings.

D.5.8 Social Media Outlets

Twitter, the Project Facebook page, and other social media platforms will continue to provide information in a user-friendly manner. The Project team will provide updated information on Project status, milestones, and press releases by using posts, images, and videos on its Facebook page and other social media throughout the Project.

D.5.9 Project Brochure, Notices and Flyers

Project brochures will be developed to provide an overview of the Project, describe resources for additional Project information, and provide information on how stakeholders and other members of the public may participate in the Article VII process. A sample of public outreach materials is provided in **Attachment D-2**. If substantial changes are made to the project as it advances through the permitting process, additional brochures may be created to capture these changes.

Project materials such as notices or flyers will also be prepared to be posted on community bulletin boards and distributed in high-traffic areas, such as post offices and libraries, to inform the public of upcoming meetings and to encourage visits to the Project website.

D.5.10 Project Newsletter(s)

A print and/or email newsletter will be developed and will be distributed regularly with updates to keep stakeholders informed on the Project's progress and opportunities to participate. The newsletter circulation will be developed based on the Project opt-in communications database, and Empire will distribute the newsletter to local libraries (detailed in **Attachment D-4**), businesses, and other interested stakeholders in the Project vicinity. This Project-area newsletter is in addition to subject-matter newsletters that Empire will send to recognized stakeholder groups with an interest in such subject matter.

D.5.11 Media Relations

Press releases will be used to announce the achievement of project milestones, outreach events, meetings, updates and other Project news. The Project team has developed the list of media contacts below in **Table D-2**, which includes local, regional and special interest media (print, radio, and electronic), as well as publications for required legal notices. The list of media outlets will be updated as appropriate. Special interest media will include media outlets directed specifically to ethnic populations and those with limited English proficiency. News outlets will be encouraged to include links that direct those that consume such news to the Project website.

D.5.12 Document Repository

The Project website will provide links and information on where the public may access application documents. Hard copies will be available at libraries as listed in **Attachment D-4**.

Attachment D-1
Fisheries Mitigation Plan

This Attachment to the Public Involvement Plan is a living document, updated at appropriate milestones for the Project, in consultation with applicable stakeholders. As such, the current version is available at <https://www.equinor.com/content/dam/statoil/documents/empirewind/equinor-empire-wind-project-fisheries-mitigation-plan.pdf>.

Attachment D-2
Outreach Material Samples

Project Brochure

Permitting and Public Involvement

Equinor welcomes input and feedback from our stakeholders. Members of the public can get involved and submit comments on the Empire Wind 1 Project through several permitting processes, including the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management review of the Construction and Operations Plan, and the New York Public Service Commission Article VII process.

More information can be found on the project website:

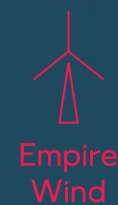
www.empirewind.com/article-vii



833-699-1965

empirewind@equinor.com

www.empirewind.com



LET'S POWER NEW YORK TOGETHER

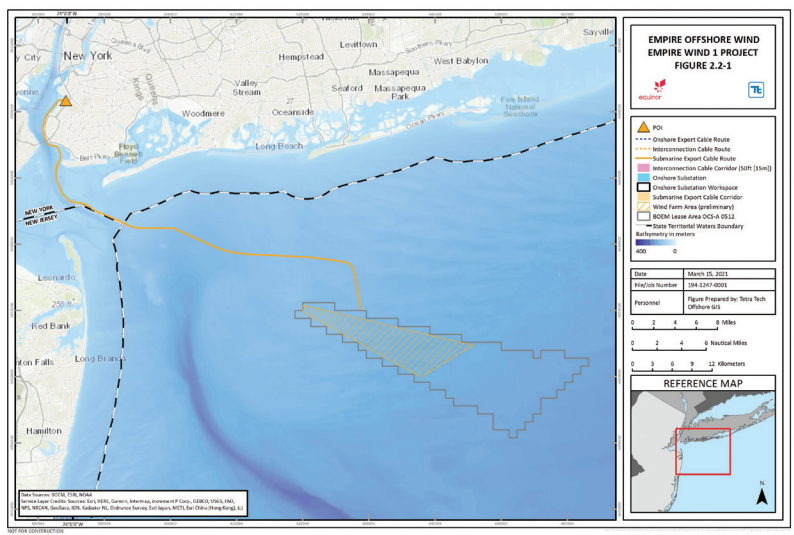


Empire Wind

The Empire Wind 1 Project is a large-scale, 816 megawatt (MW) offshore wind project designed to bring renewable energy to New Yorkers, helping the state achieve its ambitious renewable energy development goals and creating exciting new opportunities for economic growth in New York—including in South Brooklyn.

The project will be developed in the ocean waters south of Long Island. Representing a total investment of approximately \$3 billion, the project’s 60-80 new wind turbines will power over 500,000 New York homes by the mid-2020s.

Empire Wind 1 is owned by Empire Offshore Wind LLC, a joint venture between Equinor and bp. Equinor is the operating partner.



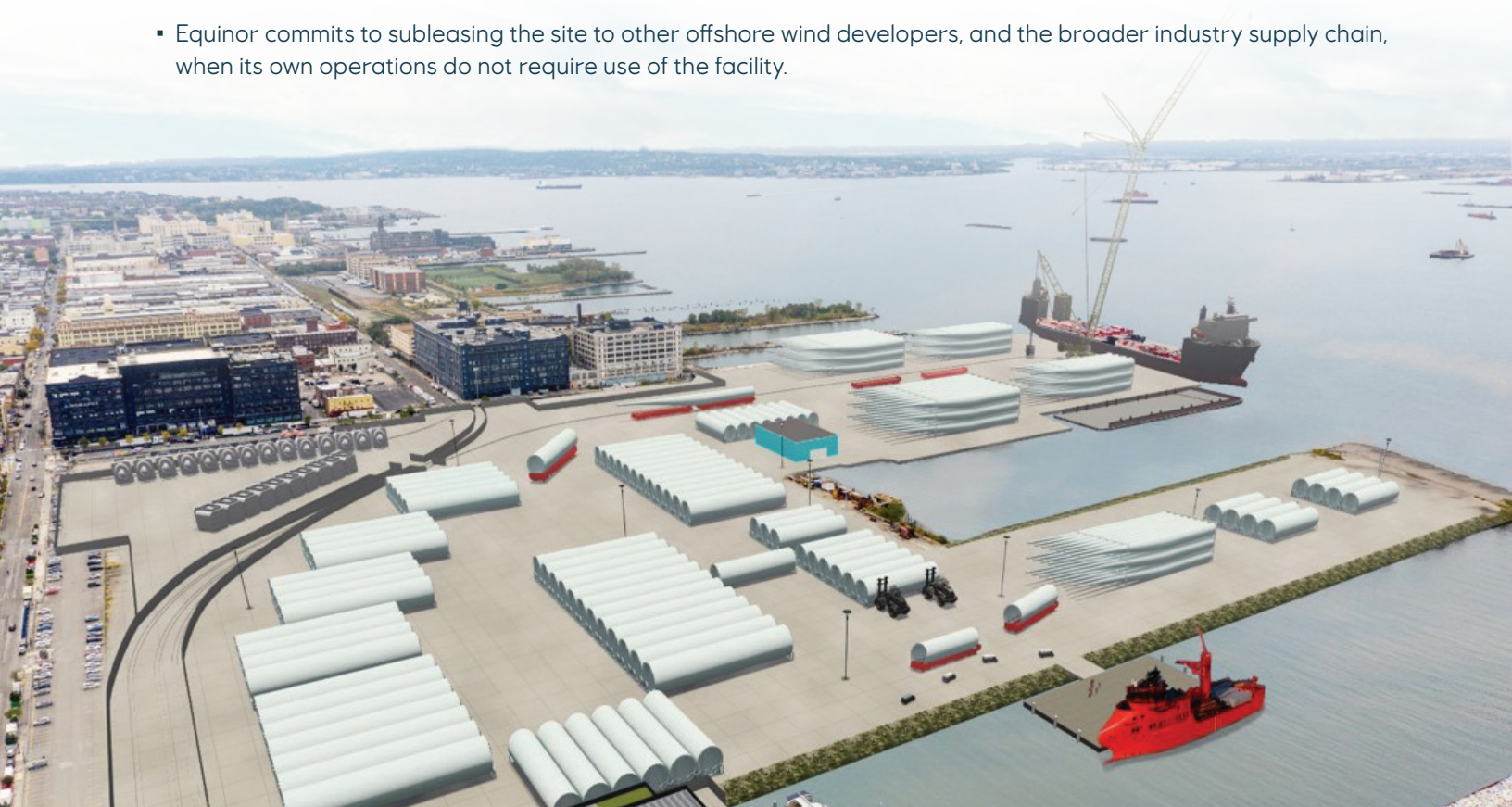
Operations and Maintenance Hub

Equinor is establishing a Northeast operations and maintenance (O&M) hub for our regional offshore wind initiatives at SBMT. The majority of activities that go into operating and maintaining wind turbines over their lifespan will be based at SBMT.

South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT)

Equinor and our partners are developing a world-class offshore wind port at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) to serve the new industry, providing a long-sought economic boost to this venerable port. Adding to large investments from NY City and NY State, Equinor will contribute over \$100 million to help reconstruct SBMT into a state-of-the-art offshore wind facility.

- Empire Wind’s large-scale wind turbines will be assembled at SBMT.
- At over 73 acres, SBMT will be one of America’s largest dedicated offshore wind port facilities.
- Equinor commits to subleasing the site to other offshore wind developers, and the broader industry supply chain, when its own operations do not require use of the facility.

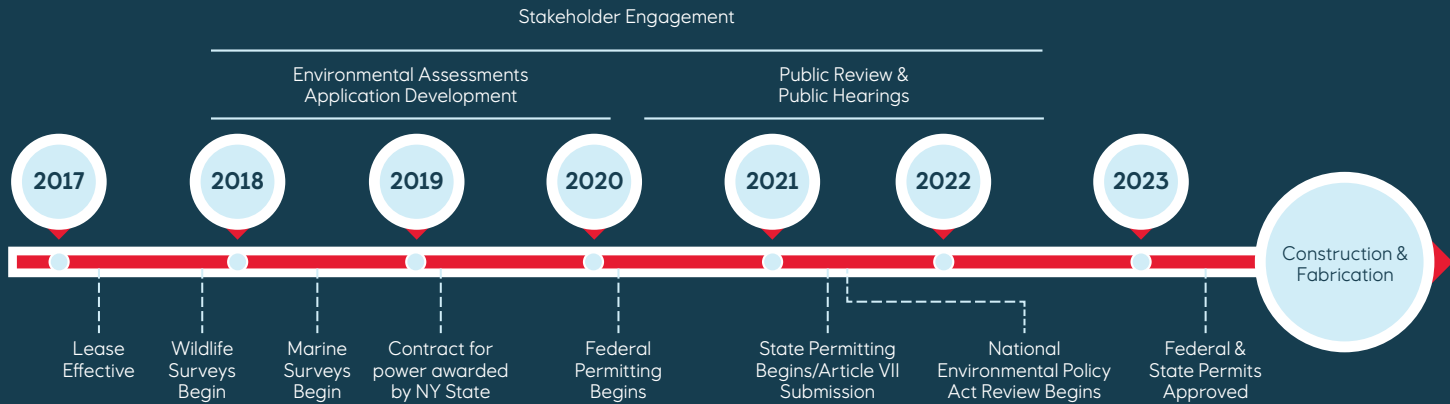


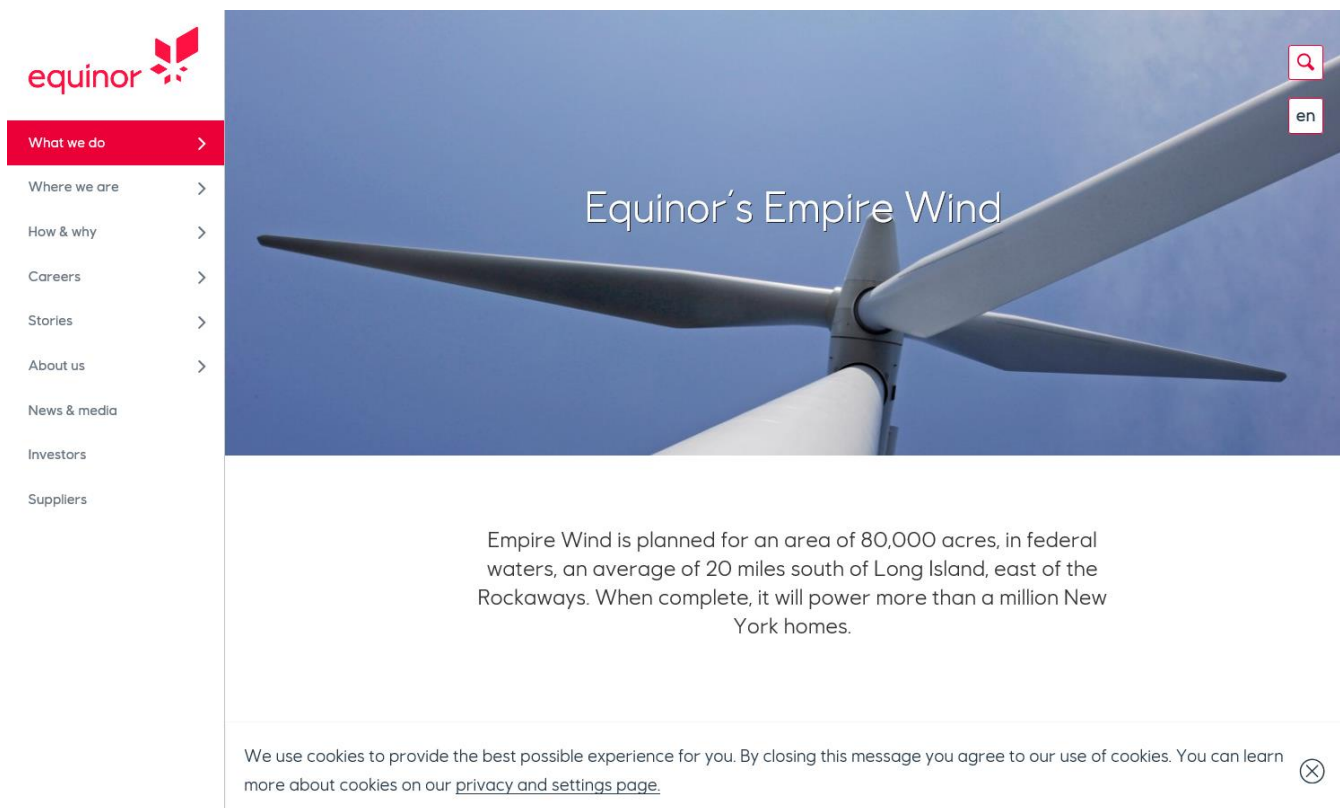
Connection Point: New Substation at SBMT

The renewable power generated by Empire Wind’s turbines will be transported from the project site south of Long Island to land via two parallel cables buried under the seabed. The submarine cables will run from the wind farm, under New York Harbor, to a new electrical substation at the northern end of SBMT near 29th Street.

- The substation converts the high voltage power generated at the wind farm for interconnection to the grid.
- Power is transported from the new substation to an existing Consolidated Edison substation nearby, where it plugs into the New York State Transmission System.
- The cables transporting power from the wind farm to Equinor’s substation, then over to ConEdison’s substation, are all buried underground and unnoticeable.

Empire Wind Project Schedule





Project Website



Last updated: April 6, 2021

New York State Article VII Process

- The transmission system for the Empire Wind 1 Project will connect the offshore wind farm to the New York State electric grid. Article VII of the New York Public Service Law requires a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) from the New York Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) for major electric transmission facilities. Article VII requires a complete review of the need for and environmental impact of the, siting, design, construction, and operation of

Article VII Website

Attachment D-3
Public Notice of Filing EXAMPLE

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Matter of the Application of Empire Offshore Wind LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction of Approximately 17.5 Miles of Transmission Lines from the Boundary of New York State Territorial Waters to a Point of Interconnection in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York

Pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law of the State of New York, Empire Offshore Wind LLC (Applicant) is providing public notice of its intent to file an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the proposed construction and operation of the portion of the transmission system for the Empire Wind 1 offshore wind generating facility located in New York State (the Project).

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, on or about June 28, 2021, the Applicant will file an application (Application) in the above-entitled matter with the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) for a Certificate pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law to construct, operate, and maintain the Project, which is the New York State portion of a transmission facility that will connect the offshore wind farm to be located in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management designated Renewable Energy Lease Area OCS-A 0512 within federal waters (Lease Area) to the existing mainland electrical grid in Brooklyn, New York. The Project is necessary in order to transmit renewable energy from the Lease Area to the downstate area and to assist New York State in achieving its clean energy mandates under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

During the course of the Article VII proceedings, alternative routes not included in the Application or affected by the proposed primary route may be offered without further notice by publication. In addition, the Commission may ultimately approve an alternative route for the Project that traverses municipalities not presently affected by the Project or included in the Application.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Project includes: (i) two 230-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) submarine export cables within an approximately 15.1 nautical mile-long submarine export cable corridor, extending from the boundary of New York State waters (3 nautical miles from shore) to the cable landfall in Brooklyn; and (ii) a 0.2 mile-long onshore cable route and substation including (a) two three-core 230-kV HVAC onshore export cables buried underground from the cable landfall either directly to the cable terminations or to transition vaults within the proposed onshore substation, (b) an onshore substation located at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal that will increase the voltage to 345 kV for the onshore interconnection cables, and (c) two 345-kV cable circuits, each with three single-core HVAC onshore interconnection cables, that will be buried underground from the onshore substation to the point of interconnection (POI) at the Gowanus 345-kV Substation owned by the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

The Empire Wind 1 offshore wind farm is proposed to be located in the Lease Area approximately 20 miles south of Long Island and outside of New York’s jurisdictional waters. As such, it will be permitted in a separate federal proceeding.

A copy of the Application will be filed with the Commission and served upon the Mayor of the City of New York and the Brooklyn Borough President and other statutory parties, and copies will be made available at the following local public libraries for public inspection. A copy of the Application will also be available on the Department of Public Service website (www.dps.ny.gov) once the Commission assigns a case number to the Project. Additional information can be found on the Project website at <https://www.empirewind.com/article-vii>.

Brooklyn Public Library
Red Hook Branch
7 Wolcott St
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Brooklyn Public Library
Park Slope Branch
431 6th Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Brooklyn Public Library
Flatbush Branch
22 Linden Blvd. at Flatbush Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11226

Brooklyn Public Library
Sunset Park interim library
4201 Fourth Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Brooklyn Public Library
Bay Ridge Branch
7223 Ridge Blvd.
Brooklyn, NY 11209

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

For further information concerning the Project, interested persons may contact the following:

Michelle L. Phillips
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3
Albany, New York 12223-1350
Phone: (518) 474-6530
Fax: (518) 474-9842
Email: secretary@dps.ny.gov

Julia Bovey
Director of External Affairs
Empire Offshore Wind LLC
Phone: 833-699-1965
Email: empirewind@equinor.com

Attachment D-4 Document Repositories (Libraries)

Brooklyn Public Library
Red Hook Branch
7 Wolcott St
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Brooklyn Public Library
Park Slope Branch
431 6th Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Brooklyn Public Library
Flatbush Branch
22 Linden Blvd. at Flatbush Ave.
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