

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT PERMIT
AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1, AIR & RADIATION DIVISION**

For

**Vineyard Wind 1, LLC
700 Pleasant Street, Suite 510
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 office (EPA) is proposing to issue a modification to the Clean Air Act (CAA) permit issued to Vineyard Wind 1, LLC (VW1) for the construction and operation of an Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) source that includes an offshore wind farm and export cables. EPA issued the initial permit on May 19, 2021. The wind farm has the potential to generate 800 megawatts (MW) of electricity, enough to provide electric power for approximately 400,000 homes. The wind farm will be located in federal waters in OCS Lease Area 0501. At its nearest points, the Wind Development Area (WDA) will be approximately 23 kilometers (km) from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, Massachusetts. The EPA is proposing to modify the OCS air permit pursuant to section 328 of the CAA and the applicable rules and regulations promulgated under 40 C.F.R. part 55, including applicable regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection that were incorporated by reference into part 55. We are soliciting comments related to the air emission impacts and the substance of the proposed CAA permit for the wind farm.

Description of the Modification:

On March 18, 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 received a request from VW1 to modify their permit issued on May 19, 2021. EPA received subsequent requests from VW1 for additional revisions to the permit on May 7 and May 11, 2022. The initial permit was effective on June 21, 2021. Since the initial permit was issued, EPA has gained more experience with the application of the CAA permitting program for OCS sources to offshore wind projects. In a subsequent permit for a similar offshore wind project, EPA developed permitting conditions for some construction equipment that differs from those in the permit issued to VW1. VW1 requested modifications to the initial permit to conform certain conditions in its permit to those prepared by EPA for a similar OCS source. VW1 also requested an 18-month extension to the commence construction deadline for activities subject to the permit and a revision to the engine requirements in the permit to allow for the installation of one 150 kilowatt (kW) engine instead of three 40 kW engines. The modification will also clarify several permit conditions and make other minor technical corrections within the permit.

Air Quality Impacts:

The air quality analysis for the May 19, 2021 initial permit showed that the impact from the WDA facility operation will not cause or contribute to a violation of applicable national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) or Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increments. The analysis also showed that construction phase emissions for the WDA facility will not cause significant impacts for the PSD increments at any Class I area (e.g., national parks and wilderness areas). The NAAQS are health-based standards that the EPA sets to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety. The PSD increments are designed to ensure that air quality in an area that meets the NAAQS does not significantly deteriorate from baseline levels. As part of its application for the proposed permit modification, VW1 provided an analysis to support its conclusion that the emissions increase from operation of the ~150 kW generator engines would not result in a significant emissions increase at the facility or alter the conclusion of the previous air quality impacts analysis. EPA has evaluated VW1's analysis and concurs with the permittee's conclusion that the requested permit modifications do not alter our prior conclusion that the project will not

significantly impact a Class I area or necessitate any changes to the previous air quality impact analysis for this source.

EPA Permit Action:

VW1 submitted a request to modify the initial OCS air permit for the wind farm to the EPA on March 18, 2022. EPA received subsequent requests from VW1 for additional revisions to the permit on May 7 and May 11, 2022. The EPA is proposing to issue the federal CAA permit based on the information in VW1's application and subsequent application updates and the applicable air permitting regulations. The proposed permit number for this action is OCS-R1-03-M1.

Public Comment Process:

The EPA is now taking public comments for the proposed action until August 10, 2022. Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed modification to the OCS air permit during the public comment period. The EPA will consider all comments submitted during the public comment period in its final decision-making process.

All data submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record. Members of the public may review a copy of the draft permit prepared by the EPA, the fact sheet for the draft permit, the application, and all supporting materials, at the U.S. EPA Region 1 office, at 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Boston, MA 02109. All documents will be available for review Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. To obtain information, please contact Eric Wortman at (617) 918 - 1624.

Electronic copies of the proposed permit, fact sheet, and all supporting materials are also available for review on EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/caa-permitting-epas-new-england-region>.

The public comment period on this proposed permit action will begin upon publication of this notice and will end on **August 10, 2022**. EPA prefers that all comments be submitted via email to Eric Wortman at wortman.eric@epa.gov. If email submittal of comments is not feasible, hard copy comments may be submitted to the address below.

Eric Wortman
Air and Radiation Division (Mailcode: 05-2)
U.S. EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109.

Comments may also be submitted electronically through <https://www.regulations.gov> (Docket ID # **EPA-R01-OAR-2019-0355**).

All comments received at or before the end of the public comment period will be considered in arriving at a final decision on the permit. The final permit is a public record that can be obtained upon request. A statement of reasons for changes made to the proposed permit and responses to all significant comments received will be sent to all persons who submitted comments (and contact information) on the proposed permit, or who requested notice of the final permit decision.

If you believe any conditions in the proposed permit are inappropriate, or that our initial decision to prepare a permit is inappropriate, you must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably ascertainable arguments supporting your position by the end of the public comment period. Any supporting materials that you submit must be included in full and may not be incorporated by reference, unless they are already part of the administrative docket for this permit proceeding or consist of State, Tribal, or Federal statutes and regulations, EPA documents of general availability, or other generally available referenced materials.

All comments received will be included in the public docket without change and will be available to the public, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Information that is considered to be CBI or otherwise protected should be clearly identified as such and should not be submitted through email. If a commenter sends email directly to the EPA, the email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the public comment. Please note that an email or postal address must be provided with comments if the commenter wishes to receive direct notification of the EPA's final decision regarding the proposed permit.

In addition, the EPA will hold a public hearing for the proposed modification to the OCS air permit at 7:00 pm EST on August 10, 2022. The hearing will be held virtually via Zoom.gov. More information regarding the public hearing and registration instructions are included on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/caa-public-comment-opportunities-region-1>. The hearing will be conducted in the English language. If you need a reasonable accommodation or have translation/interpretation needs, please contact Eric Wortman at wortman.eric@epa.gov or (617) 918-1624 by no later than July 26, 2022. The hearing will end when all attendees wishing to speak have spoken, or at 9:00 p.m., whichever is sooner. If no parties join the hearing by 8:00 p.m. EST, EPA will close the hearing. Depending on the number of attendees that wish to speak, the Presiding Officer may set reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements. We request, if possible, that you provide a written copy of any testimony you intend to present during the hearing. A written transcript of the public hearing will be made available afterwards. The public hearing will be conducted according to the rules and procedures of 40 C.F.R. § 124.12.

The EPA will proceed with final permit issuance consistent with the regulations at 40 C.F.R. part 55 and administrative procedural requirements at 40 C.F.R. part 124. Following the close of the public comment period, and after the public hearing, the EPA will issue a Final Permit decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Within 30 days following the notice of the permit decision, any interested parties may submit a petition for review of the permit to the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 124.19.

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 124.15, the final permit becomes effective 30 days after permit issuance, unless: (1) a later effective date is specified in the permit; or (2) the permit decision is appealed to the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 124.19; or (3) no comments resulted in a change to the proposed permit or a denial of the permit, in which case the EPA may make the final permit effective immediately upon issuance.

The EPA will add the OCS air permit to the EPA Region 1 website at <https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/caa-permitting-epas-new-england-region>. Anyone may request a copy of the final OCS air permit at any time by contacting Eric Wortman at wortman.eric@epa.gov or (617) 918-1624.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to be informed of future actions on this or other CAA permits issued by EPA Region 1, please send your name and address to Air Permits Team, Air and Radiation Division (Mailcode 05-2), U.S. EPA Region 1, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Boston, MA 02109, or sign up to receive notifications on our website at: <https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/caa-permitting-epas-new-england-region>.