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## **Statement by Anne Reynolds, Executive Director of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York, and Fred Zalcman, Director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance**

**NOTE: Both Anne and Fred will be available for media interviews, please contact Barry Wygel ([bwygel@aceny.org](mailto:bwygel@aceny.org) / 518.902.1225) to schedule interviews.**

ALBANY, N.Y., Oct. 12, 2023 — “The renewable energy industry is deeply disappointed with the Commission’s unfortunate ruling denying relief for renewable energy projects dealing with unprecedented inflation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Anne Reynolds, Executive Director of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York. “The decision is short-sighted. We were hoping the Commission would act strategically on behalf of ratepayers and the environment; instead, their decision will result in increased costs and greenhouse gas emissions.”

“Today’s PSC decision denying relief to the portfolio of contracted offshore wind projects puts these projects in serious jeopardy and deals a potentially fatal blow to the progress these projects have made to localize clean energy manufacturing, reinvigorate New York’s ports and harbors, train and deploy New York’s skilled union workers, and revitalize environmental justice communities,” said New York Offshore Wind Alliance Director Fred Zalcman. “These four projects represent nearly half the OSW capacity New York has committed to develop by 2035, and should they be allowed to fail, the state must redouble its efforts to make up this shortfall and honor its commitment to climate progress.”

This decision affects 81 utility-scale solar power projects and five land-based wind power projects, totaling 7.5 GW of power generation, and four offshore wind projects totaling 4.2 GW. These projects – contracted but not yet built – represent six years of contracting and project development in New York, time and money that will likely now be wasted. In June, ACE NY filed a petition on behalf of the 86 Upstate wind and solar projects, while two offshore wind companies filed petitions on behalf of their own contracted offshore wind projects, Empire 1, Empire 2, Beacon, and Sunrise Wind.

“During the Commission meeting, the DPS spokesperson ‘notes the potential to hold a re-bid,’ but didn’t provide any other detail. We will watch re-bid developments closely but note that New York is already six months late in issuing the 2023 solicitation under the Clean Energy Standard for Tier 1. New York also has yet to issue awards in the pending offshore wind solicitation and hasn’t announced awards resulting from the Tier 1 solicitation from 2022. Some large-scale projects facing massive milestone payments need greater certainty than afforded by today’s decision, and unfortunately will likely cancel projects and withdraw from the New York market. Other projects will have the ability to re-bid, and we do expect that many will re-bid. We also expect that collectively, hundreds of millions of dollars that were invested as contract deposits will be lost; the bid prices will be higher based on the same inflation pressures we described in our petition; the 2024 construction season will be missed; and various grid interconnection deadlines will be missed.

“Over the years, the effort to combat climate change has brought together an impressive coalition of private companies, environmental groups, and civic organizations, and a multitude of New York state’s agencies to rally behind New York’s landmark climate legislation, often championed by the highest levels of state government,” continued Anne Reynolds. “This decision hampers New York as it works to meet



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its mandates of the Climate Law and sets back the renewable energy industry, its resultant jobs and economic development in New York for years.

“As we learned this summer, the effects of climate change are no longer a distant threat, but a reality of today. Unfortunately, today’s action by New York is not a sign that our state is really committed to the climate change action mandates that exist in law, and it is not a day that has moved us forward in giving future generations of New Yorkers a healthier and safer environment.”

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**About the New York Offshore Wind Alliance:** The New York Offshore Wind Alliance (NYOWA) is a diverse coalition of organizations with a shared interest in promoting the responsible development of offshore wind power for New York. NYOWA is a new project of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY). [www.aceny.org/NYOWA](http://www.aceny.org/NYOWA)