

For Immediate Release

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Statement from the Alliance for Clean Energy and the New York Offshore Wind Alliance on Historic Federal Approval of the Vineyard Wind Project

Albany, NY, May 11, 2021 – Anne Reynolds, Executive Director of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) and Joe Martens, the Director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance (NYOWA) issued the following statement regarding the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management’s (BOEM) historic announcement today that it is approving the Vineyard Wind 1 project, the nation’s first large-scale, commercial offshore wind farm.

“ACE NY and NYOWA applaud BOEM’s approval today of the Vineyard Wind 1 project, the nation’s first, large-scale offshore wind farm. This approval is a quantum leap forward in President Biden’s commitment to address climate change and transition to clean, renewable energy and sends a clear and unambiguous signal that offshore wind will be a critical component of that transition. This decision represents the beginning of a new era in how we generate clean, renewable electricity near coastal population centers.

Approval of the Vineyard Wind 1 project, which will generate enough clean electricity for 400,000 homes, is a bellwether for the offshore wind industry in New York and beyond. New York has five offshore wind projects under development that are an essential for New York to meet its nation-leading renewable energy standard of 70% by 2030 and 100% emission-free by 2040. Those projects will create thousands of family-sustaining jobs, generate billions in economic development, address historic environmental injustices and create long-term employment opportunities and reinvestment at ports from Long Island to Albany.

Importantly, states up and down the east coast are aggressively pursuing offshore wind projects with a collective commitment to buy some 25,000 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind by 2035. West coast states are also actively pursuing the development of offshore wind. President Biden has set a national offshore wind development goal of 30,000 MW by 2030.

BOEM’s approval of the Vineyard Wind 1 builds on its recent announcement of new wind energy areas in the NY Bight, which help ensure that New York and New Jersey reach their clean energy goals. It is a crucial milestone that bodes well for the future of this new, once in a generation opportunity to start a new American clean energy industry. ACE NY and NYOWA congratulate BOEM and the new Administration on this historic milestone and look forward to continued progress.

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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