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**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION)	
)	
Long-Term Contracting for Offshore Wind Energy and Tidal Energy Projects)	COMMENTS OF THE CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION
)	
Docket No. 2010-235)	January 18, 2013

The Conservation Law Foundation submitted comments in support of Statoil's initial Term Sheet, but is more strongly in favor of the revised terms.

The revised term sheet reflects a direct and meaningful effort to address issues raised by the Commission during its deliberations on the initial term sheet. First, the revised term sheet includes an energy price reduction from \$290/MWh to \$270/MWh, which will lessen the impact on Maine rate payers by about 7% from the initial term sheet. The potential cost per household will be about 65 to 75 cents per month. Second, the pilot project will retain all funds stemming from the Department of Energy, and the energy contract price will be reduced by any additional grants received by Statoil unless Statoil proposes, and the Commission agrees to, an increase in the pilot project's scope to benefit future offshore wind developments in Maine. In this manner Statoil assumes more risk and allows more benefit to flow back to rate payers. Finally, Statoil has added a stronger commitment to Maine's economic and wind energy future by including a good faith commitment to involve Maine contractors in any future large wind park it develops prior to 2025 along the Atlantic Coast from Maryland to Maine using the Hywind Maine Technology.

In the interim, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) proceedings regarding the Statoil Hywind Maine Pilot Project have confirmed that there are no other developers interested in testing deep water wind technology off the coast of Maine. The Statoil project, if approved, will proceed as a project for which there is no competitive interest; *i.e.* it is the sole proposal at the federal and state level for developing wind energy off of Maine's coast.

For all of the above reasons, CLF supports approval of Statoil's January 14, 2013 Revised Term Sheet. Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully submitted,



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