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Center



RENEW
Northeast



April 5, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Support for the six New England States' Application for Power Up New England Funding

Dear Secretary Granholm,

As organizations focused on grid reliability, resilience, and clean energy integration, we strongly support the Power Up New England (Power Up) application submitted by the six New England States under Topic Area 3 of DOE's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program. The undersigned organizations are dedicated to growing the clean energy economy across the region. With federal funding support, Power Up will enable transformational investments in the New England grid, including new and upgraded transmission points of interconnection for offshore wind and multiple forms of energy storage to deliver innovative models and resilience benefits to the region.

Power Up proactively upgrades key points of interconnection in Connecticut and Massachusetts to ready the onshore transmission system for up to 4,800 megawatts (MW) of additional offshore wind, delivering multiple benefits across the region, including: greater resource diversity, enhanced grid reliability, lower wholesale energy prices, and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In addition, Power Up features the deployment of innovative, first-of-their-kind battery energy storage systems in Southwest Connecticut and Northern Maine to optimize renewable energy resources and offer grid-stabilizing benefits to the grid. By investing in transmission *and* storage infrastructure, Power Up will enable the injection of thousands of MW of zero-marginal-cost, carbon-free resources during bitter cold winters in New England, when reliability and resilience are at greatest risk.

Through Power Up, the New England States are partnering with project developers Eversource Energy, National Grid, Elevate Renewables, and Form Energy and leveraging technical support from ISO New England, the region's grid operator. Power Up's community benefits plan features strong commitments to communities to deliver high-quality jobs and relevant workforce development and training opportunities, with a total community benefit spend of nearly \$20 million. We are pleased to see the New England States working collaboratively with project developers and the grid operator on proactive investments in the region's power system to enhance grid reliability and resilience. We support the states' combined effort to pursue DOE funding for Power Up New England, which is critical to its successful implementation.

Sincerely,

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Northeast Clean Energy Council

Jeremy McDiarmid
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