

A Refreshing Source of Energy

Last week New Jersey joined Delaware and Rhode Island as states that are actively pursuing the development of offshore wind farms as a cleaner way to produce energy and gain more energy independence. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities chose from among competing proposals to develop the first wind farm off the state's coast.

Why offshore? Wind turbines are difficult to locate in a populated area like ours, and wind quality onshore is not as good as in states such as Kansas and Texas where onshore wind farms are popping up more frequently. Winds off the shore of New Jersey are stronger and more sustained than over land.

The winning proposal in New Jersey was from Garden State Offshore Energy (GSOE), of which PSEG is fifty percent owner. The selected proposal is for a wind farm more than 16 miles off the coast. This far from land, wind turbines will barely be seen and are away from the paths of migratory birds. The location should not disrupt ocean life and may even serve as an artificial reef, fostering a more vibrant ecosystem. It will also create green jobs in New Jersey.

Before any wind turbines are constructed, GSOE will conduct environmental and wind quality studies and obtain federal and local permits. Energy is not expected to begin flowing until 2012, with the entire project fully operational in 2013.

Offshore wind farms are becoming popular in Europe where several are already in operation and many more are in later stages of development. Great Britain has even set a goal of meeting its entire residential electrical demand solely from off shore wind.

In New Jersey, we are starting smaller. The GSOE proposal is for a wind farm that would generate about 350 megawatts of power – enough energy in a year to power around 125,000 homes. It is an important step to reaching Governor Corzine's aggressive goals of dramatically increasing the amount of New Jersey's energy needs that come from renewable energy. The good news is that, if this first project is successful, there is plenty of room for additional projects 20 and 30 miles off our coastline. Once again New Jersey is showing leadership – in solar energy, in environmental policy and now in

offshore wind.

So, how can we become more energy independent and generate more clean energy? The old song says the answer is blowing in the wind. In this case, offshore wind.

What's your view? Please let us know at Opinion@PSEG.com



Offshore wind farm could be powering 125,000 homes in 2013.

