

## **Request for Comments on the 2009 Off-Shore Wind Meteorological Station Rebate Program Criteria**

**COMMENTS DUE : November 19, 2008**

**Submit Comments to [OCE@bpu.state.nj.us](mailto:OCE@bpu.state.nj.us) with email title under Subj: “OSW Rebate Criteria Comments”**

The purpose of this \$12 million rebate program is to support the development of offshore wind facilities that are needed to achieve the 1000 MW target by 2012 as specified in the Energy Master Plan (EMP). In order to meet this target, the next critical step is the installation of meteorological stations in the areas that are proposed for offshore wind farms. These stations collect wind data that is critical to project design along with other ecological data that will be used in the permit application process. The proposed criteria to be eligible for the meteorological station rebate are as follows:

- Up to \$4 million per meteorological station rebate, limited to one rebate per entity;
- the meteorological station needs to be constructed in the Department of Environmental (DEP) Ecological Baseline Study area and where there is an approved nomination from the United States Department of the Interior (USDOI) Mineral Management Service (MMS);
- the meteorological station must be operational in 2009;
- the meteorological station is for a proposed wind farm that could foster development of at least 200 MW;
- the meteorological stations should avoid areas of probable/potential high environmental impacts (e.g. shoal area, highly productive shellfish beds) based on available data;
- DEP and/or DEP's contactors will be provided access to the station to collect data and/or deploy instruments for data collection based on a mutual agreement to be executed by the parties based on good faith negotiations;
- the approval of the rebate application and the payment of the rebate for the meteorological station does not confer State acceptance of a wind farm in the area of the meteorological station; and
- wind data collected from the meteorological station will be proprietary to the applicant provided the applicant is proceeding to obtain all necessary permits to construct an offshore wind facility with a projected completion date in 2012. If this condition is not met, all wind data will be turned over to the BPU and made public. Summary wind data will be provided to the BPU and DEP in a format that is mutually acceptable to the parties based on good faith negotiations. Ecological data will be provided to DEP once it is collected, assessed and compiled.