

Boosting wind farms

PSC eyes credits to spur projects; customers to pay

BY MARK HARRINGTON
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The state Public Service Commission is mulling a plan to “jump-start” the state’s offshore wind industry with proposals that would require utilities to subsidize development through the purchase of new wind-energy “credits.”

Ratepayers from utilities across the state would pay for the credits — which would be used as inducements for companies to propose projects — through new charges in their energy bills.

The plan, for which the PSC filed documents last week and is seeking comments before implementing, is part of a state initiative expected to result in hundreds of wind turbines in the waters off Long Island and New York City.

LIPA would not be required

to participate in the offshore wind credit plan because it is not subject to Public Service Commission jurisdiction. But it has participated in a similar credit plan to bail out upstate nuclear power plants threatened with shutdown. Long Islanders pay \$45 million a year through the power supply charge on their electric bills for these so-called zero emissions credits, or about \$2 per customer per month.

It is unclear how much Long Islanders would pay for the wind-energy credits should LIPA sign on to the plan.

A LIPA spokesman didn’t immediately comment.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo ultimately envisions 2,400 megawatts of offshore wind energy for the state by 2030. The state plans to issue bid requests for the first 800 megawatts of wind energy this year and next, a solicitation Cuomo said would lead to \$3.8 billion in private investment. LIPA said its planned 90-megawatt South Fork wind farm will cost ratepayers around \$1.20 a month when fin-

ished in 2022.

If approved, the new Offshore Wind Energy Credit plan would require utilities and power companies across the state to buy credits to “jump-start the deployment of offshore wind resources to serve New York consumers.”

Utilities would have to buy the credits in addition to what they would pay for energy from the wind farms, officials said. Payments for the credits would be offered as an extra inducement for the companies to propose projects in federal waters off the state.

A state official familiar with offshore wind said the credit program is needed because the U.S. offshore wind industry is so new and costs are high. The state, she said, would reserve the right to wind down the credits once equipment and labor costs decrease some years into the future. Incentives are needed “for now given the high cost of entry for developers,” the official said.

One offshore wind opponent raised questions about the need for incentives when wind-en-

ergy companies have bid fiercely for the single lease auction already conducted for New York.

“If the merits of the project are good, the state shouldn’t need to be giving them an added bonus to get up and running,” said Anthony Sosinski, a lobsterman from Montauk.

The state plan foresees competitive bid solicitations this year and next for at least 800 megawatts of offshore wind power from turbines 20 miles or so from the southern coast of Long Island.

By conducting the solicitations for wind energy and credits, the state gains leverage into the location of the farms and terms for labor and other factors. For instance, the PSC, according to the filing, “is considering whether the minimum distance should be 20 statute miles, or some lesser or greater minimum distance” from land. It is also considering incorporating eligibility requirements, such as project labor agreements and prevailing wage requirements, into the solicitations.

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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1912 American aviator Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel, leaving Dover, England, and arriving near Calais, France, in 59 minutes.

1945 During World War II, a Soviet submarine in the Baltic Sea torpedoed and sank the MV Goya, which Germany was using to transport civilian refugees and wounded soldiers; it’s estimated that up to 7,000 people died.

1963 Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his “Letter from Birmingham Jail” in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests; King defended his tactics, writing, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

1972 Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon with astronauts John W. Young, Charles M. Duke Jr. and Ken Mattingly on board.

2007 A Korean-born college senior killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

Glen Cove man with rare genetic disorder dies

BY RACHEL UDA
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Nicolas Vigliotti, a Glen Cove man who time and again defied the odds of his rare genetic disorder, died Sunday at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, his family said. He was 21.

When Vigliotti was born, his doctors didn’t expect him to live through the day, his mother, Debbie Vigliotti, said last May. He was born with chromosome-14 deletion, a genetic disorder that affected his thyroid, brain and lungs, and toward the end of his life necessitated him being on a ventilator.

But Vigliotti remained positive, even after he had been turned down by three donor centers for a lung transplant that his doctors said he needed to survive.

“Until his last breath, our superman fought for his life,” Debbie Vigliotti said in a statement Sunday. “A slow journey since last night he still fought. He took his last breath. He is now



free. Nico is in heaven.”

A vigil was held Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Saint Rocco in Glen Cove. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that do-

nations be made to Paving Pathways for Tomorrow, a nonprofit Debbie Vigliotti created to provide funds for Nico and other children with rare disorders.

Friends and family of Nicolas Vigliotti, 21, gather Sunday night for a vigil in his honor at the Church of St. Rocco in Glen Cove. Vigliotti died Sunday.