



News release  
April 7, 2021

**NEW ENGLAND AQUA VENTUS AND  
MAINE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL  
SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OUTLINING ROLE FOR  
MAINE LABOR IN OFFSHORE WIND**

*MOU signals partnership in deploying offshore wind and building a skilled  
Maine offshore wind workforce*

**Portland** – New England Aqua Ventus, LLC (NEAV) and the Maine Building and Construction Trades Council (Council), on behalf of itself and its affiliated local unions, have reached agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the role of Maine labor in offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.

NEAV is currently developing the offshore wind demonstration project near Monhegan with floating platform technology developed by the University of Maine.

The MOU creates a framework that will lead to future negotiations of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). The agreement envisions that the Council and its affiliated local unions will provide skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen to the construction of offshore wind in Maine.

The MOU also includes initiatives to bring new workers into the skilled trades to work on offshore wind. NEAV and the Council have agreed to work together to develop training and workforce development programs. One of the initiatives is to use pre-apprenticeship programs like *Helmets to Hard Hats* and *Building Futures* to recruit and train veterans and local disadvantaged young adults for employment on offshore wind projects.

NEAV is proud to partner with the Council and its affiliated unions in this first of a kind project, with the common goal of providing hundreds of great paying union construction jobs while combating climate change. NEAV and the Council will work together towards a sustainable and equitable future for Mainers. NEAV is committed to providing substantial opportunities for Maine workers and business by building a supply chain in the state for offshore wind and maximizing the involvement of Maine-based organizations in all aspects of the project.

“NEAV is really pleased to partner with the Council and its affiliated unions to involve their skilled members in offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. The PLA is part of our commitment to doing everything we can to use Maine workers and content in our development, construction and operation activities,” said Chris Wissemann of New England Aqua Ventus, LLC. “We’re also

really excited to be able support the training of the next generation of skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen to work in our growing industry.”

The Monhegan demonstration project is expected to produce more than \$125 million in total economic activity and create hundreds of Maine-based jobs during the construction period. Construction, following all permitting, is expected to occur during 2022 and 2023.

“The signing of this MOU is the first step towards building a new green energy economy that provides a ladder to good carbon-free careers in the trades right here in Maine. Project Labor Agreements have been used for generations between building trades unions and contractors to ensure the job is done on time and within budget while drawing on a ready pool of skilled, professional union trades people,” said John Napolitano, president of the Maine Building and Construction Trades Council. “It will also give our Veterans, youth, and minorities the opportunities to learn the trades and build the workforce for the future. Too often Maine building trades workers have to travel outside the state for work, but this PLA will help provide an anchor for a worker friendly, carbon-free industry right here in Maine.”

"Income inequality and climate change are two of the most urgent threats facing our nation. With this project, we can address one while tackling the other," said Congresswoman Chellie Pingree. "As our state and nation transition to a climate-resilient, low-carbon economy, we should use contractors who respect workers' rights and pay them a living wage for their highly-skilled labor. Ensuring that these workers will be able to stay in Maine and support their families here is an added benefit to our state. Union labor helped build this country and I am pleased to see it also play a critical part in building our clean energy future."

"I'm excited for both Maine workers and Searsport that Aqua Ventus and the Council have signed this MOU. An investment this big needs to benefit Maine workers, and this MOU is a great step toward doing just that," said State Rep. Scott Cuddy of Winterport. "The highly skilled craftspeople of the Building Trades and other workers from Maine will have a hand in building energy independence for Maine and the US."

“Maine’s clean energy economy is continuing to create good-paying jobs all around the state and drive increased demand for workers in the skilled trades,” said Dan Burgess, director of the Governor’s Energy Office. “With wind and solar among the fastest growing employment fields in the country, agreements like this underscore the economic potential for Maine workers in the clean energy economy, as well the workforce development opportunities that are needed to meet this demand.”

"This MOU is a great first step and we're excited to see this project get off the ground with union labor," said Mike Williams of Cumberland, deputy director of BlueGreen Alliance. "What we need next is a concrete project labor agreement and the establishment of a strong domestic supply chain to bring the manufacturing of offshore wind to our shores. Then we'll truly be capturing the opportunity of offshore wind for Maine."

The Monhegan demonstration project will consist of a single semisubmersible concrete floating platform, developed by UMaine, that will support a commercial 10–12 megawatt wind turbine

and will be deployed in a state-designated area 2 miles south of Monhegan Island and 14 miles from the Maine coast. The purpose of the demonstration project is to further evaluate the floating technology, monitor environmental factors and develop best practices for offshore wind to coexist with traditional marine activities in the Gulf of Maine. It will supply clean, renewable electricity to the Maine grid.

###

#### **About New England Aqua Ventus**

New England Aqua Ventus, LLC (NEAV) is a joint venture between Diamond Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of Diamond Generating Corporation, and RWE Renewables, the second largest company in offshore wind globally. NEAV is managing all aspects of permitting, construction and assembly, deployment and ongoing operations for the floating offshore wind technology demonstration project near Monhegan Island. Diamond and RWE, with years of collective offshore energy experience and success, will invest \$100 million to build the project and help demonstrate the technology at full scale. Combined, the two new partners are responsible for nearly a quarter of the world's offshore wind capacity.

#### **About Maine Building and Construction Trades Council**

Chartered in 1964, the Maine Building and Construction Trades Council consists of 17 Trade Unions representing over 5,000 working men and women throughout the state of Maine. The Council's goal is to harness the collective power of its affiliates to stand up for Maine's working class by building careers, building community and building Maine.

#### Media contact

For NEAV:

Dave Wilby

[dwilby@wilbypublicaffairs.com](mailto:dwilby@wilbypublicaffairs.com)

207.217.4344

For MBCTC:

Grant Provost

[GProvost@iwlocal7.org](mailto:GProvost@iwlocal7.org)

207.314.3530