



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
16 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note  
COMMISSIONER

November 18, 2021

The Honorable Janet T. Mills  
Governor, State of Maine

Dear Governor Mills,

In March 2020, you directed the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to study the feasibility of constructing port infrastructure in the Port of Searsport to support the rapidly evolving offshore wind industry. Pursuant to that directive, we present this Feasibility Study and Concept Design Report by the engineering firm of Moffat & Nichol, dated November 17, 2021.

This study evaluated the physical and technical characteristics of various sites in the Port of Searsport. It concludes that multiple sites should be considered as part of a wind port hub, including Mack Point and a relatively small portion of state-owned land on Sears Island that has been reserved for development. To allow for a proper evaluation of alternatives, the study recommends that the Sears Island site be further evaluated for potential phased development through more detailed environmental assessment, geotechnical study, and preliminary design work. The study also calls for consideration of improvements on the protected portions of the island. This work is necessary to properly evaluate impacts and alternatives, and to answer anticipated questions from interested parties.

A companion study on broader wind port needs in Maine is also underway and will analyze how other Maine ports, including the Ports of Portland and Eastport, can play important roles supporting the offshore wind industry. We expect this companion study to be complete in a few months.

We recognize that these two studies could generate significant interest from the public. It is important to understand that an engineering recommendation at a conceptual feasibility phase is a long way from a final decision on development. We need to perform more analysis and engage with regulatory agencies and the public so we can properly evaluate practicable alternatives.

To do so, we are committed to a robust and transparent stakeholder engagement and public communication process. We have already begun reaching out to the town and stakeholders and are planning to design and implement a process by which stakeholders and the public can ask detailed questions, receive solid answers, and thus inform us before any final decisions are made.

In closing, Maine has a huge opportunity before it. We can become a leader in the floating offshore wind market and capture the clean energy and jobs that come with it. To do so, all interested parties will need to work collaboratively to provide the port infrastructure needed. We look forward to a successful collaboration and to the benefits that generations of Maine people will enjoy as a result.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bruce A. Van Note'.

Bruce A. Van Note  
Commissioner

cc: Dan Burgess, Director, Governor's Energy Office  
Hannah Pingree – Director, Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future

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# Maine Department of Transportation: Offshore Wind Port Infrastructure Feasibility Study

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## Concept Design Report

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



moffatt & nichol

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Newton, MA 02459

*November 17, 2021*