

## State grants permit to Cape Wind

**BOSTON — The Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board has voted 7-0 to authorize a Certificate of Environmental Impact for the Cape Wind offshore wind energy project. The board effectively granted nine state and local permits required for the project to proceed.**

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In doing so, the board overrode the 2007 decision by the Cape Cod Commission to deny a Development of Regional Impact permit for the electrical cable needed to connect the federal waters of Horseshoe Shoal, where the wind farm will be, with the mainland.

Barring a second appeal to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which has already ruled on behalf of the Siting Board once, the project has completed its state and local permitting process.

It was an extensive process, taking seven years. Following the announcement, several decision makers were looking forward. The chair of the board, Undersecretary for Energy Ann Berwick, thanked the members and staff for their diligence. Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles said that the project is ready to proceed.

Federal review processes are expected to conclude soon when Interior Secretary Ken Salazar issues a Record of Decision on Cape Wind. The Minerals Management Services of the Interior Department has already issued a favorable Final Environmental Impact Statement in January.

On the local level, the Siting Board directed Barnstable and Yarmouth to discuss conditions to be incorporated in the certificate. These towns were not able to grant local permits, such as street openings and wetlands Orders of Conditions, because of the Cape Cod Commission's unfavorable decision.