

Eureka Times-Standard

December 5, 2023

Offshore wind company to open office in Eureka ahead of construction

The ceremony is set for 5:30 Dec. 12 in the Carson Block Building.
(Shaun Walker/ The Times-Standard)



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On Wednesday evening, Vineyard Offshore will be holding an opening ceremony for an office in Eureka’s Carson Block building.

Vineyard Offshore is one of two companies, along with RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, that won an auction in Dec. 2022 for a federal lease area off Eureka to build floating offshore wind turbines.

“There’s a reason why we want to be in the center of town. We want to be accessible for folks,” said Erik Peckar, Vineyard’s director of external affairs for the West Coast.

He said they want a place for people to share information with organizations interested in the project.

Construction for the project is still well into the future and faces a number of hurdles. Peckar estimated that construction is ten plus years out, and added they have time to get it right.

Construction of a terminal in Humboldt Bay comes first; officials from the Harbor District aim for construction of the terminal, to be operated by Crowley Wind Services, to begin in late 2026 and to be completed in 2029.

Christian Scorzoni, Vineyard’s head of external affairs, said the company has been involved in other pieces of the puzzle that need to be addressed, like workforce training programs at Cal Poly Humboldt and a work force development group with Humboldt County.

The company has been working in Sacramento; State Assembly Bill 1373 was recently signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, which centralizes the process of buying offshore wind energy.

Companies also must address concerns of fishermen and other groups through a community benefits agreement. The company has been meeting with government leaders, including local tribes, said Scorzoni.

Peckar, who was involved in community agreements involving the company’s massive wind farm near Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, said the company is taking the experience from the East Coast and translating it to California.

The project is set to be commercially operable next year.

Christian Scorzoni, head of external affairs, said the 800 megawatt offshore wind project has 3,600 full time employees — although the two noted it’s too soon to know job projections for Humboldt County.

Scorzoni noted the company learned from listening to the local community needs on the East Coast, including adding income eligible ratepayer benefits after receiving feedback.