

1 Delaware Department of Natural Resources and
2 Environmental Control (DNREC)
3 Public Hearing: U.S. Wind, Inc., Offshore Wind Project
4 Permit Authorization

5
6 Docket No. 2024-P-MULTI-0007
7

8
9 Moderated by Lisa Vest

10 Tuesday, July 9, 2024

11 6:00 p.m.
12

13
14 Remote Proceeding

15 DNREC

16 Division of Water and Division of Watershed

17 Stewardship

18 89 Kings Highway

19 Dover, DE 19901
20

21
22 Reported by: Andrew Weader

23 JOB NO.: 6741876
24

A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

Lisa Vest, Hearing Officer

Andrea Wisniewski, Administrative Specialist III -
Wetlands and Waterways Section

Erin Vorous, DNREC Intern - observing

Amanda Davis, DNREC Executive Assistant to Secretary

Laurie Jodziewicz, US Wind Inc. - Sr. Director of
Environmental Affairs

Theresa Smith, DNREC Administrative Assistant

Matthew Ritter, DNREC's Division of Community Affairs

Matthew Jones, Section Manager - Division of Water and
Wastewater

Jennifer Pongratz, DNREC - Division of Watershed
Stewardship

Stephen Williams, Director of Division of Watershed
Stewardship

Janella Sapp, Administration Specialist - Office of
Secretary

Wilfredo Ferrer III, DNREC Intern - observing

Emily Knearl, Public Commenter

Denise Clendenning, Public Commenter

Arthur Ransier, Public Commenter

James Bew, Public Commenter

1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont'd)

2 Scott Phillips, Public Commenter

3 Elizabeth Frazee, Public Commenter

4 Tom Brett, Public Commenter

5 Mary Douglas, Public Commenter

6 Rev. Edward Thayer, Public Commenter

7 Chip Smith, Public Commenter

8 Cynthia Simeone, Public Commenter

9 Steven Miles, Public Commenter

10 Dan Cohen, Public Commenter

11 Sue Vatnick, Public Commenter

12 George Bates, Public Commenter

13 Jill Gaumer, Public Commenter

14 Peggy Schultz, Public Commenter

15 Randall Larrimore, Public Commenter

16 Pat Resnick, Public Commenter

17 Dianna Harris, Public Commenter

18 John L Buono, Public Commenter

19 Coralie Pryde, Public Commenter

20 Joseph Hamed, Public Commenter

21 Natalie Magdeburger, Public Commenter

22 Dustyn Thompson, Public Commenter

23 Sarah Albertson, Public Commenter

24 David Dempsey, Public Commenter

1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont'd)

2 Marissa McClenton, Public Commenter

3 Jay Cooperson, Public Commenter

4 Peter McLean, Public Commenter

5 Beth Chajes, Public Commenter

6 Anne Sakalay, Public Commenter

7 Andrea Caggiano, Public Commenter

8 Bill McMurray, Public Commenter

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 THE REPORTER: We are on the record at
3 6 p.m.

4 MS. VEST: Good evening. I believe
5 that everyone has nestled in and is cozy and
6 connected. So we're going to go ahead and begin
7 tonight's proceedings. First of all, I want to thank
8 everybody for taking the time out of their busy
9 schedules to join us tonight.

10 The date is Tuesday, July 9, 2024. And
11 we are here this evening to provide the virtual
12 platform for DNREC to conduct its formal public
13 hearing on the permit authorizations submitted to the
14 department by US Wind Inc. They have proposed an
15 offshore wind project that is located offshore off the
16 state of Maryland.

17 For those who may not recognize me, my
18 name is Lisa Vest. And Secretary Garvin has
19 designated me to serve as the hearing officer for
20 tonight's proceedings.

21 Just a couple of words and some brief
22 instructional things before we get started. Pursuant
23 to DNREC standard hearing protocols, this meeting is
24 being held completely virtually. While there are no

1 physical sign-in sheets to speak of because nobody is
2 located in a room physically, Zoom does generate a
3 list of those who are attending tonight.

4 And we will be able to keep a record
5 for our purposes of finding out who has attended
6 tonight. And so again, I want to thank you for taking
7 the time to be here. Before I set down all the
8 parameters for what we're going to be doing tonight, I
9 am going to turn things over to Janella Sapp for a
10 brief couple minutes.

11 Janella is one of the administrative
12 specialists at DNREC in the office of the secretary.
13 And she is going to be giving you some brief
14 instructions if you want to take advantage of the
15 closed captioning feature that Zoom provides on this
16 platform.

17 Specifically, how to see closed
18 captioning on the screens, as well as some additional
19 information about the other technology that you'll be
20 seeing this evening.

21 So, Janella, when you're ready, you may
22 take that away.

23 MS. SAPP: Hello. As Ms. Vest was
24 saying, I'm Janella Sapp. I'm the administrative

1 specialist with the office of the secretary. And I'm
2 here to assist the hearing officer today. I'd like to
3 make sure that everyone is aware that the Zoom
4 platform that we're using has the ability for closed
5 captioning in multiple languages.

6 To start closed captioning, if you're
7 using a computer, at the bottom of your screen you
8 should see a "Show Captions" button. If you don't see
9 the "Show Captions" button, you may have to select the
10 three dots that say "More."

11 Once you find your "Show Captions"
12 button, you should click the caret pointing up, which
13 will bring up your translation options. You can
14 select your preferred language from there. If your
15 preferred language isn't listed, you select "More,"
16 and all the languages will be listed.

17 If you're on a smartphone, at the
18 bottom of your screen, select the "Captions" button
19 indicated by "CC." If your preferred language is not
20 listed at the bottom, you may have to select the three
21 dots that say "More." You should then select "Meeting
22 Settings" with the gear icon next to it.

23 Once the settings page comes up located
24 at the very bottom, select "Translation Language."

1 From there, you'll be able to select your preferred
2 language. Then select "Done" at the top right corner
3 and then "Done" again. If your captions are not
4 automatically popping up yet, you may need to select
5 "Captions" again and select "Show Captions."

6 Now, I'll turn it back over to Hearing
7 Officer Vest.

8 MS. VEST: Thank you, Janella.

9 As I mentioned, I do have some
10 introductory remarks. After that, I will be turning
11 the floor over to representative for both the
12 Department and for the applicant so that presentations
13 may be offered for incorporation into the hearing
14 record, which is one of the main reasons that we're
15 here this evening.

16 Also, just so everyone is aware, during
17 tonight's meeting, the screen will be focusing on
18 people that are speaking at the time. There'll also,
19 almost always be a big window on your screen that'll
20 show the presentation that's being discussed.

21 When we get to the portion where we
22 will be accepting live comment from those that have
23 preregistered, there'll be a timer so that people can
24 help gauge their speaking time. But my point of all

1 of that is, from time to time, you may lose my window.

2 Rest assured, I'm still in the room.

3 The hearing officer is still here. It's just the way
4 that Zoom tries to keep focus for these meetings.

5 Since there are matters that are
6 pending with two different divisions of the Department
7 this evening, there are presentations that will be
8 offered by both the Division of Water and the Division
9 of Watershed Stewardship.

10 Accordingly, you'll see two different
11 PowerPoints presented for you this evening. Each
12 specifically dealing with the permits submitted to
13 each of those divisions about those specific areas of
14 the project. Following the conclusion of the two
15 presentations from the Department, you'll also see the
16 applicant's presentation.

17 I should note that part of DNREC's
18 obligations with respect to holding permit hearings
19 such as this is to ensure the hearing record contains
20 not only presentations offered by each specific
21 permitting decision, but also by the applicant.

22 The applicant is required at our
23 hearings to offer their own presentation explaining
24 exactly what their proposed project is, what it

1 entails, and specifically what it is that the
2 applicant is requesting of the Department for any
3 given permitting matter.

4 In addition to offering such
5 presentations live at the hearing, please remember
6 that everything that you see tonight will also be
7 posted on the Department's hearing page that's online.
8 We have a specific hearing page that is dedicated to
9 each hearing matter.

10 So there is a lot of information on the
11 hearing page dedicated to the U.S. Wind project. You
12 can always go back after tonight and review the
13 presentations, as well as the exhibits. And when we
14 get the court reporter's transcript, it'll get posted
15 there. And you can review that there as well.
16 There's a vast amount of information.

17 You'll also be able to see all the
18 comments that are received by the department. And you
19 can read all of that, especially if you're planning on
20 offering some of your own written comments after
21 tonight's proceedings are over.

22 So in any event, there's a vast amount
23 of information on that web page. And I would
24 encourage everybody to please go and check that out

1 when they can.

2 It is important to set the parameter
3 for tonight's proceeding. First and foremost, this is
4 a formal, legal proceeding. It is not a public
5 information session. It is not some other type of
6 informal workshop or town hall meeting.

7 Nor is the purpose of tonight's meeting
8 to advocate in any way, not on behalf of the
9 Department or the applicant or even members of the
10 public. Rather, the purpose of tonight's hearing is
11 to provide a platform where members of the public can
12 attend, learn about the project and the pending
13 matters that are before the Department at this time.

14 And also an opportunity to offer live
15 comment, provided they have preregistered with the
16 Department to do so. I want to be very clear on the
17 specific purpose of this hearing tonight. U.S. Wind
18 has proposed to develop a commercial-scale, offshore
19 wind energy project that's located offshore of the
20 state of Maryland.

21 Portions of that project are located
22 under state-regulated wetlands and subaqueous lands in
23 the Atlantic Ocean, within Delaware-related waters,
24 and also the Indian River Bay.

1 What is specifically pending before
2 DNREC at this time and what you're going to hear in
3 the presentations and in the testimony offered tonight
4 are the details concerning those authorizations needed
5 by the applicant only for those aspects of the project
6 that directly impact Delaware-state-regulated
7 subaqueous lands, tidal wetlands.

8 And additionally, you'll be hearing
9 details involving the other authorizations needed for
10 the associated infrastructure aspects of the project
11 that directly impact Delaware. It is only those
12 portions of the applicant's project that will be
13 discussed in the hearing tonight.

14 Now, let's talk a little bit about what
15 is not at issue tonight. None of the pending
16 authorizations that you'll be hearing tonight that are
17 currently before the Secretary for consideration
18 involve the potential construction of wind turbines.

19 Nor do they involve any aspect of the
20 applicant's project that fall under the authority of
21 either the federal government or directly from the
22 state of Maryland.

23 Again, the subject matter of the
24 hearing tonight concerns only those activities which

1 would require the following authorizations from DNREC:
2 a State of Delaware subaqueous lands permit and lease,
3 a State of Delaware wetlands permit, a Section 401
4 water quality certification that's required for the
5 dredging associated with the United States Army Corps
6 of Engineers permitting activities, and lastly, a
7 beach preservation coastal construction permit, which
8 would be issued by DNREC's Division of Watershed
9 Stewardship.

10 Anything other than those four specific
11 authorizations is going to fall outside of the scope
12 of this hearing tonight and would not be considered
13 germane to this evening's proceedings.

14 And again, the specifics of what
15 exactly those particular authorizations would be
16 permitting will be explained in the presentations that
17 you'll be seeing in the next few minutes

18 The community concerns regarding this
19 proposed project as presented through DNREC's public
20 hearing process are extremely important to the
21 Department. Those concerns are incorporated into the
22 hearing record by the public submitting their comments
23 directly to DNREC, either in writing or verbally at
24 the hearing tonight.

1 While all comments are appreciated,
2 each comment must be limited solely to the subject
3 matter of tonight's hearing. And again, that is the
4 applicant's pending permits with DNREC's multiple
5 divisions as I've previously noted.

6 It's also important to note that
7 multiple comments that all say the same thing do not
8 outweigh one singular comment. Simply put, comments
9 are not votes. I want to share something with the
10 audience tonight that we take straight from EPA's
11 website concerning public comment with regard to how
12 it's weighed; okay?

13 The following is a quote.

14 "Organizations often encourage their members to submit
15 form letters designed to address issues common to
16 their membership. Organizations including industry
17 associations, labor unions, and conservation groups
18 sometimes use form letters to voice their opposition
19 or support of a proposed rulemaking.

20 "Many in the public mistakenly believe
21 that their submitted form letter constitutes a vote
22 regarding the issues concerning them. Although public
23 support or opposition may help guide important public
24 policies, agencies make determinations for a proposed

1 action based upon sound reasoning and scientific
2 evidence, rather than a majority of votes.

3 "One single, well-supported comment,
4 may carry more weight than 1,000 form letters." DNREC
5 adheres to this policy with regard to public comment.
6 So please keep this in mind when you're listening to
7 the presentations and all of the information that's
8 presented tonight.

9 We have approximately 60 people that
10 have preregistered to comment live tonight. Given the
11 fact that every commenter is entitled to three minutes
12 of time to offer their opinions for the record, that
13 alone would take three hours if everybody fully
14 utilizes each of their three-minute periods.

15 I would encourage you, if you start to
16 hear the same comment being offered over and over
17 again, perhaps you should consider saying something
18 different or unique that hasn't already been offered
19 for the record. Or perhaps just simply say, "I'll
20 just submit my comments in writing."

21 You have a lot of time. The record is
22 not going to close tonight at the conclusion of the
23 proceedings. Rather, it's going to remain open
24 through September 9th. And since all comment bears

1 the same weight, you can feel free.

2 I also want to make a note that due to
3 certain time restrictions and restraints that are in
4 place tonight, this hearing hopefully will be able to
5 accommodate everybody that preregistered, but we do
6 have a hard stop that's going to happen at 10 p.m.
7 Again, the intention is not to constrict the time that
8 everybody is entitled.

9 I'm still going to allow three minutes
10 for everybody that we can get in. But again, we may
11 not get to everybody. So please, if you hear the same
12 thing being said over and over, it's just a
13 suggestion, consider perhaps just sending those
14 comments into us in writing.

15 I just am trying to offer suggestions
16 that can make the comment period as meaningful, yet as
17 concise, as possible. And to those that are
18 commenting live tonight, again, please remember that
19 volume does not equal weight.

20 I also want to make sure that everyone
21 understands that only comments submitted to DNREC and
22 entered into the formal hearing record in this matter
23 will be posted on the hearing page and considered by
24 the Department as part of this permit decision

1 process.

2 The Department has not partnered with
3 any outside organization or any other website to
4 assist with the gathering and/or submissions of
5 comments in this matter. So again, please only submit
6 your comments to DNREC directly.

7 For those that preregistered with DNREC
8 to offer comment this evening, when we get to that
9 portion of the hearing tonight, each person will be
10 recognized in the order that they signed up. And each
11 person will be given three minutes to comment at that
12 time. I will say more about the comment period as we
13 approach that part of the hearing.

14 But again, I must stress that tonight's
15 proceeding is a formal, legal hearing. And as such,
16 all comments must be offered in a respectful manner.
17 There will be zero tolerance for disparaging remarks,
18 comments, offensive language, and/or any kind of
19 personal attacks.

20 Now, the following protocols apply to
21 all DNREC public hearings. One, as I've mentioned
22 before, all comment received must be limited solely to
23 the subject matter of tonight's hearing, which again
24 are the pending authorizations that are before the

1 Department at this time from U.S. Wind.

2 All comments pertinent to that subject
3 matter will be incorporated into the hearing record
4 and posted on our hearing page so that everyone can
5 take advantage of reviewing them.

6 Number two, in order to ensure that
7 everyone who wishes to offer comment for the
8 Secretary's consideration is accommodated, as I
9 mentioned before, the record is not going to close at
10 the conclusion of tonight's hearing, but rather will
11 remain open for receipt of public comment through
12 Monday, September 9, 2024.

13 Number three, there is only one
14 authentic record of this proceeding tonight, and it is
15 the official court reporter's verbatim transcript. We
16 will post that on the hearing page as soon as it is
17 received.

18 Usually takes a few days. It's going
19 to be a long hearing. So it might take a couple days
20 longer, but it should be there in the next few days.
21 And we will get that posted as soon as possible.

22 Number four, the statutory purpose of
23 tonight's hearing is to build the record with regard
24 to these pending permit authorizations. A record that

1 consists of the transcript of tonight's hearing, all
2 of the public comments, all of the exhibits, and
3 eventually the hearing officer's report will be
4 compiled and reviewed by Secretary Garvin.

5 The Secretary will ultimately issue an
6 order following that review process. And that order
7 will contain his decision on the matter and his
8 reasoning therefore.

9 Lastly, it's important to note that no
10 decision has already been made with regard to these
11 pending applications, nor will any decision be made
12 tonight. Again, we want to use this as a platform so
13 that it's a two-way information street. You can
14 receive all of the information with the presentations
15 and the testimony and the comments that come in.

16 And then you can go to that webpage,
17 and you can review it all and have basically two more
18 months of time that you can digest all the information
19 that you hear tonight and what's available on the
20 hearing page and offer comments.

21 As long as the department receives it
22 on or before September 9th, it all bears the same
23 weight. It's going to count just as much as if people
24 speak tonight. And again, I thank you for taking your

1 time to do this.

2 One last thing before we go to the
3 presentations. In addition to there being a hard stop
4 at ten o'clock, we will be taking a brief five-minute
5 break at the top of each hour. That's for the benefit
6 of our court reporter so he can stand up and stretch a
7 little. I wanted to make the public aware of that as
8 well.

9 So there is a time where you'll be able
10 to step back and walk away and maybe get yourself a
11 drink or something and take a little break. We'll put
12 a timer up on the screen when we do that. So you
13 won't be missing anything. And then we'll come back
14 on the record after each five-minute break and
15 continue on with the comments.

16 That being said, I am going to go ahead
17 and let the presentations begin. The first one that
18 we'll be seeing tonight will be offered by Matthew
19 Jones. He is with the Division of Water. And Matt's
20 presentation will be about the authorizations that are
21 currently pending before that division.

22 So, Matt, when you're ready, you may
23 begin.

24 MR. JONES: All right. I'm ready to

1 begin. Thank you, Lisa.

2 Good evening. My name is Matthew
3 Jones. Once again, I'm the section manager for the
4 DNREC Division of Water - Wetlands and Waterways
5 Section. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an
6 opportunity to comment on the applications to the
7 Department by U.S. Wind, Inc.

8 The applicant is proposing to develop a
9 wind energy project off the coast of Maryland,
10 portions of the export cables would be located under
11 state-regulated wetlands and subaqueous lands in the
12 Atlantic Ocean, within Delaware state waters and the
13 Indian River Bay.

14 Authorizations under review by the
15 Division of Water - Wetlands and Waterways Section
16 include the following: subaqueous lands lease,
17 subaqueous lands permit, wetlands permit, and 401
18 Water Quality certification.

19 Next slide, please.

20 This image represents the project
21 location, but also the scope of work that is under
22 review by the Division of Water - Wetlands and
23 Waterways Section.

24 State jurisdiction of waters begin at

1 the three-nautical mile line as depicted on the map.
2 Any activities taking place in subaqueous lands or
3 state-regulated wetlands require an authorization from
4 the Wetlands and Waterways Section.

5 Next slide, please.

6 Legal notice of this project was
7 published on April 28, 2024, in the Delaware State
8 News, the News Journal, and the Cape Gazette. Notice
9 was also posted online, on the State of Delaware
10 public meeting calendar and on the DNREC website. The
11 public comment period will be open through September
12 9, 2024.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Again, the project under review by the
15 Wetlands and Waterways Section includes the following
16 authorizations that are currently under review:
17 subaqueous lands permit and lease.

18 The proposed project impacting
19 state-regulated subaqueous land, starting at the
20 three-mile jurisdictional line is comprised of up to
21 four transmission cables and will terminate into a
22 proposed substation to be constructed on tax parcel
23 233-2.00-2.01, which is adjacent to the Indian River
24 Power Plant in Sussex County, Delaware.

1 Additionally, the applicant proposes to
2 conduct dredging to facilitate construction of the
3 offshore wind project and associated infrastructure in
4 the Indian River, Sussex County, Delaware.

5 Next is the wetlands permit. The
6 applicant's proposing to temporarily place a pipeline
7 associated with the proposed dredging activities
8 across state-regulated tidal wetlands to transport the
9 dredge material to an upland confined disposal
10 facility adjacent to the Indian River, Sussex County,
11 Delaware.

12 Next slide, please.

13 And lastly is the 401 Water Quality
14 certification, which is required for the activities
15 associated with the United States Army Corps of
16 Engineers permitting for the construction of the
17 proposed offshore wind project and associated
18 infrastructure.

19 The applicant requests a Section 401
20 Water Quality certification. Approval is being
21 requested to conduct dredging within Indian River,
22 Sussex County, Delaware.

23 Next slide, please.

24 The subaqueous lands permit, to get

1 into the details a little more, is required for any
2 activities impacting subaqueous lands. For this
3 project, the permit's required for the proposed
4 dredging. The proposal includes hydraulic dredging of
5 approximately 74,000 cubic yards of material with
6 onsite dewatering via geo-bags.

7 Disposal of the dredge material would
8 occur at the Jones Crossroads Landfill, just outside
9 Georgetown, Delaware. Regulatory review criteria is
10 consistent with 7 Del.C. Chapter 72, and the
11 regulations governing the use of subaqueous lands.

12 Next slide, please.

13 Next is the subaqueous lands lease. So
14 a subaqueous lands lease is a renewable lease required
15 for the placement of any structure or any fill placed
16 in underwater lands to channelward of the mean low
17 water line.

18 The lease is required for the
19 installation of the transmission cable and would be
20 for the occupancy of approximately 340,000 linear feet
21 of public subaqueous lands. The lease would also
22 include up to 51,000 square feet, or 38,250 cubic
23 yards, of cable protection, which could consist of
24 concrete mattresses.

1 Next slide, please.

2 Regulatory review criteria is
3 consistent with 7 Del.C. Chapter 72 and the
4 regulations governing the use of subaqueous lands.

5 Next slide, please.

6 The next authorization currently under
7 review by the Wetlands and Waterways Section is a
8 wetlands permit. Wetland permits are required for
9 activities that occur in tidal wetlands, as well as
10 non-tidal wetlands that include 400 or more contiguous
11 acres under the Delaware Wetlands Act, in the state's
12 Wetland Regulations.

13 The project proposal is for the
14 temporary placement of dredge discharge pipes crossing
15 approximately 1200 linear feet, which would consist of
16 two 600-foot-long hydraulic pipelines, crossing
17 state-regulated tidal wetlands. Regulatory review
18 criteria is consistent with 7 Del.C. Chapter 66 and
19 the Wetland Regulations.

20 Next slide, please.

21 Lastly is the Section 401 Water Quality
22 certification. The water quality certification is a
23 requirement of the U.S. Clean Water Act, to certify
24 that the discharge of dredge or fill material into the

1 waters of the United States, including wetlands, that
2 is authorized by the federal government will not
3 violate the state water quality standards.

4 The regulatory review criteria is
5 consistent with 7 Del.C. Chapter 60 and the Surface
6 Water Quality Standards, as well as the Regulations
7 Governing the Control of Water Pollution.

8 Next slide, please.

9 At this time, I would like to introduce
10 my exhibits. Exhibit 1 is state laws 7 Del.C. Chapter
11 60, 7 Del.C. Chapter 66, and 7 Del.C. Chapter 72 and
12 state --

13 MS. VEST: Hey, excuse me, Matt. You
14 don't have to worry about that.

15 MR. JONES: Okay.

16 MS. VEST: We'll accept them, you know,
17 as is. I don't want to take up any unnecessary time
18 with you reading all of that stuff in. Just some
19 brief questions for the purposes of clarification on
20 the record. Are the exhibits that are provided here
21 as listed the same as those that have been posted on
22 the hearing webpage?

23 MR. JONES: They are.

24 MS. VEST: And have they been changed

1 or altered in any way since this listing?

2 MR. JONES: They have not.

3 MS. VEST: Excellent.

4 Let the record reflect that the
5 Department's Division of Water proposed exhibits,
6 Exhibit 1 through 8 as shown on the screen now and as
7 posted on the hearing page dedicated to this matter,
8 are hereby incorporated into the formal hearing
9 record.

10 (Division of Water and Wastewater
11 Exhibits 1 through 8 were marked for
12 identification.)

13 Matt, is there anything that the
14 Division of Water wishes to add to their testimony at
15 this time?

16 MR. JONES: Not at this time. This
17 concludes my presentation.

18 MS. VEST: Excellent. Thank you very
19 much.

20 That concludes, as we just mentioned,
21 Water's portion of the presentation tonight. Next up
22 will be the brief presentation by the Division of
23 Watershed. They have the beach preservation coastal
24 construction permit pending right now regarding this

1 application.

2 Jen, when you are ready, you may take
3 that away.

4 MS. PONGRATZ: Okay. Thanks, Lisa.
5 You can probably go on to the next
6 slide then.

7 MS. VEST: Next slide, yeah. There you
8 go.

9 MS. PONGRATZ: Okay. I am Jennifer
10 Pongratz. I am an environmental scientist with the
11 Division of Watershed Stewardship in the Shoreline and
12 Waterway Management Section.

13 Next slide.

14 The purpose of the public hearing is to
15 provide the public an opportunity to offer comment on
16 the applications submitted to the Department by U.S.
17 Wind, Inc. The applicant is proposing to develop a
18 wind energy project off the coast of Maryland.

19 Portions of the export cables and
20 transition vaults fall within the defined beach area,
21 which is 1,000 feet landward and 2,500 feet seaward of
22 the mean highwater line, which is under the
23 jurisdiction of the Division of Watershed Stewardship.
24 And under the Division, we are reviewing the coastal

1 construction permit application.

2 Next slide, please.

3 Legal notice of this project was
4 published on April 28, 2024, in the Delaware State
5 News, the News Journal, and the Cape Gazette. Notice
6 was also posted online on the State of Delaware public
7 meeting calendar and on the DNREC web site. The
8 public comment period will be open through September
9 9, 2024.

10 Next slide, please.

11 The project location is within the
12 Delaware Seashore State Park at the 3 R's parking
13 area. The portion that is within our jurisdiction is
14 circled here on this map, which, again, is only pretty
15 much the area within the parking lot and seaward of
16 the mean highwater line, about 2500 feet and under the
17 dune and the beach.

18 Next slide, please.

19 The proposed buried cable and
20 transition vaults are within the regulated area as
21 defined in the "Regulations Governing Beach Protection
22 and the Use of Beaches." The four proposed transition
23 vaults will be 47 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 11
24 feet, 9 inches deep, and will be buried just below

1 grade in the parking lot.

2 The only visible part will be the
3 manhole covers. The transmission cables will be
4 horizontal directional drilled, underground, from the
5 3 R's parking lot, into the ground landward
6 approximately 40 feet deep under Route 1 and seaward
7 approximately 60 feet deep under the beach and dunes.

8 Next slide, please.

9 The cables are proposed to extend
10 seaward of the DNREC Building Line, the position of
11 which is defined by a formula within the regulations.
12 This requires a permit rather than a Letter of
13 Approval.

14 Next slide, please.

15 What the Division will be reviewing is
16 the proximity of permanent structures, cable conduits
17 and transition vaults, to the beach and dunes. We
18 will be looking at how these structures will affect
19 the beach and dunes. Potential damage or disturbance
20 to the beach and dunes during the construction

21 And what mitigation measures we could
22 put in as permit conditions: such as erecting of sand
23 fence to protect the dunes and other vulnerable areas
24 and planting dune vegetation in areas where vegetation

1 may have been disturbed, among other things.

2 Next slide.

3 This is our Exhibits, 1 through 4.

4 I don't have to read through them you
5 said, Lisa?

6 MS. VEST: You do not have to reads
7 through them.

8 MS. PONGRATZ: Okay.

9 MS. VEST: I believe there's a second
10 page of exhibits, though. You have more than --

11 MS. PONGRATZ: There is.

12 MS. VEST: Okay.

13 MS. PONGRATZ: Yeah. And then there's
14 another page.

15 If you could just turn the slide.

16 Yep. And then this is the rest of the
17 exhibits that we wish to enter into the record.

18 MS. VEST: Excellent. So as I did for
19 the previous division, just for clarity, with regard
20 to the record being developed, are the Division of
21 Watersheds exhibits 1 through 8 as shown on these two
22 slides now and as posted on the hearing page dedicated
23 to this matter everything that your division wishes to
24 enter into the record at this time?

1 MS. PONGRATZ: Yes.

2 MS. VEST: And have they been changed
3 or altered in any way since their posting?

4 MS. PONGRATZ: No.

5 MS. VEST: Excellent. Let the record
6 reflect that the Department's Division of Watershed
7 Stewardship, Exhibits 1 through 8 as identified on the
8 PowerPoint presentation and as posted on the hearing
9 page dedicated to this matter, are hereby entered into
10 the formal record that is being generated at this
11 time.

12 (Department of Watershed Stewardship
13 Exhibits 1 through 8 were marked for
14 identification.)

15 Jen, is there anything further that the
16 Division of Watershed wishes to put on the record now?

17 MS. PONGRATZ: Not at this time.

18 MS. VEST: Excellent. Thank you very
19 much. You can take a deep breath.

20 We now will turn to a brief
21 presentation offered by the applicant, U.S. Wind. I
22 believe Laurie is going to be doing that presentation
23 on behalf of the applicant.

24 So, Laurie, when you're ready, just let

1 us know.

2 MS. JODZIEWICZ: [No audible response.]

3 MS. VEST: Laurie, are you there?
4 Maybe you're muted, and you don't realize you're
5 muted. There we go. You're still muted, Laurie. You
6 need to unmute.

7 MS. JODZIEWICZ: Okay. Can you hear me
8 now?

9 MS. VEST: I can hear you now.

10 MS. JODZIEWICZ: Okay. Great. Yes, I
11 was getting a block. Excuse me.

12 MS. VEST: You're good.

13 MS. JODZIEWICZ: Great.

14 All right. Well, great. Good evening.
15 My name is Laurie Jodziewicz, and I'm the Senior
16 Director of Environmental Affairs for U.S. Wind. I'd
17 like to thank everyone for attending the virtual
18 hearing on U.S. Wind's applications to DNREC.

19 In February 2024, U.S. Wind submitted
20 initial permit applications to DNREC for portions of
21 the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Delaware-state
22 waters and subaqueous lands.

23 As we've heard tonight, these elements
24 include planning up to four offshore export cables by

1 horizontal directional drilling under the 3 R's Beach
2 and dunes, south of the Indian River inlet bridge;
3 building underground cable vaults under the existing
4 parking lot at the 3 R's Beach; horizontal and
5 directional drilling under the Coastal Highway and
6 wetlands into the Indian River Bay and burying cables
7 six feet under the bay bottom; and horizontal
8 directional drilling under the wetlands near the
9 coal-fired Indian River Power Plant; and connecting
10 cables to new substations near the existing power
11 plant infrastructure.

12 MS. VEST: Excuse me, Laurie. Can I
13 interrupt you for a second?

14 MS. JODZIEWICZ: Oh, of course.

15 MS. VEST: Amanda, if you would, can we
16 get the slide? There we go.

17 I just wanted to make sure that the
18 screen was matching what you were talking about.

19 MS. JODZIEWICZ: Sure.

20 MS. VEST: I think you need to go to
21 the next slide, possibly. Yeah, there we go.

22 MS. JODZIEWICZ: This is not what we
23 submitted for the record.

24 MS. VEST: Okay. Do you want to go to

1 the next slide then?

2 MS. JODZIEWICZ: Okay. Well, I'll
3 speak to the first slide that was shown. These were
4 posters that were presented on June 5th. But I'll
5 need to provide the accurate information. This is not
6 the full information that we presented.

7 MS. VEST: That's fine. We can
8 supplement that. And as soon as we get it, we'll post
9 it up on the webpage.

10 MS. JODZIEWICZ: Okay. Great.

11 Well, for those who were able to
12 participate in the information session on June 5th,
13 you may have seen some of our posters, which I'll talk
14 about briefly this evening, and had the chance to
15 speak with me and other U.S. Wind staff.

16 We really appreciate DNREC's hosting of
17 that session and believe such events allow the public
18 to ask questions and get information directly from
19 both U.S. Wind, as well as DNREC staff.

20 And so I'd like to share a few remarks
21 this evening about, first, the analysis U.S. Wind
22 relied on to determine feasible routes for the export
23 cables from the offshore federal lease area to the
24 point of interconnection to the regional electric

1 grid.

2 Second, the avoidance measures and
3 time-of-year restrictions integrated into the project
4 to protect resources in and around Indian River Bay.
5 And third, the surveys conducted in Indian River Bay
6 and Indian River to refine the cable routing. And as
7 mentioned, all of these materials will be available.
8 And we'll get the corrected first slide here.

9 And so the first piece here is an
10 evaluation of potential routes that U.S. Wind did for
11 the armored power cables that would transport
12 electricity to the grid.

13 The chart -- and when we see the final
14 version of it -- is a summary of the alternatives
15 analysis conducted, which can be found in great detail
16 in the narrative of U.S. Wind's applications
17 materials.

18 These columns, the column that's second
19 to the left, it's indicated as "South Corridor." It
20 summarizes U.S. Wind's proposed route that would bury
21 the cables through Indian River Bay to the
22 substations.

23 The other columns summarize various
24 land-based routes where cables would be buried within

1 existing rights of way, mostly under and adjacent to
2 existing roads.

3 The land-based cable routes were
4 determined to not be practicable, due to a number of
5 factors: including unavoidable disruption to existing
6 traffic from years of construction needed,
7 incompatibility with existing infrastructure and
8 planned upgrades, archeological sensitivity, and
9 avoidance of impacts to wetlands, just to name a few.

10 Impacts to resources in Indian River
11 Bay can and will be avoided and minimized. And I will
12 discuss that in more detail in a moment.

13 Yeah, if we could go to the next slide.

14 So secondly, I'd like to address the
15 protective measures that U.S. Wind has incorporated
16 into planning for construction of the cables buried
17 under Indian River Bay to avoid the impacts.

18 The yellow bars shown here show the
19 combined time of year when construction would not
20 occur. And the blue/gray bars below those yellow bars
21 show the various species and resource activities that
22 combined to form the overall time-of-year restriction.

23 For the cable beach landfall at the
24 first one, in the 3 R's Beach parking lot,

1 construction activity would occur only from October
2 1st, through May 15th, with some additional
3 restrictions on when the horizontal directional
4 drilling could occur.

5 These time-of-year restrictions avoid
6 impacts to horseshoe crabs, the Bethany Beach firefly,
7 and the summer recreation season. And landing at 3
8 R's Beach also avoids habitat of particular concern
9 for the sand tiger shark.

10 The only area of land disturbance in
11 the Delaware Seashore State Park would be within the
12 footprint of the parking lot. No dunes or the beach
13 would be affected.

14 The second portion reflects the cables
15 buried beneath Indian River Bay. No in-water work
16 would be done between March 1st through September
17 30th, which would avoid impacts to species such as:
18 summer flounder, horseshoe crabs, and marsh-nesting
19 birds, as well as to avoid the summer recreation
20 season.

21 Cable installation within the bay would
22 take place only between October 1st and February 28th
23 and only during two construction seasons. Cables
24 would be buried at six feet or more and dredging, if

1 needed, would be confined to areas around the existing
2 federal navigation channel.

3 And then finally, for construction of
4 the substations on land, tree clearing would not occur
5 between April 1st through July 31st, to avoid impacts
6 to bats and forest habitat.

7 And if you could go to the next slide.

8 And then finally, this last figure
9 summarizes the extensive survey work U.S. Wind has
10 conducted over the years to understand Indian River
11 Bay and determine an optimal route for cables
12 underneath the bay. Geotechnical surveys were
13 conducted in 2016 and 2022 to understand the soil
14 conditions and properties.

15 Sediment testing in those same years
16 analyzed for pollutants such as metals and chemicals
17 in the sediments. LiDAR and satellite data
18 evaluations in 2022 determined the water depths and
19 shoal movements within the bay.

20 A wide-ranging geophysical survey in
21 2022 mapped the bay bottom and investigated conditions
22 for historical cultural resources. None were found in
23 the bay. And benthic and shellfish density surveys
24 were also conducted in 2022.

1 These survey and analyses informed U.S.
2 Wind's election of a route for cables underneath the
3 Indian River Bay, based on new and best available
4 scientific information.

5 U.S. Wind has committed to avoiding and
6 minimizing impacts to Delaware lands and waters and
7 mitigating effects as needed.

8 Burying all of the infrastructure to
9 the substations, limiting construction with
10 significant time-of-year restrictions, and employing
11 best management practices is expected to limit the
12 temporary affects from construction.

13 Interconnecting the offshore wind farm
14 is vital to building out our clean offshore wind
15 energy in the region and avoiding harmful emissions
16 from fossil-fuel-burning electricity generation. And
17 once again, I'd like to thank everybody for attending
18 this virtual hearing, and we look forward to your
19 comments.

20 MS. VEST: Excellent. Thank you,
21 Laurie. Just for clarification, again, for the
22 record, I apologize if there was a slide missing or if
23 we didn't include something that you thought was
24 already provided.

1 We're going to take what is up there
2 right now, which is part of that presentation. And
3 it's already posted as a proposed exhibit for the
4 applicant.

5 (U.S. Wind Exhibit 1 was marked for
6 identification.)

7 If you'd like to supplement that, we
8 would of course also post the supplement as well to
9 that. So any additional information that you'd like
10 to give us, please get that to me, and we'll get our
11 people to put it up on the web immediately. And thank
12 you for that.

13 At this time, now that the
14 presentations are done, I am going to turn to the
15 comment portion of tonight's event.

16 As I mentioned before, DNREC's policy
17 with regard to public hearings is that people, members
18 of the public, are certainly welcome to offer their
19 comments live, provided that they preregister with the
20 Department to do so.

21 That registration period closed at
22 twelve noon today. So unfortunately, if you tried to
23 preregister at some point between noon today and
24 tonight during the hearing, you would not be getting a

1 confirmation email, and the system would not have
2 registered you.

3 But that's okay. Like I said, the
4 period for receipt of public comment is not going to
5 close at the conclusion of tonight's hearing, but
6 rather, it's going to remain open and be extended all
7 the way through until Monday, September 9, 2024.

8 And given the fact that all comment
9 bears the same weight, whether it's received verbally
10 tonight or whether it comes in writing, everybody
11 should be accommodated if they wish to offer comment,
12 even if we run out of time tonight, which I hope is
13 not the case. But given the interest and the number
14 of pre-registrants, it certainly could be the case.

15 Other administrative staff that is
16 assisting with tonight's hearing will be orchestrating
17 the comment portion of tonight's proceedings. But
18 before I turn it over to them, I again want to stress
19 a couple parameters to our comments. Comments, again,
20 must be related to the subject matter of tonight's
21 hearing.

22 As members of the public are
23 recognized -- and they will be recognized in the order
24 that they signed up. There's no other symbolic thing

1 about the order of speakers tonight. It's just going
2 in order that we received the request. Each person
3 acknowledged will be given three minutes to offer
4 their comment for the record.

5 The timer will begin once the commenter
6 starts talking. And the system will automatically re-
7 mute the commenter at the three-minute mark. The
8 commenter's video does remain off while speaking. So
9 you don't need to worry about your settings. There's
10 nothing you're doing wrong. It's just the way that
11 comment is received.

12 There is no sharing or yielding of each
13 person's time. Each person gets three minutes,
14 despite the number of times they may have registered
15 with the Department to comment. If the same comment
16 has already been offered, as I mentioned previously,
17 please consider saying something different with your
18 three minutes that are allotted to you.

19 Due to the number of persons who have
20 preregistered, again, you can choose to just say,
21 "I'll submit my comments in writing." Again, there's
22 no penalty. Everything bears the same weight whether
23 it comes in live tonight, verbally, or whether it is
24 received in writing.

1 And as I mentioned before, while the
2 Department appreciates all comments received, there
3 will be a zero-tolerance policy in effect for
4 disparaging remarks, offensive language, or any type
5 of personal attacks.

6 Should comments start to fall into such
7 an unfortunate, negative category, I do have the
8 authority to interrupt the commenter with a warning
9 once. If disrespectful tones continue, the commenter
10 will be immediately re-muted and subsequently removed
11 from the meeting, regardless of how much time they
12 have left.

13 Again, this is a formal, legal
14 proceeding. And as such, it must be given respect as
15 the same, as well as respect for all the members of
16 the audience in attendance.

17 That being said, I also mentioned
18 previously that for the sake of the court reporter's
19 fingers, we are going to take a brief break at the top
20 of each hour.

21 Since we're getting ready to get set up
22 for comments, I'm going to go ahead and suggest that
23 we take that break now so we can get the timers set up
24 and give the court reporter some brief time to get his

1 system ready. So the record should reflect that it is
2 6:44 p.m. on July 9th right now.

3 We're going to go off the record
4 briefly. And we will return at 6:50 p.m., at which
5 point we will immediately go into comment. So if
6 anybody wants to take a break or stretch their legs or
7 something, feel free. We will be back on the record
8 at 6:50.

9 THE REPORTER: Off the record at 6:45
10 p.m.

11 (Off the record.)

12 THE REPORTER: Back on the record at
13 6:50 p.m.

14 MS. VEST: Okay. The time is 6:50 p.m.
15 Time is previous tonight. So I am going to move this
16 along as swiftly as possible. Again, we are under a
17 time restraint.

18 And just as a reminder of what's
19 already been talked about, the way that we're going to
20 handle this is we're going to go down the list in no
21 order of importance other than the order that the
22 preregistrations were received.

23 If a name is stated that is currently
24 not present or cannot be located in the attendance

1 roster, we are keeping track of those names that we
2 skip initially. And if time permits, we will circle
3 back around and give them another opportunity to offer
4 comment.

5 Again, apologies in advance if time
6 runs out and you are unable to offer comments this
7 evening. Don't fret. There is still time. You have
8 until now through September 9th to offer comments in
9 writing. But again, we are going to do our best to
10 make sure that everybody that does want to speak has
11 the opportunity.

12 Going down the list of names in the
13 order that they were received, the first person is
14 Emily Knearl.

15 Emily, are you present?

16 And if I read a name that is not
17 present, I would ask that Amanda behind the screens
18 just let me know that we're going to move on. I
19 believe --

20 MS. DAVIS: Emily is here.

21 MS. VEST: Yes.

22 Emily, can you hear me?

23 MS. KNEARL: I can. Can you hear me?

24 MS. VEST: Excellent. The timer is set

1 for three minutes. And it will begin when you begin
2 speaking. So you may start when ready.

3 MS. KNEARL: All right. Great. Thank
4 you so much.

5 My name is Emily Knearl, and I'm
6 representing The Nature Conservancy in Delaware. We
7 have over 3400 members statewide, and six local land
8 preserves. We are a global conservation organization.
9 And our mission is to protect the land and waters upon
10 which life depends.

11 Today, I will include Nature
12 Conservancy's initial testimony, with additional
13 written testimony to follow by the September deadline.

14 The Nature Conservancy supports the
15 rapid and sustainable development of offshore wind
16 projects that avoid potential impacts to habitat and
17 species through the use of best data collection,
18 mitigation strategies, and engagement with key
19 stakeholders.

20 Offshore wind investments can help
21 reduce the severity of climate change by cutting
22 greenhouse gasses, funding wildlife, vital wildlife
23 data collection strategies, habitat restoration in
24 coastal areas, and even enhance marine-life habitats

1 through a nature-based approach.

2 The Nature Conservancy has conversation
3 scientists on staff who have reviewed the project
4 documents and have the following observations.

5 First, we appreciate the proposed use
6 of the horizontal drilling, given that little actual
7 drilling will need to take place on the surface and so
8 much reduce the potential disruptions of wildlife.
9 Horizontal drilling is a well-accepted approach to
10 minimize environmental disruption and has been used
11 successfully in other projects in other states.

12 We also appreciate the cables being
13 buried deeply to avoid the environmental impacts and
14 potential exposures of the cables resurfacing over
15 time.

16 We would like to encourage
17 considerations of the reuse of the dredging materials
18 for restoration or related projects, if the quality of
19 the dredged materials is high and consistent with U.S.
20 Army Corps of Engineers beneficial use guidance.

21 And finally, The Nature Conservancy ask
22 that as mitigation strategies are considered related
23 to the permitting, that the mitigation strategies be
24 details and built upon the latest science. Thank you.

1 MS. VEST: Thank you, Emily.

2 The next up is Robin Bullock.

3 Robin, are you present, and can you
4 hear me?

5 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Robin Bullock.

6 MS. VEST: Okay. Excellent. If we
7 could just circle that name. and again, if time
8 permits, we will circle back around. The next name up
9 is Karen Ironside.

10 Karen, are you present, and can you
11 hear me?

12 MS. DAVIS: I do not see a Karen
13 Ironside.

14 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll make a check by
15 that name --

16 MS. DAVIS: Hey, Lisa, you're muted.

17 MS. VEST: [No audible response.]

18 MS. DAVIS: You're still muted.

19 MS. VEST: Can you hear me now?

20 MS. DAVIS: Yes, sorry.

21 MS. VEST: That was weird. I'm not
22 touching anything. All right. The next person up is
23 Sherry Long.

24 Ms. Long, are you present and can you

1 hear me?

2 MS. DAVIS: I do not see a Sherry Long
3 either.

4 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll skip her as
5 well. Next up is Denise Clendenning.

6 Denise, can you hear me?

7 MS. DAVIS: Denise is here.

8 MS. VEST: Okay.

9 Denise, I believe that you indicated
10 you would be communicating by telephone?

11 MS. CLENDENNING: [No audible
12 response.]

13 MS. VEST: Hopefully there's not a
14 communication issue.

15 MS. CLENDENNING: [No audible
16 response.]

17 MS. VEST: Okay. Well, we're just
18 going to keep moving along.

19 MS. CLENDENNING: Hello? Hello?

20 MS. VEST: Hello, Denise, is that you?

21 MS. CLENDENNING: Yes. It was not
22 allowing me to unmute. Staying -- is not allowing
23 people to unmute themselves.

24 MS. VEST: Yeah, no, I apologize for

1 that. I'm not sure what's going on. I was just muted
2 as well. So I don't think it's just you.

3 MS. CLENDENNING: Okay. That might
4 have also happened to Sherry Long.

5 MS. VEST: Okay. Well, we're keeping
6 track of those that we're skipping. So --

7 MS. CLENDENNING: Okay. Great.

8 MS. VEST: Denise, when you're ready,
9 you may begin.

10 MS. CLENDENNING: Okay. I am in
11 opposition of the permits being requested by the U.S.
12 Wind Project for the wind turbines. Wind turbines are
13 bad for the environment. I've heard a lot of
14 testimony on it, but I've also done a lot of reading.

15 And there are other countries that are
16 finding out that there have been many detrimental
17 affects to the migratory birds, bats especially, and
18 also for endangered whales and other mammals and sea
19 life. And what it does is it affects the wild animals
20 both directly, due to noise pollution, habitat loss,
21 and reduced survival or reproduction.

22 And U.S. Geological Survey, it showed
23 the construction for these turbines at the actual
24 project sites, and the insulation of the undersea

1 cables to transmit the energy to shore can have a
2 direct affect on the seabed, which then in turn
3 affects the sea life.

4 The noise and vibration of construction
5 and operation of the wind turbines can be damaging to
6 fish and other marine life and is most concerning,
7 obviously, for whales. And whales do use sonar.

8 These noises are confusing a lot of the
9 mammals out in sea and confusing them because they're
10 hearing these other vibrations in the ocean from these
11 wind turbines.

12 In Germany, wind turbines are being
13 torn down and are actually being replaced by coal
14 plants. Many countries, again, are finding that the
15 impact on the environment is not worth the so-called
16 green energy plan. Thank you.

17 MS. VEST: Thank you, ma'am. I
18 appreciate your comments.

19 Next up is Arthur Ransier.

20 Arthur, are you there, and can you hear
21 me?

22 MR. RANSIER: I can hear you, Lisa.
23 And yes, I'm here.

24 MS. VEST: Excellent. You may begin

1 when ready.

2 MR. RANSIER: Thank you, Lisa.

3 My name's Arthur Ransier. I do a lot
4 of work in human resources and workforce development.
5 I am in support of these projects, in support of the
6 permits being passed through. Primarily because I
7 know the effect that a new industry can have on the
8 community.

9 I come from a working-class family.
10 I've seen, you know, my carpenter uncle -- you know, I
11 mean, it's feast famine. If you've ever worked
12 blue-collar work like I have, like he has, you know
13 that when there's opportunity, communities thrive. So
14 for that reason, I'm in support of the project in
15 general.

16 As for the mental peace, yeah, I know
17 there is some concern about the impact offshore that
18 is shown in the environmental impact statement
19 supported by engineers and scientists, which I am not.
20 So I'll leave it to the regulators to sort out whether
21 that's legitimate or not. So I'll leave it to the
22 scientists there.

23 As for the local grid aspect, I know
24 I've heard some folks talk about, you know, how that's

1 going to get passed along to ratepayers like me, like
2 my family. The reality is, who's going to pay for it?
3 You know, I'm not completely blind to how business
4 works. And yes, I mean, there is a cost.

5 And you know, part of that may come
6 through, but that's no different than modernizing the
7 infrastructure, which is going to be done anyways. So
8 might as well have some developer put some money into
9 it. Whereas some of the other utility work is going
10 to get passed along regardless.

11 Yeah, in terms of, you know, where we
12 are in Sussex County and the Eastern Shore on the
13 Maryland side of the project, there's a lot of
14 veterans out here. And I'd like to see them go to
15 work. And that concludes my comments.

16 MS. VEST: Excellent. Thank you very
17 much.

18 Next up is Marybeth Vidunas.

19 I hope I'm pronouncing your last name
20 correctly. Marybeth, are you present, and if so, can
21 you hear me?

22 MS. DAVIS: She was here. It looks
23 like she just popped off.

24 MS. VEST: All right. Well, we'll just

1 put a check by her name and circle back around. Next
2 up is Joseph Angle, Jr.

3 Mr. Angle, are you present, and can you
4 hear me?

5 I believe Mr. Angle was trying to
6 connect by telephone as well. Amanda, did you --

7 MS. DAVIS: I do not see his phone
8 number.

9 MS. VEST: Okay. Well, we'll just put
10 a check by him and move along. Next up is James Bew.

11 Mr. Bew, are you present, and can you
12 hear me?

13 MR. BEW: Hi. Can you hear me?

14 MS. VEST: Hi, Mr. Bew. I can hear
15 you. Excellent. The timer will begin at three
16 minutes when you begin speaking.

17 MR. BEW: Okay. Thank you very much.

18 Good evening. I'm a boating family,
19 and I spend a lot of time on the Indian River Bay. It
20 is a beautiful body of water. So I'm going to speak
21 to just this part of the project. I'm extremely
22 opposed to the turbine project off of Ocean City and
23 specifically to deal with what we're dealing with here
24 that DNREC has authority over.

1 So I totally have concerns about what
2 might impact our beautiful bay by burying basically
3 nearly a million volts of electricity only six to
4 eight feet underneath.

5 I have some serious reservations about,
6 you know, my kids, you know, swimming in the water.
7 We spend a lot of time just out there swimming, jet
8 skiing, tubing, et cetera, fishing. And you know,
9 these things say, "Well, there'll never be a problem."
10 But that's a huge mistake to think that nothing could
11 ever go wrong.

12 So I'm very concerned there's not a lot
13 of research around EMF, you know, at this particular
14 body of water and the organisms involved. You know, I
15 know the scientists there, they do great, they're
16 great, do a great job, I know. But it's still an
17 evolving area to understand what's really going on.

18 And every installation is unique in its
19 particular case. So I think it's really -- I don't
20 want to see anything that's going to impact the bay.
21 I mean, at this point, all I need to worry about is
22 running aground out there. But now I got to worry
23 about if there's a breach of the electrical, you know,
24 conduits, cables, et cetera.

1 Which, you know, the bay's constantly
2 shifting out there. Mother Nature has a way of making
3 this stuff happen. You know, at Block Island they did
4 their best there, and they were uncovered. So 3 R's
5 is a popular fishing beach. This is just a huge
6 recreational area that they want to take a lot of risk
7 with. And I just feel it's really not worth the risk.

8 There are other ways to get at it. So
9 that. And secondly, like, I'm concerned with DNREC.
10 DNREC's understaffed, you know? They're going to have
11 to monitor this thing. And they're going to be
12 charged with basically dealing with if there's an
13 issue, going to U.S. Wind.

14 And U.S. Wind, I'm sorry, has not been
15 the most forthright organization in dealing with the
16 public so far. Even been in contact with the mayors
17 behind our backs and stuff, offering hush money. But
18 I mean, still, it's just a little concerning to me.

19 I'm worried that DNREC's going to have
20 to basically trust in U.S. Wind to do everything 100
21 percent correct and that they'll never 100 guaranteed
22 be a problem. And that's just a falsehood. There's
23 just no way. So I think it's -- that's pretty much
24 where I'm standing on this.

1 I feel like, you know, look, they have
2 two other routes to go. At the very least, I hope
3 this project never goes through. But please send them
4 over their land-based routes. Yeah, that's costly.
5 And I don't agree with the whole thing about, "Well,
6 you know, it's not very feasible to go that way."

7 There's already plenty of rights of
8 ways. It can be done. It's just a matter of cost.
9 And U.S. Wind has taken the least costly route. So
10 thank you for hearing me and have a good evening.

11 MS. VEST: Thank you, Mr. Bew for your
12 comments.

13 Next up is Scott Phillips. And
14 following Mr. Phillips is Elizabeth Frazee.

15 Mr. Phillips, are you present, and can
16 you hear me?

17 MR. PHILLIPS: I am here. Can you hear
18 me?

19 MS. VEST: I can hear you loud and
20 clear, sir. The timer will begin when you do.

21 MR. PHILLIPS: Okay. Well, first,
22 thank you for this opportunity to speak tonight.

23 I am here in support of the passage of
24 these permits, primarily because I've seen what

1 happens when you don't have wind and clean energy.
2 I'm a climate change refugee. I moved from Texas to
3 Delaware last year. After Winter Storm Uri in
4 February of 2021 in Texas, I got five days without
5 electricity.

6 So all the after-storm reports said
7 that it was because natural gas and coal failed the
8 state. In fact, the state was three minutes away from
9 being broken for months. Those three minutes came
10 from wind energy and solar energy. So I'm hoping that
11 Delaware does not repeat Texas' mistakes.

12 Now, it has also been mentioned that
13 birds get impacted by these turbines. There are
14 studies out there that on a three-wing turbine, if you
15 paint one of them black, the number of bird collisions
16 drops by something like 80 percent. And I am also
17 currently looking for work in Delaware in the green
18 industry. There are just no green jobs here.

19 This project would present that,
20 present some jobs. It is to the point that I have
21 started referring to Delaware as a green-job dead
22 zone. And I believe that this project would break
23 that up. So I am firmly supporting this proposal
24 being passed. Thank you.

1 MS. VEST: Thank you, sir.

2 Next up is Elizabeth Frazee. And
3 following her will be Tamra Peroni.

4 Elizabeth, are you present, and can you
5 hear me?

6 MS. FRAZEE: I am present. And --

7 MS. VEST: Excellent. You may begin
8 when ready.

9 MS. FRAZEE: Fantastic. Thank you.

10 Good evening. I am president of the
11 Tower Shores Beach Association, an HOA representing
12 226 households in the Tower Shores Community of North
13 Bethany Beach, Delaware. Some of our homes are less
14 than one-third mile from 3 R's Road. And our private
15 beach abuts the Delaware Seashore Park at its southern
16 border.

17 To say our community is densely
18 populated is an understatement. All 226 homes are
19 located within a four-block radius on the ocean side
20 of Route 1. Many are wooden structures.

21 The idea of high-voltage power cables
22 carrying 1100 megawatts of electricity under the ocean
23 and onto 3 R's Beach so close to our dense community
24 is quite honestly terrifying. The fact that U.S. Wind

1 has no prior experience building offshore wind makes
2 its experiment even more so.

3 We're perplexed that our government
4 officials would entertain this concept when there are
5 many miles of undeveloped seashore where the cables
6 could be onshore in Maryland's Assateague National
7 Seashore Park.

8 Yet, at the urging of environmental
9 groups, probably some of the same ones supporting this
10 permit, Maryland lawmakers passed legislation in 2013
11 prohibiting the Maryland Public Service Commission
12 from approving an application for a submerged energy
13 line within the park.

14 If it's not good for protect land in
15 Maryland, why is Delaware allowing the cables to come
16 on shore in its state park for a Maryland project? We
17 understand that 3 R's Road is the most cost-effective
18 location for the wind project developer to bring the
19 cables onshore because of its proximity. But why is
20 that the number one consideration?

21 What about the consideration for the
22 safety of hundreds of homeowners and their families in
23 our community and the cost that we may be forced to
24 incur because of the actions of U.S. Wind. So I'm

1 going to go through just a few of the deficiencies
2 with the U.S. Wind plan and why we believe their
3 request for permits should be denied.

4 The plan doesn't adequately address
5 public safety concerns. The permitting process is
6 designed to protect Delaware citizens from harm. U.S.
7 Wind's plans do not include funds or other resources
8 to address public safety emergencies that could result
9 from the wind turbines and the cables. Emergencies
10 associated with wind power aren't unprecedented.

11 We heard from one speaker earlier that
12 transmission cables from the Block Island Offshore
13 Wind Project became unburied. How can DNREC be
14 confident the voltage from these cables possess and
15 pose direct harm to humans and marine life swimming
16 off our private beach --

17 MS. VEST: Okay. Elizabeth, I believe
18 you hit the three-minute mark. And so the system is
19 cutting you and muting you, unfortunately. I would
20 encourage you to submit all of your comments in their
21 entirety in writing so that they can get incorporated
22 into the record.

23 Next up is going to be Tamra Peroni.
24 Following Ms. Peroni we have Robert Simmons, just to

1 get ready.

2 So, Ms. Peroni, are you here, and can
3 you hear me?

4 MS. DAVIS: I do not see her.

5 MS. VEST: Okay. We will pass her for
6 now.

7 Mr. Simmons, are you here, and can you
8 hear me?

9 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Mr. Simmons
10 either.

11 MS. VEST: Okay. Continuing down the
12 list, Joel Patten.

13 Mr. Patten, can you hear me?

14 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Mr. Patten.

15 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll just keep
16 going. Jerry Snyder.

17 Mr. Snyder, can you hear me?

18 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Mr. Snyder.

19 MS. VEST: Okay. Betsy Patten.

20 Ms. Patten, are you there, and can you
21 hear me?

22 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Ms. Patten.

23 MS. VEST: Okay. Moving right along.

24 Theresa Keil.

1 Ms. Keil, are you present, and can you
2 hear me? Do we see Ms. Keil?

3 MS. DAVIS: I do not.

4 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll just check her
5 name and circle back around if we have time. Next up,
6 Charlie Garlow.

7 Are you present, and can you hear me?

8 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Mr. Garlow.

9 MS. VEST: Okay. Moving right along.
10 Mark Nardone, or Nardon. Don't mean to mispronounce
11 the name. He is one of the people that said that they
12 would be attempting to connect by phone.

13 Mr. Nardone, are you with us? Can you
14 hear us?

15 MS. DAVIS: I do not see his phone
16 number.

17 MS. VEST: Okay.

18 Beth, I don't know how to pronounce
19 your last name. It's C-H-A-J-E-S, Chajes, perhaps.

20 Do we see Beth?

21 Beth, if you're there, can you hear me?

22 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Beth.

23 MS. VEST: All right. Tom Brett.

24 Mr. Brett, are you present, and can you

1 hear me?

2 MR. BRETT: Hello, Tom Brett is here.

3 MS. VEST: Excellent. I was beginning
4 to worry there for a second.

5 Well, just as a heads up, after
6 Mr. Brett is done speaking, Rich Innes, you are next.

7 So, Tom, the timer is ready. And it'll
8 begin when you do.

9 MR. BRETT: I am in favor of the
10 permitting in addition to the other compelling
11 arguments in favor of landfall being made at 3 R's
12 Beach, given a thought tonight. There's very strong
13 economic advantage to approving this proposal. U.S.
14 Wind will invest about 200 million in strengthening
15 the local grid.

16 When utilities do that, they pass the
17 cost along to local ratepayers. But in this case,
18 U.S. Wind will foot the bill. This work will improve
19 local infrastructure and make it better able to handle
20 the increasing electrification of our lives.

21 It will also provide jobs for local
22 electrical workers, especially the International
23 Brotherhood of Electrical Worker members who must
24 travel out of state to find jobs today. These

1 upgrades to the existing transmission on the Delmarva
2 Peninsula will be directed by PJM and executed by
3 local transmission owners.

4 These upgrades are anticipated to
5 increase reliability of the local electrical grid and
6 reduce congestion cost to Delaware ratepayers. These
7 upgrades are not just an extra related to proposed
8 wind energy, but are already desperately needed.

9 Nationwide, our aging infrastructure is
10 struggling to meet our modern electricity needs, such
11 as renewable energy resources and growing, building,
12 and transportation electrification.

13 Locally, on July 2, 2024, an addition
14 of Cape Gazette had a front-page article related to
15 the Lewis Board of Public Works throwing up a red flag
16 when it comes to the vulnerability of the city's
17 electrical system.

18 Tom Panetta, BPW president, was quoted
19 as saying that he is very concerned about the
20 infrastructure and that for coastal communities, this
21 is considered a very high risk. Panetta states
22 further that this his view is just not statewide, but
23 national and international.

24 BPW will consider forming an ad hoc

1 committee with the focus on the future of the
2 electrical system. The U.S. Wind proposal is a gift
3 horse who's mouth we should not be looking in.

4 In addition, U.S. Wind will provide 329
5 million in gross terms over the contract term by
6 providing 150,000 megawatt hours of zero-cost
7 art-wrecks and lowering energy and capacity prices in
8 Delaware by 253 million.

9 Lastly, U.S. Wind is offering up to 40
10 million in community-benefit payments that will go
11 towards, among other things, dredging, workforce
12 development, and parks resiliency fund for Delaware's
13 coastal state parks. For these reasons and the others
14 stated today, I am in favor of the permitting. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. VEST: Thank you, Mr. Brett.

17 Next up is Rich Innes. And while we're
18 searching to see if Mr. Innes is here, the next name
19 on the list is Mary Douglas.

20 Mr. Innes, are you present, and can you
21 hear me?

22 MS. DAVIS: He is here.

23 MS. VEST: He is here. Okay.

24 Mr. Innes, please acknowledge and let

1 me know that you can hear us.

2 Okay. Well, the fact that Mr. Innes is
3 here, we're still going to skip him. He might have
4 needed to step away for a brief moment. We'll circle
5 back around to him. Let's try Mary Douglas.

6 Ms. Douglas, are you here, and can you
7 hear me?

8 MS. DOUGLAS: Yes, I'm here, and I can
9 hear you.

10 MS. VEST: Excellent. The timer will
11 start when you're ready.

12 MS. DOUGLAS: Okay.

13 My name is Mary Douglas. I live in
14 Lewis. I'm a retired environmental attorney and
15 former employee of the EPA. I'm here representing the
16 Delaware League of Women Voters, which strongly
17 supports expeditious finalization of all necessary
18 permits for U.S. Wind.

19 At the end of June, Delaware's elected
20 representative enacted an offshore wind procurement
21 law for our state. Our legislature reflected the will
22 of most Delawareans to proceed with offshore wind
23 energy itself.

24 It is therefore logical that we applaud

1 our neighbor Maryland for its collaboration with
2 U.S. Wind and fully embrace Delaware's role in making
3 it possible by finalizing DNREC's landing permit.

4 When U.S. Wind's projects are
5 operational, they will provide enough power for about
6 350,000 area homes on the Delmarva Peninsula and will
7 displace over 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide every
8 year. This will constitute a significant regional
9 step in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause
10 climate change.

11 In addition to mitigation of global
12 warming, benefits to Delaware residents that DNREC and
13 U.S. Wind have worked out as a part of the landfill
14 approval include U.S. Wind's transfer of 150,000 recs
15 each year. I won't repeat this, since Tom Brett
16 kindly started this train of benefits by his previous
17 testimony.

18 But just to underscore it, these recs
19 have a value of \$76 million over the life of these
20 projects. So it's no small matter to do that kind of
21 transfer in the name of this project. Also, the grid
22 upgrade is extremely significant. \$200 million, as
23 Tom pointed out, it's free to us. It's something U.S.
24 Wind has just decided to do.

1 U.S. Wind has also agreed to provide 40
2 million in funding for dredging projects, clean
3 energy, workforce development training, and a
4 resiliency fund for climate change projects at state
5 parks. In some, Delaware is being amply compensated
6 for allowing the U.S. Wind Project to land at 3 R's
7 Beach in our state.

8 Of course, the most dramatic and
9 beneficial impact will be the climate change
10 mitigation caused by the deployment of clean wind
11 energy, as well as the health benefits that I know
12 others are going to discuss.

13 The League of Women Voters of Delaware
14 urges DNREC to expeditiously finalize all necessary
15 permits for the U.S. Wind Project to make its cable
16 landing at the 3 R's Beach. Thank you so much.

17 MS. VEST: Thank you, Ms. Douglas.

18 Next up is Janet Redman. And while we
19 try to locate Ms. Redman, after her will be the
20 Reverend Edward Thayer up next.

21 So, Ms. Redman, are you present, and
22 can you hear me?

23 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Ms. Redman.

24 MS. VEST: Okay. We will check her

1 name and move along to keep the thing progressing.
2 Next up will be the Reverend Thayer. And following
3 Reverend Thayer will be Dave Breen.

4 Reverend, are you with us, and can you
5 hear me?

6 MR. THAYER: I can hear you. I'm not
7 sure if you can hear me.

8 MS. VEST: I can hear you loud and
9 clear, sir.

10 MR. THAYER: Oh, well, that's good.

11 MS. VEST: Okay. You have three
12 minutes. And you may begin. The timer will begin
13 when you do.

14 MR. THAYER: I support what The Nature
15 Conservancy is doing. And I wish only to give my
16 street address and my watershed address. I live at
17 15440 Pemberton Way, Milton, Delaware. My house is
18 along the Pemberton Branch that flows into Wagamons
19 Pond out of which the Broadkill flows through historic
20 Broadkill Hundred to the bay and onto the sea.

21 So I am just in support what The Nature
22 Conservancy is doing to protect our natural lands.
23 And that is really all I wish to say. I hope and pray
24 that those who protect our natural lands are ever

1 vigilant. Thank you very much.

2 MS. VEST: Thank you, Reverend.

3 Next up we will try to recognize Dave
4 Breen. And following Mr. Breen is Barbara Kulberg.

5 So, Mr. Breen, are you present, and can
6 you hear me? Do we see Mr. Breen?

7 MS. DAVIS: I see Dave Breen. We are
8 asking him to unmute.

9 MS. VEST: Mr. Breen, if you can hear
10 me, we're asking you to unmute. We're ready for your
11 comments if you were ready, sir. Mr. Breen, if you
12 are attempting to comment, you're still on mute.

13 Okay. You know what, we're going to
14 move on. We'll check back in with Mr. Breen. I don't
15 want to unnecessarily delay the list. Next up is
16 Barbara Kulberg. And following Ms. Kulberg is Chip
17 Smith.

18 Ms. Kulberg, are you there, and can you
19 hear me?

20 MS. DAVIS: I do not see a Ms. Kulberg.

21 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll just skip her
22 and hopefully circle back around. Let's try to locate
23 Chip Smith. And following Mr. Smith, the next name on
24 the list is Cynthia Simeone.

1 Mr. Smith?

2 MR. SMITH: Hello? I am here.

3 MS. VEST: Okay. The timer is set to
4 go. It will begin when you do.

5 MR. SMITH: Thank you. My name's Chip
6 Smith. I live in Bethany Beach, Delaware. Been here
7 since 2009. I had a 40-year career in the federal
8 government, 20 working for the Corps of Engineers, 20
9 overseeing the Corps of Engineers.

10 So I have some familiarity with the
11 process, especially since my portfolio include wind
12 energy projects all across this country. All I want
13 to add is that when U.S. Wind says that all work will
14 be done between October and February to avoid
15 important species, I want to let you know that based
16 on my experience, that does work.

17 Construction windows do help protect
18 species. So I would hope that issue won't concern
19 people. As far as burying the cable 60 feet deep in
20 the ocean and 6 feet in the bay, my experience has
21 been that that does work.

22 There was an issue in Block Island,
23 apparently, but for the most part, deep burial like
24 that is very safe and the best way to move forward.

1 The cables don't have electromagnet fields. I've
2 heard that as a comment sometimes. So these cables
3 are sheathed. They're armored, they're wrapped, and
4 they don't emit electricity.

5 I'd like to fully endorse the comments
6 made by Mary Douglas and Tom Brett and certainly
7 others. But those two in particular said a lot of
8 what I had originally intended to say. I would like
9 to conclude by reminding everybody that the process is
10 still open.

11 DNREC is taking comments, studies are
12 still being done, U.S. Wind has studies and modeling
13 under way, as do the federal agencies. And there will
14 be post-construction monitoring. So overall, I
15 support the U.S. Wind Project. And I hope that it
16 moves forward successfully and receives the permits
17 that I think will be safe to give them. Thank you.

18 MS. VEST: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

19 Next up is Cynthia Simeone. And
20 following Ms. Simeone we'll try to be locating Steven
21 Miles.

22 So, Ms. Simeone, are you --

23 MS. SIMEONE: Yes.

24 MS. VEST: Yes.

1 MS. SIMEONE: Yes. All right. Can you
2 hear me?

3 MS. VEST: I can hear you loud and
4 clear. The time will begin --

5 MS. SIMEONE: Okay. I am very opposed
6 to this, U.S. Wind's -- the turbines. I'm more
7 disappointed in the transparency that our government
8 officials have given to the general public regarding
9 this project.

10 The last lady that spoke to represent,
11 Laurie Jodziewicz, she showed a spreadsheet that I
12 believe -- it showed studies that had started in 2016
13 with soil sediment. 2016 to 2022. Now, it seems to
14 me that this project was already in the makings way
15 back in the day.

16 We in Delaware here were just alerted
17 to these turbines only this past April through the
18 News Journal or through the Cape Gazette. Now, it all
19 seems -- you know, that's just a few months ago. And
20 it seems like it's a done deal. It's full steam
21 ahead.

22 Our voices as Delawareans, as beach
23 owners our voices are not being heard by our
24 government officials. This should have been taken to

1 a vote. This is a very serious implication of our
2 coastline. And I don't know what Mary Douglas was
3 talking about when she said most Delawareans vote for
4 that. I didn't vote on anything regarding that.

5 So I think that is probably maybe
6 something that her friends have voted on, but not the
7 general public that live down here. We have a very
8 small coastline here in Delaware. I'm trying to
9 understand how Delaware is benefitting from all these
10 cables, conduits, the construction that will take
11 place on 3 R's Road.

12 And it seems to me that Maryland is
13 getting the better end of the deal than Delaware. I
14 just am so disappointed. I'm so disappointed in our
15 governor and our state officials, that we were not
16 given a voice and that this was not more transparent.
17 Thank you for listening and letting me voice my
18 opinion. It's one of many. But it is what it is.

19 MS. VEST: Thank you, ma'am. I
20 appreciate your comments.

21 Next up we will be locating Steven
22 Miles. And following Mr. Miles is Dan Cohen.

23 Mr. Miles, I believe you're here. Can
24 you hear me?

1 MR. MILES: I am. I can. Thank you.

2 MS. VEST: Excellent. The timer will
3 begin when you do.

4 MR. MILES: Thank you, Hearing Officer
5 Vest.

6 I speak before you today on behalf of
7 Advocates for Safer Shores and Communities, a group of
8 homeowners in Sussex County.

9 The decisions before DNREC and the
10 state of Delaware raise critical issues about public
11 safety, preparedness, and the protection of life and
12 property, issues that our research reveals have
13 shockingly not been fully studied, let alone planned
14 for or funded.

15 We recognize the desire of some for a
16 speedy decision, but until the process is complete, we
17 must hit the pause button till everyone in the state
18 and local governments and private industry have
19 completed their due diligence.

20 Specifically, we are concerned about
21 the lack of any emergency planning, including no
22 funding for training, staffing, or equipment for local
23 first responders in Bethany Beach and Sussex County.

24 These local agencies will be the first

1 to respond to any fire, pollution, or other event
2 relating to the high-voltage transmission lines, the
3 windmills, the release of the hundreds of thousands of
4 gallons of diesel oil stored just off of our public
5 beaches -- that's right -- incidents during
6 construction or dredging, effects in Delaware of
7 maritime incidents involving ocean-going ships
8 crashing into 80-story windmills located immediately
9 adjacent to the shipping channel, or the risk from
10 uncovering of the 6,000 megawatts of lines to be
11 placed at 3 R's Beach or in the Indian River Bay or by
12 a boat hooking the electric line with its anchor.

13 These dangers to lives and property
14 cannot be dismissed as theoretical. Undersea buried
15 cables from an offshore wind project in Block Island,
16 Rhode Island became unburied on a tourist beach and
17 remained exposed for up to two years before being
18 reburied.

19 In March of this year, an electric
20 event caused a large cargo ship to lose control and
21 crash into the Key Bridge in Baltimore, killing six,
22 closing the port. Wildfires in each case sparked by
23 electric transmission lines destroyed the towns of
24 Lahaina in Maui and Paradise, California.

1 Each case killing over 100 people in
2 their cars and homes as they tried to evacuate to
3 shelter in the chaos. Critically, the death toll in
4 both Maui and Paradis was amplified by local
5 government officials' lack of planning and poor prior
6 communication with the public.

7 Yet, as we evidenced in public written
8 comments we filed yesterday, no Delaware state or
9 local government entity has identified the proposed
10 wind turbine engines or the high-voltage transmission
11 line in their threat hazard identification risk
12 assessment process. That's the legal term.

13 Worse yet, no financial or training
14 resources appear to have been dedicated by either the
15 wind project developer or the local public safety
16 agencies who will be the first responders to virtually
17 every emergency. How can we approve such a project
18 without knowing all the risks? This is a public
19 safety issue.

20 MS. VEST: Okay. Mr. Miles, I
21 appreciate your comments. The three-minute timer cut
22 you off. I would encourage you, if you were not
23 completely finished with your comments, please submit
24 them as I have suggested to others. We'd certainly

1 like to hear your comments in full.

2 Next up we will be locating Dan Cohen.
3 And following Mr. Cohen, is Sue Vatnick.

4 So, Mr. Cohen, are you present, and can
5 you hear me?

6 MR. COHEN: I am, ma'am. Thank you.

7 MS. VEST: Excellent. The timer will
8 begin when you do.

9 MR. COHEN: Okay. I don't think I'll
10 be using my full, allotted time, because Mr. Miles
11 stated a lot of my comments quite eloquently.
12 However, I would like to reiterate that I attended the
13 DNREC event just a couple months ago. And I had a
14 great opportunity to interact with members of DNREC
15 and also U.S. Wind while at that event.

16 And during that time, I asked each
17 person that I spoke to about the issue of public
18 safety and about preparedness and the training of
19 first responders and the equipping of first responders
20 should there be a catastrophic event relevant to the 3
21 R's Beach or to the wind farm and to a person. Every
22 person I asked at that event gave me a blank stare.

23 Nobody could answer the question. And
24 that's when the flags went up in my head that there's

1 something missing here in this fully studied,
2 ready-to-go plan. Where is public safety being
3 studied? What will it cost to staff up, for instance,
4 the Bethany Fire Department?

5 Do they have the personnel to respond
6 to a catastrophic event at the 3 R's Beach? Do they
7 have the equipment? Do they have the training? If
8 it's more than one agency involved, if it's the Coast
9 Guard, Bethany Fire Department, Natural Resources,
10 whoever, who coordinates that activity? Have they
11 trained together?

12 What kind of facility will be required
13 to train and equip these first responders? Nobody
14 seemed to be able to answer any of those questions.
15 Instead what I got were blank stares. And to me
16 that's an alarming flag that ought to get your
17 attention and the attention of DNREC.

18 And as Mr. Miles said, somebody needs
19 to hit the pause button and take a hard look at how
20 comprehensive the preparedness really is. And I'll
21 yield back the balance of my time.

22 MS. VEST: Thank you, sir. I
23 appreciate your time and your comments.

24 Next up will be Sue Vatnick. And

1 following Ms. Vatnick will be George Bates.

2 Ms. Vatnick, are you present, and can
3 you hear me?

4 MS. VATNICK: I am present, and I can
5 hear you.

6 MS. VEST: Excellent. The timer will
7 begin when you do.

8 MS. VATNICK: Thank you. My name is
9 Sue Vatnick. I'm from Newcastle County, and I'm a
10 member of the Delaware chapter of the Sierra Club.
11 There are many reasons why I strongly encourage DNREC
12 to grant the permits necessary for the U.S. Wind to
13 proceed with their offshore wind project. I'll
14 address one.

15 U.S. Wind is committed to minimizing
16 the ecological impact on Indian River Bay's diverse
17 and sensitive species during the construction of this
18 project. All work in Indian River Bay will be
19 performed between October and February. This will
20 prevent interaction with important species who utilize
21 the bay between March and September.

22 By avoiding activities during this
23 period, critical habitat and breeding grounds for
24 several key species are protected. Horseshoe crabs,

1 for example, spawn in shallow waters during the spring
2 months. Their eggs are a vital food source for
3 migratory shore birds, including species like the Red
4 Knot which rely on them to fuel their long migrations.

5 By conducting construction activities
6 outside of these months, the project reduces the risk
7 of disturbing horseshoe crab spawning grounds. Marsh
8 nesting birds such as herons, egrets, and terns also
9 benefit from the seasonal restrictions. These birds
10 depend on undisturbed marsh habitats for nesting and
11 raising their young during the warmer months.

12 By avoiding construction activities in
13 this critical period, disturbances to nesting sites
14 and potential impacts on chick survival are minimized.
15 In essence, the seasonal scheduling of the U.S. Wind
16 Offshore Wind Project exemplifies a commitment to
17 responsible environmental stewardship.

18 By aligning construction activities
19 with the natural rhythm of the Bay's ecosystem, the
20 project aims to achieve its energy goals, while
21 minimizing negative impacts on the biodiversity of
22 Indian River Bay.

23 In summary, let me be clear, we need
24 clean, renewable energy if we're to put brakes on

1 climate change and slow down the extinction of animal
2 species on this planet. According to a report by the
3 World Wildlife Fund, there was an average decline of
4 68 percent of animal species from 1970 to 2020,
5 largely due to climate change.

6 Not only is the U.S. Wind's Offshore
7 Wind Project intent on protecting Indian River Bay's
8 diverse species, it will provide clean, renewable
9 energy, replacing dirty energy derived from burning
10 fossil fuels.

11 And in so doing, contribute to creating
12 a safer world for our planet's animal species. This
13 project is a win for diverse species in Indian River
14 Bay. Thank you.

15 MS. VEST: Thank you, ma'am. I
16 appreciate your comments.

17 Next up is going to be George Bates.
18 And while we get Mr. Bates ready to go, the next
19 person up will be Jill Gaumer. Following her will be
20 Peggy Schultz.

21 Mr. Bates, are you there, and can you
22 hear me?

23 MR. BATES: I am.

24 MS. VEST: Excellent. You may begin

1 when ready.

2 MR. BATES: My name is George Pierce
3 Bates. Please do not allow the use of 3 R's Road for
4 anything other than the current parking and surf,
5 fishing access. We live at 39569 Dune Road, Bethany
6 Beach, Delaware, in the Tower Shores Development of
7 well over 200 homes. Tower Shores holds the closest
8 privately-owned beach to 3 R's Road.

9 The Delaware Seashore State Park starts
10 at my back fence. We spotted a whale recently, and
11 regularly see pods of dolphins from our beach. 3 R's
12 Road is less than one-third of a mile north of our
13 back door. We can see the parking area from our
14 balconies. Indian River Inlet is a mile from our
15 house.

16 Indian River Inlet is the only outlet
17 to the ocean for all the rivers and streams that feed
18 both Indian River and Rehoboth Bays. Huge amounts of
19 sand and materials flow through Indian River Inlet.
20 The prevailing ocean currents off of 3 R's fishing
21 beach and Tower Shores Beach flows from north to
22 south.

23 The side tow at our beach normally
24 pushes to the south. Sand that washes out of Indian

1 River and Rehoboth Bays through the Indian River Inlet
2 helps keep our beach wide and beautiful. I am
3 extremely concerned with the dredging and drilling
4 procedures that are proposed to bring any power cables
5 to land through 3 R's Road.

6 A huge volume of material must be moved
7 and displaced underwater to be able to burry any
8 cables. Any materials stirred up by dredging and
9 drilling will wash onto and effect the quality of our
10 beach. We are assured that 3 R's Road, parking lot,
11 and beach access will be restored to current
12 conditions after the project is completed.

13 What about our beach? What steps will
14 be taken to ensure that it will be protected and
15 restored to current conditions? Finally, any work to
16 be conducted will happen in the off season, September,
17 October, April, and May are the best times of year at
18 the beach. That's when all my friends and family and
19 relatives want to come visit us.

20 They don't come in July. They come in
21 October. I am immensely concerned that engine noise
22 and exhaust fumes from both onshore and land-based
23 construction equipment will greatly disturb the
24 quality of life in our normally quiet and peaceful

1 home and community, and potentially affect our health.

2 In conclusion, please do not allow any
3 disruption of 3 R's Road. Thank you.

4 MS. VEST: Thank you, sir. I
5 appreciate your comments.

6 Next up is Jill Gaumer. And following
7 Ms. Gaumer will be Ms. Peggy Schultz.

8 Ms. Gaumer, are you there? Can you
9 hear me?

10 MS. GAUMER: I am here, yes. My name
11 is Jill Gaumer.

12 MS. VEST: Excellent.

13 MS. GAUMER: I'm ready to go. Just
14 before I say my prepared remarks, I'd like to note
15 that I have previously been a Dewey Beach homeowner,
16 and I sold my home because of my concern that sea
17 level rise and the long-term loss of the value of the
18 home because of pending sea level rise.

19 My name's Jill Gaumer. And I would
20 like to make a statement in support of U.S. Wind's
21 project and the landfall plan. I urge DNREC to issue
22 the appropriate permits to enable the landfall at 3
23 R's Beach. I'm a retired clinical social worker. I
24 was in private practice for 18 years of my last

1 professional work.

2 And I talked to a lot of people about
3 anxiety and depression. And I want to talk about
4 anxiety and depression as it relates to climate
5 change, which is basically what we're talking about
6 with offshore wind. It's called climate anxiety, and
7 it's based on the real evidence and events that
8 happen.

9 It's the existential fear of impending
10 doom, the world on fire, as we have seen in --
11 somebody mentioned Maui. Hurricanes that come
12 earlier, more frequently, and more powerful, like
13 Beryl that has just devastated Houston after it's path
14 of destruction through the Caribbean.

15 And political unrest caused by sea
16 level rise, warming oceans, and expanding deserts,
17 causing people to move from their homelands and lack
18 of open farmland. The extreme heat that we're right
19 now experiencing, today my thermometer reached 94. I
20 checked, one year ago on the same day it was 86.

21 Eco anxiety is also the term of chronic
22 fear of environmental cataclysm that comes from
23 observing the seemingly irreversible impact of climate
24 change. People make decisions based on this fear. At

1 a recent climate conference, a elderly gentleman stood
2 up tearfully to report that his son was choosing not
3 to have children.

4 This gentleman would not be a
5 grandfather. His son was not having children for fear
6 of bringing babies into an unlivable world. It's
7 well-known that action reduces anxiety. DNREC's
8 permitting U.S. Wind landing site will affirm to the
9 anxious and depressed that action is being taken.

10 As a state and country, we are making
11 small steps to address climate change. And I hope
12 these permits allowing U.S. Wind to continue in its
13 development will be approved. Thank you for your
14 time.

15 MS. VEST: Thank you, ma'am.
16 Appreciate your comments.

17 Next up will be Ms. Peggy Schultz, and
18 following Ms. Schultz will be Randall Larrimore.

19 Ms. Schultz, are you present, and can
20 you hear me?

21 MS. SCHULTZ: I'm here.

22 MS. VEST: Excellent. Peggy, the timer
23 will begin when you do.

24 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you.

1 My name is Peggy Schultz. I'm speaking
2 on behalf of People for Offshore Wind Energy
3 Resources. Routing the cables over the bay floor as
4 U.S. Wind request is far preferable to a route that
5 would take the cables over the public right of way.

6 There are numerous ways in which
7 routing the cables over a terrestrial route would be
8 either harmful to the environment, or an untenable
9 inconvenience to residents. For the power cables to
10 be laid on land, there would still be between 4 and 32
11 water crossings.

12 Each water crossing would require a
13 separate plowing or horizontal directional drilling
14 operation. Such activity would be invasive and risky
15 to the environment. Should the cables be laid on
16 land, there would be between two and six miles of
17 "wetlands adjacent" construction.

18 This presents a risk of runoff, which
19 is one of the biggest negative impacts with which the
20 inland bays must currently contend. And excessive
21 nutrient load causes a concomitant excessive algal
22 growth, as well as lack of oxygen needed for crab and
23 oyster health. The necessary road closures would
24 cause great inconvenience to local commuters.

1 Although work would be performed
2 outside the summer season, due to the amount of space
3 needed narrower roadways would be completely shutdown
4 for days at a time, creating major problems for people
5 who live in the numerous nearby neighborhoods, nearly
6 all with limited accessibility.

7 In contrast, cables laid six feet below
8 the Indian River Bay floor will be done with minimal
9 harmful effect. This type of cable laying is
10 frequently practices in Europe with small, and quite
11 temporary effects.

12 Of course, we are counting on DNREC to
13 carefully monitor the operation to make sure that the
14 cable-laying activity is indeed as low impact as
15 described by the developer. We urge DNREC to accept
16 the under-bay method of reaching the Dagsboro landfall
17 site as the accepted method of bringing U.S. Wind
18 power cables to shore.

19 MS. VEST: Excellent. Thank you for
20 your comments, Ms. Schultz. They are appreciated.

21 Next up is Randall Larrimore. And
22 following Mr. Larrimore will be Pat Resnick.

23 Mr. Larrimore, are you present, and can
24 you hear us?

1 MR. LARRIMORE: Yes, I'm present, and I
2 can hear you.

3 MS. VEST: Excellent. The timer is
4 set. It'll begin when you begin speaking.

5 MR. LARRIMORE: I am chair emeritus of
6 the Chesapeake Conservancy, a nonprofit organization
7 dedicated to protecting the environment. I live in
8 Bethany Beach, and I support U.S. Wind's application.
9 My comments would have been similar to
10 those made by Emily Knearl who represented The Nature
11 Conservancy and those of Sue Vatnick of the Sierra
12 Club. To save time, please let the record show that
13 the Chesapeake Conservancy supports their remarks.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. VEST: Thank you, sir, appreciate
16 your time.

17 Next up is Pat Resnick. And following
18 Pat, it will be Dianna Harris next up.

19 Pat, are you present, and can you hear
20 me?

21 MS. RESNICK: Yes, I can hear you. Can
22 you hear me?

23 MS. VEST: I can hear you loud and
24 clear. You may begin.

1 MS. RESNICK: Okay. Thank you very
2 much. My concern is, what happens when U.S. Wind is
3 out of here? I went to the meeting a couple months
4 ago. And I believe they said 15 years they're going
5 to be out.

6 And too many times I've heard of some
7 of these turbines and windmills rusting and not
8 working. And what happens when all of that's done,
9 and U.S. is out of here? Or who's responsible for
10 them at that point? That's it.

11 MS. VEST: Okay. I just wanted to make
12 sure.

13 MS. RESNICK: It's okay.

14 MS. VEST: Thank you for your comments,
15 Pat.

16 Next up is Dianna Harris. And
17 following Ms. Harris will be John Buono.

18 Ms. Harris, are you present, and can
19 you hear me?

20 MS. HARRIS: Can you hear me?

21 MS. VEST: I can hear you loud and
22 clear. You may begin when ready.

23 MS. HARRIS: I am present. Thank you
24 very much.

1 I think firstly I'd like to say that in
2 every environmental impact statement and everything
3 I've ever read for all of the wind projects up and
4 down the East Coast, all of the developers state that
5 their projects will have no impact on global warming.
6 I would just like that to be first and foremost.

7 But my most important thing I'd like to
8 say to DNREC this evening is the same thing I said to
9 Maryland Department of the Environment about a month
10 ago which is, we currently have projects to the north
11 of us and to the south of us.

12 And why are we in such a rush to
13 approve things when we can watch what's happening on
14 Covell's Beach, which by the way, has the same
15 construction project process that they want to do on 3
16 R's Beach.

17 But I'm not an electrician, so don't
18 quote me on this, but I know people up there who have
19 EMF readings while they sit on the beach of 77,
20 whatever that means. But it's still high. It's still
21 electricity coming through the sand, even though these
22 things are supposedly buried and in cement caves.

23 And we're watching the construction
24 happening in Virginia Beach where houses that are just

1 a mile away, like many of the houses close to 3 R's,
2 are having foundation cracks. So why? What's the
3 rush to approve this?

4 Why don't we sit back and see what's
5 happening to our north and what's happening to our
6 south and have real, live data to base our
7 environmental decisions upon? Instead of just
8 verbiage provided to us, frankly, by the entity that
9 has no experience, that wants to produce this project.

10 And my final question is, why does
11 Delaware feel it has the right to make a decision that
12 absolutely affects Maryland? Clearly Maryland didn't
13 want these landing her, because we said no to that.

14 MS. VEST: Okay. Ms. Harris, thank you
15 for your comments. I appreciate your time.

16 Next up is John Buono. And following
17 John will be Lori Weinstein.

18 Mr. Buono, are you present? Can you
19 hear me?

20 MR. BUONO: Yes, I am. Can you hear
21 me?

22 MS. VEST: I can hear you loud and
23 clear, sir. The timer will begin when you do.

24 MR. BUONO: All right. I'm ready to

1 go. First, I have to apologize. I got in an hour
2 late because I had the wrong time. So I'm glad I
3 caught most of the comments.

4 I've been a resident of Oceanview for
5 maybe 15 years now, maybe a little longer. I live in
6 Oceanview, about two miles from Bethany Beach. A
7 couple of comments. As someone earlier said, from
8 2016 to 2022, present whatever, there have been
9 studies about what's going on and how this is going to
10 work and how wind turbines work and all that.

11 And just recently, the public's been
12 informed. So they've been planning this for a long,
13 long time, with very little public input and not
14 really being open to what's going on. I'm kind of
15 torn between whether I'm for or against the project.

16 Certainly you're for because of the
17 green energy and all that, and, you know, the
18 electricity that it'll generate in the long run and
19 all that. I lean towards against because this is a
20 massive win for Maryland and a massive loss for
21 Delaware.

22 Delaware's taking the brunt of all the
23 construction, all the environmental problems, all the
24 digging, all the disruptions of traffic and all that,

1 and Maryland benefits all the electricity. There is
2 no benefit to Delaware for this project. So why
3 aren't they taking it through Maryland on one of their
4 beaches?

5 With that said, wherever people stand
6 politically, this is a done deal. I think the
7 feedback is just a game that DNREC is playing from the
8 state or wherever they're playing it from. I think
9 it's a waste of time. I've been on many of these
10 meetings. There's a lot of feedback that goes on.
11 But I think it's a done deal.

12 I don't think the feedback's going to
13 matter. I think politically, this is moving forward.
14 Whoever the powers that be have already made decisions
15 that this is happening. And they're simply playing
16 the game that they think they're giving the citizens
17 of Delaware a chance to argue their points or talk
18 about their pluses and minuses.

19 But I don't think it really matters. I
20 think this is a massive win for Maryland and a massive
21 loss for Delaware. And I think it's all politics
22 playing the game. So thank you very much for my time.

23 MS. VEST: Thank you, sir. Your
24 comments are appreciated.

1 Next up is going to be Lori Weinstein.
2 And following Lori we have Michael Barnello. Also,
3 just a heads up, we are going to be taking another
4 five-minute break at the top of the hour. But I'm
5 going to try to get in as many comments as we can
6 before then. So have we located Ms. Weinstein?

7 Ms. Weinstein, can you hear me?

8 MS. DAVIS: I don't see Ms. Weinstein.

9 MS. VEST: Okay. The timer is ready.
10 It'll begin when you do.

11 MS. DAVIS: No, I do not see her. I'm
12 sorry.

13 MS. VEST: Oh, you do not. I'm sorry.

14 MS. DAVIS: I do not.

15 MS. VEST: I thought that was Lori
16 speaking. Well, we'll keep going. We'll bump her for
17 now. Next up is Michael Barnello. And following
18 Mr. Barnello is Joseph Hamed.

19 Mr. Barnello, are you present, and can
20 you hear me?

21 MS. DAVIS: There are two Michael's, no
22 last names.

23 MS. VEST: Okay. Well, nobody is
24 indicating that they are that Michael. Let's just

1 skip him for now. Moving on, the next in line is
2 Josph Hamed. Following Joseph Hamed we have Anne
3 Sakalay.

4 Mr. Hamed, are you there?

5 Okay. We'll just keep going. Next up
6 is Ann Sakalay. And following Anne is Coralie Pryde.

7 Ms. Sakalay, are you there?

8 MS. SAKALAY: [No audible response.]

9 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Ms. Sakalay.

10 MS. VEST: Okay. We might wind up
11 taking the break now.

12 Ms. Pryde, are you there?

13 MS. DAVIS: She is here.

14 MS. VEST: She is here. Okay. Let's
15 try to recognize Ms. Pryde.

16 MS. PRYDE: Hello. This is Coralie
17 Pryde. Can you hear me?

18 MS. VEST: Yes, Ms. Pryde. I can hear
19 you loud and clear. The timer is ready. And it'll
20 begin when you do.

21 MS. PRYDE: Okay.

22 My name is Coralie Pryde. I live in
23 North Wilmington. I believe that this project with
24 U.S. Wind can be carried out with really minimal

1 damage to the environment and no damage to people's
2 safety in putting in the part that will come into
3 Delaware.

4 And Delaware will obviously get a lot
5 of benefits from it. The benefits that they are
6 giving us in terms of recs and credits for wind energy
7 are very helpful to us, because we have so little of
8 our own. And we will also benefit by the less carbon
9 dioxide that's being generated in our area.

10 I believe there's really no
11 environmental dangers with this whole project, because
12 worldwide studies have shown that their accidents are
13 absolutely minimal, dwarfed by the number of birds
14 that fly into glass windows on shore. There is no
15 known damage and harm to whales or other sea mammals.

16 And we do know that most of those occur
17 because of a shipwreck, striking by ships. And all I
18 think this -- it benefits Delaware directly to do this
19 now. I believe we should also be working in close
20 cooperation with our neighboring states on wind
21 energy, because we're such a small state.

22 It would be very useful if we could
23 work cooperatively with them in projects of our own so
24 that we might obtain better prices on the construction

1 of the turbines and placement, because we could --
2 there would be definite savings because of the larger
3 numbers of units being put out there. So I do favor
4 this project. Thank you.

5 MS. VEST: Thank you, Ms. Pryde.
6 Appreciate your time tonight.

7 I want to circle back real quick to
8 somebody that I just skipped over, Joseph Hamed.

9 Mr. Hamed, I believe that you're
10 actually on here tonight as Seth, and you had your
11 hand raised. And my apologies. I think we missed
12 you.

13 MR. HAMED: Not a problem. Not a
14 problem.

15 MS. VEST: Okay. Because we just
16 skipped you. And I didn't want to put you all the way
17 back in the queue. And the time will --

18 MR. HAMED: And I'll be real quick,
19 yes.

20 MS. VEST: The time will start when
21 you're ready.

22 MR. HAMED: I'm going to be 30 seconds.
23 I just want to point out that hopefully DNREC and all
24 the powers to be are looking at the impact once the

1 cables are put under the water in the Indian River Bay
2 on some of the tributaries and some of the areas
3 around the southeastern portion, including Beach Cove.

4 And I reviewed some of the studies that
5 have been done. And Beach Cove doesn't seem to have
6 been included in these studies. So we just want to
7 make sure that the impact on Beach Cove specifically
8 is included in the studies when it comes to the impact
9 of the cables being laid in the southeastern portion
10 of the Indian River. Thank you very much.

11 MS. VEST: Just doublechecking. Thank
12 you, Mr. Hamed.

13 At this point, it is approximately
14 7:59, eight o'clock. So that our poor court reporter
15 does not pass out, I am going to implement another
16 five-minute break to give him time to clear his system
17 up a little bit.

18 And everybody can stretch, maybe go get
19 a glass of water or something. The timer is up now so
20 that everybody can judge this. So we're going off the
21 record now. We will come back on at 8:05.

22 THE REPORTER: We're off the record at
23 8 p.m.

24 (Off the record.)

1 MS. VEST: On the record. The time is
2 8:05 p.m. And we are continuing with the comment
3 portion for this evening. Excellent. I was just
4 going to ask staff if they would put the three-minute
5 timer back up.

6 When we last left our list, we had
7 skipped over a couple people. But I am going to
8 continue on where we left off. Jacqueline Reed, let's
9 try to find her. And after Ms. Reed is Crystal
10 Stokowski.

11 So, Ms. Reed, are you on, and can you
12 hear me?

13 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Ms. Reed.

14 MS. VEST: Okay. Let's try to find
15 Crystal Stokowski then. And following Ms. Stokowski
16 is Natalie Magdeburger.

17 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Ms. Stokowski.

18 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll skip her for
19 now.

20 MS. DAVIS: I know that Natalie is on.

21 MS. VEST: You know that Natalie is on?

22 MS. DAVIS: Yes, she registered under a
23 phone number.

24 MS. VEST: Okay.

1 MS. DAVIS: And I see the phone number.

2 MS. VEST: Okay.

3 Well, Natalie, if you are there --

4 MS. MAGDEBURGER: Can you hear me now?

5 MS. VEST: I can hear you now. Is this
6 Natalie?

7 MS. MAGDEBURGER: Perfect. This is
8 Natalie Magdeburger.

9 MS. VEST: Excellent. Natalie, the
10 timer is ready to go. It will start when you do.

11 MS. MAGDEBURGER: All right. Thank you
12 very much.

13 I'm the mayor of Fenwick Island,
14 Delaware. Fenwick Island as a municipality is against
15 the wind turbines. We've got three major concerns.
16 I've got an opportunity to watch firsthand how these
17 discussions have been going on with our elected
18 leaders for the last two years. And there's been an
19 intentional desire to keep it from the public.

20 I think it's important that the public
21 do the research and understand what we're getting
22 into. Number one, this will affect our marine
23 environment. Question will be, how bad? For how
24 long? And will it recover? Second, there will be a

1 potential loss of tourism, as well as loss of property
2 values.

3 The number one economic driver in
4 Delaware right now is the coastal communities and the
5 economy that we generate. We can't afford to lose
6 tourism. Who wants to look at a beach that is full of
7 industrialized wind farms? Three, we have a great
8 concern about the military safety. The wind farms are
9 confirmed to impede both radar and sonar.

10 So getting people saved by the Coast
11 Guard will be made more difficult. But in addition to
12 that, we know we live in a modern time where drones
13 and missiles are, you know, going to be what does us
14 all in. So we can't afford to let this happen before
15 we get all the answers. And that's what Fenwick would
16 like.

17 And we would like answers without there
18 being attachment to money to buy silence. So the wind
19 farm companies have given money to Centers for Inland
20 Bays and the stakeholders. There has been
21 communications with DNREC, and it's been going on for
22 years.

23 There's been communications, I know,
24 with the mayors of the coastal communities, in which

1 they were negotiating the community benefits packages.
2 If this is so good for Delaware, it should be standing
3 on its own and not be connected to money to buy
4 silence.

5 Last, I would ask this group to think
6 about the Coastal Zone Protection Act. I don't
7 understand how these can go forward and be in
8 compliance with the Coastal Zone Protection Act that
9 was put in place years and years and years ago when
10 people were talking about putting up oil wells off our
11 coast. There's no difference.

12 These are not green. They're not going
13 to make less expensive electricity. It's going to be
14 an economic and environmental disaster. And
15 Delaware's going to be left holding that legacy.
16 We're going to make things that we take for granted,
17 like a natural sunrise, extinct. And along the way,
18 we're going to damage a lot of marine life as well.

19 Please, please do not approve this for
20 Delaware. Thank you.

21 MS. VEST: Thank you, ma'am.

22 Next up is going to be Dustyn Thompson.
23 And following Mr. Thompson is going to be Sarah
24 Albertson.

1 Dustyn, I believe that you are here.
2 And I just want to say before you begin your comments
3 that I did get your message about another commenter
4 being listed on the Zoom under CCL Mid-Atlantic. And
5 we will recognize her on the second time around. So,
6 Mr. Thompson, can you hear me?

7 MR. THOMPSON: I can. Thank you very
8 much.

9 MS. VEST: Excellent. You may begin
10 when ready.

11 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, thank you. You
12 know, a lot of comments have been made that I would be
13 saying the same thing. So in an effort to not repeat
14 myself, I'll say in brief that the Sierra Club
15 Delaware chapter supports to DNREC moving forward with
16 the permits, while ensuring that the conditions that
17 have been articulated tonight are in fact met.

18 Particularly around when the
19 construction can occur. Also would like to have
20 stipulations on what time of day during those seasons
21 that that construction can occur, to make sure we're
22 not bothering folks in the evening hours on that and
23 making sure that we are mitigating any harms to any
24 tree removals or disturbances with the wetlands.

1 And I heard there wasn't any with the
2 dunes, but just to be certain that that is on the
3 record.

4 So for example, any sort of tree
5 removal that's necessary during the construction
6 process is met with replanting and that that
7 replanting is followed through on to make sure that
8 that tree does sustain itself in the long term, in
9 accordance with what was removed.

10 So as long as all of the ecological
11 mitigation factors that were presented tonight are
12 followed and enforced by DNREC, we would support DNREC
13 moving forward. But we will provide further comments
14 in writing that will go through in a point-by-point
15 with any concerns or suggestions. So that's all for
16 tonight, though.

17 So thank you very much, Lisa, for what
18 you're doing.

19 MS. VEST: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

20 Next up is Sarah Albertson. And while
21 we try to locate Sarah, next up on the list is David
22 Dempsey.

23 So, Ms. Albertson, are you present, and
24 can you hear me?

1 MS. ALBERTSON: I'm present. I can
2 hear you.

3 MS. VEST: Excellent. You may begin
4 when ready.

5 MS. ALBERTSON: So I am also going to
6 keep mine short because I think I agree with
7 statements we've heard before from people I do not
8 know, Mr. Miles and Mr. Bates specifically.

9 The issue here as I see it is really
10 whether the permits for these specific developments
11 through 3 R's and the Indian River Inlet should be
12 allowed not a general referendum on wind energy. The
13 applicant doesn't seem like they've demonstrated that
14 the development at these locations are appropriate.

15 And certainly not that they're
16 necessary, given their proximity to and inclusion in
17 high-density and use recreation areas. Again,
18 particularly given the lack of emergency preparedness
19 that we're aware of in general, public safety
20 concerns, and also that the energy produced down the
21 line would be for Maryland.

22 U.S. Wind's application has hundreds of
23 pages, but is very thin on details beyond limiting
24 construction to certain months. And that just doesn't

1 seem like enough. This work will still be occurring
2 during months and months over thousand of acres which
3 could be devastating to those areas.

4 While there might be some Delaware job
5 prospects spun out from these permits, they are very
6 limited, mostly of short term, and do not come close
7 to counterweighing the concerns about the subaqueous
8 and wetland impacts, as well as the impacts to human
9 quality of life and income to local residents based on
10 impacts to recreation.

11 This isn't a risk Delaware should take
12 for Maryland energy. That's it.

13 MS. VEST: Thank you, Ms. Albertson.

14 Next up is David Dempsey. And
15 following Mr. Dempsey will be Marissa McClenton.

16 Mr. Dempsey, are you there, and can you
17 hear me?

18 MR. DEMPSEY: I am. Good evening.

19 MS. VEST: Okay. The timer may begin
20 when you do.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: I understand that this
22 hearing concerns cabling across state-regulated
23 wetlands and subaqueous lands, not the wind farm
24 itself. But I do want to begin by pointing out that

1 the windmills are under leases with the federal
2 government and through the state of Maryland.

3 And so this may be one of the few times
4 that the state of Delaware has an opportunity to
5 negotiate and the only place where the state has any
6 power to actually regulate these wind farms, which are
7 growing up offshore.

8 To that end, as I understand it from
9 reading the regulations, statutes, the Department of
10 Natural Resources' job is to ensure that the shoreline
11 of the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay are preserved.
12 Not only from erosion, but also their natural beauty.
13 This would include sight lines and view sheds.

14 Here the application in question is
15 talking about the literal industrialization of
16 thousands of acres of ocean and bay bottom that's
17 going to be dug up and buried in various kinds of
18 construction materials. The applicants carry a
19 significant burden of proof to show that this should
20 move forward.

21 And I have reviewed the application.
22 It's hundreds of pages from, no doubt, industry
23 experts that have been paid by U.S. Wind to submit
24 this application, rewarded generously in that regard.

1 And it's filled with glittering generalities. Lots
2 and lots of equivocation.

3 U.S. Wind specifies they'll use "this
4 technology" or "this mitigation approach" "to the
5 greatest extent possible" or "as possible." I read
6 through the application. A quick search showed at
7 least 100 times they equivocated in this regard. In
8 other words, it's hard to say what they will or won't
9 do.

10 The precautions that they in other
11 words are specifying, we can have any guarantee that
12 they'll be used the majority of the time, any of the
13 time, because of the way in which they've equivocated.
14 No real specifics, in other words, about what they're
15 going to do across 60 miles of cable and thousands of
16 acres of ocean bottom that'll be impacted.

17 In fact, when you look at what they
18 say, they agree that hardbottom habitats may in fact
19 be affected. They agree that this may increase
20 turbidity and suspended sediment in our natural
21 environments. They agree that fish might not move
22 away from construction light and be impacted.

23 They agree that they'll have problems
24 with engine emissions. And even more problematic,

1 they admit that this could cause habitat loss for a
2 number of threatened -- not just endangered, but
3 threatened species.

4 The Northern long-eared bat, they say
5 it might in fact be in this area. Their answer to
6 that "suitable habitat is present elsewhere." These
7 are their own words. They say something similar about
8 the Piping plovers and the Red Knot population.

9 And so when we take a step back and
10 think about how we're going to have to hold this
11 corporate company accountable in these --

12 MS. VEST: Okay. I am sorry, sir, but
13 you passed the three-minute mark, and the system did
14 cut you off. As I've told other people, please submit
15 your full comments so that they can be incorporated
16 into the record.

17 Moving on. Next up is Marissa
18 McClenton. And following Ms. McClenton we have
19 Camille Mapua. And I believe Ms. Mapua is joining by
20 telephone. So we'll be looking for that.

21 Marissa McClenton, are you there, and
22 can you hear me?

23 MS. MCCLENTON: Yes, I'm here, and I
24 can hear you.

1 MS. VEST: Excellent. The timer will
2 begin when you do.

3 MS. MCCLENTON: Thank you.

4 Good evening. My name is Marissa
5 McClenton, and I am the environmental justice
6 associate organizer with the Sierra Club Delaware
7 chapter. I'm here to share my thoughts and urge you
8 to approve the permit for U.S. Wind.

9 For too long our country has accepted
10 the toxic air pollution and warming climate impacts of
11 burning fossil fuels as the best way to keep our
12 lights on and our lives going.

13 We have put the coals mines, fracking,
14 and refineries out of sight and out of mind, while
15 impacted communities in other states continued being
16 overburdened by this pollution. Pollution does not
17 care about our shortsightedness. And it does not care
18 about state lines.

19 We are paying for our use of fossil
20 fuels, not just with our air quality, but our health.
21 And our health impacts are not shared equally. This
22 is unjust and unfair to everybody involved. This
23 permit is a right step in a direction for our regional
24 air quality.

1 By continuing our reliance on fossil
2 fuels, we are making our most vulnerable communities
3 sicker and directly contributing to the negative
4 health impacts of the communities surrounding where
5 our dirty energy is being produced. Additionally, the
6 Sierra Club Delaware chapter will be providing more
7 in-depth comments through the online portal.

8 We want to ensure that DNREC focuses on
9 mitigating and preventing ecological impacts. We did
10 not have to trade the health of our ocean environment
11 for the health of offshore wind or for the health of
12 our planet and folks from around the county who have
13 worked diligently to make sure that offshore wind
14 abides by this.

15 This includes horizontal drilling, sand
16 fences, no construction during breeding or nesting
17 seasons, and ensuring that it only happens during
18 business hours so that folks who live in these areas
19 are not impacted more than they should be.

20 It's also why we have people watching
21 out for whales around construction sites and pausing
22 construction when they are spotted. It's why we have
23 bubble curtains to avoid noise pollution under the sea
24 and protect vulnerable animals in addition to other

1 safety measures.

2 Renewable energy must be done right.
3 And we believe that the path for offshore wind
4 development can do this with certain measures in place
5 which are the health of our ocean, its ecosystem, and
6 the people that live in the area. Thank you for your
7 consideration, and I urge you to approve this permit.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. VEST: Thank you, ma'am.

10 As I mentioned previously, next up is
11 Camille Mapua. And following her on the list is Jay
12 Cooperson.

13 While we do search to try to locate
14 Ms. Mapua, I will mention this just in case people
15 aren't aware. If someone is on the list waiting to be
16 called and, you know, we're not seeing you, you can
17 press "star 9" on your cell phone, and that will raise
18 your hand. And we can unmute you that way.

19 So I would say that at this point now,
20 in case that's the situation with Ms. Mapua. Do we
21 see her anywhere?

22 MS. DAVIS: I do not.

23 MS. VEST: Okay. Well, we'll just put
24 a check and move on. It is a long event. So some

1 people may have had to jump off. But we will
2 definitely circle back around. At this point, it
3 looks like it'll be possible. And try to give
4 everybody a second opportunity.

5 Next up is Jay Cooperson. And while we
6 try to locate him, the next person up will be Lawrence
7 O'Steen.

8 So, Mr. Cooperson, are you present?

9 MS. DAVIS: I do not see a Mr. Jay
10 Cooperson.

11 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll just put a
12 check by him. Lawrence --

13 MS. DAVIS: Oh, hold on one second.
14 Hang on one second. It looks like Jay is --

15 MS. VEST: I see a Georgia Cooperson.

16 MS. DAVIS -- Georgia maybe.

17 MS. VEST: Mr. Cooperson, are you
18 there? Can you hear me?

19 MR. COOPERSON: [No audible response.]

20 MS. VEST: Did we just unmute the
21 Cooperson name?

22 MS. DAVIS: I pressed no to unmute.

23 MR. COOPERSON: Yes. Can you hear me?

24 MS. VEST: There. There you are. I

1 can hear you loud and clear, sir.

2 MR. COOPERSON: Yes, I kept trying to
3 unmute. I am Jay Cooperson.

4 MS. VEST: That's perfectly okay. We
5 have a lot of people on the system tonight.

6 Mr. Cooperson, the timer will begin when you do.

7 MR. COOPERSON: Yes.

8 I am Jay Cooperson. I'm a resident of
9 Wilmington Delaware. I am in support of the wind
10 farm. And I support proceeding with the permit
11 process and do expect DNREC and other agencies
12 involved to do their job diligently, which is what I
13 expect in any development project. I'm an architect.

14 So this is a process, you know, very
15 different in this case in the details, but in the
16 broad scope, you know, it does require diligence
17 by public officials. I would like to say in response
18 to a couple of the objections, one of them was talking
19 about the impact during the construction itself.

20 And I think that has to be weighed, the
21 short-term impact against the long-term gain,
22 particularly if the short-term impact can be
23 remediated. I also object to the idea that the bay
24 will be denigrated by the placement, you know, of the

1 cable underneath.

2 The bay has suffered enormously from
3 uncontrolled residential development along its shores,
4 far great than the short-term that cable will create.
5 I also find I, as a person who served in the Navy for
6 two years, ridiculous that somehow collisions with the
7 turbines offshore is a reason for not having them and
8 cited the case of the Baltimore Harbor.

9 It is the responsibility of the ship's
10 pilot, particularly in the areas as you come into
11 Delaware Bay, to see that that ship is brought in
12 safely. You know, the presence of the turbines will
13 certainly be well-located. Any competent officer
14 knows that and will respond accordingly.

15 And with that, again, I urge support
16 for this process. Thank you.

17 MS. VEST: Thank you, sir. Appreciate
18 that.

19 Next up that we will try to locate its
20 Lawrence O'Steen. And following Mr. O'Steen, the next
21 name on the list is John Donofrio.

22 So, Mr. O'Steen, are you around, and
23 can you hear me if you're there?

24 MS. DAVIS: I do not see a Lawrence

1 O'Steen.

2 MS. VEST: Okay. We're going to move
3 on from that. We'll try to circle back around to him.
4 But just for the point of keeping everything moving
5 tonight, John Donofrio is next. And following
6 Mr. Donofrio is Cheryl Siskin.

7 Mr. Donofrio, are you there, and can
8 you hear me?

9 MS. DAVIS: I do not see a
10 Mr. Donofrio.

11 MS. VEST: Okay. We're going to keep
12 moving then. Then Cheryl Siskin. Do we see Cheryl?

13 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Cheryl Siskin.

14 MS. VEST: Okay. I do see that Anne
15 Sakalay is here now.

16 Anne, I do see your hand. I'm not
17 ignoring that. We will circle back around to get you.
18 But we're going to go through the remainder of the
19 names for the first time around before we hit
20 everybody up for the second time, but thank you for
21 raising your hand.

22 Next up is Senator Gerald Hocker.
23 We're trying to locate him. Have we found him?

24 And, Senator Hocker, can you hear me if

1 you are there?

2 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Senator Hocker
3 listed by name.

4 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll put a pause on
5 that right now. Again, I will mention this again. If
6 Senator Hocker or a representative from his office is
7 on the cell phone, if you hit "star 9," that will
8 cause your number to have a raised hand, and we can
9 unmute you. And you can offer your comments.

10 So I'll just give it a few seconds.
11 Again "star 9" will raise the hand, and we'll know
12 that you're there. And we can unmute. I am not
13 seeing anything right now. All right. We are going
14 to put a pin in that comment.

15 And we're going to move on. There's
16 only two names left. And then we will be able to give
17 everybody a second chance if they were missed or
18 unable to attend until now. Next up is Peter McLean.
19 And following Mr. McLean will be Bill, Mr. McMurray.
20 So can we find Mr. McLean?

21 MR. MCLEAN: I believe so. I'm Peter.

22 MS. VEST: Is this Peter?

23 MR. MCLEAN: This is Peter.

24 MS. VEST: Okay. Excellent. We had a

1 couple that we had to skip over. So I wanted to make
2 sure I was addressing you properly, sir. The timer
3 is ready. And it will start when you begin.

4 MR. MCLEAN: Right. Thank you.

5 I'm a retired wildlife biologist and
6 teacher living in Lewis here. And I've studied
7 ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay and black bears in the
8 Smokies to complete graduate programs in biology in a
9 college at -- and that's the University of Tennessee.

10 And I was especially impressed with the
11 many of us who wrote and submitted comments, often
12 mentioning their love of wildlife, of our relatives
13 are whales, dolphins, sea turtles, ospreys, all those
14 that depend on water in wetlands. And yes, I share
15 that same love and interest in.

16 But let's be clear and understand that
17 all life, including our own, is threatened. Over
18 2,000 of the world's leading climatologists agree on
19 insurmountable evidence gathered over many years that
20 climate change, is worldwide, is human caused.

21 And we see it everywhere in melting ice
22 worldwide and well-documented rising sea levels, and
23 increasing temperatures and acidification of our
24 oceans and the loss of our corals and the diversity

1 they support. For example, the Great Barrier Reef is
2 now half gone in unprecedented weather disasters.

3 We need to remember that 40 million
4 acres of Canada burned last summer. So climate change
5 is the truth. It's the best information we have. And
6 it represents our greatest challenge, one that will
7 define the 21st Century more than any other. And it
8 tells us that we must respond.

9 And we must respond immediately, with
10 quickness and celebrated Coach John Wooden would
11 encourage. Renewable energy, solar and wind energy,
12 are required responses, especially if we love
13 wildlife, all life. Renewable energy will help us,
14 will strengthen us as citizens of Delaware, of
15 America, of the world.

16 We're responding, we're supporting
17 renewable energy. We're supporting offshore wind.
18 The whales and dolphins and sea turtles and osprey and
19 all the marine life which we love and with which we
20 share this earth will thank us in their own way, as
21 will our children and theirs. Thank you for your
22 consideration.

23 MS. VEST: Thank you, Mr. McLean. I
24 appreciate your comments.

1 The last name on the list before we
2 take a breath and try to reach everybody that was
3 previously skipped is Bill McMurray.

4 Mr. McMurray, can you hear me, and are
5 you on?

6 MR. MCMURRAY: [No audible response.]

7 MS. DAVIS: I do not see Mr. McMurray's
8 name.

9 MS. VEST: Okay. Let's do this. There
10 are approximately a little less than 30 people that we
11 still need to double back around and given them one
12 last try to see if we can get them. I am going to
13 turn it over to our administrative staff, because they
14 have been keeping the list of every name that we've
15 missed.

16 I will say again for the record, I have
17 periodically seen a couple people raise their hands.
18 And that's awesome. I appreciate that. I would ask
19 that that be cleared now. If you out there in the
20 audience have been raising the hands, when you hear
21 your name -- you know, and there's a variety of
22 reasons we may not be seen.

23 And it may be that you're using a
24 different phone or it's a different number than what

1 you preregistered with, and that's fine. We just want
2 to do everything possible to recognize you, especially
3 if you're here.

4 So when you hear the name, and you hear
5 us trying to reach you specifically, that's when I
6 would ask you, if you're on phone, you can hit "star"
7 or the little asterisk, whichever you want to call it.
8 You can hit that and hit "9," and that will
9 automatically raise your hand, if you're on a cell
10 phone.

11 If you're on a laptop, I would ask that
12 if we're looking for you when we still don't see you,
13 raise your hand at that time. And we'll know that
14 you're the person to unmute. You know, unfortunately,
15 if we have ten people at a time raising their hand, we
16 don't know who to unmute. And it needs to be done one
17 at a time to bring clarity to the transcript.

18 So that's what we're dealing with right
19 now. So this will be the second round. We'll give
20 one last chance for everybody that was missed the
21 first time around to be recognized.

22 Amanda, I believe you were keeping the
23 list. So if you want to go ahead and begin with that,
24 please do.

1 MS. DAVIS: Sure.

2 I'm going to call Ms. Robin Bullock.

3 MS. VEST: Are we still not --

4 MS. DAVIS: I still do not see her
5 name.

6 MS. VEST: Okay. That's fine. Next.

7 MS. DAVIS: Ms. Karen Ironside. I see
8 a --

9 MS. VEST: I see a raised hand.

10 MS. DAVIS: Me too.

11 MS. VEST: Karen, if that is you under
12 KMI, if that is you with the raised hand, please
13 unmute.

14 MS. DAVIS: That person is unmuted.

15 MS. VEST: Okay.

16 Ms. Ironside, is that you?

17 Now I see a Paige Smith that has their
18 hand raised. Can we try her and see if that is Karen?
19 And now I see an iPhone. Again, if I could just ask,
20 we're trying to give Karen one more chance.

21 And, Karen Ironside, if you are signed
22 onto this meeting as Paige Smith --

23 MS. SMITH: I'm Paige Smith.

24 MS. VEST: Okay. We're trying to find

1 Karen, though. Are you not with her?

2 MS. SMITH: No.

3 MS. VEST: Okay. Well then, I would
4 ask that you go ahead and be placed back on mute.

5 We're trying to find Karen Ironside.

6 And I just don't see that she's showing up anywhere.

7 So let's move on. Amanda, if you would continue with
8 the names.

9 MS. DAVIS: Sure.

10 The next person I'm going to call s
11 Sherry Long.

12 MS. VEST: Okay. I'm still not seeing
13 anybody with their hand raised on that.

14 MS. DAVIS: I do not see her name
15 listed.

16 MS. VEST: Okay. Let's just keep
17 going.

18 MS. DAVIS: Okay.

19 The next person is Marybeth Vidunas.

20 MS. VEST: Vidunas.

21 Marybeth, are you there? Can you hear
22 us if you are?

23 MS. DAVIS: I do not see her name.

24 MS. VEST: All right. Let's just keep

1 going. Let's just keep going. We're trying to give
2 everybody the opportunity, but, you know, we can only
3 spend so much time and take so many attempts. And we
4 don't want to hold up the proceedings for everyone
5 else.

6 MS. DAVIS: So the next person I'm
7 going to call is Mr. Joseph Angle, Jr.

8 MS. VEST: Mr. Angle, it's indicated
9 that you are trying to connect or at least you
10 preregistered to connect by telephone. If you are out
11 there by telephone, please hit "star" or "asterisk 9,"
12 and that will raise your hand.

13 I do not see him. Okay. Please
14 continue.

15 MS. DAVIS: The next person I'm going
16 to call is this Tamra Peroni.

17 MS. VEST: Okay.

18 Ms. Peroni, are you there?

19 I am not seeing her either.

20 MS. DAVIS: I do not see her name
21 either.

22 MS. VEST: Okay. Let's continue.

23 MS. DAVIS: The next person I'm going
24 to call is Mr. Robert Simmons.

1 MS. VEST: Mr. Simmons, this is your
2 second attempt to be reached. Are you there?

3 Okay. This was the block of people
4 that were absent the first time around as well. So it
5 may be that they just may not have been able to
6 attend, but let's just keep going.

7 MS. DAVIS: The next person I'm going
8 to call is Mr. Joel Patten.

9 MS. VEST: Mr. Patten, are you there?
10 All right. Let's continue.

11 MS. DAVIS: The next person is Jerry
12 Snyder.

13 MS. VEST: Mr. Snyder, this is your
14 second attempt to be reached. Are you there?

15 No, I don't think these guys are here.
16 Let's continue.

17 MS. DAVIS: Ms. Betsy Patten.

18 MS. VEST: Betsy, if you're there,
19 please acknowledge.

20 Okay. Let's move on.

21 MS. DAVIS: The next person is Ms.
22 Theresa Keil.

23 MS. VEST: Okay. I do not see Theresa
24 on here at all. Let's just keep going.

1 MS. DAVIS: Next is Mr. Charlie Garlow.

2 MS. VEST: All right.

3 Mr. Garlow, if you're there, please
4 respond.

5 It does not seem that these people are
6 on. So let's just continue.

7 MS. DAVIS: Okay.

8 Mr. Mark Nardone.

9 MS. VEST: Mr. Nardone, you indicated
10 in your preregistration that you would be joining by
11 telephone. So again, if that is the case, and you're
12 trying to reach us if you're present, you can hit
13 "star 9" on your cell phone, and it will raise your
14 hand.

15 There is an iPhone with a hand raised.
16 It just dropped. Okay. Let's just keep going.

17 MS. DAVIS: Okay.

18 I believe this person's here. Ms. Beth
19 Chajes.

20 MS. VEST: Chajes. Yes. Beth is the
21 one --

22 MS. DAVIS: Here she is.

23 MS. VEST: Okay. Here we go.

24 Beth, are you here?

1 MS. CHAJES: Yes, I am. Yes.

2 MS. VEST: Excellent. I was advised
3 that you were trying furiously to change your name and
4 Zoom wouldn't let you. So I am glad that we found
5 you. The timer is ready to go. It will begin when
6 you do.

7 MS. CHAJES: Yeah. I'm using an
8 organizational Zoom line tonight, which I couldn't
9 rename. But I'm speaking for myself.

10 MS. VEST: That'll do it.

11 MS. CHAJES: My name is Beth Chajes. I
12 am a science writer and educator, and I live in
13 Newark. And I'd like to address one of the ways that
14 cables carrying electricity generated by offshore wind
15 turbines are sometimes said to pose a danger to
16 wildlife or even people, and that is by generating
17 electromagnetic fields, or EMFs.

18 The bottom line is that buried
19 submarine cables emit extremely low-level EMFs, far
20 removed from the harmful high-energy end of the
21 electromagnetic spectrum where UV, X-ray, and gamma
22 radiation are found. Instead, they are even lower
23 energy than EMFs generated by radio waves. And I
24 don't hear anyone calling for the abolition of radio.

1 Unlike overhead wires, which are not
2 protected, submarine cables are insulated, sheathed,
3 armored, wrapped, and buried. They can't directly
4 electrocute anything and emit only a weak
5 electromagnetic field generated by the electrons
6 moving through the cable. The strength of an EMF is
7 measured using the unit gauss.

8 If you were to stand directly over a
9 submarine cable buried a meter below you, you'd be
10 subject to an EMF of 10 to 20 milligauss. If you move
11 a couple of meters away, your exposure drops to zero.
12 By comparison, sitting in front of a laptop provided a
13 20 milligauss exposure. Standing near an overhead
14 wire produces 100 milligauss exposure.

15 Using a hairdryer provides a 1,000
16 milligauss exposure. The impact of exposure to EMF
17 depends not only on the strength of the field, but
18 also the duration of the exposure. Mobile aquatic
19 species like fish would only have a very brief
20 exposure as they swim near the cable.

21 The species that live attached to or
22 burrowed into the sea floor could choose to make their
23 home in the sediments near a cable. In addition,
24 certain marine species are more sensitive to EMFs

1 because they use Earth's magnetic field for
2 navigation, or the tiny EMFs emitted by other
3 creatures to detect their prey.

4 Significant testing has been done with
5 these potentially sensitive species by independent
6 researchers in the lab and in the field. Lab studies
7 have exposed animals to 10,000 to 25,000 milligauss
8 EMFs with no effects. Field studies have shown no
9 impact on heating, breeding, or migrating behaviors.

10 In short, scientific study seems to
11 show that aquatic animals simply don't perceive low-
12 level EMFs generated by submarine cables. It's like
13 they just don't pick up that radio station. Thank you
14 for the opportunity to comment, and I support approval
15 of U.S. Wind's permits.

16 MS. VEST: Thank you, Beth. And I'm
17 happy that we finally figured out, you know, how to
18 get you on. So I appreciate your time and your
19 thoroughness in hanging in there.

20 Amanda, let's continue on the list.

21 MS. DAVIS: Sure. The next person is
22 Rich Innes.

23 MS. VEST: Mr. Innes, if you are
24 present, please respond.

1 Yeah, let's keep moving.

2 MS. DAVIS: Okay.

3 The next person is Ms. Janet Redman.

4 MS. VEST: Ms. Redman, this is your
5 second attempt to be contacted. This is our second
6 attempt to contact you. If you're here, please
7 acknowledge.

8 No, let's keep moving.

9 MS. DAVIS: Mr. Dave Breen.

10 MS. VEST: Mr. Breen, this is your
11 second attempt on our part to contact you. If you are
12 present, please acknowledge.

13 Nope, let's just keep going.

14 MS. DAVIS: Ms. Barbara Kulberg.

15 MS. VEST: Ms. Kulberg, if you are
16 present, please acknowledge.

17 I do not see her. Let's keep going.

18 MS. DAVIS: Sure.

19 The next person is Ms. Lori Weinstein.

20 MS. VEST: Okay.

21 Lori, if you are present, please
22 acknowledge.

23 And I will say this, too. You know, I
24 mean, there's a lot of time that goes in between.

1 Life happens between the point of preregistration and
2 the actual hearing. And you know, certainly it's
3 understandable if schedules change.

4 And to those that may be reading this
5 transcript after the fact, that were missed or could
6 not make it, the Department certainly understands.
7 And even more importantly is the opportunity for you
8 to submit comments in writing.

9 So you know, regardless of the reasons
10 why you may not have been able to attend, the
11 Department is still very interested in anything you'd
12 have to make, you know, part of the record.

13 So I would strongly encourage those who
14 didn't have the chance to speak for whatever reason,
15 didn't have an opportunity to make the meeting, please
16 send your comments in writing.

17 Let's keep moving.

18 MS. DAVIS: Sure.

19 Mr. Michael Barnello.

20 MS. VEST: Mr. Barnello, this is your
21 second opportunity to speak.

22 I do not see him.

23 MS. DAVIS: All right.

24 The next person is Ms. Anne Sakalay.

1 And I do see her. So I'm going to try to unmute her.

2 MS. VEST: Yes, I see her.

3 Ms. Sakalay, if you are there, please
4 unmute and let me know you can hear me.

5 MS. SAKALAY: It won't let me unmute.

6 MS. VEST: I hear you. You're unmuted.

7 MS. SAKALAY: Oh, wow.

8 MS. VEST: Whatever you did.

9 MS. SAKALAY: Okay.

10 MS. VEST: Whatever you did, you did
11 it.

12 MS. SAKALAY: Yeah, I don't know. And
13 I've been on the whole time, but under a different
14 name. So that's why.

15 MS. VEST: That will do it. Well, I'm
16 happy that we made the connection. The timer is
17 ready. And it will begin when you do.

18 MS. SAKALAY: Okay. Let me start by
19 saying I don't think anyone is against clean energy
20 and being more environmentally responsible. In fact,
21 anyone who really cares about the environment should
22 be very concerned by this proposal. U.S. Wind is not
23 an environmentalist group. They're a for-profit
24 company.

1 And we shouldn't forget, this is a
2 money-making scheme. Their interest ends if they
3 don't make money. Their constituents are
4 shareholders. This is about dollars and cents.

5 You know, given that, we need strong
6 advocates for the environment, the ocean, marine life
7 through Indian River Inlet and Bay, our beaches, and
8 the Delmarva way of life. And we've heard a lot about
9 that from other commenters. So I won't repeat what
10 they had to say.

11 You know, a lot of people say the
12 cables are worth it because this is a green
13 initiative, and we need to save the planet. Well,
14 wind turbines are hardly green. They require fossil
15 fuels, destructive mining of necessary rare minerals.
16 The turbine blades are not recyclable.

17 And at end of life, there is no plan
18 for what's going to happen when they fall into the
19 ocean because they don't work anymore. So you got to
20 dig beyond the words "clean energy."

21 I was struck by the Beach Preservation
22 Act, Chapter 68. It says "The beaches of the Atlantic
23 Ocean and Delaware Bay shoreline are hereby declared
24 to be valuable, natural features which furnish

1 recreational opportunity and provide storm protection,
2 as well as being an important economic resource for
3 the people of the state."

4 And it talks about DNREC enhancing,
5 preserving, and protecting the public and private
6 beaches of the state, and mitigating beach erosion.
7 How do we know what these cables will do to beach
8 erosion? Who will bear the cost? I mean, there's
9 miles of private beaches that DNREC doesn't repair.
10 Who will pay for that?

11 What'll happen when they refuse to stay
12 buried, let's say on the 4th of July weekend?
13 Important economic resource DNREC says. What will
14 happen to the fishing industry here? What will happen
15 to tourism, home values? Do we really know? In fact,
16 all the information that we've seen best available is
17 all theoretical. We really don't know.

18 Turning a Delmarva Coast into an
19 industrial site is a huge experiment and a huge risk.
20 It will not save the planet. The three biggest
21 polluters are Russia, China, and India. China is
22 building coal plants like there's no tomorrow.
23 Putting a few windmills out here is like trying to
24 fight a forest fire with a squirt gun.

1 It will not make a difference, but it
2 will ruin the Delmarva Coast forever. We need people
3 to be able to come here and fish, enjoy the beauty of
4 the nature. We heard the psychologist talk about
5 stress. The ocean is a healing place. We need to
6 make sure that it remains so. Once the ocean is
7 changed, once the Delmarva Coast is changed --

8 MS. VEST: Okay, ma'am. I'm so sorry
9 that, you know, you crossed the three-minute mark, and
10 the system did re-mute your mic. But as I've told
11 everybody, please be sure to submit your comments in
12 writing between now and September 9th, because I
13 surely would want the opportunity to for the record to
14 reflect your full comments.

15 And thank you for your time. And I'm
16 glad you could finally connect.

17 Amanda, if we could keep going with the
18 list for second chances.

19 MS. DAVIS: The next person is
20 Ms. Jacqueline Reed.

21 MS. VEST: Okay.

22 Ms. Reed, if you are here, please
23 acknowledge.

24 I do not see her. Let's keep going.

1 MS. DAVIS: Okay.

2 Next person is Ms. Crystal Stokowski.

3 MS. VEST: Okay.

4 Ms. Stokowski, this is your second
5 change to acknowledge and offer comment.

6 Okay. Let's keep going.

7 MS. DAVIS: The next person is
8 Ms. Camille Mapua.

9 MS. VEST: Yes.

10 Ms. Mapua, as has already been stated,
11 if you are on a cell phone and you hit "star" or
12 "asterisk 9," that will automatically raise the hand
13 in the Zoom session. We certainly want to give you an
14 opportunity to speak if you are present.

15 I am not seeing anybody.

16 MS. DAVIS: All right.

17 The next person is Mr. Lawrence
18 O'Steen.

19 MS. VEST: Mr. O'Steen, this is your
20 second chance. If you are there, please acknowledge.

21 I am not seeing an O'Steen. Let's
22 continue.

23 MS. DAVIS: The next person is Mr. John
24 Donofrio.

1 MS. VEST: Mr. Donofrio, if you are
2 there, please respond.

3 I do not see him. Let's keep going.

4 MS. DAVIS: The next person is
5 Ms. Cheryl Siskin.

6 MS. VEST: Ms. Siskin, again, this is
7 your second opportunity. If you are there, please
8 acknowledge.

9 Okay. Let's just keep going.

10 MS. DAVIS: Next person is Senator
11 Gerald Hocker.

12 MS. VEST: Senator Hocker, this is the
13 second opportunity for either yourself or a
14 representative from your staff, your office, to offer
15 comment. Again, if someone is here on your behalf, if
16 they are on a cell phone, they can hit "star 9," and
17 that will raise that cell phone's hand.

18 I do see a Caggiano with a hand raised.
19 Did that hand just go up, Amanda?

20 MS. DAVIS: It did.

21 MS. VEST: Okay. Let's take a chance.
22 Can we ask that person to unmute?

23 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

24 MS. VEST: To the sir or madam that is

1 under "Caggiano" that just raised their hand, if you
2 are with Senator Hocker's office, can you please
3 unmute and identify yourself? If you are not with
4 Senator Hocker's office, we're going to have to move
5 on.

6 MS. DAVIS: Another hand just went up
7 from Andrea.

8 MS. VEST: Yeah, try that one. I do
9 see a second hand for Andrea Caggiano.

10 Andrea, again, we are trying to
11 acknowledge Senator Hocker's office. If you are with
12 that office, please respond.

13 MS. CAGGIANO: Okay. Can you hear me?

14 Ms. VEST: I can hear you. I can hear
15 you. Are you with Senator Hocker's office?

16 MS. CAGGIANO: I am very sorry to take
17 up your time, but I am a constituent of Gerald Hocker,
18 and I have been working alongside with him about this.

19 MS. VEST: Okay. Well, that's fine.
20 The timer will begin when you do.

21 MS. CAGGIANO: Okay. Great. I want to
22 start by -- as a threshold responsibility to protect
23 our -- and wetlands.

24 MS. VEST: Okay, ma'am. I need to stop

1 you because you're not coming through clear. If
2 you've got another phone by you, that may be causing
3 feedback. Or if you're standing near a TV or a radio,
4 that may be giving you feedback.

5 MS. CAGGIANO: Okay. All right. Is
6 that better?

7 MS. VEST: You're getting better, but
8 I'm still hearing background feedback.

9 MS. CAGGIANO: Hold on one second.
10 Okay. Am I good?

11 MS. VEST: Let's try it. But if it
12 keeps up, I'm concerned that the court reporter may
13 not be able to get an accurate reading. So let's try
14 it. You just need to be away from a TV or any other
15 electronic device that might be causing feedback.

16 MS. CAGGIANO: Okay. Is that better?

17 MS. VEST: It's a little bit better.
18 If the feedback keeps up, I am going to have to ask
19 that you just submit any comments in writing, because
20 I just don't know that it's not going to be coming
21 across garbled for the court reporter.

22 MS. CAGGIANO: Okay.

23 MS. VEST: Do you want to try?

24 MS. CAGGIANO: Okay. I want to start

1 by saying that DNREC has a threshold responsibility --

2 MS. VEST: Okay. I'm afraid we lost
3 that call. And unfortunately, there just seemed to be
4 so much interference. I just don't know that that
5 would have been able to be translated by the court
6 reporter anyway. So I'm sorry for that, ma'am. And
7 please accept my apologies.

8 I don't know what was causing the
9 feedback, but it was pretty undecipherable on this
10 end. If you could submit your comments for inclusion
11 into the record, we would love to hear what you wanted
12 to say about that.

13 Amanda, going back to the list, is
14 there anybody left that maybe we did not already hit?

15 MS. DAVIS: I have one more name, and
16 that's Mr. Bill McMurray.

17 MS. VEST: Okay.

18 Mr. McMurray, if you're there, can you
19 please respond? There is a Google Pixel 5 number that
20 just raised their hand.

21 MS. DAVIS: I can try to unmute.

22 MS. VEST: Yeah.

23 MR. MCMURRAY: Unmute. I'm unmuted.

24 Can you hear me?

1 MS. VEST: There we go. Is this
2 Mr. McMurray?

3 MR. MCMURRAY: I didn't know that. I
4 had no idea it was a Google Pixel 5. I'm so sorry.

5 MS. VEST: That's perfectly okay. Is
6 this Bill McMurray?

7 MR. MCMURRAY: Yes, this is.

8 MS. VEST: Excellent. I'm glad that we
9 connected with you, Mr. McMurray.

10 MR. MCMURRAY: Oh, that makes two of
11 us.

12 MS. VEST: The timer will begin when
13 you do.

14 MR. MCMURRAY: Thank you for this
15 opportunity. Wind power grows the economy. Wind
16 power creates jobs on the Delmarva Peninsula. Wind
17 power grows tourism. Wind power does not release
18 carbon into the atmosphere. Offshore wind increases
19 marine life from what was previously existed.

20 Offshore wind can make Delmarva
21 geographically energy independent. Watching the wind
22 turbines being built is inspiring for little children
23 who may grow up to be engineers. Watching wind towers
24 get constructed is fun and informative for most adults

1 as well.

2 And best of all, for every Delmarva
3 resident, wind power is so, so, so, so much cheaper
4 than fossil fuels could ever be, because the wind is
5 free. Fossil fuels can never, never, never, never
6 beat that low, low, low derived energy cost. Fossil
7 fuel interests do not want wind power to compete
8 against them.

9 Therefore, they try to sow confusion
10 with false facts, because they do not see any way they
11 can successfully compete. No Delmarva resident wants
12 to pay more for energy than they have to. For this
13 reason, we are extremely supportive of this permitting
14 moving forward as fast as is possible.

15 In a changing world, when you stop
16 moving forward, you fall behind. Thank you again. My
17 comment has ended.

18 MS. VEST: Okay. Thank you,
19 Mr. McMurray. We appreciate the time. And I am glad
20 that we were finally able to connect with you.

21 At this point, we're going to go ahead.
22 We've given everybody on the list an opportunity to
23 offer comment. And we're closing up on the nine
24 o'clock hour. And I think that everybody that has

1 been around and has been able to offer comment
2 verbally that preregistered has been given ample
3 opportunity to do so.

4 If there is any reason why you were on
5 the list, here, and still unable to connect,
6 technological difficulties or whatever, as I've said
7 before, I still would like to see anybody that wants
8 to offer comments for the record to provide them in
9 writing. You know, the comments are important to the
10 Department, as I said in my opening remarks.

11 And you know, we certainly want to take
12 the opportunity to make sure that everybody knows how
13 to submit their comments if they choose to do so.

14 Amanda, if we could go all the way to
15 the end of this slide, to the thank you slide. I want
16 that up while I give some closing remarks.

17 As I mentioned before, everything that
18 was said tonight, all of the comment testimony that
19 came in, the presentations from both divisions of the
20 Department, as well as the applicant, the exhibit
21 list, all of that information, and eventually the
22 transcript when we get it from the court reporter --
23 all of that information will be put on the hearing
24 webpage.

1 It's all on there now, actually. The
2 only thing that isn't is the transcript. And that'll
3 be put up as soon as we receive it.

4 As I've said before, all comments
5 received between now and September 9, 2024, all bear
6 the same weight. And they'll all be counted as part
7 of the record. And they'll go up on the website as
8 soon as they are received.

9 In closing, I want to make sure that
10 everyone is reminded of the ways that you can formally
11 offer comment in writing. And I think we're trying to
12 get the right screen up. So for those of you that
13 want to, comments may be submitted through the comment
14 form link on the hearing page. There's a little radio
15 button in blue that you'll see on that page.

16 And it'll say, "click here to offer
17 comment." It'll take you to a form, and you can
18 submit it. It'll go directly to our office, and we'll
19 make sure that that gets incorporated into the record
20 and posted. You can just send an email to
21 DNREChearingcomments@delaware.gov.

22 Or you can do good old-fashioned USPS
23 Postal Service, attention to me as the hearing officer
24 for this matter. I am with the Office of the

1 Secretary at the office located here on the screen.
2 It's the same address that you saw on the notices.
3 And that's also on the hearing webpage as well.

4 I should say that written comments are
5 not accepted if attempts are made to submit them
6 through any kind of social media, nor can they be
7 texted to DNREC on any app. I want to thank everybody
8 for their patience. I know we've had a series of hot
9 days.

10 It's the dog days of summer, and
11 everybody's busy, and some people are on vacation.
12 But the fact that you took the time to be a part of
13 tonight's proceedings is important. And we recognize
14 it, and we respect it.

15 And for those of you, even the ones
16 that did offer comment tonight, if you think of
17 anything additional that you'd like to say or want to
18 supplement what you did offer verbally, by all means,
19 get it to us. The comment period is opened through
20 September 9, 2024. Thank you again for being here
21 tonight with us. This meeting is formally adjourned.

22 THE REPORTER: We're off the record at
23 9:02 p.m.

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(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
9:02 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, ANDREW WEADER, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

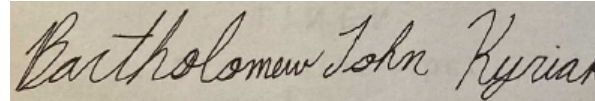
Andrew Weader

ANDREW WEADER
Notary Public in and for the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, BARTHOLOMEW KYRIAKOS, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



BARTHOLOMEW KYRIAKOS

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