

HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

From: catherine chatelain <cjfchatelain@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2024 12:10 PM
To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)
Subject: Wind energy

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential implementation of wind turbines in our oceans. While renewable energy sources like wind power are essential for reducing our carbon footprint, I believe it is crucial to carefully consider the broader implications of such projects.

- Impact on the Ocean Ecosystem:**
 - **Disruption to Marine Life:** Wind turbines require large-scale construction and maintenance, which can significantly disrupt marine habitats. The noise and vibrations generated during installation and operation can disturb marine life, affecting their natural behaviors and migration patterns.
 - **Chemical Pollution:** The materials used in the construction of wind turbines, including the lubricants and paints, have the potential to leach into the ocean, posing a risk to aquatic organisms.
 - **Alteration of Ocean Currents:** The presence of large wind turbine structures can potentially alter local ocean currents, which might have unforeseen consequences on the marine ecosystem.
- Economic Considerations:**
 - **High Initial Investment and Maintenance Costs:** The installation and upkeep of offshore wind turbines are significantly more expensive than their onshore counterparts due to the challenging conditions of the marine environment. This includes the costs of specialized vessels, underwater cabling, and corrosion-resistant materials.
 - **Energy Yield vs. Investment:** While offshore wind farms can generate substantial amounts of energy, the return on investment might not justify the expenditure, especially when considering the financial burden on taxpayers or private investors.
- Uncertain Long-term Impact:**
 - **Lack of Comprehensive Studies:** There is still limited long-term research on the environmental and economic impacts of offshore wind turbines. Introducing such large-scale infrastructure without a thorough understanding of the potential consequences could lead to irreversible damage. Given these points, I believe it is essential to conduct extensive environmental impact assessments and cost-benefit analyses before moving forward with offshore wind turbine projects. It is imperative to ensure that we are not sacrificing the health of our oceans and marine life for the sake of renewable energy, especially when other alternatives might be explored and optimized. Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to your thoughts on this matter.

Best regards, Catherine