

DNREC : US Wind Project Permitting Questions and Concerns

Docket #2024-P-MULTI-0007

1. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has said that it “strongly urges the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to halt all scoping and permitting for offshore wind projects until completion of a comprehensive and transparent procedure adequately protecting tribal environmental and sovereign interests is developed and implemented.”, Can DNREC and USWind please elaborate on how they are acknowledging and honoring the Tribal Nations they have consulted with? (Coastal Construction Application)
2. Have local Tribal Nations been given the space to comment and work together on the permitting for this project? (Coastal Construction Application)
3. How is the state and federal government recognizing its authority to determine how “unceded” ocean territory is developed? (Coastal Construction Application)
4. Has DNREC conducted studies on how swell and wave formation could refract off of the turbines potentially affecting the economic value of surfing and tourism in the state of Delaware? (Coastal Construction Application)
5. How long would benthic environments off the coast of Delaware and around 3R’s take to completely recover? (Appendix H12 Onshore Export Cable Corridors Benthic Report / Appendix H10 Offshore Benthic Report, 2016)
6. Where are the studies about the effects between offshore wind farms and coastal erosion in Delaware? (Coastal Construction Application)
7. How will the lights on wind turbines affect migratory birds and marine life at night or in the evening during winter? Could you supply an image during nighttime with how deep the lights will be seen below the ocean's surface and will these lights affect marine life from below? (Coastal Construction Application)
8. Has DNREC and/or our local government considered implementing energy solutions/regulations such as turning lights off overnight at corporate establishments (car dealerships, department stores, etc), composting, solar panels on every new building, housing development, schools, etc; instead of trying to find a new way to sustain an excess amount of energy that is unsustainable? An important question to ask ourselves is, Why do we need to move energy consumption offshore to support our overuse of energy onshore? (Coastal Construction Application)

9. How can the public trust DNREC to do thorough research and studies on all of these permits affecting our coastline and coastal community when there have been clear examples of ongoing coastal mismanagement and negligence happening in Delaware Seashore State Park. Twice in less than six months the ocean has covered the roadway just north of the Charles Cullen Bridge. There have only been reactive approaches to what could have been completely prevented if DNREC had put time into fixing this fragile and rapidly eroding area. How can the coastal community have faith that this will not be a similar situation with anything that could go wrong at 3R's or on the coastline of Delaware? (Coastal Construction Application)
  
10. How will negative impacts be documented and mitigated during construction and once the turbines are in place? With the incident in Nantucket, Massachusetts, beaches were closed for several weeks and even months because of turbine debris. (Coastal Construction Application)
  
11. Could DNREC and USWind list all of the possible negative outcomes they have put together for his proposal and permitting process? (Coastal Construction Application)