

Public Hearing Comments

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Mon 9/9/2024 6:01 PM

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Comments on Docket #2024-P-MULTI-0007 -- US Wind Project

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Organization: No

Comments:

I am an owner of multiple properties on the ocean side of coastal highway. Over the last several years as off shore wind activity accelerated in the waters off of Maryland and Delaware as well in the halls of Washington, DC., I have researched quite deeply the pros and cons of such technology. True , when done perfectly in a perfect environment, it will generate additional power but at quite a high economical cost to society without a substantial impact on the mid term carbon load. This is due to the tremendous material, fuel and resources necessary to build out such a facility on land, and even much more so in water. I can not support the idea of US Wind building off the coasts of Delmarva, and let's not fool ourselves, this is only the beginning. US Wind has not built a single operating off shore facility to date. Not One. We are essentially being asked to be their, and the present administration's, guinea pig. Second, as highlighted by the recent malfunction of the Vineyard Wind farm where ONE SINGLE turbine blade PARTIALLY separated and fell into the Atlantic Ocean, the impact to the ocean environment is extreme, not to mention the economical loss at the height of the summer season. Debris is still washing up from a single blade two months later and has spread far from the actual site. God only knows what the long term impact will be on marine life. Third, the amount of fuels, oils and cleaning solutions, the latter comprised of , let's be frank, bleach placed out in the ocean many miles offshore is a bad idea. An ecological issue from the outset and an ecological disaster waiting to happen. Finally. and this is important, this is a Maryland project 100 percent. However, Maryland doesn't want the transmissions cables coming on shore in Maryland. This is not correct and on its own should tell all involved in the project that something is very, very wrong . There are many other negative aspects surrounding the project such as monies US Wind is promising to pay communities to not object to the project. In any other line of business, the State's attorney general would be investigating such behavior. The lack of decommissioning bonds is quite worrisome also as well as the lack of clarity as to what will happen if a major storm incapacitates the functionality of the wind farm. How is it repaired? Who pays? What happens if US Wind declares bankruptcy? DNREC has its legacy on the line. As a long time visitor, and now resident of the Delaware shore, I have watched DNREC do great things and act as an excellent steward of the precious resources associated with the shore and inland bays. Now is not the time to bow to political pressure from Dover and the administration's desire to be an enabler for a "green" project, especially one that is a Maryland project. No one will remember the wind power debate 20 years from now, as new technologies such as modular nuclear take hold. However, what all will remember is did the protectors of a fragile natural resource and all the life that it supports, in all manners, make the correct decision consistent with the most important part of their stated mission, the wise management, conservation and enhancement of the State's natural resources. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Dennis P OBrien