


Public Hearing Comments

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To:HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources) <DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>;
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 1 attachments (4 MB)

Attachment - DNREC Comment Letter.pdf;

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

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Organization: No

Comments:

To provide the public with a true opportunity to substantively comment on US Wind's permit requests, DNREC needs to provide the public with a written analysis addressing the specific information and factors DNREC is required to consider under the statutes and regulations governing the granting of the permits. The maze of information posted by DNREC on its website – effectively a document dump on the public – has served as a de facto bar to ordinary members of the public providing specific, substantive comments on the information and factors legally governing the decision as to whether to grant the permits. I've devoted many hours to reviewing the information posted by DNREC and the statutes and regulations governing issuance of the permits. Unfortunately, I've concluded that absent DNREC providing an analysis of the type described above, it's a practical impossibility for an ordinary member of the public to comment on the specific information and factors that DNREC is required to take into account in deciding whether to grant the permits. This violates the spirit and intent of the required public comment process. How many public comments has DNREC received that contain more than general reactions to the proposed project? Without question, if DNREC prepared the much-needed written analysis described above, it would receive the needed benefit of public comments on the specific information and factors that DNREC is required to consider in deciding whether to grant the permits. Given the major public interest in decisions relating to US Wind's proposed project, DNREC needs to provide the analysis and reopen the comment period. As comments, in deciding whether to issue the permits, DNREC needs to, among other things, undertake a full evaluation of the following: the effect of the proposed project on the availability of sand "borrow areas" for beach replenishment; erosion and related matters in the 3R's beach area; the scenic and aesthetic impacts of the full project; effects on tourism; the risks and environmental and economic effects of wind turbine failures (including oil leaks and blade failures). As additional comments for DNREC, I've attached (1) an analysis I submitted to BOEM addressing wind turbine blade failures and false disclosures made by BOEM and US Wind regarding US Wind's use of Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (ADLS) and (2) a comment letter that I join in and adopt as my own comments. Ed Bintz
South Bethany