

## HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

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**From:** DoNotReply@delaware.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 3:58 PM  
**To:** HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources); edcohen3125@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Public Hearing Comments

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

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Organization: No

Comments:

I write to urge DNREC to evaluate the impact on Beach Cove should U.S. Wind be authorized to install its cables under the Bay floor and to put in place certain requirements, described below, to protect this critical resource and the public. The waterways in this area have been long ignored and the disruption of the proposed dredging could be catastrophic to not just the aquatic life in the Bay, but also its use as a recreational site by residents and visitors. It also could impact the critical lifesaving responsibilities of the Bethany Beach Fire Department which relies on access to homes from the Bay. I understand that the wind farm cables will be buried six feet under the Bay floor in the South Indian River Bay. This degree of digging could have profound impacts on the delicate ecosystem which already is under stress from development, silt invasion and pollution. One of DNREC's principal responsibilities is to protect the natural environment in the lands and waters for which it is responsible. It is beyond comprehension how DNREC can meet its obligations without first studying and understanding the implications of this extent and degree of disruption. Beach Cove also is heavily used for recreation by local boaters. I am advised that Beach Cove has not been dredged in more than 4 decades. Over the years, the canals have been degraded by silt migrating from the land and waters adjacent to the Cove. To what extent will the canals be further degraded by the disruption caused by installation of the cables? To what extent will U.S. Wind be responsible for restoring the damage it may cause? What plans has DNREC put in place to assure accountability? It also is important to recognize that recreational use of the Bay will be disrupted during the construction. Heavy equipment and industrial activity will be ongoing for some undefined period of time, causing inconvenience and potentially loss of use of this important and beloved resource. Additionally, U.S. Wind is acquiring a significant economic benefit in locating its cables under the publicly owned Bay floor. DNREC has an obligation to protect the public's interests in this construction activity. If U.S. Wind's activities further damage the channel, it must be their obligation to repair it. Additionally, DNREC should assure that the public is receiving fair market value for the right of way and use of the Bay floor for its cables. Accordingly, DNREC should condition any approvals for the dredging on a written agreement, guaranteed by a bond, that U.S. Wind will repair any natural resource damages it may cause as a result of its activities. Moreover, the public should be compensated for the disruption of use during construction and for the use of the publicly-owned Bay floor for its cables. I understand the Bay has not been dredged for over four decades but that DNREC has limited resources for this purpose. One way to address this would be for DNREC to include in the written agreement both the restoration obligations and an additional obligation to dredge the channels in Beach Cove as compensation to the public for the disruption of the construction and use of the Bay floor. Thank you for considering my views.