

Public Hearing Comments

DoNotReply@delaware.gov <DoNotReply@delaware.gov>

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To:HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources) <DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>;penngator001@gmail.com <penngator001@gmail.com>

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

Name: James Bew

Phone: 7179031424

Email Address: penngator001@gmail.com

Organization:

Comments:

To DNREC, I am strongly opposed to the plan by US Wind to land ultra-high voltage cables at 3R's beach and then bury them under nearly the entire length of our beautiful Indian River Bay. I will limit my comments to just the Delaware part of this project that unbelievably mostly benefits Maryland residents. Aside from the hideous destruction of Ocean City's ocean horizon view, Maryland won't have to deal with the potential hazards to their beach and bay. It does not matter if the cables are buried 40 – 60 feet under the beach, they surface in the parking lot and by US Winds own drawings will only be about 15 feet deep in the parking lot. A parking lot that is used heavily by recreational fisherman and beachgoers is a terrible place to have that much electrical voltage (just under 1 million volts!) right under people's feet. Even though 60 feet sounds very deep, ocean mother nature has a way of unburying a lot of things at the shore break. Just look at the things that wash up after Nor-Easters, Gales and Hurricanes. Block island found out the hard way. There is no assurance the cables will stay buried at 60 feet a decade from now. It is such horrible idea to have that much electricity in close association to people and water. It could be lethal if one of the cables starting leaking electricity into the seabed and water. It does not matter if they are insulated, things break down over time and the ocean is extremely aggressive to anything the lies within it. By the time US Wind finds out about it, who knows what could happen to innocent people. The idea to bury the cables 4 – 7 feet under the Indian River Bay is the mother of all bad ideas. They want to run them straight down the middle of a waterway that is heavily used by boaters, fisherman, recreational sports like water skiing, jet skiing etc. I can think of no better way than to scare off people from wanting to swim in the bay than by telling them there is nearly a million volts of electricity buried anywhere from 4 – 7 feet below them. If this goes forward, I will not, nor will not let my kids and grandkids swim anywhere near the cables of which I would certainly hope the placement will be marked as hazardous to anchoring. I don't like the fact that I don't know what a safe distance would be and I certainly don't like having to worry about my bay when there was no worries before this horrible project was even considered. The cable route goes straight through popular clamming areas and horseshoe crab spawning grounds. Many fish spawn in the area of cable route. And no one can seem the answer if the EMF generated by the enormous electrical current will have a negative affect on the bay's marine life. The truth is, your DNREC environmental scientists and biologists will not be able to say for absolute certain what the impact will be because there are no relevant studies of this particular EMF signature to our unique Indian River Bay marine ecology. Of course, US Wind will say that the cables will never become unburied or leak electricity. That is the kind of head-in-the sand thinking that gave us 9/11, Key Bridge disaster etc etc. To say it could NEVER happen is foolish and it will be DNREC's accountability. They have the authority to not issue US Wind the state permits needed for the project to go forward. And the public will be coming down hard on DNREC if there is any "unforeseen" issue that results in 3R's beach being closed or the bay restricted to

usage. We citizens certainly hope that DNREC and US Wind will have a stellar relationship as DNREC will be counting on them to quickly clean up any issues that may occur. This is US Winds first off shore wind project so DNREC should be doing a lot of intense due diligence about the assurances US Wind is promoting to them, officials and the public. There is not an established history of their best demonstrated practices to go by so that makes me and many others wary of their promises that nothing can go wrong. DNREC also needs to be mindful that their "partner" in this endeavor is a subsidiary of the Italian company Renexia SpA which is in turn a holding company owned by Italian Toto Holdings SpA. Not exactly a well-established US based next door neighbor for support. And their public involvement tactics have been shady at best. At the very least, if this disastrous project moves forward please leave the Indian River Bay alone and require US Wind to use either of the two other land based cable routes to Dagsboro. It eliminates a substantial part of the risk by only compromising the 3r's or Towers beaches. That would be the best compromise. Unfortunately, now this has become a political football and when that happens, sensible public interests take a back seat. For so many reasons, the best thing to do is what DNREC is charged with in serving the public interests for environmental protection and NOT approve US Winds state permits. Respectfully submitted, James Bew