

US Wind Project — Joint Permitting Hearing

Jefferson Wright <jeffersonwright@icloud.com>

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

Cc:Hocker, Gerald (LegHall) <Gerald.Hocker@delaware.gov>;Gray, Ronald (LegHall) <Ronald.Gray@delaware.gov>; Russell Jon <russejo@comcast.net>;Wright Denise <denisewright@mac.com>

Dear DNREC representatives:

I write to voice our opposition to the permit applications currently pending related to the US Wind project. I have carefully reviewed the underlying materials supporting the application as well as the letter dated September 6, 2024 submitted by Jon Russell. I know Mr. Russell to be a highly experienced and deeply knowledgeable professional surveyor, and his opinions are worthy of careful consideration by DNREC.

Mr. Russell’s letter raises multiple serious concerns regarding the adequacy, thoroughness and completeness of the hydrologic studies that have thus far been conducted to evaluate the permit applications. It seems clear that important areas of the Indian River Inlet and adjoining waterways were ignored completely and not even studied, which causes the US Wind applications to lack the required foundational analysis. Mr. Russell also raises highly significant concerns regarding the assumptions used and conclusions reached related to sedimentation, hydrologic flows, the depth of the buried cables and the likelihood they will become exposed, safety, and damage to the marine environment and aquatic and marine life.

My wife and I live on one of the waterways near Beach Cove. We are deeply concerned about the impacts this project will have on the surrounding environment, marine habitats, and waterways which are used extensively by many — including us — for recreation and boating. Our concerns are shared by many, many people in the North Bethany communities and other communities near the Indian River bay areas. For many, this is considered a substantial threat to the community in which we chose to live and, thus, it is a defining issue for us. It appears that — for reasons that are not apparent — the US Wind project is being evaluated on an unusually accelerated timetable (particularly given its size and multiple, disparate negative impacts) and based on studies that are woefully inadequate (as to completeness, assumptions, and scientific foundation), and even in the absence of other studies that should be required to evaluate all the significant areas (including notably Beach Cove and nearby waterways) and impacts of concern. We respectfully submit that, based on the current state of the record, the US Wind application is utterly lacking in the required supporting record and must be rejected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jefferson Wright

jeffersonwright@me.com

(410) 458-4990

Random musing: “The one thing that does not abide by majority rule is a person’s conscience.” Atticus Finch, To Kill a Mockingbird

[403 East Bank Road](#)
[Ocean Ridge West](#)
Bethany Beach, DE 19930

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