

Susan Brennan  
Fenwick Island, DE 19944

September 9, 2024

**RE: Comments Regarding Docket #2024-P-MULTI-0007 (U.S. Wind Permitting Requests and Delaware Environmental Impacts)**

Lisa Vest

DNREC Office of the Secretary

89 Kings Highway Dover, DE 19901

Via Electronic Mail

I am a Fenwick Island property owner and have been following this and other wind projects for the past several years.

I am not in favor of the approval of permitting of the Applicant, U.S. Wind seeking to onshore, high-powered, underground electric cables to transmit power between the proposed offshore wind turbines, substations, meteorological tower and proposed inland substation in Sussex County, located immediately adjacent to public recreation areas and wetlands for the following reasons:

1. Over the past month, weather patterns have caused extensive damage to the north end of the Indian River Inlet causing extreme erosion, road closures, walk-way closures and physical and engineering reinforcement by several state agencies. Tropical Storms Debby and Ernesto caused this damage. This is the exact area that will be disturbed if underwater cabling is allowed. If this area is not stable now, what is expected to happen once drilling, vibration, pressure, extensive movement, and displacement occurs?
2. The Indian River Bridge is an evacuation tool as it is located on US Route 1. Additional disturbances such as those associated with burying cable lines in this area could cause a detrimental effect on mobility and public safety.
3. Concern about the adverse impacts on Delaware's natural resources and what DNREC has identified if the installation of this cabling, construction of sub-stations, etc. is allowed?

4. Have/Are and How have the interests of Delaware residents/property owners and the protection of lands held in the public interest been strongly considered by DNREC?
5. How will this proposed project affect public access to our natural resources?
6. What plan is in place if/when mechanical issues occur, blades fall, and debris washes on to and over our natural resources?
7. The Substation portion of the project is not currently permitted by Sussex County zoning. U.S. Wind applications submitted to DNREC describe and include as part of the Project, "US Wind substations [which] would be constructed" on a Sussex County parcel immediately adjacent to the inland bays." A substation is not permitted by right in Sussex County's zoning code but must be obtained via a conditional use permit.

Due to the general lack of transparency beginning with the proposals at Fenwick Island State Park; concerns regarding the "Term sheet" agreement dated 12/19/23 between US Wind and the State of Delaware; US Wind's efforts to engage in conversations regarding community packages for coastal towns which include the stipulation that towns cannot "take action, obstruct or delay" US Wind's projects, including pursuing litigation in the case of environmental harm or hazard, though Towns can drop out of the agreement, but must repay all monies received; concern for the numerous allowable Incidental Take Authorizations or "takes" of marine mammals associated with **EACH lease**; whale mortality specifically related to anthropogenically generated noise even with the use of bubble curtains; the vast industrialization of our ocean environment and the amount of concrete required for each turbine installation; concern for the fishing industry; lack of safety protocols and emergency response measures in place to address logical issues such as blade testing or debris containment plans; no requirement to provide an economic study on the impact that 114, 938' tall turbines, located 10 nautical miles off of our coast would have on Fenwick Island's economy including tourism and property value; that the ocean wind turbine portion of the project proposes to use technology which is still relatively untested and unproven including the Aircraft Detection Lighting System.

This offshore activity poses major risks and socio-economic detriments to the State of Delaware, its citizens, businesses, property owners and natural resources, and the expeditious pace at which this process is happening cannot be disregarded.

I therefore ask DNREC, Sussex County Council, the State of Delaware, BOEM and any and all other agencies involved to consider this especially important, multi-resource endeavor very, very carefully. I am not in favor of this current plan and request denial of this permit.

We only get one chance to do this right. I am available to discuss this at any time.

Thank you,

Susan N. Brennan