

Attn: Thomas Noyes

Re: Follow up comments on the U.S. Wind and Skipjack wind projects

From: Geoff Pohanka

Here is an addendum to my earlier submitted comments. Further research has revealed the following.

How visible would 700' tall wind turbines be visible from a person standing on the beach at sea level?

12 miles distance.....655 feet of the tower and blades would be above the horizon

15 miles distance.....619 feet of the tower and blades would be above the horizon

18 miles distance.....573 feet of the tower and blades would be above the horizon

Source: <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/canvis-height-horizon-calculation.pdf>

North Carolina University study shows coastal wind power will have a negative impact on coastal tourism

A study conducted by the economists at the North Carolina State University determined that near shore wind turbines would have a big impact on coastal tourism.

To explore the economic impact of offshore wind farms, the researchers surveyed 484 people who had recently rented homes on the North Carolina coast in areas where the state has offshore leases available for wind farm development. Fifty-six percent of the study participants had rented vacation homes every year for the previous five years, and one-third of that 56 percent had rented the exact same house every year.

Fifty-four percent said they would not rent a vacation home if turbines were in view at all, no matter how large a discount was offered on the rental price.

<https://news.ncsu.edu/2016/04/taylor-coast-2016/>

The Wind projects will increase the price of electricity

Area residents and businesses will pay an additional \$177,000,000 in increased electrical rates annually during the 20 year life of the project. That is 3.5 billion dollars less purchasing power.

The wind power operator will be paid approximately 13.7 cents per kWh generated, which is nearly 400% more than the 3.5 cents to per kWh that residents now we pay for the generation of energy from conventional sources.

The wind projects will create few new permanent jobs.

The U.S. Wind proposal stated that their project would create 32 permanent operational and maintenance jobs. Deepwater wind said their project would create 37 permanent operational and maintenance jobs. Using the National Renewable Energy Laboratories Jobs and Economic Development Impact Model, the total number of permanent jobs created from both projects is would be approximately 50.

Since the annual increase in the cost of electricity to area consumers is \$177,000,000, the cost for each job created by the wind projects is \$3,500,000, every year, for 20 years.

The reduced purchasing power of residents and businesses is expected to cost many more jobs than the new jobs that are created.

Wind power projects do not replace fossil fuel power plants

Since wind is neither steady nor predictable conventional power plants must remain in operation to provide energy when wind power is not available. Absent power storage technology wind power can never replace traditional sources of power generation.

Wind energy production at the University of Delaware's 2MW wind turbine in Lewes Delaware is a good example of this. The turbine operated during 2017 at only 28.3% of capacity with a high of 51.7% in March and a low of 12.5% in June.

source: U.S. Energy Information Agency

<https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=DE>

There is no net environmental benefit to the wind power produced.

The Maryland Public Service Commission hired a consultant to determine the air quality benefit of the projects. The consultant found there would be no regional air quality benefit. Regional CO2 emissions would actually increase because power generated by the wind turbines would mostly displace energy generated by low CO2 emitting natural gas fired power plants.

Source: Levitan and Associates Inc. for the Maryland Public Service Commission Docket 9431item 85, "Evaluation and Comparison of US Wind and Skipjack Proposed Offshore Wind Project Applications" pages 92 and 160, revised public version, March 17, 2018

[http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy/Documents/Offshore%20Wind%20Working%20Group/Briefing%20Materials/Levitan%20Maryland%20Report%20Revised%20Public%20Version%2011Dec2016%20\(wErrata%2017Mar2017\)%20CLEAN.pdf](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy/Documents/Offshore%20Wind%20Working%20Group/Briefing%20Materials/Levitan%20Maryland%20Report%20Revised%20Public%20Version%2011Dec2016%20(wErrata%2017Mar2017)%20CLEAN.pdf)

According to the EPA U.S. air quality is improving rapidly. The six common air pollutants declined a total of 67% from 1980 to 201

Source: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-07/2016_baby_graphic_1980-2016.png

Few Studies has been performed to determine the impact on coastal species such as birds and sea life in the greater Delaware Bay coastal area.

The WindAction Group (WindAction.org) bird tracking study determined that some migratory paths cross areas slated for offshore wind development.

There are additional concerns about the potential negative impact on sea life such as horseshoe crab populations.

The consultant hired by the Maryland Public Service Commission to review the wind turbine proposals stated in their report that “we expect a large offshore wind project like Skipjack will impact the marine environment”. They recommended that an environmental impact study be commissioned.