

ORSTED'S OCEAN WIND ONE
PERMIT APPLICATION
DLRP FILE #0000-21-0008.2 LUP220001

IN PERSON PUBLIC HEARING

Hammonton High School Auditorium
566 Old Forks Road
Hammonton, New Jersey 08037
Thursday, December 15, 2022
Commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Transcribed by:
Stephanie Lyn Hagen, RPR

1 MR. FIELD: My name is Patrick
2 Field. I am going to be moderating tonight's
3 hearing. So thank you all for coming, I want to
4 make sure everybody signed in. If anybody wants
5 to make a public comment, put your name on a card
6 and we will draw them in random order.

7 So let me walk through the
8 agenda. I know it's kind of dim in here, this is
9 the brightest it gets. After the slide show, we
10 will bring that down and bring up the lights on
11 the stage so we can see the department.

12 So here is our plan for tonight.
13 People hear okay?

14 How is that? People hear back
15 there okay? Okay. So we will start with some
16 opening remarks by Jennifer Moriarty, NJDEP.
17 I'll go through some of the basic ground rules
18 for the hearing and then most of the night is
19 dedicated to your all's comments about this
20 project and the state waters and lands.

21 We will go through the order a
22 little bit. We want to make sure everybody who
23 wants to comment can. People may be coming a
24 little late with the weather, so we might take a
25 break and see if people come later. Let us know,

1 we will play that by ear and then have closing
2 remarks after everybody has made their comment,
3 which may be later tonight or depending on how
4 many people come.

5 MS. MORIARTY: Okay. Can
6 everybody hear me okay? Okay. Good. Good
7 evening. Thank you all for coming out to
8 participate on this lovely evening.

9 My name is Jennifer Moriarty, I
10 am the Director of the Division of Land Resource
11 Protection at the New Jersey Department of
12 Environmental Protection this evening. We are
13 providing an opportunity for public comment on
14 the Coastal Area Facility Review Act or CAFRA
15 individual permit; the waterfront development
16 individual in water permit, coastal wetlands
17 permit, fresh water wetlands individual permit,
18 and flood hazard area verification application
19 for Orsted's Ocean Wind One project which
20 proposes the construction of near shore and on
21 shore components associated with the development
22 of a commercial scale offshore wind energy
23 facility within lease area, OCS-0498 off the
24 coast of New Jersey.

25 The project proposal includes up

1 to 98 wind turbine generators, inter array
2 cables, up to three offshore substations, two
3 onshore substations and two cables making
4 landfall in Ocean County, New Jersey and Cape May
5 County, New Jersey.

6 The project will be located in
7 Berkeley, Ocean and Lacey Township in Ocean
8 County and in Ocean City and Upper Township
9 within Cape May County. The project would
10 contribute to New Jersey's goal of 11 gigawatts
11 of offshore wind energy generation by 2040 as
12 outlined in New Jersey Governor's executive order
13 307 issued on September 21, 2022.

14 Further the project is intended
15 to fulfill the New Jersey Board of Public
16 Utilities September 20, 2018 solicitation for
17 1,100 megawatts of offshore wind that was awarded
18 to Ocean Wind versus the New Jersey BPU on June
19 21, 2019.

20 This slide depicts the locations
21 of the various components of the project that I
22 just described. There is a legend at the top
23 left identifying each component for your
24 reference. The permit application is currently
25 under review by the department to determine the

1 project's compliance with the applicable state
2 land use regulations including the coastal zone
3 management rules at NJAC 7:7; the fresh water
4 wetlands protection act rules at NJAC 7:7A; the
5 flood hazard area control act rules at NJAC 7:13;
6 and the storm water management rules at NJAC 7:8.

7 While other state approvals may
8 be required for the project, the focus of the
9 hearing today is limited to the CAFRA waterfront
10 development fresh water wetlands and flood hazard
11 area applications previously described. The
12 hearing today is an opportunity for the
13 department to obtain supplemental information
14 from the public on this permit application as it
15 relates to the above referenced regulations. As
16 such no decision has yet been made regarding this
17 permit application.

18 The department will not be
19 responding to comments or questions today. The
20 legal and technical complexity of the issues
21 raised make it impractical to answer questions or
22 respond to comments in this forum. However the
23 department staff will be listening closely to the
24 comments and will consider all comments and
25 questions in its review of the permit

1 application. Where your concerns are or commence
2 are not clear to us, we may ask for clarification
3 so we can better consider your comments while
4 well review the application.

5 We appreciate you time for
6 attending the hearing. Please focus your
7 comments on this project as only relevant
8 comments will be considered in our review
9 process.

10 Patrick Field and the Consensus
11 Building Institute who is assisting the
12 department in facilitating the hearing tonight
13 will now discuss the procedural aspects for
14 tonight's hearing.

15 MR. FIELD: Let me go through
16 the ground rules tonight. So that anybody who
17 wants to speak can tonight, we asked people to
18 put their name on an index card and drop them
19 into a hat. If we missed anybody, I think we
20 went through all the cards, I don't know if you
21 want to raise your hand if you didn't get a
22 chance to do that, you can do so. Again random
23 order just to be fair to everybody.

24 Keep your comments to three
25 minutes, the way we are going to do that, there

1 is a little timer up there, there is a big of
2 echo to the mic, green light, go, state your name
3 affiliation, you have three minutes. When the
4 yellow light hits there is about 30 seconds left
5 and when the red light hit, that means stop. If
6 you have a hard time stopping, I will politely
7 interject for you to close to be fair to
8 everybody.

9 When we go through one round, if
10 we have time, if anybody wants to make an
11 additional comment, we will provide time for
12 that.

13 Again, what I'll do, I'll try to
14 keep a little order, we are going to use the mic
15 closest to the department, so you can see them,
16 they can see you, it's right there, there is hand
17 sanitizer if you want to use that before and
18 after using the mic. So we will do that.

19 And then like I said, the
20 department, they will be taking careful notes,
21 our transcriber right here will be capturing
22 everything word for word. The department won't
23 be answering questions tonight but is obligated
24 to do essentially a summary of comments received
25 and the responses when they provide their

1 decision on the permits in the coming months.

2 And Orsted is the project
3 component as you may know, they have no role in
4 the hearing tonight, I don't know if they are
5 here or not. This is a state run hearing.

6 Let me go through another couple
7 rules of the road. Typically we ask people don't
8 bring picket signs and things with sticks, so it
9 can be a hazard or danger to others.

10 Respect the school, it's a
11 beautiful space here, keep food and drink out of
12 the auditorium, it's a rule for the high school
13 students at well.

14 When people speak, give people
15 who are making their comment our full and
16 undivided attention, so please don't interrupt.
17 Our job is not whether or not you disagree
18 tonight, we want to hear everyone's opinion, so
19 please give people time to make their comments,
20 whatever they might be.

21 We generally ask to try to avoid
22 behavior like yelling, chanting, applause. We
23 ask that the language to be kept to a minimum in
24 a public space, and we are not going to have a
25 debate with the public comment, so a commentor

1 may say something, try not to comment on another
2 commentor because everybody has the right to have
3 their opinions, and just note this is a formal
4 hearing but it's not an adversarial proceeding,
5 nor is it a testimony hearing, so there is no
6 swearing in of witnesses, no cross examination,
7 it's just the standard public hearing.

8 Again, so in terms of written
9 comment, the one thing to know is three minutes
10 is not a ton of time, so if you have a longer
11 more detailed set of comments you want to submit,
12 generally 15 days after today, which would be the
13 30th, they can be submitted again to the web
14 page, you can also submit them in writing and all
15 of those things, so you can submit them by
16 December 30.

17 If you are a member of the
18 media, want to talk to someone at DEP, one of the
19 DEP staff can refer you to the right person if
20 that's what you are looking for.

21 Okay, did I get everything?
22 Okay. Great. What we are going to do, we are
23 going to take the Power Point down, turn that
24 off, put the light on the stage so we can see
25 everybody. And then what I'll do, I'll call out

1 a name and if people can come forward, state your
2 name and affiliation and make your public
3 comment, and the first person I have down is
4 Jackie Greger. Jackie come down to the mic, just
5 however you see fit to work for you.

6 MS. GREGER: Hello. Good
7 evening. I am Jackie Greger. I am here on
8 behalf of the New Jersey Sierra Club, and I am
9 the Communications Coordinator there representing
10 our chapter tonight.

11 First, thank you for the
12 opportunity to speak on this issue and thanks for
13 everyone for being here. When transforming the
14 nation's electricity sources from fossil fuels to
15 clean renewable energy, and important part of
16 reaching New Jersey's climate goal of 80 percent
17 carbon emission reduction by 2050 as well as New
18 Jersey's goal of generating 1,100 megawatts wind
19 power by 2040, it's important that we transition
20 away from fossil fuels and towards clean
21 alternatives like wind power and that these
22 actions are done in an environmentally
23 responsible manner.

24 To be clear, Sierra Club
25 supports responsibly developed offshore wind that

1 considers ecological and social implications, and
2 the New Jersey chapter sees that the proposed
3 Ocean Wind offshore wind projects including Ocean
4 Wind One are being planned in this way.

5 We support Ocean Wind One being
6 granted these permits. I have lived in Ocean
7 County and at the shore my whole life and have
8 seen how our shorelines have been adapted for
9 environmental projects that will benefit our
10 communities in the long run and this is no
11 exception. When it comes to the installation of
12 the onshore and offshore cables and the
13 construction of substations and the techniques
14 proposed such as horizontal directional drilling
15 will minimize disturbance of the beach area and
16 the public will be able to use the beach after
17 installation has been completed.

18 Disturbances to soils will be
19 short term and temporary with the plans to
20 restore many construction sites after the
21 installation process. According to Orsted's
22 appendix G of offshore Wind One's report,
23 overhead transmission lines will be co-located
24 with already existing developed areas such as
25 roads, rail lines and preexisting transmission

1 lines whenever possible to limit disturbance to
2 habitat. There are already many existing cables
3 that come onshore here in New Jersey.

4 Ocean Wind One will also
5 reutilize the retired cold fired plant at
6 Beasley's Point and the retired nuclear plant at
7 Oyster Creek. The reutilization of the existing
8 infrastructure helps us to also lower the carbon
9 footprint of the project while also giving these
10 facilities a second life as clean energy plants.

11 Additionally offshore wind power
12 can be developed in a manner that avoids,
13 minimizes, and mitigates impact to the wildlife
14 and habitats each step of the way. There are
15 several considerations being made for endangered
16 species and wildlife through the permitting
17 process and coastal disturbance has been
18 determined as minimal to low due to trenchless
19 technology and wildlife surveying.

20 In the long run, greatest threat
21 to wildlife for New Jersey is climate change.
22 Our installation process of the wind cables may
23 be a brief eye sore but at the end of the day
24 will make our state a leader in the climate
25 crisis and in renewable energy creating new green

1 jobs and a safer future for New Jersey.

2 Thank you again for the time and
3 the opportunity to speak.

4 MR. FIELD: Thank you, Jackie.

5 Next up we have Kathryn Fisher.

6 MS. FISHER: Can you hear me?
7 Thank you for hosting this public hearing. My
8 name is Kathryn Fisher and I am the Storm Water
9 Campaign Organizer at the New Jersey League of
10 Conservation Voters.

11 My home town is Delanco, New
12 Jersey. I am proud to represent my organization
13 but also my community in South Jersey who will
14 stand to benefit from the advancement of offshore
15 wind. New Jersey has a long history of
16 innovation and energy including harnessing
17 hydropower in the 18th century. As a result, New
18 Jersey became the birth place of the industrial
19 revolution in America.

20 Today New Jersey remains a prime
21 location to harness clean energy with strong wind
22 flow coming off the shore but the strong and
23 natural resource is still untapped, utilizing
24 offshore wind energy will help us transition to
25 clean energy, grow our industries and foster our

1 energy independence in a world that is rapidly
2 changing.

3 New Jersey is also unfortunately
4 among the states most at risk to rising sea level
5 threats from climate change. New Jersey is
6 second in the nation for having the most homes at
7 risk from flooding according to a study by the
8 Union of concerned scientists. By 2040, more
9 than 62,000 residential properties or at risk of
10 chronic flooding. That's 27 billion dollars
11 worth of residential properties at risk. As for
12 commercial properties more than 2,600 are
13 expected to experience chronic flooding by 2045.

14 We have witnessed horrific
15 damage by storms like Super Storm Sandy and
16 Hurricane Ida. We not only have a moral
17 obligation to counter this threat but we have an
18 opportunity to utilize this natural resource to
19 grow our economy and establish energy
20 independence, to protect and preserve New Jersey
21 coastal communities, the environmental community
22 in New Jersey including New Jersey LCV supports
23 reasonably developed offshore wind.

24 Thank you for your time tonight.

25 MR. FIELD: Thank you.

1 Alright, and next we have James
2 Thompson.

3 MR. THOMPSON: Good evening. My
4 name is James Thompson, New Jersey League of
5 Conservation Voters. I am going to read a brief
6 verbal statement and then I will be submitting
7 comments in writing as well.

8 To the New Jersey Department of
9 Environmental Protection thank you for hosting
10 this public hearing Ocean Wind One project. My
11 name is James Thompson, I am the Campaign
12 Director for the New Jersey League of
13 Conservation Voters.

14 I am a life long South Jersey
15 resident. Our organization is part of many New
16 Jersey coalitions one of which is offshore wind
17 coalition New Jersey Wind Works which works with
18 our many partners to secure responsibly developed
19 and sustainable offshore wind in New Jersey.

20 Organization also works to save
21 our clean air, clean water, green space for every
22 single New Jerseyman.

23 I come today to support
24 responsibly developed offshore wind. Ocean Wind
25 One and the other subsequent offshore wind farm

1 projects by New Jersey and its residence with the
2 opportunity to transition away from dirty fossil
3 fuels move -- and progress us towards a clean
4 energy future that will have a positive impact
5 not only on the economy but the communities
6 around the state and our public health overall.

7 Climate change is greatest
8 challenge of our generation and our future
9 depends on fighting it head on. We have already
10 seen these impacts in great real way on the New
11 Jersey coast and at the shore with rising sea
12 levels, stronger storms, impacts to green life,
13 coastal erosion and flooding, the crisis is only
14 getting worse.

15 Global wind farm projects have
16 demonstrated minimal impacts from offshore wind
17 development. It's time the United States invest
18 in it as well as New Jersey. There are several
19 studies being conducted, for example, including
20 the EDNA research is currently being conducted
21 two years prior to construction, two years during
22 construction and two years following the
23 construction of the wind farms to understand any
24 changes to our local fish species.

25 Further protected species

1 observers and board survey vessels help with
2 crucial data and identify and protect other
3 species.

4 The New Jersey League of
5 Conservation Voters along with the environmental
6 partners continue to emphasize the concerns. And
7 I'd like to thank you for your time tonight and
8 like I said before, we will be submitting written
9 comments as well. Thank you.

10 MR. FIELD: Thank you.

11 Next up is Reverend Ronald Toff.

12 REVEREND TOFF: Good evening,
13 thank you, thank you for allowing me to make
14 testimony tonight. My name is Reverend Ronald
15 Toff. I am one of the directors from Green Faith
16 Incorporated.

17 Our plea is don't leave the low
18 and moderate and minority community behind. This
19 industry is a new industry and the communities
20 that these -- that this industry effect are not
21 involved in the process in the supply chain, in
22 the -- in the building and in the operation of
23 these turbines.

24 What I am asking is that you
25 contact the community, you contact the high

1 schools and giving the opportunity for low and
2 moderate and minority community to become
3 involved in this process and not only become --
4 not only the minority community but the community
5 itself.

6 So my plea is please do not
7 leave the low, moderate and minority community
8 behind in this process. They want to become a
9 part of it, and they should become a part of it
10 and also with the Unions that are involved in
11 this process give them a chance to qualify to get
12 educated and work within this new economy that
13 will effect their community that they will become
14 a part of.

15 Once again, do not leave the low
16 and moderate and minority community behind in
17 this process. Thank you for your time.

18 MR. FIELD: Thank you Reverend.

19 Up next I have Kari Martin.

20 Kari Martin?

21 MS. MARTIN: So my name is Kari
22 Martin. I am the Advocacy Campaign Manager for
23 Clean Ocean Action. Orsted's state permit
24 applications were deemed complete by DEP yet
25 Orsted's application lacks important details and

1 skirts responsibilities for onshore and offshore
2 impacts. For example, the comprehensive
3 conservation management plan for the Barnegat Bay
4 Estuary Program, a federal, state and local
5 protection program for the bay where Orsted plans
6 to run miles of cable is not mentioned in
7 Orsted's application. The permit application is
8 insufficient.

9 This is but a brief example that
10 shows how the state is rushing and how unprepared
11 the state is in the race for offshore wind power,
12 these facilities are getting a pass on the -- on
13 the ocean green life and coast are getting tossed
14 overboard without due process of good governance
15 and basic science.

16 Consider the newly passed state
17 law which prohibits the town from requiring rules
18 to protect their onshore resources. Is that
19 environmental stewardship? Further, where is the
20 due process and meaningful stakeholder
21 involvement? There isn't any.

22 This is all happening as a
23 scramble to get these hearings and comments in
24 during the -- by the end of the year, it's a
25 short timeframe for review of comments and to

1 provide comments, review documents, provide
2 comments, the height of the holiday season, Covid
3 numbers are on the rise as well as flu running
4 rampant and more importantly other numerous
5 importantly concurrent comment periods and public
6 hearings on offshore wind proposals, regulation
7 processes are occurring at this very time. That
8 includes the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
9 third solicitation for even more offshore wind
10 and perhaps the most yet as well as other types
11 of federal processes and documents under review.
12 All of these will impact onshore and offshore
13 resources for New Jersey.

14 Why are the administrations
15 irresponsibly moving forward without following
16 basic scientific principals and practicing good
17 governance. Yes, climate change is an urgent
18 crisis. To be clear, Clean Ocean Action
19 understands what is at stake from climate change.
20 We agree with the United Nations that nearly one
21 million species are on the brink of extinction
22 and the number one cause is land is and sea
23 abuse.

24 We also agree that greenhouse
25 gas emissions must be reduced by 40 percent by

1 2030, all of this construction will spike
2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

3 So in the name of reducing
4 climate change, why is it okay to destroy the
5 healthy ocean, the ocean is the most important
6 buffer for reducing climate change. We can do
7 better than to put the healthy ocean at risk for
8 short term solutions.

9 And what are we even talking
10 about, 25 year inefficient solution and we have
11 to start the collective and transmitter objective
12 to get the science right before critical
13 decisions are made to forever impact the ocean
14 that begins with responsible efforts. To date,
15 the scope, scale and magnitude of offshore wind
16 is not responsible.

17 We must invest now in ending our
18 goal as leading energy wasters. The greenest
19 energy is the energy we don't use. That is why
20 Clean Ocean Action is calling for a
21 comprehensive, scientific independent peer
22 reviewed pilot study.

23 Thank you very much for
24 listening today and holding the hearing.

25 MR. FIELD: Thank you very much.

1 Sorry for mispronouncing your name.

2 Next up is Tim Keough. Tim?

3 Feel free to adjust the Mic.

4 MR. KEOUGH: Good evening and
5 thank you for holding these hearings. My name is
6 Tim Keough, I am a life long resident in the
7 State of New Jersey, living at the shore all of
8 my life, still living there. I work in health
9 care administration, so I am not an environmental
10 scientist but I do have plenty of life and
11 business experience and with that, I have
12 remained open-minded listening to these plans but
13 I want to stand here and say firmly that I oppose
14 these offshore wind farms.

15 Living here in New Jersey, I
16 remember growing up as a teenager in the '70s and
17 '80s, I used to go to Sandy Hook, I don't know if
18 anybody else went there, but I remember how
19 polluted it was. It had asphalt that would wash
20 up and hit you in the ankles, there were
21 hypodermic needles and many other horrible
22 things. Now being much older and still living
23 and enjoying New Jersey, I look at the ocean, I
24 spend a lot of time there in Cape May County and
25 in Wildwood and Ocean County and I see and I

1 marvel how clean our water is and how beautiful
2 is and how important it is to me, my family and
3 friends and I view these windmills as being an
4 abomination, as being a blight on the scenery,
5 not only visually, acoustically it has problems
6 and other things that are problematic.

7 Communing with nature is
8 important, and living through Covid 19 as a
9 society we know how important nature can be to
10 encouraging health. Having a beautiful ocean and
11 a healthy ocean without windmills to relieve
12 stress, lifts moods, sharpens focus, it's kind of
13 a meditation in fact, I would worry that having
14 hundreds of blinking lights on the horizon would
15 certainly detract from any meditation or calming
16 effect.

17 We are also an Oceanside
18 community in New Jersey. We have the fishing
19 industry that depends on a healthy ocean with
20 migratory pathways of marine wildlife to be able
21 to thrive and to be able so also have economy
22 from that. We also have recreational and
23 commercial fishing and boating in the Barnegat
24 Bay and offshore which is extremely important.

25 From what I understand having

1 miles and miles of windmills, it especially makes
2 that space unuseable or basically not
3 approachable for either recreational or
4 commercial boating.

5 So as Edward Detman (ph) put it
6 without data you are just another person with an
7 opinion. I stand here as Joe Q public, I am a
8 guy with an opinion, I am not a scientist, I
9 refer to other for that data. But I want to
10 point out for the record, there is an article
11 Michael Shellenberg (ph) wrote, why renewables
12 not can save the planet and he goes through a
13 very scientific step by step approach about how
14 the CO2 that is saved by windmills is far -- how
15 do I put this that the construction and
16 maintenance of those windmills, you will never
17 get the value from the energy.

18 So thank you for listening to
19 me, I appreciate it.

20 MR. FIELD: Tim, thank you so
21 much.

22 Our next commentor is Chelsea
23 Headley. Chelsea? Come on down.

24 MS. HEADLEY: Good evening. My
25 name is Chelsea Headley. I am a life long

1 resident of Upper Township a municipality named
2 in this permit application through which several
3 miles of transmission cable and a substation are
4 proposed to be constructed.

5 My family owns a charter fishing
6 boat out of Sea Isle City and we have spent our
7 lives fishing and boating off the coast of New
8 Jersey. We have attempted to be active
9 participants in continuing discussions on
10 offshore wind development over the last several
11 years to ensure our voices are heard.

12 The reality is that Ocean Wind
13 One project and the cumulative effects of all
14 others in the pipeline behind hit it are an
15 existential threat to the fishing industry and
16 all ancillary businesses that support it.

17 There are a wide range of
18 industry concerns from navigational hazards,
19 access issues, resource conservation, threats to
20 endangered species and marine eco system
21 destruction. Recently a paper was published in
22 nature by Dwight All (ph), et al, titled offshore
23 wind farms are projected to impact primary
24 production and bottom water deoxygenation in the
25 North Sea. That discusses the wind lake effect

1 coming off the wind farm. The subject of the
2 study is relevant to the potential disruption of
3 the mid Atlantic cold pool that sustains New
4 Jersey fisheries.

5 I would encourage the department
6 to review this study and many others coming out
7 of Europe that I will provide in my written
8 comment.

9 As a member of the offshore wind
10 advisory committee to the New Jersey Marine
11 Fisheries Council, I have listened to
12 presentations from researchers the research and
13 monitoring initiative, some of whose projects
14 have not started yet and have a two year timeline
15 for completion. That schedule does not provide
16 nearly enough time for peer review of that data
17 and conclusions prior to that date for said plans
18 to have the project operational.

19 The science specific to U.S.
20 waters is very much lacking and data continues to
21 pour out of the Bureau that should make us
22 proceed with extreme caution. I have lost count
23 of how many public comment sessions I have
24 attended over the years, but the thought keeps
25 coming to my mind, what is the point of all this.

1 I am a licensed professional
2 geologist by trade and understand climate change
3 and the need to transition away from fossil
4 fuels, yet look at Germany who is staring down an
5 energy crisis as they turn their cold plants back
6 on and discourage people from charging their
7 electric vehicles while the actual output of
8 energy from wind and solar have been near ten
9 percent, yes, just ten percent of installed
10 capacity in the last month causing coal
11 production to skyrocket just to keep the heat on.
12 How is this a serious answer to climate change?

13 Again, what is the point of
14 industrialization of the Ocean, New Jersey's most
15 precious resource just to install mediocre,
16 expensive and unreliable technology that will
17 never be able to support the base load energy
18 needed. This is one truth that the department,
19 the BPU and all other government officials who
20 makes these decisions seem to face now.

21 Yesterday, the BPU rate director
22 stated a concern for the speed with which
23 offshore wind is moving and "rate payers simply
24 cannot afford higher and higher electric bills."

25 It becomes harder and harder to

1 debate down in the weeds what fishing mitigation
2 strategies when the purpose of the project as a
3 whole is crumbling. We need serious solutions on
4 energy and reliance on offshore wind is not it.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to
6 comment.

7 MR. FIELD: Thank you, Chelsea,
8 very much.

9 I have got Bob Rush next. Bob?

10 MR. RUSH: Bob Rush, Vice
11 President. I live in New Jersey. I also own and
12 operate Star Fish Boats out of Sea Isle City. I
13 have been in fisheries management, the fisheries
14 council for 15 years, I have been involved in
15 fisheries management since 1990.

16 This science project we are
17 going to have off the Jersey coast here is just a
18 science project. It is not green energy. All
19 the windmills being built, they are being built
20 out of fossil fuels and silicone. Go back and do
21 your research. They are all being built by
22 fossil fuels.

23 This is a science project that
24 is going to tear apart the entire fishing --
25 fishing industry up and down the entire east

1 coast. Not just off Jersey, this is from
2 Massachusetts all the way down to North Carolina.
3 Do the homework, it's not just one site, there
4 are several sites coming down the east coast,
5 over 3,000.

6 The science is not there. It's
7 a proven fact that you can't prove that it is not
8 going to hurt the fishing industry along the
9 eastern sea board. It is a proven fact that
10 certain species of fish will not cross the cables
11 and come into the shore. One of the biggest fish
12 is black fish which is the summertime mainstay
13 for the fishing industry.

14 I was told at an Orsted meeting
15 when all this began years ago that we have to
16 build this to see how it's going to effect us.
17 Well in the fishing industry that doesn't cut it
18 for us, okay? Fishing industry adamantly is
19 opposed to this science project that is going up
20 off the coast, thank you.

21 MR. FIELD: Thank you very much.
22 Appreciate your comment.

23 I have got Cindy Zipf. Cindy,
24 you are up next.

25 MS. ZIPF: Thank you for the

1 opportunity to speak tonight in person. Been a
2 long time. My name is Cindy Zipf. I am
3 Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action. Once
4 all of New Jersey stood united in protecting and
5 restoring the ocean. Clean Ocean Action lead
6 many campaigns with hundreds of groups, thousands
7 of citizens and elected officials to end the
8 ocean dumping and reduce pollution turning the
9 Jersey Shore from nearly a dead zone into a
10 thriving sea with a clean ocean economy.

11 Now all of that is at risk. In
12 just a couple years the Jersey Shore is being
13 turned into an industrial complex which threatens
14 this progress. We are shocked at the swift turn
15 of events in the ocean with massive
16 industrialization of our ocean with the wind
17 energy development, short term inefficient
18 expensive and largely untested technology.

19 No doubt we recognize paramount
20 urgency to stop climate change which is why Clean
21 Ocean Action lead fight after fight for decades
22 to limit offshore fossil fuel projects. This is
23 because a healthy ocean is the earth's greatest
24 buffer to reduce climate change. The ocean
25 absorbs 90 percent of the heat humans emit and 50

1 percent of the carbon dioxide. While this is
2 causing a significant impact, massive
3 industrialization will only increase the warming
4 of the ocean and underline the eco system health
5 not reduce these marks. It is like killing the
6 goose that lays the golden eggs.

7 While this hearing is focused on
8 the New Jersey permit for Ocean Wind which are
9 severely lacking, it is essential that the DEP
10 assess the project in the context of a large
11 scale unimaginable industrialization in just the
12 northeast. There are 25 projects which exceed
13 over 2.2 million acres which is twice the size of
14 the Grand Canyon National Park with 5.7 million
15 more acres planned. This paving of the ocean
16 will cause eco system wide harm, in fact many
17 scientists agree that there is a lack of science
18 and information.

19 In recent Rutgers report funded
20 by New Jersey, states the pace of offshore wind
21 development is faster than the pace of fishery
22 science. They have baseline studies that should
23 have began two to three years prior to
24 construction yet these projects are being
25 recklessly fast tracked anyway with construction

1 planned next year.

2 In fact NJDEP publicly admits
3 that they are unprepared describing the process
4 as building the plan offline and learning as we
5 go. This is a shocking admission especially
6 since we have been working decades to restore the
7 health of the ocean.

8 Moreover, New Jersey's own
9 studies are behind schedule, access to data is
10 limited, collaboration with other states,
11 regional, federal and academic efforts is unknown
12 and yet again, offshore wind is being fast
13 tracked. Further monitoring may be occurring,
14 what happens when the ozone system crashes. We
15 need a pilot study, we need a comprehensive
16 scientific independent assessment.

17 Clean Ocean Action will be
18 submitting additional detailed written comments.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. FIELD: Thank you, Cindy.

21 Can I see the other index cards
22 from the other commentators. If someone has not
23 commented that wants to, please raise your hand.
24 Anyone who wants to comment?

25 Why don't you come down, state

1 your name and affiliation and then we will give
2 you your three minutes.

3 MS. CICCARELLI: Hi, Linda
4 Ciccarelli. I live on Long Beach Island. And I
5 am not with any affiliation.

6 Hi, Linda Ciccarelli. I live on
7 Long Beach Island. I am not associated with any
8 coalition. I am here on behalf of the marine
9 life that recently I have heard two whales have
10 just washed up shore right below Atlantic City, I
11 am not sure if anyone else has mentioned that yet
12 but it concerns me deeply and I am also
13 concerned, like us too, what else is going to
14 happen, what about the porpoises and the
15 dolphins.

16 I was on Long Beach Island for
17 the kite festival and everyone was so excited
18 because they looked out in the ocean and saw
19 whales jumping. It's not going to happen
20 anymore.

21 The Jersey Shore like so many
22 people has described here has meant so much to so
23 many people, I am a life long New Jerseyan.
24 Right? The Jersey shore means so much and it's
25 now at stake. And we are also very passionate

1 about how to save us? I mean I am like angry
2 that I have to seriously consider moving because
3 of what potentially could happen to my beach, the
4 shore, the animals, the porpoises the birds, I
5 mean this is all -- these are all reasons why
6 people go and enjoy where we live.

7 I understand the whole fishing
8 industry, it's critical. What about the tourism?
9 I don't know what -- I guess maybe I am a little
10 bit more passionate about this than maybe the
11 politicians but they ought to really start
12 listening to people.

13 The other question I have is who
14 decides where these meetings are held? I had to
15 drive an hour in this crazy weather to get here
16 but I wasn't going to miss it. I am just
17 wondering when meetings like this will be held
18 closer to the people who are going to be the most
19 impacted by this?

20 So I don't know who can answer
21 that question, but I am curious. Thank you.

22 MR. FIELD: Thank you so much
23 for your comment.

24 I think I have two others. I
25 have Ann Poole if I said it right? Ann?

1 MS. POOLE: I am Ann Poole,
2 President of the New Jersey Environmental
3 Lobby --

4 I am President of the New Jersey
5 Environmental Lobby, a 50 year old organization
6 headquartered in Trenton. NJEL is firmly in
7 favor of the permits for Ocean Wind One. Since
8 its inception, our priorities have been clean air
9 and clean water and a clean landscape.

10 We have been following the
11 developments in offshore wind energy since the
12 concept was first mentioned in New Jersey 16
13 years ago. NJEL sponsored an offshore wind farm
14 in 2019 and in 2021 a forum that focused on
15 wildlife protection and mitigation measures. The
16 latter was -- the latter hosted researchers and
17 independent consultants, none of which were
18 funded by the developers. It's unlikely that
19 these scientists would risk their reputations on
20 false data and proposals.

21 In the year since the first
22 proposals for New Jersey, there have been
23 technological improvements and increasing
24 research, more options for foundations and
25 research into materials and even reduce and

1 recyclable material.

2 The permit application by Ocean
3 Wind One is voluminous and covers every aspect of
4 the impacts under the CAFRA, the fresh water
5 wetlands permit and the wetlands permit. Claims
6 that research is lacking and technical and
7 environmental information has not been provided
8 are untrue.

9 The State permit application
10 follows a voluminous draft environmental impact
11 statement. There is voluminous material
12 available from universities, from consultants
13 from state regulators, all one has to do is look
14 for it.

15 Again, the New Jersey
16 Environmental Lobby is firmly in agreement with
17 granting the permit for Ocean Wind One.

18 MR. FIELD: Thank you, Ann.

19 And then I have got Tony Hawking
20 (ph), you are up next.

21 MR. HAWKING: Tony Hawking (ph)
22 Sierra Club, New Jersey chapter. So it's true
23 that there is an invisible element to wind
24 turbines, that they are the cure for many visible
25 elements that we need to get rid of, such as

1 fossil fuel emissions. Wind turbines will help
2 us transition to clean energy especially at the
3 shore where the ocean level is rising, more
4 rapidly in New Jersey than elsewhere, in our
5 marsh lands and beaches are eroding at a serious
6 rate. The temperatures keep warming, storm
7 damage and erosion will increase and store
8 communities will be flooded and damaged more
9 often.

10 They are under serious threat.
11 You can't see carbon emissions for the most part
12 but they are sickening our communities and
13 poisoning our wildlife. It is likely the case of
14 90 percent of more of the protestors who drove
15 here tonight drove in fossil fuel vehicles and
16 that activity contributed to global warming.

17 People along the shore have
18 lived among fossil fuel lines and nuclear plants
19 for a long time. The turbine infrastructure will
20 be mostly invisible except when you are really
21 looking for it. The turbines will improve the
22 fisheries by creating habitat for marine life.
23 Boats that flood the water with oil and gas
24 residue will transition to battery power
25 eventually. The water quality will improve.

1 This project is essential for
2 the future of everybody including people at the
3 shore as well as marine life. It is also
4 possible that the cost of energy will go down.

5 I just want to add to that that
6 every year millions and possibly billions of fish
7 are sucked to intake valves at our nuclear plants
8 and so there is enormous environmental
9 destruction occurring right now even before the
10 wind turbines are up.

11 We have to deal with this issue.
12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. FIELD: Thank you for your
14 comment. Okay. Is there anybody who has not
15 commented tonight who wishes to make a comment?
16 Anybody? Okay.

17 So I think what we maybe want to
18 do, in case people come late, let's take a ten
19 minute break and then if anybody comes, we can
20 take the comment before we leave.

21 Yes, so let's take a break so
22 other folks can come in, anybody else who wants
23 to make a second round of comments can do so.
24 Let's take a ten minute break now. It is about
25 6:55 so at 7:05 we will take a second round of

1 commentors.

2 (Whereupon, a recess is taken.)

3 MR. FIELD: Okay. Is there
4 anybody who has not made a comment tonight who
5 would like to make a comment? We will do new
6 commentors first.

7 And is there anyone who would
8 like to add to their comment. We might have time
9 for a second round. Anybody want to make added
10 comments?

11 Restate your name and
12 affiliation. I'll help adjust the mic for level
13 of volume.

14 MS. ZIPF: Thank you for the
15 opportunity to add to my comments. I'll be a
16 little less organized than I was before.

17 There were a couple of things I
18 wanted to add. My name is Cindy Zipf. I am the
19 Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action. I just
20 wanted to add on record that because of the
21 concern for marine life and the lack of science
22 and the lack of the monitoring operations
23 underway and planned that there is no guardrails
24 for determining the eco system is going to begin
25 to crash, there is no system, there is no

1 guardrails. How many endangered species need to
2 go extinct before we determine that the wind
3 turbines maybe weren't a good idea, what are the
4 parameters, what are the criteria that are going
5 to be used to make the determination about
6 whether or not the wind turbines are causing
7 ecological harm or not. There are none, so in
8 that way there will be no way for the permits to
9 be evaluated in the context of what is happening
10 to the ocean.

11 I say that, and then I have a
12 real world example and that is recently as was
13 mentioned the New York New Jersey region, at
14 least four whales washed up in the last couple of
15 days or so. And that's an unprecedented number.
16 We rarely see multiple whales washing up even in
17 a month much less four whales washing up in about
18 a week. Even more tragic and is that they were
19 all endangered species, two humpback whales, a
20 juvenile and adult as well as two infant sperm
21 whales, one only 12 feet long, was still nursing
22 and may have been alive and tried to pushback out
23 to sea and it washed up dead.

24 Without any monitoring program
25 we may never know the cause of death and isn't

1 that just too convenient for the offshore wind
2 industry who are currently conducting many many
3 activities because of the many many projects that
4 are offshore, that is why as I mentioned Clean
5 Ocean Action is calling for a comprehensive,
6 independent scientific peer reviewed pilot study.

7 Clean Ocean Action supported a
8 pilot study that was proposed ten years ago
9 called Fisherman's Energy, that did not move
10 forward which would have provided some important
11 information.

12 The other thing I wanted to
13 mention is that in looking at alternatives,
14 efficiency is very important and offshore wind
15 turbines are not very efficient. They are about
16 55 percent efficiency, but lose 4.5 percent
17 efficiency every year, so that's 45 percent in
18 ten years, so if they start at 55 and then lose
19 -- start at 55 and lose 45, there is not much
20 left.

21 And I did not mention yet that
22 they only last about 25 years and that's if they
23 don't destroyed by hurricanes first because the
24 turbines can only withstand a category three
25 storm.

1 Again, the greenest energy is
2 the energy that we don't use. Energy
3 conservation and waste reduction is the solution.

4 MR. FIELD: Thank you.

5 MR. RUSH: Bob Rush, I own Star
6 Fish Boats out of Sea Isle City, New Jersey. I
7 have been in the fishing industry for 40 years,
8 been in fishing management for quite a long time,
9 been on the fishery council for 15 years. I have
10 been in fishery management since 1990.

11 This science project as I called
12 it, this is a science project, there is data from
13 overseas, wind outfits do not want to listen to
14 their own data from overseas, black fish, fluke
15 is the mainstay on New Jersey coast, not only
16 fluke, tuna, shark, skates, anything that has the
17 lateral line on its side proven will not cross
18 the cable coming in shore. We lose our rich
19 shore fishery, we become extinct as fisherman.

20 So there is a lot of other
21 species involved, not just fish here that will be
22 come extinct. Fishermen will possibly be extinct
23 as well.

24 So with everything that's not
25 being evaluated here and you are not following

1 the science, follow the money trail as to who has
2 money invested in this, and you find out exactly
3 why the project are being rammed down our
4 throats.

5 As I said earlier, this is not
6 green energy, this is built by fossil fuels,
7 fiberglass, steals, blades, once the blades are
8 gone, the wind mill blades cannot be recycled.
9 How is that green energy, it's not. Thank you.

10 MR. FIELD: Anybody else who has
11 not commented or wants to add comments to their
12 comments?

13 Let me see if there are any
14 hands in the audience. Why don't you come down
15 and state your name and affiliation. And let's
16 adjust the mic for you.

17 MR. DEAN: My name is Michael
18 Dean (ph), I am a New Jersey resident in Ocean
19 County. I oppose the projects overall and the
20 permits here specifically, I think they should be
21 denied or rejected, the process has been out of
22 order from the start.

23 There are multiple outstanding
24 things for federal permits that will not have not
25 been granted yet. Federal permits that have yet

1 to be granted and approved and the Department of
2 Environmental Protection has the authority right
3 now to put that process back in order and I urge
4 you to do that.

5 There are a handful of five
6 permits that are on the agenda tonight, they are
7 required to fill out 13 or 14 by my count, there
8 is one application for a permit for green acres
9 conversion, for a piece of the cable that goes
10 across green acres, that the company and the
11 applicant does not hold the property rights.

12 So this is one piece of cable
13 that's coming a shore through property that they
14 don't have title to yet and yet there is
15 applications on the Department of Environmental
16 Protection website looking for green acres
17 conversion. I don't know how that happens, I
18 don't know how somebody can show up and ask for
19 all these applications to be reviewed piece-meal
20 while they are still waiting for approvals and
21 studies to be completed by major federal agencies
22 like NOAH, like the BOEM, like the Army Corps of
23 Engineers, like the Coast Guard and the National
24 Marine Fishery Services, the list goes on and on
25 and here we are tonight to discuss five permits

1 for something they don't own the entire property
2 for that they are driving across.

3 They need more permits to
4 complete them. So for those reasons, I ask that
5 the Department of Environmental Protection
6 exercise its authority and pull this process back
7 into order, slow them down, tell them to get
8 their act together and then come back when we
9 have everything approved in the necessary way it
10 should be taken care of

11 . I appreciate you taking the
12 time to see us face to face, that hasn't happened
13 a lot in the process. I think it's important.
14 Thank you for having us.

15 MR. FIELD: Anybody else wants
16 to make an additional comment tonight? I think
17 what we will probably do is stay in case
18 everybody comes late, but if not, if anybody else
19 wants to make an additional comment tonight?

20 Otherwise Jennifer will describe
21 the next steps and then we will informally stay
22 in case anybody wants to make a comment.

23 With that, I'll turn it back
24 over to you.

25 MS. MORIARTY: We can keep it

1 open for a little while in case anybody shows up
2 to make a comment.

3 We appreciate you all taking the
4 time to provide comments tonight. The
5 information that was provided in this hearing
6 will be reviewed and considered by the department
7 prior to us rendering a decision on this permit
8 application.

9 The opportunity to provide
10 written comments will remain open until December
11 30, 2022 which is 15 days from the date of
12 today's hearing which is the last scheduled
13 public hearing. Should you think of additional
14 comments after the close of this hearing, you may
15 submit your comments electronically or in writing
16 by Friday, December 30, 2022 addressed to Janet
17 Stewart, Bureau Chief of the NJDEP Division of
18 Land Resource Protection, Bureau of Coastal
19 Permitting.

20 As a remainder, the hearing fact
21 sheet which shows the department contact
22 information is available at the registration
23 desk. Speakers who have prepared written
24 comments are reminded to leave a copy in one of
25 the baskets that are sitting on the table where

1 you signed in.

2 Once again, thank you for
3 attending.

4 MR. FIELD: Thank you everybody,
5 appreciate you coming out in such lousy weather.
6 People making good comments. We will close for
7 tonight. We will stay around in case anybody
8 else comes, feel free to stand up, head home. We
9 will be here for a little bit. Travel safe,
10 goodnight.

11 MS. MARTIN: Hi, Kari Martin,
12 Clean Ocean Action. I just basically appreciate
13 hearing from the citizen tonight as well as
14 previous hearing. The timing of the hearing, I
15 appreciate it's in person but a difficult time to
16 get here and the announcement the comments are
17 due on December 30, I respectfully ask that the
18 DEP consider extending the public comment period
19 for an additional 15 or 30 days for us to review
20 and avoid the publications around the holidays
21 time period when we know the DEP themselves are
22 hopefully going to enjoy themselves during the
23 holidays as well as the citizens of New Jersey
24 that are going to be impacted by this. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. JONES: Tom Jones, I live in
2 Brigantine, New Jersey. I have been enjoying the
3 beach for many years since '05 all summer long, I
4 moved to Brigantine last May of '21. And all of
5 a sudden I get slammed here now with the windmill
6 in my face. All out in front of my ocean where I
7 am living.

8 I have a few questions I want to
9 just present, I am told you can't respond to
10 them. I am going to present you my issues in
11 question form. How will the 24/7 365 infra sound
12 noise effect people? I am told they are going to
13 be making lots of noise because they are only 8.7
14 miles off my coast in Brigantine.

15 What will happen to all the
16 Oceanside economies after the tourist stop
17 coming? Are these projects each insured? We
18 have heard it's quite common for the cables to be
19 up routed from the sea bed, is there insurance to
20 cover the cost involved in mechanical failures
21 and the cost to mitigate them? And marine life,
22 if there is any kind of mechanical failure?

23 Have all the studies been done
24 on the environmental impact of electricity
25 escaping from the EMF cables?

1 And finally more on a passionate
2 personal side here where does the government get
3 the authority to pawn off one of our greatest
4 resources, our ocean, and selling it off to
5 foreign companies yet? What will it take to stop
6 these projects? Thank you.

7 MR. FIELD: Thank you for your
8 comment.

9 We are about to close the
10 hearing. If anyone else would like to make a
11 final comment, now is the chance otherwise, just
12 let us know.

13 MR. DEAN: I have one point.
14 Mr. Dean again. Just request the Department of
15 Environmental Protection to give us an
16 additional, green acres conversion application
17 that's on the website in a different area, that
18 the company held and instructed people to submit
19 comments to you all. I don't know what happened.
20 So if there is hearing or any updates, any word
21 with that? We would appreciate that.

22 MR. FIELD: I think what I'll do
23 is turn it back to DEP for any closing remarks.

24 MS. MORIARTY: Alright, thank
25 you all for attending tonight. The hearing is

1 now closed.

2 (Whereupon, the hearing is
3 concluded at 7:33 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER

I CERTIFY that the foregoing is
a true and accurate transcript of the testimony
and proceedings as reported stenographically by
me at the time, place and on the date as
hereinbefore set forth.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am
neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor
counsel of any of the parties to this action, and
that I am neither a relative nor employee of such
attorney or counsel, and that I am not
financially interested in the action.

Stephanie Lyn Rahn

STEPHANIE LYN RAHN

License No. 975352

Notary Public of the
State of New Jersey

My Commission Expires
April 18, 2027

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