



## The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Up

Created by the JCTA

Issue #11

April 10, 2023

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- When can you expect to see an Environmental Impact Statement about the Atlantic Shores project? Timeline for its release begins on this page.
- What actually *is* the environmental impact of offshore wind farms off our coast? An explanation about how the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management goes about answering that question begins on page 2.
- Find out how much the NJ Bureau of Public Utilities estimates ratepayers' electric costs will increase when the Atlantic Shores wind energy farm is operational. Details and the link to the report begin on page 3.
- Save LBI's lawsuit has been dismissed with an opportunity to present an amended complaint by early April. The link to the court's decision begins on page 3.

---

### ***When can we expect to see an Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Shores wind energy farm project?***

**May 5, 2023** is the current target date for the DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") to be made public. On that date, the official notice of the availability of the DEIS is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register and the public comment period begins.

**August 4, 2023** is the current target date for the notice of availability of the final Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") to be published in the Federal Register and the public review period begins.

**September 29, 2023** is the current target date for the issuance of the final EIS.

Follow changes in this timetable by accessing The Permitting Dashboard, "an online tool for Federal agencies, project developers and interested members of the public to track the Federal government's environmental review and authorization processes for large or complex infrastructure projects. [This website] is part of a government-wide effort to improve coordination, transparency, and accountability" (*from the About tab on its website*).

*Access The Permitting Dashboard by clicking on the link below:*

<https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-project/atlantic-shores-south>

On the next screen, scroll down to the Permitting Timetable and click on the link Environmental Impact Statement

---

## ***How does the construction and presence of offshore wind farms off our coast impact the environment?***

■ ***Who is responsible for figuring out the answer to that question?*** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) is responsible for assessing the environmental impact of offshore wind energy farms.

*Click on the following link to access “What is Environmental Assessment?” on the BOEM website: <https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-assessment/what-environmental-assessment-0>*

■ ***How does BOEM accomplish that?*** BOEM scientists follow an established process to create and produce a final Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”), using the best available science to identify and analyze the potential impacts from the activities BOEM permits or authorizes.

*From BOEM’s website: “BOEM conducts environmental assessments to evaluate the impacts of our actions by using science, engaging stakeholders, and working with government partners. Our core values . . . enable BOEM’s 200 environmental scientists and policy experts to provide the public and decision-makers with a clear understanding of environmental risks and benefits so that these factors can be considered with other factors to meet our Nation’s energy and mineral needs.”*

*Click on the following link to access “How We Perform Environmental Assessment” on the BOEM website: <https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-assessment/how-we-perform-environmental-assessment-0>*

■ ***How is the public involved?*** *From BOEM’s website<sup>1</sup>:* “BOEM encourages the public to participate in the decision-making process by

- Attending a public meeting to engage with subject matter experts at BOEM to help them better understand places and resources that are important
- Learning more about BOEM’s environmental assessments
- Submitting comments on environmental documents”

On September 30, 2021, BOEM published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind project.

Before the close of the public comment period (November 1, 2021), BOEM hosted three virtual public meetings so anyone who was interested could attend and learn more about the construction and operation plan for this project, ask questions and say what they

---

<sup>1</sup> *Click on the following link to access “Public Involvement” on the BOEM website: <https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-assessment/public-involvement>*

thought about the project. These virtual public meetings occurred on October 19, 21 and 25, 2021 and they were all recorded.

*Access the recordings of each meeting by clicking on the link below:*

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-scoping-virtual-meetings>



### **How much will my electric bill increase when the Atlantic Shores offshore wind farm is operational?**

■ Estimated cost is \$2.21 per month, according to the NJ Bureau of Public Utilities (BPU). Estimated usage is based on Energy Information Administration data covering the 2019 calendar year.

■ *From BPU New Jersey Offshore Wind Second Solicitation Award:*

“The monthly ratepayer bill impact is estimated to cost \$2.21 for residential customers, \$20.81 for commercial customers and \$172.25 for industrial customers. These bill impacts will not begin until the project is operational, which is estimated to occur in 2027-2028.”

*Access the full report by clicking on the link below:*

[https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/OSWFactSheets\\_Final\\_630.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/OSWFactSheets_Final_630.pdf)



### **Lawsuit filed by Save LBI has been dismissed**

On January 10, 2022, plaintiffs Save LBI and Bob Stern filed a complaint in Federal court<sup>2</sup> against several defendants, including the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”)<sup>3</sup>

The plaintiffs took that action in an effort to reverse and set aside BOEM’s decision about where the wind energy areas would be in the NY Bight (of which LBI is a part) declaring that decision was “arbitrary, capricious, and otherwise not in accordance with the law” specifically the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The Court dismissed the lawsuit on March 9, 2023 saying it was unripe (not appropriate yet) and therefore the Court lacked jurisdiction. The Court explained that the lawsuit was two steps in the leasing and approval process too early.

<sup>2</sup> United States District Court for the District of Columbia

<sup>3</sup> The co-defendants were the United States Department of the Interior; Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior; and Amanda Lefton, Director of BOEM

*Click on the link below to access the Court's opinion*  
[https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show\\_public\\_doc?2022cv0055-29](https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_public_doc?2022cv0055-29)

*Click on the link below to access the Asbury Park Press article  
published March 21, 2023 about the dismissal*  
<https://www.app.com/story/news/local/land-environment/2023/03/21/save-lbi-offshore-wind-farm-lawsuit/70028618007/>

**Note:** At the time this Round Up was released on April 10, no reports about the filing of an amended complaint by Save LBI had been found.



*This Round-Up was prepared by a group of writers and researchers from Long Beach Island, New Jersey.*

*Questions about the content of Round-Ups and suggestions for topics to be covered in future issues can be directed to [RoundUpLBI@gmail.com](mailto:RoundUpLBI@gmail.com). The Round Up research and writing team welcomes questions and comments.*

*Round-Ups are distributed to the voting representatives of the eleven member organizations of the Joint Council of Taxpayers Associations of LBI (JCTA). Each taxpayer association then distributes this information to its members and the community via its regular communication methods, e.g., through newsletters; posted on websites; social media.*

