



The Offshore Wind Farm Round Up

Created by the JCTA

Issue #12

May 8, 2023

In February 2023, members of LBI taxpayer associations were asked to participate in a survey about their attitudes regarding the proposed wind farm off LBI. The survey was not designed to be a referendum nor was it intended to be representative of the entire island. It was sent only to members of nine taxpayer associations who chose to participate (out of a total of eleven on the island). Other non-member stakeholders, residents and business owners were not included.

The results of the survey will be shared with each taxpayer association's members in ways that do not involve The Offshore Wind Farm Round Ups. One irrefutable conclusion from the survey, however, is that people are hungry for more information about any and all aspects of the planned wind farm off LBI and the impact of offshore wind farms in general.

Accordingly, the committee who researches and writes the Rounds Ups was the recipient of the list of 650 questions submitted by survey participants. Those questions covered a very wide range of topics, but the vast majority fell within four major categories:

- Construction plan details
- Impact on fishing, commercial and recreational
- Impact on the environment, including marine life
- Visibility / Location

Links to studies related to these topics have been included in past Offshore Wind Farm Round Ups and, in this Round Up, you will see where to find that information published May 2022 – April 2023.

Going forward, we shall focus on these four areas of interest, while not ignoring questions from the survey about other subjects or concerns received through our email address.

As always, the writers and researchers who produce The Offshore Wind Farm Round Ups search for relevant research and clarifying data that are grounded in the science. When we find it, we publish it. We are not trying to find research and information that supports one "side" or the other. We literally look at everything; we actively seek out research and clarifying data from both "sides" of an issue so we can publish both. We *want* to publish both. That is the whole point of the Round Ups: To present you with available facts so you can make your own decisions.

So, we need your help . . .

If you think we have missed something, please send an email with the link to the research or article that you found to RoundUpLBI@gmail.com. We acknowledge every email we receive, so if you do not hear from us, we did not get your email. We truly appreciate your assistance.



CONSTRUCTION PLAN DETAILS

(Most LBI taxpayer associations include the links to Round Ups on their websites)

■ References to the Atlantic Shores Construction and Operations Plan (“COP”) have appeared frequently in numerous Round Ups when details about the construction plan are required.

- The overview of the current Atlantic Shores offshore wind project is presented in the COP in section 1.1 Overview of Projects beginning on page 1-3. This section includes maps, narrative and a summary chart of key elements.
- Access the COP by clicking on this link:
<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Atlantic-Shores-COP-Volume-1-Project-Description.PDF>

■ **From Round Up #5 September 12, 2022**

- In response to questions about how many wind farms are actually being built off LBI, the number of wind farms was clarified (one) with an explanation about how the separate construction projects within that one wind farm area are identified.
- The statement that the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind project would be the largest in the world when completed was addressed.

■ **Round Up #8 December 12, 2022**

- Expected size of the ocean area and number of turbines to be constructed within the Atlantic Shores project

■ **From Round Up #6 October 10, 2022**

- The decommissioning process was explained, including
 - Recycling,
 - Possibility of lease extension
 - Financing
- The statement that Atlantic Shores offshore wind farm is closer to shore than any other modern offshore wind project in the world was addressed.



**IMPACT ON FISHING
COMMERCIAL & RECREATIONAL**

(Most LBI taxpayer associations include the links to Round Ups on their websites)

From Round Up #9 January 9, 2023

- Links to two recently published studies from Rutgers that weighed in on the impact of offshore wind farms on commercial fishing
- The announcement from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection regarding the establishment of a Regional Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation Fund Administrator who would oversee activity across nine states
- Links to articles reporting on compensation for commercial fishers impacted by the presence of offshore wind farms in other regions



**IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
INCLUDING MARINE LIFE**

(Most LBI taxpayer associations include the links to Round Ups on their websites)

From Round Up #1 May 9, 2022

- Link to a study titled, “How loud is the underwater noise from operating offshore wind turbines?”
- Regarding the impact to the Cold Pool, a link to a research review that addressed the question, “Could federal wind farms influence continental shelf oceanography and alter associated ecological processes?”

From Round Up #2 June 13, 2022

- The effect of wind turbines on right whales
 - Where the whales are
 - What scientists say
 - What scientists can do
 - Technology: Digital Acoustic Monitoring
- The impact of offshore wind farms on migratory birds

From Round Up #4 August 8, 2022

- Timeline for the three phases of activity that result in the creation and publication of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the current Atlantic Shores project

From Round Up #7 November 14, 2022

- An explanation of the process that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) goes through to assess whether a designated section of the ocean should be delineated as a Wind Energy Area prior to BOEM offering that section for lease.

From Round Up #10 March 13, 2023

- The entire issue focused on recent whale strandings.
 - Summary of recent strandings to date
 - Experts weighed in on the causes
 - Authorization from National Marine Fisheries Service that allows Atlantic Shores to conduct site surveys
 - Explanation of a “take”: What it is and what it is not
- Link to the final report from the New Jersey Department Of Environmental Protection Science Advisory Board on the subject of observed or potential impact to marine life from underwater seismic testing

From Round Up #11 April 10, 2023

- Timeline for the release of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Shores wind energy farm project
- Explanation of the process by which the impact of the construction and presence of offshore wind farms off our coast is determined
 - Who is responsible for determining the answer?
 - How does the responsible entity get that accomplished?
 - How is the public involved?



VISIBILITY / LOCATION

(Most LBI taxpayer associations include the links to Round Ups on their websites)

From Round Up #1 May 9, 2022

- A link to the draft version of the Rutgers visibility study was included. Availability of the final version was announced in the September 12, 2022 Round Up.

From Round Up #2 June 13, 2022

- Aviation lighting (lighting for planes) on the wind turbines
 - How many flights actually pass our shores?
 - Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS): How often would it be activated?
 - What kinds of night lighting does Atlantic Shores mention in its Construction and Operations Plan?

From Round Up #3 July 11, 2022

- A comparison of what the turbines would look like from shore, per the Atlantic Shore’s Construction and Operations Plan, compared to the images from Save LBI, published in *The Sandpaper* June 22
- Where navigation lighting (lighting for ships) will be placed at the base of the wind turbines and photos of what the navigation lighting will look like on a turbine in daylight and at night

■ **From Round Up #4 August 8, 2022**

- Gordon Perkins was the key speaker at a June 16, 2022 online open house, which focused specifically on visibility and was hosted by Atlantic Shores.
- In response to many questions and comments about the subsequent article that ran in *The Sandpaper*, “Initial Study Shows Turbine Visibility Will Be Rare Off LBI” (June 29, 2022), many expressed a desire to see and hear first-hand what he said in this forum. The link to the video of the entire event in which was included in this Round Up.

■ **From Round Up #5 September 12, 2022**

- The following questions were addressed:
 - Can Atlantic Shores be moved 35 miles out into the Hudson South?
 - Why can’t BOEM just give Atlantic Shores another section in the Hudson South area?
- It was announced that the final version of the Rutgers Visibility Study was available.
- In response to readers’ questions, photo simulations of the views of the turbines from the beach directly east of the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts & Sciences and the beach directly east of the Beach Haven Historical area were included.

■ **From Round Up #8 December 12, 2022**

- The statement that the Atlantic Shores offshore wind energy farm will be the most visible project in the world when completed was addressed.



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. 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 and property owners 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.

