



The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Up

Created by the JCTA

Issue #19

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IN THIS ISSUE

- The CEO of Atlantic Shores weighs in about the future of its offshore wind projects beginning **on this page**.
- With Ørsted pulling out of the Ocean Wind 1 and Ocean Wind 2 offshore wind projects off the southern New Jersey coast, a recent headline asks, “What will happen to the \$300M in guarantees?” pledged to the state of New Jersey by Ørsted. Excerpts from the article begin **on page 2**.
- An update on when the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Shores project will be available begins **on page 3**.
- Vineyard Wind is on target to become the country’s first operating large-scale offshore wind farm. In October, its first wind turbine was set in place and a link to details provided by a local news source begins **on page 4**.

ATLANTIC SHORE’S FUTURE PLANS

■ With Ørsted pulling out of the its offshore wind projects in southern New Jersey, many wondered if Atlantic Shores would make a similar decision.

So far, the answer appears to be no. Atlantic Shores CEO Joris Veldhoven is quoted in an article published in *The Sandpaper* November 8, 2023 as follows:

“... we are actively engaged in conversations with the administration, regulators, and elected leaders across New Jersey that confirm the state’s commitment to offshore wind, and we are working with them to identify viable solutions that will not only preserve the progress made thus far in the industry, but also create a landscape that will enable the successful execution of the Atlantic Shores portfolio.”

Access the full 11/8/23 article from The Sandpaper by clicking on this link

<https://www.thesandpaper.net/articles/atlantic-shores-wind-farm-off-lbi-still-a-go/>

■ No change in Atlantic Shore’s stance was reported in a later Asbury Park Press article published November 30 with the headline “Gov. Phil Murphy orders officials to push forward on NJ offshore wind projects.”

Access the full article by clicking on this link

<https://www.app.com/story/news/local/land-environment/2023/11/30/murphy-nj-offshore-wind-proposals>

■ Subsequent research through December 6 did not discover any credible reporting to the contrary.



WHAT HAPPENS TO THE \$300,000,000?

■ **Where did the \$300M come from?** From Ørsted, as described below.

The two quotes below are from the Asbury Park Press article published November 13, 2023 under the headline “With Ørsted’s offshore wind farms stopped, what will happen to \$300M in guarantees?”

“[In November], the company [Ørsted] sent a letter to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities stating it withdrawing a Compliance Filing on its Ocean Wind 1 project. The company had deposited \$200 million into escrow for the project, which would be put toward manufacturing facilities for turbine monopiles in Paulsboro, Gloucester County, according to board documents.”

PLUS

“Ørsted also posted a \$100 million performance security in the event it failed to build Ocean Wind 1, the first of two planned wind farm projects in New Jersey, according to documents submitted to the state agency.”

■ **So, what is going to happen with the \$300M?** The answer to that question is unclear at this time.

Access the full article in the Asbury Park Press by clicking on this link

<https://www.app.com/story/news/local/land-environment/2023/11/13/orsted-new-jersey-offshore-wind-limbo>

■ **Why does Ørsted think it is entitled to get this money returned to them?**

From an article published November 6 by The Associated Press:

[On November 1, 2023], Ørsted wrote to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, saying it was withdrawing from an agreement it signed with the state under which it would forfeit the money if it did not build Ocean Wind I.

The company said it was doing so because the board had not taken final action to approve the agreement. . . .

The BPU said [on November 6] it approved an escrow agreement with Ørsted on Sept. 27, and a guarantee agreement on Oct. 11. . . .

It was not immediately clear what will happen next. In the agreement, Ørsted and the state agreed not to sue each other over any dispute unless they tried and failed to resolve it through negotiations.”

Access the full article from The Association Press by clicking this link
<https://apnews.com/article/orsted-offshore-wind-new-jersey-guarantee-forfeit-2512e3bdfc2be70c137084fd2bdad02f>



WHEN WILL THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (“EIS”) FOR THE ATLANTIC SHORES PROJECT BE AVAILABLE?

■ **The answer to that question** is February 9, 2024 (for release and beginning of the public review period) and March 25, 2024 for the official release of the final Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”).

■ **The original dates** were August 4, 2023 and September 9, 2023, respectively.

According to the [permits.performance.gov](https://www.permits.performance.gov), the U.S. government website where information about federal infrastructure projects is posted,

“Official Notice of Availability of a Final EIS published in the FR beginning both the public review period and concurrent CAA Section 309 Review (Agency Action) is February 9, 2024 (original date was August 4, 2023)

Issuance of Lead Agency Record of Decision (Agency Action) is March 25, 2024 (original date was September 9, 2023)”

Access the full dashboard of the timetables for all the permits required for the Atlantic Shores project to go forward by clicking on this link and scrolling down on the screen

<https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-project/fast-41-covered-projects/atlantic-shores-south>

- - - - - **EIS TIMELINE SO FAR** - - - - -

■ **Since September 30, 2021**, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) has been engaged in the process that culminates in the creation of an Environment Impact Statement for the Atlantic Shores project.

■ **An important objective of this process** is to identify specific elements of the environment that might be affected if the proposal is carried out.

Read details about how the EIS is created, developed, vetted
and approved by clicking on this link

<https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-assessment/what-environmental-impact-statement-eis-process>

■ **When was the Draft EIS released?** On May 15, 2023, BOEM announced that the Draft EIS was available for public inspection and comment.

■ **Was there a public comment period?** Yes, May 15 – July 3, 2023. Comments could be submitted in writing through the mail or online through the regulations.gov web portal.

■ **Were there local public hearings with BOEM officials about the Draft EIS?** Yes. Four meetings were scheduled and held in June 2023—two on Zoom, one at the Holiday Inn in Manahawkin and one at the Convention Center in Atlantic City.



VINEYARD WIND

Activities in — and legal challenges to — Vineyard Wind are followed by many for a variety of reasons, including the fact that it is on track to become the first commercially-sized operating offshore wind farm in the United States.

■ **It is located in an area** beginning about 15 miles southwest of Nantucket and 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard. When completed, it will have 62 offshore wind turbines, generating 800 megawatts of electricity annually to power 400,000 homes.

■ **Since Vineyard Wind is farther along than any other U.S. project of its kind**, many pay attention to it because it provides real time insight into how offshore wind farms are constructed and what the turbines look like after installation.

■ **Installation of its first turbine.** On October 12, 2023, the *Nantucket Current* announced the installation of the first offshore wind turbine by publishing an article headlined as follows: “The First Vineyard Wind Turbine Rises Off Nantucket.”

Access the full October 12, 2023 *Nantucket Current* article by clicking on this link

<https://nantucketcurrent.com/news/first-vineyard-wind-turbine-rises-off-nantucket>

■ **Photographs.** Note that it is stated in this article that the images of the turbine have been enlarged in the accompanying photographs. The photographs are credited to private citizens who reside in Nantucket and information about how the photos were taken and cropped is included in the article.

■ **Brief summaries** are also included about the timing of the assembly, physical details, construction achievements to date and the \$16M “Good Neighbor Agreement,” which

“essentially binds the town [of Nantucket] and those organizations [Maria Mitchell Association¹ and the Nantucket Preservation Trust] to support the Vineyard Wind project.”

■ **Some information mentioned in the article has been updated.** This October 12 article mentions the lawsuit filed in the District Court in Massachusetts in which the court ruled in favor of the defendants, i.e., the federal government agencies and the Vineyards Wind 1 project, in mid-October. The lawsuit was filed by the plaintiffs — five fishing companies led by Seafreeze Shoreside — in an effort to stop the Vineyard Wind project.

Follow up: As of October 23, Seafreeze Shoreside has filed an appeal, although it was reported as of that date that RODA (Responsible Offshore Development Alliance), a co-plaintiff, had not.

Access the October 23 reporting from Windpower Monthly by clicking on this link <https://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1844744/no-case-answer-us-judge-throws-lawsuits-against-vineyard-wind-1>

■ **Subsequent research** through December 6 did not locate any more recent updates about the appeal.

■ **In addition to the November 2023 issue** of *The Offshore Wind Farm Round Up*, the July, August & September issues have also included references to this project—#14, #15 and #16, respectively.

The websites of many LBI taxpayer associations include links to these and other Round Ups.



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

Round-Ups endeavor to periodically provide a review of recent research efforts in which the effects of offshore wind farms have been studied. In addition, they occasionally offer factual, clarifying information, in response to readers’ suggestions.

Research included in Round-Ups points you in the direction of the science and assumes no point of view one way or the other about the presence of offshore wind farms off our shore. Likewise, clarifications are provided without editorial comment; they are there for you to consider so you can draw your own conclusions.

¹ From the MMA website <https://www.mariamitchell.org/>: “The Maria Mitchell Association (MMA) was founded in 1902 to preserve the legacy of Nantucket native astronomer, naturalist, librarian, and educator Maria Mitchell. [MMA] operates two observatories, a natural science museum, an aquarium, a research center and preserves the historic birthplace [of its founder].”

Questions about the content of Round-Ups and suggestions for future topics 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.



**Note that publication of the Offshore Wind Farm Round Up
will take a pause in March 2024 and resume the following month**