



The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Up

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- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Shore project was made available to the public on May 15, 2023 by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”). Information about how to review the document and how to share your thoughts about it with the BOEM — either in writing or in person — begin on this page.
- The 30-day public comment period on the pending Federal Consistency Certification request, in which the public is invited to share their thoughts on the Atlantic Shores project, ends June 30, 2023. An explanation of what this certification is and information about how to comment begins on page 2.
- A necropsy has been performed on the dead humpback whale found in Raritan Bay last week and the link to a news article reporting the results is on page 3.
- Information about new technologies that render wind turbine blades recyclable begins on page 4.
- An article that provides insight into the role and activities of whale observers who monitor offshore activities begins on page 5.
- Answer to questions about the status of the approval for aircraft detection lighting systems on the wind turbines begins on page 4.

HOW TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (“DEIS”) FOR THE ATLANTIC SHORES SOUTH PROJECT

■ *From the website of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”): “On May 15, 2023: BOEM announced the availability for the DEIS for the proposed Atlantic Shores South Wind Project” and included links to the full DEIS as well as links to four other related documents. The BOEM welcomes and encourages public comment about the DEIS.*

Click on the following link to access the links to all five documents:

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

■ Note that the screen you see when you click on the link above includes an announcement that the public comment period ends July 3, 2023.

■ You may send your written comments to BOEM either by snail mail or by submitting your comments online through the regulations.gov web portal.

For the mailing address and the link to the web portal, click on the link below to access the “How to comment” section on the BOEM website:

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

■ Public hearings have also been scheduled so everyone has opportunities to learn more about the review process, ask questions and provide comments. Registration for the virtual meetings is required, but not for the in-person meetings.

In-person meetings:

■ **Wednesday June 21 at 5:00 pm** Holiday Inn Manahawkin 151 Route 72 West
Manahawkin NJ

■ **Thursday June 22 at 5:00 pm** Atlantic City Convention Center 1 Convention Blvd
Atlantic City

Virtual public meetings:

■ **Monday June 26 at 1:00 pm with the Zoom Registration Link:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qWVcG76ARImItIUnePRJlQ

Dial-in phone number (Toll Free): 888-788-0099

Meeting ID: 832 2926 2927

Password: 21932097

■ **Wednesday June 28 at 5:00 pm with the Zoom Registration Link:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2Wp7wze4TeqaOT2g6xsEeA

Dial-in phone number (Toll Free): 888-788-0099

Meeting ID: 881 4396 0125

Password: 90014716

For more details about the meetings, click on the following link to access information from the BOEM website: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-deis-virtual-meetings>



**FEDERAL CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION REQUEST
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

■ What is Federal Consistency? The short answer is that it allows states to have a second look at federal coastal approvals that may impact their coasts.

From the website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”):

“Section 307 of the [Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972](#) (CZMA), called the “federal consistency” provision, gives states a strong voice in federal agency decision-making, which they otherwise would not have, for activities that may affect a state’s coastal uses or resources.

The federal consistency provision is a major incentive for states to join the National Coastal Zone Management Program and is a powerful tool that state programs use to manage coastal activities and resources and to facilitate cooperation and coordination with federal agencies.

Generally, federal consistency requires that federal actions, within and outside the coastal zone, which have reasonably foreseeable effects on any coastal use (land or water) or natural resource of the coastal zone be consistent with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program.

Federal actions include federal agency activities, federal license or permit activities, and federal financial assistance activities. Federal agency activities must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state coastal management program, and license and permit and financial assistance activities must be fully consistent.”

Access this explanation on NOAA’s website by clicking on the following link:

<https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/consistency/>

■ The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) encourages submission of written comments about the pending Federal Consistency Certification request. The public comment period ends June 30, 2023. Submission of comments electronically is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**.

Submit your comments online by clicking on the following link:

<https://dep.nj.gov/offshorewind/comments/>

Alternately, the address to mail your written comments is New Jersey Department of Environment Protection, Division of Land Resource Protection, PO Box 420, Code 501-02A, Trenton NJ 08625 Attn: Janet Stewart, Manager, Bureau of Coastal Permitting.



RARITAN BAY WHALE STRANDING

On May 31, after a two-month stretch during which no whale deaths were reported in New Jersey, a dead female humpback whale was found drifting in Raritan Bay¹, the 11th stranding off New Jersey since December 28, 2022.

¹ Raritan Bay is the body of water between the south/southeast coast of Staten Island and the northern coast of Monmouth County.

A necropsy was performed June 2 and the results of that analysis were reported June 6 in the *Asbury Park Press* article titled “What killed the humpback whale in Raritan Bay revealed by scientists”:

“The deceased humpback whale that was found adrift in Raritan Bay last week was a 28-foot-long female who appears to have died from blunt and sharp force trauma consistent with a vessel strike, according to preliminary results from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [“NOAA”].

The whale, who was discovered in the waters off Keansburg Wednesday, was found to have had bruises, lacerations and fractures in several places across its body, including fractures on its skull and left pectoral fin, which had been severed, according to preliminary results from a necropsy Friday, said NOAA spokesperson Andrea Gomez.”

Click on the following link to read the full report from the Asbury Park Press:

[https://www.app.com/story/news/local/2023/06/06/humpback-whale-deaths-found-in-raritan-bay-washed-up-whales-new-jersey/70289790007/?utm_source=asburyparkpress-dailybriefing-strada&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailybriefing-headline-stack&utm_term=Content List - Stacking - optimized&utm_content=papp-asburypark-nletter65](https://www.app.com/story/news/local/2023/06/06/humpback-whale-deaths-found-in-raritan-bay-washed-up-whales-new-jersey/70289790007/?utm_source=asburyparkpress-dailybriefing-strada&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailybriefing-headline-stack&utm_term=Content+List+-+Stacking+-+optimized&utm_content=papp-asburypark-nletter65)

RECYCLING WIND TURBINE BLADES

■ On May 1, 2023, the CBS Morning Show aired a report on the efforts of two companies to recycle solar panels and wind turbine blades, respectively.

Click on the following link to view the full 4-minute video from CBS News (specifics about recycling turbine blades begin at minute 1:55): <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/wind-blades-and-solar-panels-head-for-landfills-after-being-replaced/vi-AA1aAELU?ocid=entnewsntp&cvid=c1e90f71c957491e8ce528c9fd19a863&ei=54>

Veolia, the company that developed technology to effectively tear apart wind turbine blades, sells the shredded blade remains to cement companies. The cement companies use the remains to fuel their kilns instead of using coal, which they say cuts their carbon-warming emissions by nearly 30%.

■ In February 2023, Vestas² issued a press release titled “Vestas unveils circularity solution to end landfill for turbine blades.” The company announced that they, along with partners, had developed “newly discovered chemical technology” that breaks down epoxy

² Vestas, based in Denmark, designs, manufactures, installs and services onshore and offshore wind turbines across the globe.

resin used in the manufacture of the old blades into a material that can be reused in the production of new wind turbine blades.

Click on the following link to access the press release:

<https://www.vestas.com/en/media/company-news/2023/vestas-unveils-circularity-solution-to-end-landfill-for-c3710818>

WHALE OBSERVERS

There has been an increased level of interest in the whale observers who monitor activities connected with building offshore wind farms in the ocean, such as surveying, testing and mapping.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) requires trained observers to monitor marine species protected under the Endangered Species Act and under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Observers monitor marine mammals 24 hours a day, recording detailed data at regular intervals. While the ships are at sea, observers have the power to halt work that they believe is interfering with marine life or harming them by exposing them to increased levels of sound.

On May 2, 2023, nj.com published an article titled “Their job is to make sure offshore wind boats don’t hit whales. Here’s what they’ve seen at sea,” which contains answers to several questions that have been posed.

Click on the following link to access the full article:

https://www-nj-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.nj.com/news/2023/05/their-job-is-to-make-sure-offshore-wind-boats-dont-hit-whales-heres-what-theyve-seen-at-sea.html?amp_gsa=1&_js_v=a9&outputType=amp&usqp=mq331AQGsAEggAID#amp_tf=From%20%251%24s&aoh=16830811264833&csi=0&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&share=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nj.com%2Fnews%2F2023%2F05%2Ftheir-job-is-to-make-sure-offshore-wind-boats-dont-hit-whales-heres-what-theyve-seen-at-sea.html

AIRCRAFT DETECTION LIGHTING SYSTEMS

Mention of aircraft detection lighting systems by Joris Veldhoven, CEO of Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, in his letter to the editor titled “Correcting the Visuals” (*The Sandpaper*, May 31, 2023) prompted outreach from several people, all with the same question:

“[In his letter] Mr. Veldhoven wrote ‘*if* authorized.’ I thought the use of the aircraft detection systems had already been authorized for the Atlantic Shores project. Did something change?”

Answer: Nothing has changed regarding the needed approvals from the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”), i.e., to date, neither agency has signed off on Atlantic Shores using the aircraft detection lighting system in this project.

What has changed, however, is that Atlantic Shores has moved from “considering the use of an Aircraft Detection Lighting System” in this project, as stated in its original Construction and Operations Plan submitted to BOEM and updated without change September 2021, to, per Mr. Veldhoven’s letter, “working with regulators to obtain [FAA] and [BOEM] authorization to use these systems.”

Access the original statement in Atlantic Shore’s Construction and Operations Plan by clicking on the following link and then scrolling down to Section 5.3 “Lighting and Marking”:

<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Atlantic-Shores-COP-Volume-1-Project-Description.PDF>

Click on the following link to access Joris Veldhoven’s recent letter to the editor in The Sandpaper: <https://www.thesandpaper.net/pageview/viewer/2023-05-31 - page=9>



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.

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.

