

Public Hearing #1 Meeting Transcript – February 11, 2021

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00:00:56.190 --> 00:01:11.400

Meg Perry (SWCA): Hi. Good evening and welcome to those who are already joining us, my name is Meg Perry. I'll be facilitating the meeting, and we'll be getting started here at the top of the hour. So, while you're getting settled in and turning your attention to this meeting

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00:01:12.510 --> 00:01:22.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): there's a bit of background information available online. I'll put the link to that in the chat, so if you'd like to take a look at any of that as you're getting settled here.

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00:01:23.430 --> 00:01:26.760

Meg Perry (SWCA): That could be some helpful context. And we'll get started

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00:01:28.050 --> 00:01:29.070

Meg Perry (SWCA): at the top of the hour.

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00:05:05.160 --> 00:05:14.460

Meg Perry (SWCA): Good evening, and welcome to those of you just joining us. My name is Meg Perry. I'll be facilitating the meeting tonight, and we'll be getting started in just a couple of minutes here at the top of the hour.

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00:05:15.990 --> 00:05:29.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): There, I will put in the chat for those who are just joining a link to the background information related to this meeting, if you'd like to take a look as you're getting settled in here. So, thanks for joining us and we'll get started in just a couple minutes.

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00:07:49.980 --> 00:07:51.390

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, welcome everyone.

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00:07:52.770 --> 00:07:59.700

Meg Perry (SWCA): Good evening. My name is Meg Perry with SWCA Environmental Consultants, and I'll be facilitating this meeting tonight.

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00:08:00.930 --> 00:08:02.010

Meg Perry (SWCA): This is the,

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00:08:03.930 --> 00:08:16.260

Meg Perry (SWCA): this meeting is being recorded. So, if you don't want to be recorded, now would be the time to disconnect. The recording is going to be posted on the web following the meeting, so you can always watch it after the fact, if you prefer.

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00:08:17.520 --> 00:08:28.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): But, welcome to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's virtual public meeting on the draft environmental impact statement for the South Fork Wind Farm and South Fork Export Cable project.

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00:08:29.580 --> 00:08:38.550

Meg Perry (SWCA): This meeting also serves as a public hearing for the Army Corps of Engineers in support of Section 10 and Section 404 permits for this project.

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00:08:39.990 --> 00:08:50.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): And the agenda this evening, we'll start with opening remarks from BOEM, followed by remarks from the Army Corps of Engineers, and there will be a short presentation about the draft EIS.

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00:08:51.060 --> 00:08:58.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then we'll have time for public comments, and once we've heard all public, public comments, we will take a short break and then

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00:08:59.310 --> 00:09:14.100

Meg Perry (SWCA): BOEM will answer questions about the South Fork project and the draft EIS. And you can submit questions at any time during this meeting using the Q and A function at the bottom of your Zoom screen, and I'll explain that again before we get into the presentation.

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00:09:15.660 --> 00:09:22.380

Meg Perry (SWCA): So welcome, and with that I'm going to turn it over to Jim Bennett with BOEM for some words welcome from them.

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00:09:26.160 --> 00:09:28.440

James Bennett (BOEM): Okay, thank you, Meg.

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00:09:30.450 --> 00:09:41.880

James Bennett (BOEM): Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for joining us. My name is Jim Bennett, and I'm the Program Manager for the Office of Renewable Energy Programs at BOEM, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

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00:09:42.390 --> 00:09:54.870

James Bennett (BOEM): I'd like to welcome you to this, the second virtual meeting, to discuss the draft environmental impact statement, or DEIS, for the proposed South Fork wind project.

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00:09:55.410 --> 00:10:03.630

James Bennett (BOEM): The South Fork wind project, which you'll hear about from Mary Boatman in just a few minutes, is considered a major federal action and it,

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00:10:04.170 --> 00:10:18.930

James Bennett (BOEM): as a result, is going through the NEPA process, National Environmental Policy Act process, and the preparation of a draft EIS. This process makes your thoughts on this matter very valuable.

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00:10:19.710 --> 00:10:27.570

James Bennett (BOEM): I'm sorry we can't be here together in person, and I hope that you, your families, and friends are all safe and healthy.

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00:10:28.080 --> 00:10:42.060

James Bennett (BOEM): But I am appreciative that technology allows us to create effective alternatives to in-person meetings. We've had some success with these meetings, and I'm sure that will be the case today.

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00:10:43.200 --> 00:10:57.060

James Bennett (BOEM): For those of you who aren't familiar with BOEM, we are the bureau within the Department of the Interior that oversees the development of our energy and mineral resources on almost 2.5 billion acres.

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00:10:58.350 --> 00:11:01.410

James Bennett (BOEM): Excuse me. Of the nation's,

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00:11:02.790 --> 00:11:06.240

James Bennett (BOEM): on the nation's outer continental shelf, or OCS.

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00:11:07.620 --> 00:11:29.340

James Bennett (BOEM): The OCS extends from the Three Mile line of state jurisdiction out to the full extent of the exclusive economic zone approximately 200 miles, the EEZ. We at BOEM are responsible for the expeditious and orderly development of the energy resources in this area, and we,

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00:11:30.540 --> 00:11:34.470

James Bennett (BOEM): this includes, of course, renewable energy, like wind.

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00:11:36.120 --> 00:11:50.130

James Bennett (BOEM): It's our job to ensure that this development is done in an environmentally and economically responsible way. We consider public input to be a critical component of safe and responsible offshore resource management.

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00:11:52.110 --> 00:11:53.250

James Bennett (BOEM): Excuse me for just a second.

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00:11:58.080 --> 00:12:02.700

James Bennett (BOEM): The development of the offshore industry over the past decade or so

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00:12:04.770 --> 00:12:13.200

James Bennett (BOEM): has, has gone up and down, but one constant has been our efforts to make sure that we have stakeholder input and public involvement.

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00:12:14.220 --> 00:12:29.970

James Bennett (BOEM): Your participation and feedback today is essential to BOEM's renewable energy program, and it plays a vital role in our environmental analysis of the proposed project. I look forward to your questions and comments on the draft EIS.

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00:12:31.440 --> 00:12:41.310

James Bennett (BOEM): I'd like also to note that this is a joint public meeting. These virtual public meetings will also serve as the public hearings for the Army Corps of Engineers

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00:12:42.030 --> 00:12:58.440

James Bennett (BOEM): actions that they will be taking with regard to Section 10 and Section 404 permit reviews. With that, I would like to turn it over now to Steve Ryba for the Corps of Engineers opening remarks. Thank you. Over to, you Steve.

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00:13:01.920 --> 00:13:03.060

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Thank you very much.

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00:13:04.980 --> 00:13:18.960

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Stephan Ryba. I'm the chief of the regulatory branch the New York District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I'll be the presiding officer on behalf of the Corps of Engineers for today's public hearing.

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00:13:20.070 --> 00:13:32.340

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Also, present with us today from the New York District Army Corps of Engineers are Lisa Grudzinski, the regulatory project manager on the review of this application, and Mia Logan, from our office of counsel.

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00:13:33.510 --> 00:13:41.040

Stephan Ryba, USACE: I'd like to thank our, our partners here from BOEM for setting up and hosting this joint public hearing.

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00:13:41.850 --> 00:13:56.940

Stephan Ryba, USACE: The Corps of Engineers is here today to obtain information and evidence and receive public comment to assist in the regulatory review of a Department of the Army permit application by South Fork Wind Limited Liability Corporation.

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00:13:58.140 --> 00:14:08.220

Stephan Ryba, USACE: The applicant proposes to construct an offshore wind farm export cable and operation and maintenance facility in the Atlantic Ocean and in Lake Montauk in the town of East Hampton, New York.

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00:14:10.530 --> 00:14:19.020

Stephan Ryba, USACE: The permit applicant's stated purpose for the work is the construction of a commercial-scale wind energy project

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00:14:19.380 --> 00:14:27.840

Stephan Ryba, USACE: and associated transmission lines for renewable energy generation and the distribution to New York, to the New York energy grid.

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00:14:28.290 --> 00:14:33.720

Stephan Ryba, USACE: The details of the proposed activities will be described in BOEM's upcoming presentation.

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00:14:34.440 --> 00:14:46.680

Stephan Ryba, USACE: A detailed description of the proposed work that requires a department environment authorization may also be found at the Corps' public notice. within the Corps' public notice dated January 6, 2021.

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00:14:47.100 --> 00:15:02.100

Stephan Ryba, USACE: We have also provided a link to the Corps' public notice, which we welcome you to take a look at that. That's provided in the background information page that Meg has provided earlier this evening, as part of this public hearing.

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00:15:03.540 --> 00:15:14.040

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Is the project purpose, because, I'm sorry, because the project proposes the installation and structures within navigable waters of the United States and the discharge

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00:15:14.310 --> 00:15:26.970

Stephan Ryba, USACE: of dredged and fill material into what is in the United States, a permit is required from the Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 10 of the River Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

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00:15:28.410 --> 00:15:38.130

Stephan Ryba, USACE: The Corps of Engineers is neither proponent for, nor an opponent of, the proposed project. Our role is to determine whether the proposed activity,

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00:15:38.580 --> 00:15:44.760

Stephan Ryba, USACE: in this case, the construction of the wind turbine generators, installation of the South Fork export cable,

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00:15:45.330 --> 00:16:00.480

Stephan Ryba, USACE: and the construction of an operations and maintenance facility and waters of the United States, is, or is or is not contrary to the overall public interests. This hearing will play a very important part in that determination.

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00:16:01.800 --> 00:16:10.620

Stephan Ryba, USACE: For purposes for the for the Corps of Engineers, excuse me, for the Corps of Engineers purposes, this hearing will be conducted in

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00:16:11.100 --> 00:16:23.850

Stephan Ryba, USACE: according to the procedure set forth in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 327. And I just want to reiterate that the, the comments received during today's

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00:16:24.870 --> 00:16:33.270

Stephan Ryba, USACE: hearing will be weighed, equally weighted with any written comments that we've received to our public notice.

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00:16:34.590 --> 00:16:42.330

Stephan Ryba, USACE: At this time, I'd like to just briefly explain the procedure is specific to the Corps of Engineers that will govern the conduct of this public hearing.

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00:16:43.200 --> 00:16:53.790

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Anyone may make an oral or written statement concerning the subject matter of this hearing. Anyone may appear on his or her own behalf, or be represented by the counsel

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00:16:54.120 --> 00:16:58.110

Stephan Ryba, USACE: or other representatives to present recommendations or information.

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00:16:58.980 --> 00:17:13.830

Stephan Ryba, USACE: As the presiding hearing officer, I will not respond to, reply to comments expressed by speakers during the hearing regarding any aspect of the project proposal, including project alternatives, past use of the proposed project site and environmental risk.

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00:17:14.850 --> 00:17:17.760

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Cross-examination witnesses will not be permitted.

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00:17:18.960 --> 00:17:24.270

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Any questions that you may have for the Corps, it should be directed at regulatory processes.

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00:17:25.560 --> 00:17:31.440

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Thank you all for your participation. I'll now turn the floor back over to the facilitator. Thank you.

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00:17:33.390 --> 00:17:43.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you, Stephan, and thank you, Jim as well, for those opening remarks. So again, welcome. I see we're continuing to have folks join, so welcome to everyone who's, who's just joining us.

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00:17:45.090 --> 00:17:45.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): and

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00:17:47.040 --> 00:18:03.660

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm just going to walk through a couple of reminders as we get started. I imagine, many of us are becoming very familiar with Zoom, but for those who are, are less familiar, you should have a little black bar somewhere on your screen that has a few buttons on it.

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00:18:04.920 --> 00:18:13.560

Meg Perry (SWCA): And so, if you click the "participants" button, you should be able to see the panelists from the agencies who are here and will be answering questions in the background.

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00:18:15.330 --> 00:18:24.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you'll see a "Q and A" button, where you can submit questions and writing throughout the meeting, and then the, and then BOEM will be responding to those.

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00:18:26.100 --> 00:18:46.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you should also have a "raise hand" feature either in that or under the participants list, so when we get to the public comment portion of the meeting, and the Q and A portion of the meeting, that will be an option for you to use. I know we have a few folks joining us just on the phone,

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00:18:49.830 --> 00:19:05.400

Meg Perry (SWCA): and so I'll give you all instructions, too, about how you can chime in when we get to that comment and question and answer portion of the meeting. So we've just run through welcome and logistics and we're about to turn to Mary Boatman from BOEM for a presentation

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00:19:06.810 --> 00:19:18.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): on the project, the NEPA process, the draft environmental impact statement, and next steps in the process. And following Mary's presentation, we will turn to public comments. We have

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00:19:18.960 --> 00:19:24.660

Meg Perry (SWCA): some folks who preregistered indicating that they would like to comment, and so we will turn to those people first.

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00:19:25.200 --> 00:19:33.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then we'll take other public comments, if there are others who would like to share comments with us, and then we will turn to questions and answers

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00:19:33.720 --> 00:19:46.560

Meg Perry (SWCA): following the comment period. So that's the, that's the plan for the time together this evening. If you do have any technical issues in the course of the meeting, we do have tech support available.

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00:19:47.730 --> 00:20:04.830

Meg Perry (SWCA): And that is Jen Rideout, and you can reach her via phone at (360) 715-2530. And I'll put that tech support contact in the chat as well, so you can see that.

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00:20:06.570 --> 00:20:08.550

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, with that

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00:20:10.380 --> 00:20:16.080

Meg Perry (SWCA): I am going to turn it over to Mary to share a presentation with us.

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00:20:28.230 --> 00:20:36.540

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Hello, and welcome to the South Fork Wind Farm and South Fork Export Cable draft environmental impact statement virtual public meeting.

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00:20:37.440 --> 00:20:47.820

Mary Boatman (BOEM): As Jim Bennett mentioned, BOEM is the federal bureau within the Department of the Interior that oversees development of our energy and mineral resources, subject to environmental safeguard.

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00:20:50.700 --> 00:20:56.310

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We cover the nearly 2.5 billion acres of the nation's outer continental shelf, or OCS,

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00:20:57.180 --> 00:21:04.890

Mary Boatman (BOEM): including the development of marine minerals, oil and gas, and renewable energy resources. We appreciate your participation in this meeting

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00:21:05.280 --> 00:21:14.070

Mary Boatman (BOEM): and look forward to hearing your comments following this summary presentation. Again, my name is Mary Boatman, and I am the environmental coordinator for this project.

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00:21:14.880 --> 00:21:19.800

Mary Boatman (BOEM): To the greatest extent possible, we are working to maintain services to the American people

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00:21:20.280 --> 00:21:27.270

Mary Boatman (BOEM): and our stakeholders consistent with evolving guidance provided by the CDC and state and local health authorities.

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00:21:27.780 --> 00:21:37.260

Mary Boatman (BOEM): As such, we are moving forward with our public meetings in a virtual environment in order to provide information to our public in the safest and most efficient way possible.

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00:21:37.680 --> 00:21:50.130

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And to receive feedback from our stakeholders. These public meetings, while virtual, are an opportunity for public involvement and an opportunity to provide comments on the draft EIS. Next slide.

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00:21:56.490 --> 00:22:05.640

Mary Boatman (BOEM): BOEM has developed a virtual meeting room webpage. The address is at the bottom of the slide. You may have already visited this page to register.

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00:22:06.360 --> 00:22:18.360

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We encourage you to explore this page and the additional content we have there. This content includes posters and presentations similar to the stations that we would normally have at an in-person meeting.

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00:22:19.140 --> 00:22:26.160

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The posters seen here relay a brief summary of important topics to our stakeholders, most importantly, how to comment.

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00:22:26.880 --> 00:22:41.280

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We also have publications that provide more detailed information about topics of interest. And also on our website, we've just added on how to use ocean reports, which is a tool to explore relevant ocean data. Next slide.

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00:22:47.220 --> 00:23:00.180

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The presentations on the virtual meeting webpage are summaries of impacts to several key topics or resources. The presentations were developed and recorded by the BOEM subject matter expert for each of the list of resources.

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00:23:01.320 --> 00:23:10.410

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We will also be posting the video from these meetings and the meeting transcript on the registration page a few days after each meeting.

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00:23:11.760 --> 00:23:12.390

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

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00:23:16.470 --> 00:23:29.070

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, why are we here? We're here because of the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, is a law requiring federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action and reasonable alternatives.

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00:23:29.580 --> 00:23:40.890

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The NEPA process collects relevant information for the BOEM decision maker to either approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the construction operations plan. Next slide.

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00:23:45.060 --> 00:23:56.190

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Through the NEPA process, an environmental impact statement, or EIS, must be prepared if the agency is proposing a major federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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00:23:56.880 --> 00:24:12.570

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The purpose of the analysis is to outline the impact of a proposed project on its surrounding environment. The process also includes public scoping, public comment periods, and the analysis of reasonable alternatives and cumulative effects. Next slide.

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00:24:15.510 --> 00:24:18.030

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, where are we in the process for South Fork?

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00:24:19.080 --> 00:24:30.990

Mary Boatman (BOEM): BOEM's renewable energy leasing element process occurs in four phases. The first three phases, as seen on the slide, include identifying an area for leasing and issuing a lease,

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00:24:31.440 --> 00:24:46.560

Mary Boatman (BOEM): development of a site assessment plan, followed by execution of that plan by the lessee. For the South Fork project, we are in the fourth phase, which includes conducting an environment assessment of the lessee's construction and operations plan, or COP.

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00:24:47.910 --> 00:24:53.520

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The draft DEIS was prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project proposed in the COP.

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00:24:54.840 --> 00:25:02.880

Mary Boatman (BOEM): For by the environmental impact statement BOEM, will either approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the COP.

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00:25:03.480 --> 00:25:15.450

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Should the COP be approved, the lessee will submit a design and installation plan, which BOEM will review. If there are no objections, the lessee will proceed with installation. Next slide.

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00:25:22.560 --> 00:25:32.790

Mary Boatman (BOEM): For the South Fork project, the lease was initially granted in September of 2013. In 2017, Long Island Power Authority awarded to power purchase agreement.

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00:25:33.540 --> 00:25:39.750

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The construction and operation plan was submitted in June of 2018 and has been updated several times.

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00:25:40.290 --> 00:25:49.140

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The map on the right shows the location of the project about 19 miles southeast of Block Island and about 35 miles east of Montauk.

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00:25:49.980 --> 00:26:04.740

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The proposed project, or a NEPA terminology proposed action, includes up to 15 wind turbines, an offshore substation, and an export cable, as well as the operations and maintenance facility that won't,

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00:26:05.730 --> 00:26:19.860

Mary Boatman (BOEM): that cable itself will make landfall at either Beach Lane or Hither Hills. The project has a design envelope with turbines, ranging from six to 12 megawatts. These turbines would be using a monopile foundation. Next slide.

107

00:26:24.060 --> 00:26:35.190

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The notice of intent to prepare the EIS for this project was published on October 19, 2018. Three public meetings were held in New Bedford, Narragansett, and East Hampton.

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00:26:35.730 --> 00:26:45.000

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The public comments are available on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), and the summary report of the public scoping is available on the South Fork project webpage. Next slide.

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00:26:48.540 --> 00:26:54.750

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The notice of availability for the draft EIS was published on January 8, 2021, in the *Federal Register*.

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00:26:55.500 --> 00:27:05.220

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And now we are holding up a series of three virtual public meetings. Of course, this is the second of three public meetings; the next one will be next Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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00:27:05.940 --> 00:27:15.840

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The comment period will close after 45 days on February 22. For additional project-related information, please see the project web page on the BOEM website.

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00:27:18.150 --> 00:27:18.810

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

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00:27:23.310 --> 00:27:33.210

Mary Boatman (BOEM): So, when making comments, it would be most helpful if your comments should be as specific as possible. A substantive comment discusses the accuracy of the information;

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00:27:33.780 --> 00:27:53.880

Mary Boatman (BOEM): suggests alternate methodologies and the reasons why they should be used; provides new information and relevance to the analysis; identifies a different source of credible research which, if it's done, the analysis could result in different effects; or provide clarification were needed.

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00:27:55.290 --> 00:27:56.010

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

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00:28:00.300 --> 00:28:08.010

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Notable sections of this draft EIS included the executive summary, which provides a high-level summary of the project and its potential impacts.

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00:28:08.490 --> 00:28:18.840

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Chapter One provides an introduction to the project, while Chapter Two discusses the alternatives. Chapter Three provides resource-specific analysis of the potential environmental impacts.

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00:28:19.650 --> 00:28:38.160

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Due to required page limits, some resources are discussed in more detail in Appendix H. Appendix D includes the project design envelope and maximum case scenario. A detailed description of the cumulative impact analysis incident and scenario can be found in Appendix E. Next slide.

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00:28:40.680 --> 00:28:50.910

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The draft EIS analyzes the proposed action and two action alternatives. The proposed action is the project as described in the construction and operations plan.

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00:28:51.660 --> 00:29:03.300

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The two additional alternatives are the vessel transit lane alternative and the fisheries habitat impact minimization alternative, which I will describe in the next two slides. Next.

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00:29:05.580 --> 00:29:15.690

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The vessel transit alternative has, as proposed by the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, includes six, four-nautical-mile wide transit lanes.

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00:29:16.050 --> 00:29:21.630

Mary Boatman (BOEM): One of these transit lanes intersects the South Fork project, as you can see in the lower left inset.

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00:29:22.350 --> 00:29:29.160

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Structures would not be allowed within the transit lane, and therefore six proposed turbine locations, could not be used.

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00:29:29.850 --> 00:29:45.480

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This layout maintains the agreed to one nautical mile grid pattern. The project is still viable within the project design bound envelope but would limit the options to turbines to the maximum size proposed, which is 12 megawatts. Next slide.

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00:29:49.980 --> 00:29:57.840

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, the fisheries habitat impact minimization alternative was developed to address concerns about impacts to complex habitat.

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00:29:58.650 --> 00:30:13.230

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The lease area has complex geology with boulders, as depicted by the black dots, as well as a mix of non-complex habitat, generally sand, and complex habitat defined as greater than 5% gravel, essentially small rocks.

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00:30:13.830 --> 00:30:24.780

Mary Boatman (BOEM): As you can see, the color coding, the very light blue and the areas that have been detailed, represents non-complex habitat, and the darker blues are complex or potentially complex habitat.

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00:30:26.910 --> 00:30:31.560

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Complex habitat is important as refuge for juvenile fish, such as cod.

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00:30:32.700 --> 00:30:43.440

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The proposed project layout is depicted to scale here, where the red circles are the wind turbines locations, the outer and the scour protection. So within that

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00:30:43.650 --> 00:30:54.780

Mary Boatman (BOEM): the circle encompasses both the turbine and the scour protection around it. Now, scour protection can be small boulders or rocks that are put around the base to prevent sediments from being eroded away.

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00:30:56.250 --> 00:31:12.000

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The layout also includes the proposed cable routes, which are black lines between the turbine locations. For this alternative, locations and complex habitat where the turbine cannot be moved to reduce those impacts, therefore, the

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00:31:13.230 --> 00:31:27.750

Mary Boatman (BOEM): turbine would not be allowed to occupy that location. The identification of the specific, specific locations for adjustment or removal will be determined through the essential fish habitat assessment process. Next slide.

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00:31:31.980 --> 00:31:50.100

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Each alternative analysis includes evaluation of impacts to biological, physical, and socioeconomic resources listed here. The subject matter experts that analyze impacts, many of these resources are also on this webinar and will answer questions later in the meeting. Next slide.

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00:31:53.190 --> 00:32:03.240

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The cumulative impact scenario for our future offshore wind used in this draft EIS is based on the scenario developed for the Vineyard Wind Supplemental EIS.

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00:32:04.650 --> 00:32:16.620

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The top four levels look at the maximum amount of wind that could possibly be collected and are not considered reasonably foreseeable are primarily due to state capacity and technical resource potential.

136

00:32:18.240 --> 00:32:26.550

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The reasonably foreseeable scenario, again for future offshore wind, is based on the technical resource potential of existing Atlantic leases.

137

00:32:27.030 --> 00:32:37.620

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This includes any projects with awarded off take, any projects that have entered or announced their intention to enter the permitting process, and, of course, any approved projects.

138

00:32:38.760 --> 00:32:49.350

Mary Boatman (BOEM): After considering all the projects with awards, construction operations plans or that have been announced, there is still some state capacity left over. It has not been awarded.

139

00:32:49.920 --> 00:33:01.530

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This potential for additional future development beyond name projects is also accounted for and analyzed in this scenario. You can look at Appendix E for further details about the scenario.

140

00:33:02.850 --> 00:33:03.660

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

141

00:33:07.110 --> 00:33:12.330

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Overall, the potential impacts identified in the draft EIS range from negligible to moderate.

142

00:33:13.020 --> 00:33:28.830

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Definitions for negligible, minor, moderate, and major are provided for each resource and also for overall impacts are defined at the beginning of Chapter Three. There is also a poster in the virtual meeting room that contains these overall definitions.

143

00:33:30.030 --> 00:33:47.100

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The major impacts were defined for cultural and visual resources. Potential benefit beneficial impacts were identified for air quality, demographics, employment and economics, land use and coastal infrastructure, and recreation and tourism.

144

00:33:48.120 --> 00:34:02.850

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The other two action alternatives would result in slightly lower impacts because of fewer turbines. In particular, the vessel transit lane alternative would have lesser impacts for commercial fishing, and the habitat alternative would reduce impacts to benthic or complex habitat.

145

00:34:04.080 --> 00:34:04.800

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

146

00:34:07.860 --> 00:34:14.970

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, I'm going to walk you through several slides that are basically summaries of the potential impacts and the comparison between the alternatives.

147

00:34:16.140 --> 00:34:20.610

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This slide show is from, are based on a table found in Chapter Two.

148

00:34:22.560 --> 00:34:35.520

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This table summarizes the overall direct, and indirect, and the cumulative impact levels for each resource. This also allows for a comparison across alternatives and includes the No Action Alternative, which serves as a baseline.

149

00:34:36.390 --> 00:34:46.680

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The color coding for this table indicates the highest impact level of minor, moderate, or major, with green being minor, yellow moderate, and orange major.

150

00:34:47.430 --> 00:34:54.120

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Again, you can find the definition of impact levels within each resource and for overall impacts at the beginning of Chapter Three.

151

00:34:55.020 --> 00:35:10.440

Mary Boatman (BOEM): For resources with an indirect and direct impact level of negligible or minor, the impact analysis has been moved to Appendix H. This was done to meet the page limit goals outlined in the Department of the Interior's Secretarial Order 3355.

152

00:35:11.550 --> 00:35:27.270

Mary Boatman (BOEM): To understand the cumulative impacts for each resource, BOEM analyzed the effects of the No Action Alternative, which includes baseline conditions, ongoing activities of all types, and future offshore activities, including reasonably foreseeable future, offshore wind.

153

00:35:28.440 --> 00:35:40.050

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The impact level seen here include those for air quality, water quality, bats, benthic resources, fin fish, invertebrates, and essential fish habitat. And the next slide.

154

00:35:44.310 --> 00:35:56.070

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, these resource areas include birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, and other terrestrial coastal habitats. As you can see, it's yellow or green. meaning minor or moderate. Next slide.

155

00:35:59.400 --> 00:36:07.620

Mary Boatman (BOEM): These resource impacts include wetlands, commercial fisheries, for-hire recreational fishing, cultural and demographics, employment, and economics.

156

00:36:08.040 --> 00:36:17.670

Mary Boatman (BOEM): As you can see again, green the negligible or minor, yellow moderate, and then the orange identifying areas where there are major impacts. Next slide.

157

00:36:21.330 --> 00:36:28.980

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Resource impact levels here include environmental justice, land use and coastal infrastructure, and navigation and vessel traffic.

158

00:36:30.480 --> 00:36:50.610

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And finally, the next slide, the last slide of tables. And this resource area includes other uses, which include research and surveys, military and national security, aviation and air traffic, cable and pipelines, and radar systems, as well as it has recreation and tourism and visual resources.

159

00:36:51.870 --> 00:36:52.740

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now the next slide.

160

00:36:56.490 --> 00:37:09.690

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And that's where the EIS schedule. Right now we are holding the public meetings on the draft EIS. The final EIS scheduled to be published in August, and the record of decision is scheduled for October. Next slide.

161

00:37:13.530 --> 00:37:23.040

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Where can you find more information? BOEM's South Fork web page includes a variety of information, documents, including South Fork's construction and operations plan,

162

00:37:23.400 --> 00:37:37.530

Mary Boatman (BOEM): the draft EIS, and the link to the virtual meeting room webpage. As mentioned before, the virtual meeting web page, you can find posters and presentations highlighting key topics and resource areas like our how-to-comment poster.

163

00:37:38.730 --> 00:37:39.600

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And the next slide.

164

00:37:42.270 --> 00:37:47.010

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And finally, again, as it is important, how to comment. Of course, you can comment here

165

00:37:48.240 --> 00:37:59.430

Mary Boatman (BOEM): as part of this public meeting. You can send your comments in writing to the address program manager Office of Renewable Energy Programs Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

166

00:38:00.000 --> 00:38:16.920

Mary Boatman (BOEM): 45600 Woodland Road, VAM-OREP, (have to have that) Sterling, Virginia 20166, and please mark any an envelope with "South Fork Draft EIS." And also you can obviously submit comments online.

167

00:38:18.150 --> 00:38:35.850

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Search for docket BOEM-2020-0066. Click on the "comment now" and then you can write your comment or submit your comment or as many attachments as you would like. So, with that, we look forward to hearing from you, and I'm going to turn it back over to Meg.

168

00:38:39.330 --> 00:38:40.140

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you, Mary.

169

00:38:41.220 --> 00:38:58.530

Meg Perry (SWCA): And thanks for that walkthrough of the draft environmental impact statement and the NEPA process. I know that's a process that's very familiar to some and can sound like a lot of acronyms to others, so we appreciate the, the introduction and context on this.

170

00:38:59.880 --> 00:39:04.830

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, we're, we're about to turn to the public comment portion of the meeting.

171

00:39:06.390 --> 00:39:23.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): And so just a couple of reminders as we do that. First, I've already seen a few questions coming in using that Q and A tool in Zoom, so that's great, and we welcome you all to continue submitting questions there. You can click on the little "Q and A" button

172

00:39:24.690 --> 00:39:35.520

Meg Perry (SWCA): in Zoom and submit your question, and then BOEM subject matter experts are working in the background to get answers to those and we'll share those out following the public comments.

173

00:39:36.960 --> 00:39:47.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): Another reminder is that you're probably seeing a little closed caption down at the bottom of the screen showing the words that are being said. If that's distracting to you and you want to turn it off

174

00:39:48.990 --> 00:40:04.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): you should have a three little dots in that Zoom bar, that say more, and if you click on that, one of the options that that pops up should be "hide subtitles." So, if you don't want to see the subtitles, you do have the option to turn those off.

175

00:40:05.160 --> 00:40:05.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): Um.

176

00:40:07.080 --> 00:40:13.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great, so with that we're going to turn to public comments at this time.

177

00:40:15.000 --> 00:40:30.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): And, as I mentioned, we had the option for folks to indicate when they registered for this meeting, that they would like to share comments, so we have a list of those people who preregistered to comment and we'll start with those. And then we will

178

00:40:32.580 --> 00:40:36.870

Meg Perry (SWCA): open the floor to others who may want to share a comment as well, so.

179

00:40:39.030 --> 00:40:51.090

Meg Perry (SWCA): My colleague Christy is going to be putting in the chat kind of the next-up list of who is on that list to speak so that you can see when your name is coming in the in the lineup.

180

00:40:52.680 --> 00:41:07.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, first, we will have the first few people will be, and apologies, I, since we're not in-person I don't get a chance to introduce myself and hear you pronounce your own name, so I will do my best, but apologies in advance if I

181

00:41:08.670 --> 00:41:25.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): get it wrong. So the folks we have on the list first are Matt Gove, Pamela Mahoney, David Monti, Anthony Guerrero, and Roger Clayman. So those are our first few, and then Christy, you will put up the next

182

00:41:27.360 --> 00:41:33.060

Meg Perry (SWCA): bunch on the list as we get through these, these first few so you can kind of have a heads up that your name is coming up.

183

00:41:34.710 --> 00:41:45.750

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, when we, when we do get to you, if you'd like to share comment, I will call your name and then I'll invite you to unmute, so you'll see the option to unmute and then you can speak into your comment.

184

00:41:47.190 --> 00:41:51.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): So just a couple reminders there.

185

00:41:52.380 --> 00:41:57.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): Once we get through the preregistered folks or if any of the preregistered people are on the phone

186

00:41:59.700 --> 00:42:11.760

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'll just ask you to use star nine to raise your hand and let us know that you would like to share your comment, and, and so when you're on the phone, that's star nine to raise your hand.

187

00:42:14.580 --> 00:42:24.960

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then, when you, when I do call on you and you unmute, we would just ask that you first state and spell your name for the record, so we make sure that that is recorded accurately.

188

00:42:25.620 --> 00:42:30.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then we do have about just over 90 people on the meeting today, and we're not

189

00:42:31.380 --> 00:42:44.250

Meg Perry (SWCA): you know, we're here to hear all the comments that folks want to share so to make sure we have time to get to everyone, we are asking you all to please limit your comments to five minutes, and I'll have a little timer up so you can kind of keep track for yourself.

190

00:42:46.350 --> 00:42:55.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): And, of course, if you have more than five minutes or the comments, we welcome you to submit additional comments in writing in the ways that Mary described.

191

00:42:55.890 --> 00:43:08.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): Or, you can always get back in the queue at the end once others have had a chance to speak. So that's how we're going to walk through the public comments here, and then, once we've heard all public comments, we will turn to those questions and answers.

192

00:43:09.870 --> 00:43:15.630

Meg Perry (SWCA): So please do keep the questions. If you have other questions, please put those in the Q and A

193

00:43:17.040 --> 00:43:22.530

Meg Perry (SWCA): as we go forward. So with that I'm going to go ahead and turn us to our first commenter,

194

00:43:24.390 --> 00:43:30.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): who as Christy noted in the chat, is Matt Gove. I hope I'm pronouncing that correctly.

195

00:43:32.970 --> 00:43:34.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you should be able to unmute now, Matt.

196

00:43:36.390 --> 00:43:44.370

Matt Gove: Alright, you can hear me? Yes, alright. I was pretty shocked to see my name up there first but I'll take it. Matt Gove,

197

00:43:45.390 --> 00:43:53.130

Matt Gove: G-O-V-E. I'm from Surfrider Foundation, and we're still reviewing this project,

198

00:43:54.180 --> 00:44:01.920

Matt Gove: getting through that DEIS, but we haven't seen anything in there that would keep us from supporting this project so we'll be sending in

199

00:44:02.730 --> 00:44:11.670

Matt Gove: formal written comments, but just wanted to highlight that we're, we're really hoping to see some leadership from BOEM here on monitoring.

200

00:44:12.270 --> 00:44:23.430

Matt Gove: We really need to have monitoring before the project goes in, after it goes in, if it does go in and, and for all the other projects that that could be coming down the pipeline.

201

00:44:24.270 --> 00:44:40.440

Matt Gove: If we don't have a standardized monitoring to have standardized data across all these projects, we'll have no idea, you know, if any impacts are happening that we can't see. So that's, that's my main point for tonight and we'll send in more comments later. Thank you.

202

00:44:41.430 --> 00:44:42.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. Thank you for sharing that comment.

203

00:44:44.580 --> 00:44:45.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

204

00:44:49.170 --> 00:44:53.340

Meg Perry (SWCA): Up next, we have Pamela Mahoney. So, Pamela, I will

205

00:44:55.230 --> 00:44:57.150

Meg Perry (SWCA): invite you to share your comment.

206

00:45:00.270 --> 00:45:03.180

Mike Mahoney: Hi there. This is Mike Mahoney for Pamela Mahoney.

207

00:45:03.600 --> 00:45:04.050

Mike Mahoney: Okay.

208

00:45:05.370 --> 00:45:07.680

Mike Mahoney: We're sitting here together and,

209

00:45:09.060 --> 00:45:11.220

Mike Mahoney: just, make sure you help me out if I

210

00:45:12.240 --> 00:45:26.190

Mike Mahoney: am wrong, and what I'm asking of you guys. But as I listened to Mr. Bennett and to Mary Boatman, I think I'm on target. You in this process will evaluate the alternative landing sites in

211

00:45:27.840 --> 00:45:33.060

Mike Mahoney: equal detail, as you are the preferred landing site, isn't that correct?

212

00:45:34.320 --> 00:45:37.560

Mike Mahoney: And, and when I say that

213

00:45:39.420 --> 00:45:58.560

Mike Mahoney: I want to point out that where Eversource/Orsted, that is proposing to land us in Wainscott in Beach Lane, that is a narrow street that is heavily used by people to access the beach, both in walking, bicycling, jogging, and

214

00:46:00.330 --> 00:46:16.260

Mike Mahoney: when I look at the alternative landing site, it is much wider and much more safer for both the residents that access the beach there, as well as the workers. The workers are going to be in a very confined area.

215

00:46:17.460 --> 00:46:19.350

Mike Mahoney: Then somebody,

216

00:46:20.460 --> 00:46:28.080

Mike Mahoney: and I think it was Mr. Bennett, mentioned about economically feasible. As I understand this project for the South Fork Wind Farm,

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00:46:28.680 --> 00:46:37.980

Mike Mahoney: the cost for the electricity for ratepayers and Suffolk County will be five times higher than any other location in the State of New York.

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00:46:38.460 --> 00:46:48.840

Mike Mahoney: And that concerns me greatly, especially when the adjacent windfarm, Sunrise, is being paid for by all the ratepayers in the State of New York.

219

00:46:49.230 --> 00:47:00.540

Mike Mahoney: I don't think that that's proper. I know that that's the agreement that LIPA and Orsted has signed, but I hope that you have input and can go back and suggest that they re-look at that.

220

00:47:01.530 --> 00:47:12.450

Mike Mahoney: And then, in addition to that, the project South Fork Wind Farm, the 15 turbines, is being built adjacent to the Sunrise Wind Farm.

221

00:47:13.410 --> 00:47:30.660

Mike Mahoney: The difference being, because we had originally asked wouldn't it make sense to just run one cable down to mid-island with the Sunrise and run it in, was that they couldn't because the turbines are producing DC for the South Fork and AC for the Sunrise.

222

00:47:31.710 --> 00:47:45.840

Mike Mahoney: Wouldn't it be okay to go back to Orsted/Eversource and say put AC turbines up there, instead of DC and just run the one cable and have less environmental impact, to our ocean bottom and our sea creatures, mammals.

223

00:47:47.580 --> 00:48:00.270

Mike Mahoney: Those are the comments that I want to make. The thing that I want to know and hope to know is that BOEM will be looking at those items and making their decision whether to ask

224

00:48:00.720 --> 00:48:10.350

Mike Mahoney: or to tell them to adjust, or to accept, or not to accept this project, because, as I see it, there are better alternatives that have not been proposed.

225

00:48:11.130 --> 00:48:22.830

Mike Mahoney: And to point that out when I spoke with representatives to PSEG and LIPA and I said what will be the next savings and CO2 emissions from this project. They told me that,

226

00:48:24.420 --> 00:48:28.350

Mike Mahoney: and it took a little bit to get them to respond, initially, they just gave me a smile.

227

00:48:28.950 --> 00:48:45.720

Mike Mahoney: But, in fact, they said that they wouldn't be shutting down any of the CO2-generating power facilities in our East Hampton, that they continue to need them to be running things so that they could quickly supply power to the east end of East Hampton.

228

00:48:46.800 --> 00:48:47.220

Mike Mahoney: The

229

00:48:48.780 --> 00:48:59.370

Mike Mahoney: project has been sold to us as a means to provide peak power during the summer, when air conditioning is being used out there.

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00:49:01.140 --> 00:49:07.590

Mike Mahoney: The wind blows less in the summertime than it does during the wintertime. I

231

00:49:08.640 --> 00:49:17.970

Mike Mahoney: wonder the impact to the climate, which this is the goal, ultimately, is to improve our climate and to reduce carbon fossil fuel burning.

232

00:49:18.840 --> 00:49:30.720

Mike Mahoney: If we're only adding to CO2 from the equipment used to install this, as well as continuing to run our CO2-generating power facilities,

233

00:49:31.290 --> 00:49:49.770

Mike Mahoney: this project doesn't seem to be meeting that guideline to improving our climate or to reducing CO2, or reducing the contribution to climate change, global warming. Those are my comments, and I thank you very much, Meg and panel, and I hope that you will investigate that and

234

00:49:50.670 --> 00:49:52.260

you'll make your decision accordingly.

235

00:49:53.610 --> 00:49:55.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you Mike for those comments.

236

00:49:56.880 --> 00:49:57.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

237

00:50:00.870 --> 00:50:05.100

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, next on the list we have David Monti.

238

00:50:07.500 --> 00:50:08.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, I will

239

00:50:12.390 --> 00:50:13.920

Meg Perry (SWCA): open the floor to you, David.

240

00:50:15.840 --> 00:50:17.370

David Monti: Thank you, Meg.

241

00:50:19.080 --> 00:50:29.370

David Monti: My name is Dave Monti, that's M-O-N-T-I, and I'm a charter captain and fisherman from Rhode Island. I'm a board member of the

242

00:50:29.910 --> 00:50:37.320

David Monti: American Saltwater Guides Association, the second vice president of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers, vice chair of the

243

00:50:37.740 --> 00:50:43.020

David Monti: Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and a member of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association.

244

00:50:43.980 --> 00:50:52.890

David Monti: I thank BOEM and South Fork when for proposing this project. Without it, we would miss out on badly needed renewable energy.

245

00:50:53.460 --> 00:51:01.020

David Monti: The fish I catch today as a charter captain a vastly different type in abundance due to climate change impacts.

246

00:51:01.590 --> 00:51:13.440

David Monti: So, the fishing industry needs renewable energy to help them stem the tide on climate impacts. One missing component of this DEIS private recreational fishing.

247

00:51:14.220 --> 00:51:24.390

David Monti: Yet it occurs in this wind farm area. South Fork has acknowledged the importance of private recreational fishing in has reached out

248

00:51:24.960 --> 00:51:37.620

David Monti: outside of this DEIS, actually, with surveys fishing out workshops, fishing representatives in meetings, but private angling is not covered in this DEIS.

249

00:51:38.460 --> 00:51:48.600

David Monti: It's not the developer's job to report who is fishing in a wind farm area and, and what they catch, and I really wouldn't want them to, but it is

250

00:51:49.050 --> 00:51:52.920

David Monti: Rather, the job of NOAA and BOEM to make sure that this is covered.

251

00:51:53.670 --> 00:52:08.400

David Monti: Recreational fishing surveys, like the collegiate study being done by the New England Aquarium and electronic recording used by the for-hire industry and private angler projects all present ways to capture

252

00:52:08.880 --> 00:52:22.530

David Monti: private recreational fishing catch and effort in wind farm areas. Recreational anglers are supportive of offshore when, as long as the wind farms that develop responsibly with research before, during, and after construction.

253

00:52:23.700 --> 00:52:31.140

David Monti: I'm happy to say that the South Fork Wind Farm is being responsibly developed with an aggressive research and monitoring plan

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00:52:31.500 --> 00:52:45.270

David Monti: in place that recreational fishers like myself and commercial fishermen have developed. Research in the area now includes gill net, fish trap, beam trawl, pot surveys, acoustic telemetry,

255

00:52:45.690 --> 00:52:58.050

David Monti: and biological cod and collegiate fish studies. It is a robust fisheries research and monitoring plan, the kind every wind farm should have to measure positive and negative impacts.

256

00:52:58.770 --> 00:53:08.220

David Monti: And yes, I said positive impacts, because I and other anglers believe offshore wind farms will have a major positive impact on habitat and fish.

257

00:53:08.940 --> 00:53:19.740

David Monti: A peer-reviewed study in European wind farm relates greater fish abundance inside wind farms, than outside the wind farm areas in controlled areas.

258

00:53:20.250 --> 00:53:27.060

David Monti: And at the Block Island Wind Farm, which I know something about because I fish it, recreational fishing there is good, perhaps even

259

00:53:27.450 --> 00:53:35.280

David Monti: a bit better than before the wind farm, even though fishing pressure in the area has increased 200%. There is now

260

00:53:36.060 --> 00:53:47.010

David Monti: even striped bass, and bluefish are being targeted at the wind farms, in as well as Scott black sea bass, tautog and nearby fluke and cod

261

00:53:47.910 --> 00:54:02.910

David Monti: is caught there, as well as in many other areas outside Cox's Ledge. Spear fisherman dive on the pylons, and rod-and-reel anglers are now using eels to target large striped bass.

262

00:54:03.540 --> 00:54:19.980

David Monti: At the Block Island Wind Farm, commercial gillnets, pots, trawlers, and recreational fishermen all fish in the area, as it should be. In my opinion, fishing should be enhanced at Cox's Ledge to with this enhanced with reef effect.

263

00:54:21.060 --> 00:54:36.420

David Monti: Another deficiency related to this in the DEIS that it relates, the reef effect of foundations and associated scour protection is expected to have a quote negligible-to-minor beneficial impact, unquote.

264

00:54:37.290 --> 00:54:44.820

David Monti: Based on studies in Europe in the Block Island Wind Farm the reef effect will have a major positive impact. This should be changed.

265

00:54:45.510 --> 00:54:54.000

David Monti: In fact, colleagues have recommended adding scour protection to enhance habitat in fish at the pylons, pylons, excuse me.

266

00:54:54.450 --> 00:55:04.650

David Monti: In conclusion, I reject the transit lane alternative and support the proposed action, as it provides for possible micro-siting of turbines.

267

00:55:05.100 --> 00:55:15.630

David Monti: With a consistent one-mile nautical spacing between turbines. The one-by-one layout is the approved U.S. Coast Guard recommendation providing an optimal safety.

268

00:55:16.320 --> 00:55:23.310

David Monti: I am opposed to the four-mile transit lane, as all travel would be funneled into one congested area.

269

00:55:23.880 --> 00:55:34.890

David Monti: My biggest fear as a state-licensed and federally credential captain is being hit by someone else. The transit lane option will increase those chances.

270

00:55:35.370 --> 00:55:40.980

David Monti: Part of developing a wind farm responsibly is building it in the safest manner possible.

271

00:55:41.340 --> 00:55:56.010

David Monti: The transit lane alternative is not the safest way to build a wind farm and should be rejected. Once again, thank you, and I am grateful for the National Environmental Policy Act that allows fishermen like me to comment on such a project. Thank you.

272

00:55:57.420 --> 00:55:58.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you for your comments.

273

00:56:00.690 --> 00:56:01.260

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

274

00:56:02.280 --> 00:56:05.040

Meg Perry (SWCA): Next up, we have Anthony Guerrero.

275

00:56:08.280 --> 00:56:10.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, Anthony, I will

276

00:56:11.940 --> 00:56:14.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): invite you to unmute here.

277

00:56:19.560 --> 00:56:21.210

Meg Perry (SWCA): Hello there.

278

00:56:22.020 --> 00:56:23.520

Anthony Guerrero: Hi there, thank you for the time.

279

00:56:24.840 --> 00:56:30.300

Anthony Guerrero: My name is Anthony Guerrero, Local 28 Sheet Metal Workers here in New York and Long Island.

280

00:56:32.070 --> 00:56:34.800

Anthony Guerrero: As a Union member, I support offshore wind.

281

00:56:35.850 --> 00:56:47.700

Anthony Guerrero: Large-scale utility development like offshore wind not only will help reduce our massive carbon footprint, it will also mean a tremendous amount of economic opportunity the form of jobs and community benefits.

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00:56:48.480 --> 00:56:58.830

Anthony Guerrero: We have been preparing for this moment for a very long time. We urge approval to be expeditious as possible to get the men and women of the Labor movement to work.

283

00:57:00.240 --> 00:57:03.900

Anthony Guerrero: Thank you for your time. Thank you for the presentation. Very important. Thank you.

284

00:57:05.880 --> 00:57:07.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you very much for those comments.

285

00:57:12.000 --> 00:57:16.740

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay. Next we have comments from Roger Clayman.

286

00:57:25.470 --> 00:57:26.550

Roger Clayman: Okay, thank you.

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00:57:27.900 --> 00:57:34.260

Roger Clayman: My name is Roger Clayman. I think you said spell it. C-L-A-Y-M-A-N.

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00:57:35.010 --> 00:57:52.230

Roger Clayman: I am the executive director of the Long Island Federation of Labor. We represent 250,000 working men and women and their families on Long Island. I've submitted something in writing, so I'll try to be brief in the interest of time.

289

00:57:53.400 --> 00:58:07.290

Roger Clayman: We're anxious to see the South Fork project go forward. It addresses some major concerns on Long Island. First of all, climate change. We're very sensitive as an island to what the impacts will be.

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00:58:08.460 --> 00:58:15.870

Roger Clayman: It, secondly, it brings the South Fork what they voted for, which is wind power.

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00:58:17.100 --> 00:58:39.240

Roger Clayman: And third, is job creation. On a very large scale, this project opens the door to many others. Approving this statement, this environmental statement that they and construction, operation plan, will really be just the beginning of a large number of new careers that can be created.

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00:58:40.260 --> 00:58:47.730

Roger Clayman: I just want to give my personal experience in working with the developer. You know they've been very diligent about their environmental studies

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00:58:48.180 --> 00:59:00.840

Roger Clayman: and their work with the community arm. And they've done this over the last couple of years, but we've really been working with them back when they were called Deepwater Wind, going back 10 years. And

294

00:59:01.320 --> 00:59:19.920

Roger Clayman: over that period of time, they've demonstrated incredible amount of concern for every stakeholder in the community, whether its environmental, or Labor, working people, or businesses that are impacted, so I think they've done their homework and they've done it very well.

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00:59:22.170 --> 00:59:28.470

Roger Clayman: The South Fork Wind submitted its construction and operation plan to BOEM in 2018,

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00:59:30.330 --> 00:59:42.510

Roger Clayman: and it's continued to collect the data in a transparent way to provide all the agencies and stakeholders with information and potential environmental impacts from the project.

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00:59:43.470 --> 01:00:05.100

Roger Clayman: We have concerns on the layout of the project, that it not be changed and that, that we maintain the one mile-by-one mile layout. Otherwise, I feel, with a wider four-mile stretch, we could undermine the, the economic value from the project.

298

01:00:06.390 --> 01:00:18.030

Roger Clayman: The developers also been diligent in their commitments to the host community, and I believe that they should land this project in Wainscott.

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01:00:18.570 --> 01:00:25.710

Roger Clayman: We have a workforce. It's very skilled at digging trenches, connecting to substations.

300

01:00:26.460 --> 01:00:37.170

Roger Clayman: We've done this all over Long Island and, and it can be done safely and with consideration for the population and really makes the most sense. So

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01:00:38.100 --> 01:00:47.640

Roger Clayman: I would urge you to move forward with the permitting schedule and release the construction operation plan as early as possible this year. Thank you.

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01:00:49.890 --> 01:00:50.760

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you very much.

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01:00:55.140 --> 01:00:55.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

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01:00:56.820 --> 01:00:57.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): Next.

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01:01:00.570 --> 01:01:07.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so that was Roger, so next up in the queue we have Sinade Wadsworth.

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01:01:15.600 --> 01:01:16.740

and

307

01:01:22.290 --> 01:01:33.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): Not sure if they've joined us today. If you're on the phone, if you could dial star nine to raise your hands and I'll know that it's you and I can call on you.

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01:01:39.990 --> 01:01:42.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): Otherwise, we may need to circle back.

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01:01:45.300 --> 01:01:48.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, I'm not seeing anyone on the phone raise their hand, so

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01:01:51.990 --> 01:01:57.600

Meg Perry (SWCA): we will circle back to, and I hope I'm not mispronouncing that, but my best guess.

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01:01:58.830 --> 01:02:02.940

Meg Perry (SWCA): We'll circle back to Sinade Wadsworth later to see if they're able to join.

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01:02:04.950 --> 01:02:08.010

Meg Perry (SWCA): Next then will be Joe Martens.

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01:02:14.970 --> 01:02:16.710

Joe Martens: Great. Thank you, can hear me okay?

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01:02:17.430 --> 01:02:18.720

Meg Perry (SWCA): Yes, you sound good. Go ahead.

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01:02:19.050 --> 01:02:31.080

Joe Martens: Alright, my name is Joe Martens, M-A-R-T-E-N-S, and I'm the director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance, or NYOWA, which is a project of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York.

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01:02:31.920 --> 01:02:39.450

Joe Martens: I'm also the former commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, where I served Governor Cuomo from 2011 to 2015.

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01:02:40.800 --> 01:02:51.240

Joe Martens: NYOWA is a unique coalition of offshore wind developers, environmental NGOs, Labor organizations, and a variety of businesses, all dedicated to promoting the responsible development of offshore wind

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01:02:51.810 --> 01:03:00.180

Joe Martens: in federal waters off of New York's coastline. Orsted, the half-owner of the South Fork project, is an NYOWA member, as are many, many of the other

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01:03:00.660 --> 01:03:03.780

Joe Martens: members of the community that have been testifying at these hearings.

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01:03:04.680 --> 01:03:15.660

Joe Martens: Let me start by thanking BOEM and staff for completing and releasing the draft EIS in the middle of the national health emergency. This is really critical work, and moving forward, and the project is important not only for Long Island,

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01:03:16.170 --> 01:03:28.170

Joe Martens: but for New York and the nation. It's critical on many levels in the fight against climate change, in our efforts to reduce criteria pollutants, improve public health, address long-standing environmental justice issues,

322

01:03:28.680 --> 01:03:33.510

Joe Martens: and to help restart the economy and provide family-wage jobs in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

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01:03:34.230 --> 01:03:40.920

Joe Martens: I plan to submit written comments on behalf of NYOWA, but I'd like to just emphasize a few high-level points in my oral testimony.

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01:03:41.820 --> 01:03:54.330

Joe Martens: First, although it's relatively modest in size compared to other projects in BOEM's queue, the South Fork project, as I've already noted, is critically important, is a critically important project and it's been 10 years in the making.

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01:03:55.440 --> 01:04:01.680

Joe Martens: It's an essential local project that would move East Hampton toward its 100% renewable energy goal. Second,

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01:04:02.190 --> 01:04:12.390

Joe Martens: it's an important and positive step towards achieving New York's nation-leading climate renewable energy standards, and specifically, its 9,000-megawatt offshore wind target by 2035.

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01:04:13.050 --> 01:04:22.830

Joe Martens: And finally, it would further President Biden's climate goals as recently outlined and Executive Order 14008. Notably, the South Fork project, if approved,

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01:04:23.580 --> 01:04:30.720

Joe Martens: would triple the current offshore wind power generation in the United States and kickstart this new American clean energy industry.

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01:04:31.710 --> 01:04:39.570

Joe Martens: The history of how this project got started as important. Electricity needs on the South Fork are growing faster than anywhere else on Long Island.

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01:04:40.080 --> 01:04:47.010

Joe Martens: And in 2015 the Long Island Power Authority issued a technology-neutral, competitive RFP to address this need.

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01:04:47.760 --> 01:04:53.850

Joe Martens: And more than 20 proposals were received and the South Fork Wind Farm was selected as the most cost-effective solution.

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01:04:54.420 --> 01:05:04.350

Joe Martens: And it is by far the most environmentally effective solution. Importantly the DEIS concluded that the majority of the anticipated impacts from the project will be minor or moderate

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01:05:04.740 --> 01:05:13.950

Joe Martens: and higher-rated impacts can be mitigated. The DEIS also calls out a number of long-term benefits, including the development of a clean domestic energy source,

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01:05:14.400 --> 01:05:21.180

Joe Martens: and clean energy, job creation, the promotion of renewable energy that is affordable, affordable, reliable safe and secure.

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01:05:21.990 --> 01:05:30.720

Joe Martens: Its contribution to meeting New York's climate and energy goals and increased habitat for certain species, as you heard about from the charter captain a few minutes ago.

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01:05:32.040 --> 01:05:39.600

Joe Martens: There is more, more than enough information and data in the DEIS for BOEM to approve the proposed project.

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01:05:40.740 --> 01:05:54.450

Joe Martens: The vessel transit lane alternative, on the other hand, should be rejected. This alternative would effectively eliminate the South Fork southern row of foundation locations and could substantially impact the project's economic viability.

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01:05:55.620 --> 01:06:03.240

Joe Martens: Orsted and Eversource, along with other developers of the New England wind energy areas, have agreed to advance all projects in these

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01:06:03.600 --> 01:06:08.160

Joe Martens: areas, including the South Fork project, with a one-by-one nautical mile layout.

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01:06:08.970 --> 01:06:15.630

Joe Martens: This layout provides ample room for safe navigation and was adapted to minimize the impact on commercial fishing.

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01:06:16.230 --> 01:06:27.300

Joe Martens: Importantly, the U.S. Coast Guard concluded, concluded that a four-nautical mile wide navigation quarter would make navigation more challenging increase the risk for vessel interaction.

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01:06:28.350 --> 01:06:37.530

Joe Martens: To the extent that the South Fork project sets a precedent, the transit lane alternative would add that adversely impact all of the project and these areas

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01:06:37.980 --> 01:06:50.850

Joe Martens: and would reduce the overall generating capacity by some 3,300 megawatts, which in turn would dramatically reduce emission reductions, public health benefits, economic investments, and employment opportunities.

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01:06:51.600 --> 01:06:56.130

Joe Martens: Where BOEM comes out on the South Fork and other well-advanced projects like Vineyard Wind

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01:06:56.580 --> 01:07:06.090

Joe Martens: will send a clear message to the entire offshore wind industry and will likely determine whether it will invest billions in the U.S. and give birth to an entirely new clean energy industry.

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01:07:06.990 --> 01:07:17.460

Joe Martens: So, I want to thank BOEM once again for advancing this DEIS and urge to finalize it and ultimately move to a record of decision approving the proposed projects. Thanks again for all your hard work.

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01:07:19.680 --> 01:07:22.080

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you for those comments. Thank you.

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01:07:25.680 --> 01:07:29.250

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright next up, we have Rich Hittinger.

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01:07:40.920 --> 01:07:42.180

Rich Hittinger: Great. Thank you very much.

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01:07:43.500 --> 01:07:48.480

Rich Hittinger: And thank you too, BOEM, for the opportunity to make these comments.

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01:07:50.250 --> 01:07:59.400

Rich Hittinger: First thing out, I'll say some of my comments are actually in the form of questions, but you can take them as comments and, hopefully, I can get an answer at some point.

352

01:08:01.020 --> 01:08:15.150

Rich Hittinger: I understand that driving 31-foot-diameter piles into the sea floor will emit tremendous sound pressure, but on page 3-23,

353

01:08:16.770 --> 01:08:34.020

Rich Hittinger: Table 3.4.23, seems to indicate that fin fish, out to a radius of 39,265 feet will be harmed during the installation of these

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01:08:35.820 --> 01:08:49.230

Rich Hittinger: 31-foot-diameter monopiles. That's a diameter, a circular diameter, of 12.9 nautical miles. I'm just wondering if that, if this is actually true and,

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01:08:49.980 --> 01:09:03.570

Rich Hittinger: if so, I'd like to know what is the anticipated radius of expected fin fish mortality. I'm sure it would be much smaller, but I'd like to know what that is.

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01:09:05.370 --> 01:09:30.390

Rich Hittinger: With Cox's Ledge being the best offshore fishing area for recreational fishing from Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, I'm wondering how the draft EIS was produced, and it does not even mention that private recreational fishing exists at the site of the proposed action.

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01:09:31.740 --> 01:09:38.760

Rich Hittinger: Potential impacts of the proposed action on private recreational fishing need to be thoroughly evaluated.

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01:09:41.070 --> 01:10:01.440

Rich Hittinger: My next comment is, where is there a complete evaluation of alternatives which require less sound energy impacts, such as gravity foundations, floating platforms, or jacketed foundations, which require much lower energy during pile driving.

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01:10:03.510 --> 01:10:17.910

Rich Hittinger: So, I guess I didn't, I didn't spell my name in the beginning, but it's Rich Hittinger, H-I-T-T-I-N-G-E-R, and I am the first vice president of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association.

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01:10:18.360 --> 01:10:32.340

Rich Hittinger: I am former vice chairman of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, and I am a recreational fisherman out of Rhode Island who does a lot of fishing out in this area of Cox's Ledge, so.

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01:10:34.170 --> 01:10:42.510

Rich Hittinger: And I also fish in the area where the Block Island Wind Farm is located. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

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01:10:44.400 --> 01:10:44.820

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you.

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01:10:49.980 --> 01:10:54.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, just a couple more folks have signed up to comment.

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01:10:56.880 --> 01:11:07.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, we'll turn next to Alice Marlin, then we'll check again to see if Sinade Wilson, or sorry, Wadsworth, Wadsworth might have joined, and then, I see, we have a couple other hands up

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01:11:08.370 --> 01:11:17.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): from Adrienne Esposito and James Fletcher, so we'll go to you after these next two. So, Alice Marlin, would you like to share your comment now?

366

01:11:20.970 --> 01:11:37.530

Alice Marlin: Thank you very much, I found your nice mute button. I wanted to start off by congratulating BOEM on the appointment of your new director, Amanda Lefton, and we're, we're very proud to see a local Long Island person with such

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01:11:39.030 --> 01:11:56.970

Alice Marlin: a strong background and capability to undertake the, the major opportunities and challenges facing the nation as we develop offshore wind all along the coast.

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01:11:58.140 --> 01:12:12.840

Alice Marlin: I like to endorse and compliment you on the work so far on the DEIS and comment that this project overall is overwhelmingly beneficial

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01:12:13.290 --> 01:12:19.590

Alice Marlin: both to the nation and in mitigating the effects of climate change and ocean acidification.

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01:12:20.190 --> 01:12:34.890

Alice Marlin: And that it has very strong local community support here in East Hampton where the cable would be landing, despite a small but highly vocal NIMBY objections

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01:12:35.700 --> 01:12:50.910

Alice Marlin: that have virtually no basis in logic or a fair consideration of the impacts on the far larger number of people who would be adversely affected by the alternate routes for landing the cable.

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01:12:52.110 --> 01:12:58.470

Alice Marlin: I wanted to focus in a little bit on marine effects.

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01:12:59.520 --> 01:13:13.920

Alice Marlin: And I am glad that you have brought up the effect on the endangered species, the North Atlantic right whale. I, and I wanted to recommend

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01:13:15.090 --> 01:13:25.290

Alice Marlin: that a detailed evaluation of the agreement between the NRDC and Vineyard Wind be extricated and,

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01:13:26.310 --> 01:13:32.430

Alice Marlin: and analyzed and would like to put in a strong recommendation that

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01:13:33.450 --> 01:13:47.910

Alice Marlin: the agreement between Orsted that, that Orsted's s agreement here with NRDC and perhaps the National Wildlife Foundation and other major environmental organizations involved

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01:13:48.960 --> 01:14:11.010

Alice Marlin: be at least as strong as Vineyard Wind. I understand that the noise, it could potentially have adverse effects not only on migrating North Atlantic right whales, but also fin fish. But I also understand that there are significant mitigating factors which could

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01:14:12.120 --> 01:14:16.500

Alice Marlin: reduce those impacts to very minor ones

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01:14:17.550 --> 01:14:24.930

Alice Marlin: and reduce the chances that the right whales would run into them at all. These

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01:14:26.370 --> 01:14:28.260

Alice Marlin: are very interesting

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01:14:30.390 --> 01:14:44.250

Alice Marlin: approaches, such as having 24-seven visibility, as to whether any right whales are approaching the area with the

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01:14:45.120 --> 01:14:55.800

Alice Marlin: absolute authority to completely shut down operations until the right whales are out of sight. They're also a number of new technologies to

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01:14:56.400 --> 01:15:09.660

Alice Marlin: minimize the effects of any noise. The noises primarily affect only during construction stage, but there are some very interesting new technologies which it would be good to explore.

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01:15:11.040 --> 01:15:22.050

Alice Marlin: And these new technologies, like a bubble curtain around the area, would tend to signal to fin fish and other marine animals

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01:15:22.800 --> 01:15:29.370

Alice Marlin: that they should not enter the area where the decibel level is of a danger.

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01:15:29.970 --> 01:15:42.990

Alice Marlin: The technology is developing rapidly in that area, so perhaps the best way to address this is simply a limit on the decibel level rather than specifying a particular technology.

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01:15:43.560 --> 01:16:05.490

Alice Marlin: Also wanted to remind all of us that, although any kind of activity anywhere has some negative effects, that far stronger dangers come from both climate change and ocean acidification. I'm referring particularly to

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01:16:06.600 --> 01:16:09.150

Alice Marlin: a Nova study on ocean

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01:16:09.270 --> 01:16:27.510

Alice Marlin: acidification, which says it's already impacting many ocean species, especially organisms like oysters, a very significant factor here in East Hampton. Acidifications make their hard shells and skeletons,

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01:16:30.510 --> 01:16:40.230

Alice Marlin: it erodes these calcium carbonate structures, and if the pH level gets too low, the shells and skeletons even begin to dissolve.

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01:16:41.280 --> 01:16:44.040

Alice Marlin: So, this, any,

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01:16:45.450 --> 01:17:07.740

Alice Marlin: any change like these, this proposed wind farm would go a long way toward protecting all of our shellfish. Thank you very much. I've run through my five minutes, but congratulations to all of you on, thank you for the great work that BOEM is doing in advancing this DEIS.

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01:17:09.150 --> 01:17:10.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, thank you for those comments.

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01:17:13.050 --> 01:17:13.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

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01:17:20.580 --> 01:17:24.210

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, we have a few more folks with hands up.

396

01:17:25.680 --> 01:17:30.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): I will just check once more to see maybe if Sinade Wadsworth might have joined us.

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01:17:34.230 --> 01:17:37.530

Meg Perry (SWCA): And when we called your name earlier, you weren't on yet.

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01:17:39.900 --> 01:17:47.010

Meg Perry (SWCA): But I know it's end of a long day for many people, so maybe something came up. If you are on the phone

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01:17:48.330 --> 01:17:50.340

Meg Perry (SWCA): you can use star nine, too,

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01:17:51.390 --> 01:17:53.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): let us know that you're here, and I can call on you.

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01:17:58.260 --> 01:18:08.790

Meg Perry (SWCA): But it doesn't look like they made it, so we'll go on to the next person. Alright, Adrienne Esposito, you are up next.

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01:18:12.060 --> 01:18:21.420

Adrienne Esposito: Okay, great. Thank you so much. Can hear me? Yes. Okay, thank you. My name is Adrienne Esposito. I'm the executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

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01:18:21.810 --> 01:18:27.090

Adrienne Esposito: We are a statewide environmental organization with 140,000 members.

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01:18:27.990 --> 01:18:36.000

Adrienne Esposito: Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We'll be submitting more detailed comments, but I just want to make a few brief points tonight. The first is that

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01:18:36.900 --> 01:18:54.450

Adrienne Esposito: we, I think it's worth putting into the DEIS, the issue that, although this wind farm won't cause a fossil fuel plant to close, it prevents another one from being built. I've heard several times

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01:18:55.980 --> 01:19:01.890

Adrienne Esposito: residents asked if there'll be a carbon dioxide reduction due to plant closure.

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01:19:02.520 --> 01:19:11.190

Adrienne Esposito: Well, I think it's important for you remember the whole reason this wind farm was chosen was from a competitive bid to fill a energy need.

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01:19:11.460 --> 01:19:19.320

Adrienne Esposito: on the South Fork. And that energy need has increased a great deal since Covid, since many more people have moved out there.

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01:19:19.800 --> 01:19:30.180

Adrienne Esposito: So, although a plant may not be closing, and that's true, it prevented another fossil fuel plant from being built, because the energy company chose wind

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01:19:30.690 --> 01:19:38.520

Adrienne Esposito: over a traditional power plant, and I think that should be in the DEIS. The second thing is about

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01:19:39.000 --> 01:19:48.570

Adrienne Esposito: recreational fishing, and again, I'm so glad the last speaker raised the issue of acidification. I think it's very important for the public to understand

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01:19:48.900 --> 01:19:59.970

Adrienne Esposito: that one of the things that's harming recreational fishing, particularly on Long Island, is climate change, and one aspect of climate change, ocean acidification.

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01:20:00.450 --> 01:20:09.330

Adrienne Esposito: According to the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University, all three estuaries that touch Long Island, the Long Island Sound,

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01:20:09.720 --> 01:20:24.330

Adrienne Esposito: the Peconic Estuary, and the South Shore Estuary, have increased acidification, increased acid levels in the marine environment. This is not good for our shellfish nor often fish production.

415

01:20:25.830 --> 01:20:32.640

Adrienne Esposito: Also, with the climate change, we have such decreased with fish populations, such as the winter flounder,

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01:20:33.090 --> 01:20:48.000

Adrienne Esposito: in the Long Island Sound, and in particular the South Shore Estuary. In fact, it's so devastated that the charter boat fishermen have stopped looking in the South Shore Estuary for winter flounder because they can't find them any longer.

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01:20:48.990 --> 01:21:01.020

Adrienne Esposito: So, the reason I'm saying that is a couple of, you know, comments want to include the impact to fish during installation, and that's correct, that's fair, and it should be.

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01:21:01.350 --> 01:21:14.550

Adrienne Esposito: But we also have to talk about the impact of fish out long term because of climate change and ocean acidification, and so there might be a short-term impact for installation.

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01:21:15.570 --> 01:21:20.850

Adrienne Esposito: But that would be fighting a long-term impact caused by climate change.

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01:21:21.840 --> 01:21:33.480

Adrienne Esposito: And the last thing I just want to mention is that we also strongly support the one-by-one layout for the turbines, which we also believe provides ample room for navigation.

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01:21:34.110 --> 01:21:38.820

Adrienne Esposito: As someone who grew up on Long Island with one foot on the land and one foot in a boat,

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01:21:39.810 --> 01:21:48.360

Adrienne Esposito: my dad was a charter boat captain on the weekends and deep sea fishing every minute that he could be. And, listen, we listen to the Coast Guard.

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01:21:48.810 --> 01:22:03.480

Adrienne Esposito: Because when the Coast Guard said something was safe, it was safe. And I think we have to defer to our experts and, and really rely on their guidance. Oh, and the other last comment, I just want to 100% agree with the

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01:22:05.100 --> 01:22:18.660

Adrienne Esposito: first speaker from Surf Riders, who asked for standardized monitoring and data before and after installation for all the wind farms, and I would just add to that that that data should be publicly available.

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01:22:19.860 --> 01:22:31.890

Adrienne Esposito: We have lots of data, but if the NGOs cannot see it and understand it and use it in our research, and academia can't use it in their research, then it's not as valuable.

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01:22:32.400 --> 01:22:50.160

Adrienne Esposito: And this kind of data is what will make us be able to have even better siting and can do even more meaningful mitigation, so I believe it to be a key component of this process and to help guide us in the future. Thank you again for the opportunity to come in.

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01:22:51.570 --> 01:22:52.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you for your comments.

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01:22:55.230 --> 01:22:55.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

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01:22:58.050 --> 01:23:01.920

Meg Perry (SWCA): I believe we have James Fletcher up next.

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01:23:10.590 --> 01:23:14.070

Meg Perry (SWCA): And James, are you there? You may have to unmute yourself.

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01:23:17.490 --> 01:23:19.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): And if you're on the phone, you might need to ...

432

01:23:20.670 --> 01:23:21.000

James Fletcher: Ok, how about now?

433

01:23:22.080 --> 01:23:23.610

Meg Perry: Yes, I can hear you, go ahead.

434

01:23:26.130 --> 01:23:30.300

James Fletcher: Having a long experience on the water for a commercial fisherman,

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01:23:31.440 --> 01:23:44.880

James Fletcher: and having a long history with transatlantic phone cables, which put out minutely less electrical current than these long transmission lines or,

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01:23:46.170 --> 01:23:47.220

James Fletcher: I'm here to say

437

01:23:48.600 --> 01:24:03.510

James Fletcher: that there must be more research done because in England and Scotland, the transmission cables are blocking the movement of the salmon, the eels, and the herring back up the rivers.

438

01:24:04.500 --> 01:24:17.880

James Fletcher: Now I've heard and brought this part up, and "oh you don't know", "we have" we shield", that's as a bunch of mess as long as the cables emit electric current and electromagnetic fields.

439

01:24:18.450 --> 01:24:30.180

James Fletcher: Then we have a problem, because you know as more blanks are attracted to them, is it because the fish and the larvae are accumulating around the cables

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01:24:31.050 --> 01:24:47.850

James Fletcher: and are being consumed as a food source? We've not looked in to it, but we know the fish are not transferring and the larvae are not going across the cables. A starfish will not cross the transatlantic cable and a starfish probably won't pass,

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01:24:50.310 --> 01:24:51.330

James Fletcher: pass these.

442

01:24:52.590 --> 01:25:08.640

James Fletcher: The other thing that comes up in this is layers of water in the ocean are by depth and have different meanings. These poles in the water are going to totally change that there by all the

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01:25:11.040 --> 01:25:20.130

James Fletcher: marine life that use layers are going to be disrupted, whichever way the current runs, if it is running North-to-South

444

01:25:20.640 --> 01:25:40.830

James Fletcher: they'll be disrupted on the south, South-to-North on the south side, on the north side. We've not looked into it, oh, I've got a scientist says this, the scientist, the best available scientists at the time, we're going to lynch Galileo, because they knew what he didn't know.

445

01:25:42.480 --> 01:25:49.380

James Fletcher: They were sure he was wrong, so my point is your science is not very good if what they're saying is correct.

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01:25:50.730 --> 01:25:51.810

James Fletcher: The other thing,

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01:25:52.980 --> 01:26:15.480

James Fletcher: I have a question of why these towers cannot be moved within three to four miles of shore. I know it's aesthetic but is there anything that shows that the wind in these particular areas are more prone to greater power. And this brings up another question.

448

01:26:16.830 --> 01:26:28.140

James Fletcher: Is there an alternative to wind power that BOEM hasn't looked BOEM put a lot of grants out and stuff like that, but people that had alternative ideas,

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01:26:28.560 --> 01:26:45.390

James Fletcher: that would have harvested the Bay of Fundy power and stuff like that. You couldn't get a grant, you had to be in the "In", you had to be in the elite group to get a grant, so I asked BOEM and why they didn't put to open it up to people that had alternative ideas.

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01:26:49.260 --> 01:26:52.530

James Fletcher: I've heard the problem, the marine life.

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01:26:53.640 --> 01:27:05.130

James Fletcher: BOEM has looked at what turned the atmosphere of the world from carbon dioxide to oxygen back many geologic periods ago.

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01:27:06.240 --> 01:27:11.010

James Fletcher: There are alternatives that exist that will do away with this

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01:27:12.420 --> 01:27:21.720

James Fletcher: need for the windmills. And another question I have is when these have lost their life span, who's responsible for taking them out.

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01:27:23.250 --> 01:27:25.740

James Fletcher: And my last thing is just a

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01:27:27.000 --> 01:27:42.960

James Fletcher: chain-jerking comment. The woman that just said that you could trust the Coast Guard, I would ask her to ask the Coast Guard about the men that lost their lives on their cutters in the Gulf of Mexico and the Chesapeake Bay.

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01:27:44.160 --> 01:27:59.640

James Fletcher: The Coast Guard said it was safe, but, yet they killed the men that were on those boats, and it was their men, so don't trust the Coast Guard. Anyhow, BOEM needs to re-back drop back and look before they approve putting anything in the bottom.

457

01:28:01.620 --> 01:28:08.550

James Fletcher: I thank you for your time and we'll standby. Finest guide, James Fletcher, United National Fisherman's Association.

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01:28:10.680 --> 01:28:12.570

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you very much James for your comments.

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01:28:16.800 --> 01:28:17.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

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01:28:23.100 --> 01:28:28.230

Meg Perry (SWCA): Let's see, I believe, David Posnett might have had a hand up.

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01:28:29.580 --> 01:28:30.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): David, are you still on?

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01:28:37.080 --> 01:28:42.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): Yes. Okay, great. And then we'll go to Jennifer Johnson next. Go right ahead, David.

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01:28:43.320 --> 01:28:55.350

David Posnett: So, I am David Posnett, P-O-S-N-E-T-T, I'm a retired MD, I live in East Hampton, and I am part of the steering committee of citizens group called Wind With Wind.

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01:28:56.250 --> 01:29:08.130

David Posnett: Supporting clean energy and in particular the wind farm off of East Hampton. So I have a comment regarding all those that are worried about a

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01:29:08.700 --> 01:29:22.560

David Posnett: nefarious cable running under the seabed and coming ashore somewhere. I would like to point out that a larger cable already exists and feeds power into Long Island coming all the way from New Jersey.

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01:29:23.370 --> 01:29:30.090

David Posnett: This dates back to 2007 when this story was written up in the New York Times, so you can go check it.

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01:29:30.810 --> 01:29:37.230

David Posnett: It's like an extension cord and it's a giant extension cord, and this transmission cable was

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01:29:37.770 --> 01:29:46.860

David Posnett: named Neptune stretches 50 miles underwater from Sayreville, New Jersey, and comes ashore in Jones Beach,

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01:29:47.370 --> 01:29:56.700

David Posnett: and has been plugged into Long Island for all these years. That's about 35 years without any nefarious effects on or off shore.

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01:29:57.570 --> 01:30:09.090

David Posnett: It's a 10-inch cable, and it provides 668 megawatts. So, likewise LIPA imports power from New England on the 330-megawatt

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01:30:09.630 --> 01:30:21.060

David Posnett: Cross Sound Cable, which runs underwater from Connecticut. And there are two older cables that I know of: the 600-megawatt Y-49 cable and the

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01:30:21.720 --> 01:30:45.240

David Posnett: 599-megawatt Y-50 cable, and they also run under the Sound to Long Island. Initial concerns about the effects on the shellfish industry in Long Island Sound, were apparently not a problem all over all these years, and, like, I said, that is 35 years. Thank you very much.

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01:30:48.150 --> 01:30:49.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you for those comments.

474

01:30:51.270 --> 01:30:51.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

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01:30:54.630 --> 01:31:07.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, I think last comment will be from Jennifer Johnson, and then we will turn to the question-answer portion. So, if you do have a question for BOEM,

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01:31:09.030 --> 01:31:24.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): you can put that in the Q and A, type that in, or if you're on the phone only, we can, if you can raise your hand using star nine and we will take your question that way. But before we do that, let's hear from Jennifer.

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01:31:28.140 --> 01:31:30.240

Jennifer Johnson: Hi, can you hear me? Yes.

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01:31:30.300 --> 01:31:38.940

Jennifer Johnson: Go ahead. Hi, I'm Jennifer Johnson. Thank you to BOEM for your good work, and for this opportunity for public comment.

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01:31:40.410 --> 01:31:49.560

Jennifer Johnson: I strongly believe that Americans should not have to choose between a good job and a clean environment. We can and we must have both.

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01:31:50.040 --> 01:32:03.240

Jennifer Johnson: The South Fork wind project makes economic and environmental sense. Large-scale utility development like offshore wind not only will help reduce our massive carbon footprint,

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01:32:03.750 --> 01:32:22.680

Jennifer Johnson: but will also mean a tremendous amount of economic opportunity in the form of good, clean jobs and community benefits. The South Fork wind project will be the first to connect in New York State and will help the local community meet its renewable energy goals.

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01:32:23.760 --> 01:32:34.830

Jennifer Johnson: I strongly urge BOEM to move forward with the permitting schedule, and we can and we must build back better. Thank you so much.

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01:32:37.020 --> 01:32:37.560

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you.

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01:32:40.080 --> 01:32:40.950

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

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01:32:43.980 --> 01:32:56.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I'm not seeing other hands up. I'm going to check in. It looks like we do have questions that have already been submitted, most of those are ready to be answered.

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01:32:59.040 --> 01:33:12.630

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, let's go ahead and turn to those. If, if there are other questions, you're welcome to continue submitting those at this time, and we have the BOEM team in the background working to put those answers together.

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01:33:13.980 --> 01:33:19.440

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, you're welcome to submit additional questions, but let's go ahead and take the ones we've received so far.

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01:33:21.030 --> 01:33:23.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, I will start with

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01:33:25.740 --> 01:33:27.600

Meg Perry (SWCA): questions for Mary,

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01:33:28.620 --> 01:33:30.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): and then we'll turn to Jennifer

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01:33:32.280 --> 01:33:38.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): for, for the answer that she has. So Mary, are you ready to share some answers?

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01:33:39.840 --> 01:33:42.030

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Yes, I am. Can you hear me? Yes.

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01:33:42.930 --> 01:33:55.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so the first question was from Matt Gove, who asked if the Lake Montauk facility moves forward, will there be another NEPA or state review process, or does this process cover that facility?

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01:33:56.760 --> 01:34:08.730

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Great. And I say, hi, Matt, and thanks for joining us. BOEM's current NEPA process will support BOEM's decision whether to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the COP.

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01:34:09.210 --> 01:34:16.350

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Comments during the public comment period, including comments received today, will be addressing, addressed the final environmental impact statement.

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01:34:16.980 --> 01:34:31.440

Mary Boatman (BOEM): But outside BOEM's authority BOEM's EIS, and associate associated consultations, which includes the ESA consultations and HPA consultations, considers potential impacts of operations and maintenance facilities such as the Lake Montauk O&M facility.

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01:34:32.880 --> 01:34:46.110

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The State conducts its own review for portions of the project under its authority, of course, in state waters on state lands and, in addition, adopt modifications and dredging, would be, would require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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01:34:49.230 --> 01:34:49.560

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great.

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01:34:50.970 --> 01:35:10.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay um, then the next question for you, Mary, was from Kathryn Ford, and Kathryn asked, "Is the project purpose to generate 90 megawatts or build 15 turbines? If turbines are greater than six megawatts, turbines greater than six megawatts, are used will there be fewer of them?"

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01:35:11.130 --> 01:35:15.660

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Sure, and hi, Kathryn. Thank you for joining us. We appreciate your participation.

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01:35:16.860 --> 01:35:26.430

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The proposed action analyzed is up to 15 wind turbines with the design envelope of six to 12 megawatts. The current power purchase agreement

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01:35:27.090 --> 01:35:37.020

Mary Boatman (BOEM): is for 130 megawatts, and it will be up to the developer whether to choose to install fewer turbines, but the analysis will still apply because we're looking at the maximum case.

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01:35:38.730 --> 01:35:39.030

Okay.

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01:35:41.070 --> 01:35:48.210

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. And then, finally, a question from Michael Hansen, who asked, "Where can I find the video online of this Zoom and others?"

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01:35:48.870 --> 01:35:50.880

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Yeah, hi, Michael. Thank you for joining us.

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01:35:53.070 --> 01:35:58.230

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The videos and transcripts from this meeting will be posted to our website on our virtual meeting web page.

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01:35:58.830 --> 01:36:12.360

Mary Boatman (BOEM): It will take us a day or two to get through and make it right, make it, make it right. As you can see the transcript isn't perfect. We need to go make it accurate and then, once we're ready, we will post it. It will probably take us one or two days after each meeting.

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01:36:15.450 --> 01:36:18.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): That's that link that I posted previously in the chat.

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01:36:18.480 --> 01:36:20.520

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Yes, correct. Great.

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01:36:21.720 --> 01:36:31.110

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, thank you, Mary. We will turn to Jennifer next for a question from another question from Matt Gove.

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01:36:32.340 --> 01:36:42.120

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, the question was, "Do the turbines include batteries to run AC and other electric needs when the turbines are not spinning. If not, how does that work?"

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01:36:44.340 --> 01:36:48.180

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, Jennifer, if you could just introduce yourself. I think we're hearing from you for the first time.

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01:36:49.470 --> 01:36:58.980

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): Hi everybody. My name is Jennifer Miller, and I am a geophysicist with BOEM, and I am part of the engineering and technical review branch.

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01:37:00.030 --> 01:37:10.230

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): And in response to your question, each wind turbine generator will be comprised of a tower and nacelle, and rotor towers, which includes the blades.

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01:37:10.590 --> 01:37:16.080

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): Control lighting, marking, and safety systems will be installed on each wind turbine generator.

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01:37:16.470 --> 01:37:24.330

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): The specific systems will vary depending on the wind turbine selected and will be reviewed by the certified verification agent, or CVA

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01:37:25.110 --> 01:37:28.950

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): in the facility design report commonly referred to as the FDR.

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01:37:29.520 --> 01:37:35.730

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): Heating ventilation and air conditioning used for climate control will be included within the wind turbine generator.

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01:37:36.060 --> 01:37:43.170

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): The specific systems will vary depending on the wind turbine generator selected, and again will be reviewed by the CPA in the FDR.

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01:37:43.620 --> 01:37:49.860

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): There are also, they're also may be a small temporary diesel generator at each wind turbine generator location.

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01:37:50.370 --> 01:38:01.260

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): On the work deck of the foundation, if present, the generator will have a maximum power of 200 horsepower and up to a 50-gallon diesel tank with secondary containment.

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01:38:01.830 --> 01:38:15.300

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): The blades are not powered to spin but can be feathered into the wind and controlled by facility operators. The use of these generators is considered in the air quality impacts analysis and the admissions benefit estimates.

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01:38:16.830 --> 01:38:17.280

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): Thank you.

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01:38:18.090 --> 01:38:18.870

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you, Jennifer.

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01:38:20.010 --> 01:38:22.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, we have

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01:38:24.210 --> 01:38:34.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): one other question that came in from James Fletcher, and looks like we're working on an answer in the background there, so we'll turn to that in just a moment.

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01:38:36.420 --> 01:38:44.130

Meg Perry (SWCA): And, and one from Alice as well, so we've got answers in progress and will turn to those in just a moment.

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01:38:46.560 --> 01:38:51.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): And while those are happening, let me just take this opportunity to

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01:38:52.350 --> 01:39:00.900

Meg Perry (SWCA): walk you all through the comment website where you can submit your written comments, so you can see what that looks like. So, I'm just gonna

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01:39:02.070 --> 01:39:04.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): share that for you.

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01:39:10.530 --> 01:39:11.370

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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01:39:12.690 --> 01:39:27.630

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, I will put this link in the chat momentarily, but this is the regulations.gov website. If you'd like to comment on this project in particular, you'll need to put in this big search field on the main homepage.

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01:39:29.100 --> 01:39:36.570

Meg Perry (SWCA): The code for this docket, which is BOEM-2020-0066,

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01:39:38.280 --> 01:39:48.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): and then hit search and what you should see pop up is this little

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01:39:51.000 --> 01:39:56.280

Meg Perry (SWCA): title for this project, and you'll see this "comment now" button, and when you click on that

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01:39:56.910 --> 01:40:10.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): you will see the field where you can type in a comment or upload a file, along with your name to submit your comment electronically. So if you have written comments, that's one great way to submit them. You can also send them to the address that Mary shared

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01:40:12.030 --> 01:40:20.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): earlier. And that's all, that all that information about how to submit comments is on the website for this project, as well.

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01:40:21.720 --> 01:40:27.570

Meg Perry (SWCA): So that's just so you all are familiar with that website, if you, when you go to submit written comments later.

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01:40:29.550 --> 01:40:30.060

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

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01:40:36.750 --> 01:40:45.900

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, just gonna see how we're doing. Okay, it looks like, we, Mary, you're ready to answer James's question. You want to go ahead with that?

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01:40:47.280 --> 01:40:50.430

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Certainly, and, and welcome James, and thank you for participating.

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01:40:52.050 --> 01:40:52.410

Meg Perry (SWCA): So the

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01:40:52.530 --> 01:40:53.370

question was

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01:40:55.230 --> 01:41:01.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): "What stops or prevents windmills being placed in state waters inside three miles from shore?"

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01:41:02.700 --> 01:41:11.190

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Well, wind turbine facilities within three miles would be within state jurisdiction, not within BOEM's jurisdiction, so there's really nothing stopping that.

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01:41:11.700 --> 01:41:20.820

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And, for example, the Block Island Wind Farm is within three miles of Block Island, and the process was permitted by the State of Rhode Island and the Army Corps of Engineers.

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01:41:22.890 --> 01:41:24.540

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, two separate authorities, there?

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01:41:24.570 --> 01:41:27.960

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Separate authority. Is not within BOEMs jurisdiction. Great.

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01:41:29.760 --> 01:41:31.470

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, thank you.

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01:41:36.030 --> 01:41:39.330

Meg Perry (SWCA): Just seeing how we're doing, otherwise.

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01:41:44.910 --> 01:41:50.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, thanks for your patience as our experts are working in the background to get you the best answer possible.

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01:41:54.540 --> 01:42:03.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): Looks like we just got this one last question, so I guess I'll give a last call for questions if there's anyone else who would like to, to hear a response from BOEM.

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01:42:05.130 --> 01:42:16.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): During this session, you can submit it with the Q and A, and just a reminder for those on the phone that you can raise your hand using star nine if you have a question and we'll be able to see that you'd like to jump in.

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01:42:17.550 --> 01:42:20.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, kind of last call for questions at this point

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01:42:22.620 --> 01:42:24.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): since it looks like we're slowing down here.

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01:42:44.070 --> 01:42:44.700

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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01:42:47.310 --> 01:42:52.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): Just one other thing I'll show you all, while we're, we're waiting on that answer, so you are aware,

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01:42:54.660 --> 01:43:00.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): is this, I know I shared the link to this earlier and I'll share that again.

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01:43:02.220 --> 01:43:18.060

Meg Perry (SWCA): But this is the virtual meeting page for this series of meetings that you're currently in. This is the second. All the meetings have the same format, so if you attend one, you've essentially had the experience, although you're welcome to attend more than one if you'd like.

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01:43:19.620 --> 01:43:22.590

Meg Perry (SWCA): But if you go to this site, you will see

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01:43:24.540 --> 01:43:28.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): information about the three meetings, when they're happening, how to register,

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01:43:30.510 --> 01:43:42.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): background documents, and then these little icons here have, if you click on them, there are brief presentations related to each of these topics suggested by the icon. So presentation on

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01:43:43.920 --> 01:43:54.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): birds and how those have been analyzed in the DEIS, and then there's some posters available as well, that you can click on similar to what you might see in a an in-person open house.

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01:43:55.320 --> 01:44:04.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): If we had been able to do that. That's all available on this website, so I'll share that link for you all in the chat as well, so you have it for reference going forward.

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01:44:16.500 --> 01:44:18.510

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I'll just put those in the chat.

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01:44:25.980 --> 01:44:28.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): Bear with me for a moment here will I

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01:44:29.730 --> 01:44:31.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): get those over to you.

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01:44:33.930 --> 01:44:38.100

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, information about the "how to comment" is coming

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01:44:42.420 --> 01:44:44.520

Meg Perry (SWCA): and then the

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01:44:46.740 --> 01:44:48.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): background information virtual meeting page.

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01:44:55.110 --> 01:45:02.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): And just want to say, I really appreciate everyone taking time to attend today and participate all the thoughtful comments

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01:45:04.260 --> 01:45:10.080

Meg Perry (SWCA): and the time and attention that you all are devoting to this process is really appreciated.

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01:45:11.370 --> 01:45:12.480

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, thank you all.

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01:45:16.110 --> 01:45:29.100

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. So you should see those links in the chat. Hopefully, that's useful. You can click through and look around or submit a comment, and we look forward to hearing from some of you all that way, as well.

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01:45:33.810 --> 01:45:35.100

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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01:45:37.620 --> 01:45:45.120

Mary Boatman (BOEM): I'm just going to add that my previous question answer, where you showed on the virtual meeting web page where it has the schedule,

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01:45:45.330 --> 01:45:45.720

Mary Boatman (BOEM): and it has an

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01:45:46.020 --> 01:45:55.740

Mary Boatman (BOEM): information about the link and such, then we will replace that link with the actual video and the transcript. So, if you want to find in the future, it will be on that part of the page.

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01:45:57.090 --> 01:45:57.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): Yeah, good to know.

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01:46:00.090 --> 01:46:05.040

Meg Perry (SWCA): That scheduled tab will be the recording for each meeting and the

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01:46:06.300 --> 01:46:10.110

Meg Perry (SWCA): transcript as well, if you want to look back at what was what was shared.

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01:46:12.180 --> 01:46:13.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): Excellent.

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01:46:17.280 --> 01:46:21.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, um, let's see, just a couple other reminders.

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01:46:25.830 --> 01:46:28.140

Meg Perry (SWCA): Talked about a few things already but

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01:46:29.190 --> 01:46:42.690

Meg Perry (SWCA): the additional, the last meeting in this series will be Tuesday, February 16, at the same time as this one, so starting at 5 p.m. Eastern on if you'd like to join that or spread the word to others who might be interested, that's the time.

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01:46:44.730 --> 01:46:45.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): And

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01:46:47.160 --> 01:46:50.580

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'll just share once more the, the

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01:46:51.960 --> 01:46:56.280

Meg Perry (SWCA): address, for, if you prefer snail mail and would like to send

589

01:46:57.510 --> 01:47:02.820

Meg Perry (SWCA): your comments in hard copy, I'll put that in the chat, as well,

590

01:47:04.740 --> 01:47:06.120

Meg Perry (SWCA): because that is also an option.

591

01:47:30.390 --> 01:47:37.590

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so that physical address is in the chat as well if you'd like to send in your comments by mail.

592

01:47:40.530 --> 01:47:43.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay um.

593

01:47:44.730 --> 01:47:54.480

Meg Perry (SWCA): And I see, I see the question about, from Pamela, about whether the transcript and video of this meeting will be available prior to the next meeting,

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01:47:55.770 --> 01:47:57.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): which is next Tuesday,

595

01:48:00.300 --> 01:48:01.380

Meg Perry (SWCA): and

596

01:48:02.430 --> 01:48:05.940

Meg Perry (SWCA): I will double check that with, with my team, Pamela, because

597

01:48:07.320 --> 01:48:12.210

Meg Perry (SWCA): that is through us and I'll let you know what the answer is there

598

01:48:14.580 --> 01:48:15.660

Meg Perry (SWCA): in just a moment.

599

01:48:19.980 --> 01:48:20.280

Okay.

600

01:48:22.020 --> 01:48:28.380

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, we do have a couple more questions that have come in and answers running in the background, and I know we've been on for a

601

01:48:29.520 --> 01:48:35.520

Meg Perry (SWCA): little over an hour and a half here, so I'm going to suggest that we just take like a five-minute break so that

602

01:48:37.230 --> 01:48:43.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): people can stand up and stretch or grab a glass of water, whatever you need to do, and then we'll, we'll come back

603

01:48:44.610 --> 01:48:53.370

Meg Perry (SWCA): for those last few answers after just a short break. So let's return at, I have 6:41 right now.

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01:48:54.480 --> 01:49:00.330

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, let's come back at 6:46 to hear those last few answers.

605

01:49:02.430 --> 01:49:03.150

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks everyone.

606

01:55:58.650 --> 01:56:01.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, hi folks, and thanks for sticking with us here.

607

01:56:03.090 --> 01:56:16.500

Meg Perry (SWCA): Hope you had a chance to step away and clear your mind and come back fresh here. We do have some answers ready to share, so I'll turn to our subject matter experts in just a moment, I think.

608

01:56:18.630 --> 01:56:23.340

Meg Perry (SWCA): Mary will be sharing a few answers first.

609

01:56:25.200 --> 01:56:27.720

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then Kyle, turn to you after that.

610

01:56:31.350 --> 01:56:32.820

Meg Perry (SWCA): Now.

611

01:56:35.820 --> 01:56:37.920

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so let me, let me just

612

01:56:40.890 --> 01:56:43.830

Meg Perry (SWCA): get us back on track here with the slides.

613

01:57:03.750 --> 01:57:04.830

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

614

01:57:12.120 --> 01:57:15.240

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, so Mary, are you ready with a few answers for us?

615

01:57:19.980 --> 01:57:22.890

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Yes, okay, got it muted, or maybe not.

616

01:57:24.060 --> 01:57:29.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): Yeah, we're hearing you okay. So, I think the first one is from David,

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01:57:32.010 --> 01:57:35.700

Meg Perry (SWCA): who asked about, asked for clarification,

618

01:57:36.810 --> 01:57:49.440

Meg Perry (SWCA): stating that the impact tables in the presentation slides by Mary are just a representation of Table 2.3.1-1 with no judgment, other than color coding, correct?

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01:57:50.310 --> 01:58:00.000

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Hey, David. Yes, those tables, were I mean they're abbreviated. There's a lot of words in the tables that are in Chapter 2 for the comparison of analysis, and they were

620

01:58:00.840 --> 01:58:08.070

Mary Boatman (BOEM): edited down to be very brief for the presentation. If you want all the details, then you should go to the that table in Chapter 2.

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01:58:10.980 --> 01:58:11.580

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Okay, so,

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01:58:11.760 --> 01:58:14.400

Mary Boatman (BOEM): they were very brief summaries. Okay.

623

01:58:15.720 --> 01:58:23.040

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright. And then there was a question from James Fletcher about whether BOEM has grants for alternatives to windmills.

624

01:58:24.960 --> 01:58:33.750

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Yeah, James. BOEM has the authority to issue leases, easements, and right-of-way on the outer continental shelf greater than three miles from shore.

625

01:58:34.560 --> 01:58:45.000

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The support, production, and transmission of energy from sources other than oil and natural gas, BOEM also has the responsibility to evaluate proposal submitted to it, such as the South Fork COP.

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01:58:48.630 --> 01:58:50.370

Mary Boatman (BOEM): So we don't really have grant authority.

627

01:58:52.290 --> 01:58:52.650

Okay.

628

01:58:54.540 --> 01:59:05.520

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then, David Posnett asked about getting copies of the slides that you presented in tonight's session and what's the plan for

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01:59:06.540 --> 01:59:07.410

Meg Perry (SWCA): sharing those.

630

01:59:08.010 --> 01:59:12.180

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Yes, we're planning on posting the presentation to the virtual meeting website.

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01:59:13.500 --> 01:59:15.660

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so that same link that I had shared in the

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01:59:16.380 --> 01:59:18.000

Meg Perry (SWCA): in the chat. Yes.

633

01:59:19.620 --> 01:59:20.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

634

01:59:23.970 --> 01:59:28.140

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then I did confirm with my team who's responsible for

635

01:59:29.250 --> 01:59:34.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): editing the transcript from these meetings since Zoom automatically generates a

636

01:59:34.800 --> 01:59:43.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): pretty good, but still computer-generated, so we do go back through it to make sure it's accurate and that usually takes a couple of days to turn around the transcript so

637

01:59:43.830 --> 01:59:55.320

Meg Perry (SWCA): with the holiday on Monday, I don't want to promise that it will be ready before the Tuesday meeting, but we will do our best to get out as soon as we can and understand that it would be helpful to have it before the next meeting, if possible, so.

638

01:59:57.240 --> 02:00:04.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, yeah, I will convey that to our folks that that do that editing and see what, see if we can get it out before.

639

02:00:07.110 --> 02:00:08.580

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

640

02:00:10.470 --> 02:00:13.680

Meg Perry (SWCA): I think, Kyle, you had an answer ready to share.

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02:00:18.900 --> 02:00:19.860

Kyle Baker (BOEM): Sure um.

642

02:00:19.950 --> 02:00:33.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): Again, so I'll read the question and then, if you wouldn't mind introducing yourself to everyone. So the question was from Alice Marlin, who asked, "Can you explain more about the techniques for mitigating noise effects on marine life?"

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02:00:36.630 --> 02:00:41.640

Kyle Baker (BOEM): Yeah, my name is Kyle Baker, marine biologist with BOEM. That's a really good question.

644

02:00:43.590 --> 02:01:04.080

Kyle Baker (BOEM): Mitigation measures proposed include slowly ramping up the pile driver, and that includes slowly increasing the power, so the noise produced when the hammer strikes the pile and slowly increases when the pile driver first starts, and the intention of that is to allow animals to leave the area.

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02:01:05.160 --> 02:01:12.270

Kyle Baker (BOEM): To be, you know, to be annoyed from the area before her more harmful levels are reached so allow us animals to leave.

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02:01:13.860 --> 02:01:23.640

Kyle Baker (BOEM): A sound-reduction system is also proposed to be used, such as a bubble curtain, and that's a system that goes around the pile, which reduces the sound.

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02:01:24.750 --> 02:01:33.300

Kyle Baker (BOEM): You know escaping that feel and reduces the noise levels, and that reduces the overall area that would be impacted by the noise from pile driving.

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02:01:34.500 --> 02:01:37.590

Kyle Baker (BOEM): So that hasn't been fit for, for all the all the marine species.

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02:01:38.220 --> 02:01:53.940

Kyle Baker (BOEM): Of course, for marine mammals and sea turtles, in particular, that, that can be directly observed, there'll be protected species observers on the water, and there will be passive acoustic listening, going on that's, that's pretty much involves underwater

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02:01:56.190 --> 02:02:06.690

Kyle Baker (BOEM): microphones to listen for animals so there will be eyes on water and ears under the water, look out for animals and that'll be occurring before pile driving and during pile driving.

651

02:02:07.890 --> 02:02:13.890

Kyle Baker (BOEM): And no pile driving will be allowed to start until that that impacted area is clear of all animals.

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02:02:15.180 --> 02:02:25.920

Kyle Baker (BOEM): For North Atlantic right whales in particular, there'll be a seasonal restriction in place. There'll be no pile driving allowed between January through April when right whales are most likely to occur in this area.

653

02:02:27.090 --> 02:02:36.600

Kyle Baker (BOEM): And at any time there'll be no pile driving allowed at night, so, so the combination of all these measures are intended to reduce the likelihood of any impacts occurring.

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02:02:38.550 --> 02:02:39.450

Okay, thanks.

655

02:02:42.060 --> 02:02:42.750

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

656

02:02:49.350 --> 02:02:50.310

Excellent.

657

02:02:52.080 --> 02:02:53.940

Meg Perry (SWCA): And I know I mentioned that the

658

02:02:55.740 --> 02:03:07.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): slides will be posted online. The recordings and the transcript will also be posted on the website, so all of that is coming your way after these meetings and will be there for your reference.

659

02:03:12.120 --> 02:03:16.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, have had another couple questions come in.

660

02:03:18.450 --> 02:03:19.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): I see your

661

02:03:20.910 --> 02:03:23.790

Meg Perry (SWCA): second question, James, so we're working on the answer there.

662

02:03:32.700 --> 02:03:33.330

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

663

02:03:43.530 --> 02:03:52.080

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm just going to show you all once more where that information will be so that it's easy for you to find it afterward.

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02:03:58.140 --> 02:04:00.630

Meg Perry (SWCA): So, on this virtual meeting website

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02:04:02.430 --> 02:04:07.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): under "virtual," there's a virtual meeting schedule and if you click on that,

666

02:04:08.580 --> 02:04:19.140

Meg Perry (SWCA): this will be where we post the outcomes from these meetings, the recording, the transcript, and the slides will all be on this page. So that's where you can find it going forward.

667

02:04:31.560 --> 02:04:40.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): And just going to put back up this reminder about how to comment if that's of interest beyond these meetings.

668

02:04:46.350 --> 02:04:46.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): Right.

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02:04:53.700 --> 02:04:58.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, looks like we do have an answer from Jennifer

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02:04:59.820 --> 02:05:04.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): and Ariana to the question from James, so you two want to come up.

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02:05:11.010 --> 02:05:17.610

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Oh hi. My name is Arianna Baker. I'm the navigation analyst. I'm just going to go ahead and take this full question.

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02:05:17.910 --> 02:05:30.090

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, let me just remind everybody what the question was. So, the question was, "Can or will BOEM require all equipment to be manufactured totally in the United States, and will bustles comply with the Jones Act?"

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02:05:30.600 --> 02:05:38.010

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Sure, absolutely. So first of all, it must be stated that BOEM does not have a requirement for manufacturing in the United States.

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02:05:38.610 --> 02:05:48.930

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Practically speaking, it would also be very difficult for us to require such a term, considering, there is no manufacturing and many of the components,

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02:05:49.710 --> 02:05:56.700

Arianna Baker (BOEM): for many of the components currently done in the U.S., and nor do we even really have the authority to require such a thing.

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02:05:57.450 --> 02:06:09.270

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Related to the Jones Act aspect for those who are unfamiliar, the Jones Act is a law that specifies that vessels moving between American ports need to be American made and American crewed.

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02:06:09.780 --> 02:06:19.860

Arianna Baker (BOEM): So recently Congress have specified that the Jones Act does apply to the building of offshore wind projects. It should be noted that currently no Jones Act-compliant heavy lift vessels,

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02:06:20.160 --> 02:06:24.750

Arianna Baker (BOEM): which are needed to install these offshore wind projects, do currently exist.

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02:06:25.350 --> 02:06:32.250

Arianna Baker (BOEM): While there have been discussions for building such a vessel, in the meantime, projects can make sure that they remain Jones Act compliant

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02:06:32.670 --> 02:06:39.510

Arianna Baker (BOEM): if those heavy lift vessels which do come from other countries never travel between the project installation site

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02:06:39.840 --> 02:06:52.260

Arianna Baker (BOEM): and any U.S. port. So, for example, the Block Island Wind Farm was constructed in a similar way, using smaller feeder lift barges, to bring project components from port out to the installation site.

682

02:06:53.880 --> 02:06:54.270

Okay.

683

02:06:55.440 --> 02:06:56.310

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you, Arianna.

684

02:06:58.560 --> 02:06:59.190

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great.

685

02:07:00.300 --> 02:07:12.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay. Looks like we have addressed the questions that we've received and want to say just thank you again for everyone's attention and time this evening.

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02:07:14.160 --> 02:07:17.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): And really appreciate the continued engagement around this project.

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02:07:19.680 --> 02:07:25.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): I will turn, I believe, Jim, you have some closing comments you wanted to share as we wrap up here?

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02:07:38.790 --> 02:07:39.660

Meg Perry (SWCA): If you're still there?

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02:07:46.200 --> 02:07:47.970

James Bennett (BOEM): Alright, let's try that again.

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02:07:49.470 --> 02:07:52.020

James Bennett (BOEM): Sorry about that.

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02:07:53.040 --> 02:08:01.620

James Bennett (BOEM): I just wanted to say thanks. That's a successful meeting. Appreciate everybody at SWCA and say thank you for the facilitation.

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02:08:02.100 --> 02:08:06.840

James Bennett (BOEM): But I want to, most importantly, I want to thank everybody for their participation and their comments.

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02:08:07.830 --> 02:08:17.280

James Bennett (BOEM): I hope this exchange has made you more well informed on this project and its effects, but I also hope that

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02:08:18.060 --> 02:08:27.030

James Bennett (BOEM): we've provided a good forum for you to share your thoughts and suggestions on whatever aspects of the projects are of concern to you.

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02:08:27.900 --> 02:08:36.390

James Bennett (BOEM): All comments will be evaluated with respect to the content to the draft DEIS and will be addressed in one form or another, in the final.

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02:08:36.870 --> 02:08:42.150

James Bennett (BOEM): And you're going to, what you have on the screen is the opportunity to comment,

697

02:08:43.020 --> 02:09:05.760

James Bennett (BOEM): which is not just this public meeting or the one on Tuesday, but also in writing or online at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) before February 22. So I appreciate your input, and it is essential to ensuring that we make the best decision possible on the evaluation of this project. Thank you again.

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02:09:08.580 --> 02:09:09.090

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you.

699

02:09:10.200 --> 02:09:21.000

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, well thank you everyone. I know the virtual environment is that it's a bit different than getting together in person, but we thank you so much for your engagement tonight and look forward to hearing from many of you

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02:09:21.600 --> 02:09:25.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): through the comment process in other ways, so hope you have a good rest of your evening.