

Public Hearing #3 Meeting Transcript – February 16, 2021

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00:00:32.610 --> 00:00:41.580

Meg Perry (SWCA): Hello, and welcome to those of you already joined in. My name is Meg Perry. I'll be facilitating the meeting when we get started here at the top of the hour.

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00:00:43.260 --> 00:00:53.790

Meg Perry (SWCA): And for your reference as you're getting settled in here, I will share the link that's on your screen that has some background information related to the meeting in the chat

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00:00:54.300 --> 00:01:04.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): box. If you click on chat in your Zoom screen, you'll be able to see that link come up, if you'd like to take a look at that background information as we're getting started. So we'll be

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00:01:06.150 --> 00:01:09.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): kicking off here in about eight minutes at the top of the hour. Welcome.

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00:05:55.320 --> 00:06:06.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): Hello, and welcome to those of you just joining us, my name is Meg Perry. I'll be facilitating the meeting this evening when we get started in just about three minutes at the top of the hour, but welcome

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00:06:06.960 --> 00:06:21.150

Meg Perry (SWCA): to all of you who are here. And just a note as you're getting settled, that there's a link on your screen that I will put in the chat as well, where you can find some background information that's relevant to the meeting,

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00:06:23.100 --> 00:06:29.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): including some of the types of materials that you might find at an in-person open house, like posters

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00:06:31.590 --> 00:06:40.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): and links to some of the documents related to this process, so I'll share that in the chat and invite you to take a look at those as you're getting set up here.

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00:06:42.390 --> 00:06:45.540

Meg Perry (SWCA): And we'll get started in just a couple of minutes, welcome.

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00:08:53.640 --> 00:08:55.590

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, welcome everyone.

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00:08:56.850 --> 00:09:02.970

Meg Perry (SWCA): We are right at five o'clock by, by my clock, so I'm going to go ahead and get started here.

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00:09:05.160 --> 00:09:14.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): So welcome, my name is Meg Perry with SWCA Environmental Consultants, and I'll be facilitating the meeting today. This is the,

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00:09:16.350 --> 00:09:24.090

Meg Perry (SWCA): and I'll note that this meeting is being recorded, so if you do not wish to be recorded, now would be a good time to sign off and the recording

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00:09:25.650 --> 00:09:35.430

Meg Perry (SWCA): and slides and transcript from this meeting will all be available online afterward, if you aren't if you aren't able to stay with us this evening.

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00:09:36.870 --> 00:09:45.630

Meg Perry (SWCA): So this, welcome to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's virtual public meeting on the draft environmental impact statement for the South Fork Wind Farm

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00:09:45.960 --> 00:09:50.340

Meg Perry (SWCA): and South Fork Export Cable project. This is the third in a series of three

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00:09:51.300 --> 00:10:01.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): of these public meetings. And these meetings also service public hearings for the Army Corps of Engineers in support of Section 10 and Section 404 permits for this project.

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00:10:02.850 --> 00:10:17.100

Meg Perry (SWCA): The agenda for today starts with opening remarks from the Bureau of Ocean Energy management, BOEM, followed by remarks from the Army Corps of Engineers and context for, for what this meeting represents in their process.

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00:10:18.810 --> 00:10:27.210

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then we will turn to a short presentation introducing the draft environmental impact statement, or DEIS. And then we'll hear from you all

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00:10:27.870 --> 00:10:38.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): public comments on the DEIS, and then we'll take a short break and have an opportunity to answer questions that you all may have. So BOEM will be answering questions

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00:10:39.870 --> 00:10:41.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): following the comment period.

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00:10:43.650 --> 00:10:49.740

Meg Perry (SWCA): You can submit questions at any time during this meeting, so there's a little Q and A feature in Zoom that you can click on

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00:10:50.250 --> 00:10:59.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): to submit a question in writing, and we have BOEM staff will be working in the background to develop answers to those questions that we'll go over later in the agenda.

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00:11:00.330 --> 00:11:08.250

Meg Perry (SWCA): So for now, welcome, and I'll turn it to Jim Bennett with BOEM to welcome you on behalf of their agency.

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00:11:11.940 --> 00:11:12.810

James Bennett (BOEM): Thank you, Meg.

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00:11:14.010 --> 00:11:19.380

James Bennett (BOEM): Good afternoon, everyone, thank you for joining us. Hopefully, you can hear me okay.

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00:11:20.010 --> 00:11:27.630

James Bennett (BOEM): My name is Jim Bennett, and I'm the program manager for the Office of Renewable Energy programs at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

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00:11:28.320 --> 00:11:39.540

James Bennett (BOEM): I'd like to welcome you to this, the third, last of our virtual meetings to discuss the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed South Fork Wind Project.

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00:11:40.140 --> 00:11:48.030

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

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00:11:48.510 --> 00:11:54.180

James Bennett (BOEM): But I am grateful that technology allows us to create effective alternatives to in-person meetings.

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00:11:54.600 --> 00:12:02.340

James Bennett (BOEM): Our BOEM team has realized considerable success with these alternative technologies, and I'm sure that that will be the case again today.

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00:12:02.910 --> 00:12:13.440

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 natural energy and mineral resources

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00:12:13.830 --> 00:12:19.590

James Bennett (BOEM): on almost 2.5 billion acres of the nation's outer continental shelf, or OCS.

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00:12:20.310 --> 00:12:30.720

James Bennett (BOEM): The OCS extends from the Three Mile Line of state jurisdiction out to the full extent of the EEZ, or exclusive economic zone, approximately 200 miles offshore.

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00:12:31.230 --> 00:12:49.110

James Bennett (BOEM): We at BOEM are responsible for the expeditious and orderly development of the energy resources of the OCS, including renewables like wind. It's our job to ensure that the development of this is done in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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00:12:50.670 --> 00:12:59.850

James Bennett (BOEM): Approval of the proposed South Fork Wind Farm is considered a major federal action and, as a result, we are preparing an environmental impact statement

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00:13:00.300 --> 00:13:10.680

James Bennett (BOEM): under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. This helps us ensure that all relevant information and analysis is included in the decision-making process.

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00:13:11.130 --> 00:13:17.040

James Bennett (BOEM): This meeting is an opportunity for us to provide an overview of the project and alternatives for you.

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00:13:17.730 --> 00:13:30.450

James Bennett (BOEM): Further, the BOEM team will be available to answer your questions, but this is your time to speak. We consider public input to be a critical component of safe and responsible offshore resource management.

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00:13:30.990 --> 00:13:44.280

James Bennett (BOEM): Your thoughts on this matter are valuable. The development of the offshore industry over the past decade or so has varied a lot, but one constant has been our efforts to ensure stakeholder involvement and public involvement.

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00:13:44.970 --> 00:13:54.870

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.

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00:13:55.470 --> 00:14:05.520

James Bennett (BOEM): I look forward to your questions and comments on the draft environmental impact statement. Finally, please note that this is a joint public meeting.

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00:14:06.120 --> 00:14:23.850

James Bennett (BOEM): This virtual public meeting will also serve as a public hearing for the Army Corps of Engineers actions that they will be taking with regard to Section 10 and Section 404 permit review process. With that, I would like now to turn it over to

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00:14:23.850 --> 00:14:29.520

James Bennett (BOEM): Steve Ryba for the Corps' opening remarks. Thank you very much.

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00:14:31.860 --> 00:14:34.320

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Thank you, Jim. Good evening.

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00:14:35.340 --> 00:14:46.620

Stephan Ryba, USACE: I'm Steve Ryba. I'm the chief of the regulatory branch at the New York District 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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00:14:47.310 --> 00:14:54.210

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Also present today from the New York District Army Corps of Engineers are Lisa Grudzinski, the regulatory project manager

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00:14:54.750 --> 00:15:07.740

Stephan Ryba, USACE: on this application, and Mia Logan from our office counsel. I'd like to thank the folks at BOEM for hosting this joint public hearing and for all of you for participating this evening.

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00:15:08.760 --> 00:15:22.710

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

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00:15:23.820 --> 00:15:36.750

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

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00:15:38.040 --> 00:15:54.300

Stephan Ryba, USACE: The permit applicant's stated purpose for the work is the construction of a commercial-scale wind energy project and associated transmission lines for renewable energy generation and distribution to the New York energy grid.

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00:15:55.260 --> 00:16:01.980

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

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00:16:02.490 --> 00:16:11.250

Stephan Ryba, USACE: A detailed description of the proposed work that requires Department of Army authorization may also be found within the Corps' public notice.

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00:16:12.210 --> 00:16:22.020

Stephan Ryba, USACE: A link to the Corps' public notice can also be found within the background information that BOEM provided in their web page for this evening, this hearing.

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00:16:23.370 --> 00:16:32.130

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Because the project proposes the installation of structures within navigable waters of the United States and the discharge of dredged or fill material

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00:16:32.340 --> 00:16:45.150

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

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00:16:46.260 --> 00:16:55.590

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

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00:16:56.100 --> 00:17:07.140

Stephan Ryba, USACE: proposed activity, in this case, the construction of the wind turbine generators, installation of South Fork export cable, and the construction of the operations and maintenance facility.

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00:17:08.670 --> 00:17:10.710

Stephan Ryba, USACE: We will need to determine if,

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00:17:13.050 --> 00:17:25.560

Stephan Ryba, USACE: I'm sorry, the construction of these elements in the waters of the United States, we have to determine if they are not contrary to the overall public interest. This hearing will play an important part in that determination.

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00:17:26.880 --> 00:17:36.810

Stephan Ryba, USACE: For the Corps of Engineers' purposes, this hearing will be conducted according to the procedure set forth in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 327.

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00:17:37.410 --> 00:17:45.450

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

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00:17:46.890 --> 00:17:52.470

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Anyone may make an oral or written statement concerning the subject matter of this hearing.

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00:17:53.130 --> 00:18:02.280

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Anyone may appear on his or her own behalf, or be represented by counsel or other representatives, to present recommendations or information.

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00:18:03.240 --> 00:18:14.880

Stephan Ryba, USACE: As a presiding officer, I will not be responding or replying to comments expressed by speakers during the hearing regarding any aspect of the project proposal, including project alternatives,

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00:18:15.360 --> 00:18:22.200

Stephan Ryba, USACE: past use of the proposed project site, and environmental risk. Cross-examination will not be permitted.

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00:18:23.400 --> 00:18:28.920

Stephan Ryba, USACE: I thank you for your participation, and I will now turn the floor back over to our facilitator. Thank you.

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00:18:30.900 --> 00:18:36.030

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you, Stephan, and thank you, Jim, for those words of welcome and context for this meeting.

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00:18:37.740 --> 00:18:47.070

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so as, as you're seeing now on your screen, there is, there are a couple of resources available to you through the course of this meeting.

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00:18:47.670 --> 00:18:57.000

Meg Perry (SWCA): First, as a Stephan just mentioned, there's some background information available at that link, and for those who joined recently, I'll put that again in the chat for you.

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00:18:58.770 --> 00:19:09.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): And, if you do have any technical support needs, if you're having issues with Zoom, we do have someone standing by to help you, Jen Rideout, and you can reach her at the email that is shown on your screen.

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00:19:10.770 --> 00:19:28.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): Or for those who may be only on the phone, we do have a phone number for her, and that is 360-715-2530. 360-715-2530.

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00:19:30.480 --> 00:19:31.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): So.

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00:19:33.690 --> 00:19:43.500

Meg Perry (SWCA): Just a recap, as I know, we've still had a few people signing in. We're currently running through welcome and a few a few logistics. We'll turn in a moment to a presentation

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00:19:44.610 --> 00:19:54.720

Meg Perry (SWCA): providing an overview of the project and the environmental impact statement process, the draft environmental impact statement findings,

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00:19:55.110 --> 00:20:13.950

Meg Perry (SWCA): and next steps in the process. And following the presentation, there will be an opportunity for public comments. And there was an option for you all to register when you signed up for this meeting to share a public comment, so we'll take the list of people who preregistered first.

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00:20:15.450 --> 00:20:21.240

Meg Perry (SWCA): So we'll call out those names and you'll see in chat a list of the people who are next up to comment.

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00:20:23.070 --> 00:20:30.690

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then, once we go through those preregistered folks, others will have the opportunity to raise their hands and share a verbal comment if they'd like.

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00:20:31.380 --> 00:20:49.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then, once we've gone through all the comments, I will turn to answers to questions that that folks may have had as they were listening to the presentation, the presentation, or comments, so just a couple of Zoom reminders to get you all oriented.

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00:20:51.150 --> 00:21:00.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): So you should have participants list, where you can click and see the panelists who are with us tonight from the Corps of Engineers and BOEM.

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00:21:02.280 --> 00:21:08.400

Meg Perry (SWCA): There's a Q and A you can click on to submit a question and see if, see questions that have been answered.

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00:21:09.720 --> 00:21:17.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then there's a chat feature where you can see messages that we have sent out to everyone, including that background information link.

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00:21:19.590 --> 00:21:22.740

Meg Perry (SWCA): You may also notice that there are closed captions

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00:21:23.760 --> 00:21:25.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): popping up on your screen as we're talking.

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00:21:26.670 --> 00:21:31.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): And those will be cleaned up and, and used to provide a transcript for this meeting.

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00:21:32.940 --> 00:21:43.080

Meg Perry (SWCA): It's really good, but it's still auto-generated by Zoom, so you may see a few little errors pop up in there, but we do go back and clean those up.

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00:21:43.740 --> 00:21:56.340

Meg Perry (SWCA): For the record, and if you don't want to see those, you should see a little CC button in your Zoom ribbon there, the black bar, with all the Zoom buttons on it, and you can actually turn

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00:21:57.570 --> 00:22:04.260

Meg Perry (SWCA): closed captions off if you'd rather not see that. So just some options for you all as you are participating with us tonight.

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00:22:06.210 --> 00:22:22.260

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great, so without further ado. Oh, and I do see another question just about the logistics. I'll run through exactly how we'll do the comments in a moment, but it'll just be audio for those. I'll unmute you when I call on you.

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00:22:25.710 --> 00:22:26.280

Meg Perry (SWCA): So.

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00:22:27.720 --> 00:22:32.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): With that, I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to Mary Boatman for the overview presentation.

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00:22:37.740 --> 00:22:46.050

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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00:22:46.770 --> 00:22:57.840

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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00:22:58.680 --> 00:23:11.130

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We cover the nearly 2.5 billion acres of the nation's outer continental shelf, or OCS, including the development of marine minerals, oil and gas, and of course, renewable energy resources.

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00:23:11.760 --> 00:23:25.200

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We appreciate your participation in this meeting and look forward to hearing your comments following this summary presentation. My name is Mary Boatman, and I am the environmental coordinator for this project at BOEM.

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00:23:26.700 --> 00:23:33.450

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

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00:23:33.930 --> 00:23:39.810

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

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00:23:40.320 --> 00:23:49.980

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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00:23:50.520 --> 00:24:03.360

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

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00:24:07.530 --> 00:24:16.830

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

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00:24:17.520 --> 00:24:28.740

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 normally have at an in-person meeting.

102

00:24:29.550 --> 00:24:36.690

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

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00:24:37.230 --> 00:24:51.870

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We also have publications that provide more detailed information about topics of interest. And we recently added information about how to use ocean reports, a new tool to explore relevant ocean data. Next slide.

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00:24:55.290 --> 00:25:01.440

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The presentations on the virtual meeting web page are summaries of the impacts to several key topics or resources.

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00:25:01.860 --> 00:25:07.350

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The presentations were developed and recorded by the BOEM subject matter expert for each of the list of resources.

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00:25:08.220 --> 00:25:20.700

Mary Boatman (BOEM): As a note, we will also be posting the video and meeting transcripts on the registration page within a few days of each meeting. The first meeting is already posted; the second should be tomorrow. Next page.

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00:25:23.220 --> 00:25:34.800

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, why are we here? Well, 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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00:25:35.340 --> 00:25:47.130

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

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00:25:50.640 --> 00:26:02.220

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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00:26:02.970 --> 00:26:20.700

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 like this one, and an analysis of reasonable alternatives and cumulative effects. Next slide.

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00:26:24.060 --> 00:26:34.110

Mary Boatman (BOEM): BOEM's renewable energy leasing and development process occurs in four phases: the first three phases include identifying an area for leasing and issuing the lease,

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00:26:34.590 --> 00:26:40.620

Mary Boatman (BOEM): development of a site assessment plan following, followed by execution of that plan by the lessee.

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00:26:41.550 --> 00:26:50.040

Mary Boatman (BOEM): For the South Fork project, we are in the fourth phase, which includes conducting an environmental review of the lessee's construction and operations plan, or COP.

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00:26:51.030 --> 00:26:56.100

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

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00:26:56.970 --> 00:27:15.030

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Informed by the environmental impact statement, BOEM will either approve, approve with conditions, or just approve the COP. Should the COP be approved, the lessee must submit a design and installation plan, which BOEM will review. If there are no objections, the lessee will proceed with installation.

116

00:27:16.050 --> 00:27:16.710

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

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00:27:19.410 --> 00:27:29.220

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

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00:27:30.300 --> 00:27:36.270

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

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00:27:36.930 --> 00:27:45.120

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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00:27:46.050 --> 00:27:54.630

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The proposed project or, in NEPA terminology, proposed action, includes up to 15 wind turbines, an offshore substation,

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00:27:55.170 --> 00:28:12.690

Mary Boatman (BOEM): and the export cable that will make landfall at either Beach Lane or Hither Hills. It also includes an O&M facility in Montauk. The project has a design envelope with turbines, ranging from six to 12 megawatts and using a monopile foundation style. Next.

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00:28:16.290 --> 00:28:26.850

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

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00:28:27.480 --> 00:28:40.470

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Narragansett, and East Hampton. 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 web page. Next slide.

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00:28:44.820 --> 00:28:51.270

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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00:28:52.110 --> 00:29:09.300

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We are holding a series of three virtual public meetings and, of course, this is the third or final of those meetings. 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. Next slide.

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00:29:13.650 --> 00:29:24.270

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, to be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible. A substantive comment discusses the accuracy of the information;

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00:29:24.840 --> 00:29:32.100

Mary Boatman (BOEM): suggests alternate methodologies and the reasons why they should be used; provides new information relevant to the analysis;

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00:29:32.610 --> 00:29:42.600

Mary Boatman (BOEM): identifies a different source of credible research, which, if used in the analysis, could result in a different, in different effects; or provides clarification where needed.

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00:29:44.520 --> 00:29:45.120

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

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00:29:48.630 --> 00:29:56.430

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

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00:29:57.030 --> 00:30:08.400

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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00:30:09.390 --> 00:30:28.950

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

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00:30:31.830 --> 00:30:41.880

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now 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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00:30:42.630 --> 00:30:55.200

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 more detail in the next two slides. Next slide.

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00:30:57.840 --> 00:31:08.550

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

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00:31:09.090 --> 00:31:25.740

Mary Boatman (BOEM): One of these transit lanes intersects the South Fork project, as you can see in the lower left inset. Structures would not be allowed within the transit lane, and therefore six proposed turbine locations could not be used. This layout, however, maintains the one-nautical-mile grid pattern.

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00:31:27.180 --> 00:31:37.200

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The project is still viable within the project design envelope, but would limit the options for turbines the maximum size proposed, which is 12 megawatts. Next slide.

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00:31:42.870 --> 00:31:51.630

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

139

00:31:52.470 --> 00:32:09.630

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The lease area has complex geology. As you can see from this map, the boulders are depicted with 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.

140

00:32:11.070 --> 00:32:24.030

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The non-complex area is shown as light blue, while the complex and potentially complex areas are darker blue. Complex habitat that is important as refuge for juvenile fish, such as cod.

141

00:32:25.050 --> 00:32:30.450

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The proposed project layout is depicted to scale where the red circles

142

00:32:31.590 --> 00:32:39.120

Mary Boatman (BOEM): are the wind turbines and scour protection, and the black lines are the proposed cable routes. For this alternative,

143

00:32:39.570 --> 00:32:48.450

Mary Boatman (BOEM): locations and complex habitat where the turbines cannot be moved to reduce impacts to that complex habitat would not be able to occupy that location.

144

00:32:49.320 --> 00:32:58.650

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The identification of the specific locations for adjustment or removal will be determined through the essential fish habitat assessment process. Next slide.

145

00:33:01.740 --> 00:33:19.020

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 to many of these resources are also on this webinar and will answer questions later in the meeting.

146

00:33:20.550 --> 00:33:21.210

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

147

00:33:24.270 --> 00:33:32.070

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, the cumulative impact scenario used in this draft EIS, is based on the scenario developed for the Vineyard Wind Supplemental EIS.

148

00:33:33.510 --> 00:33:42.090

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now briefly, the top four levels, or bars, are not considered reasonably foreseeable primarily due to stay capacity and technical resource potential.

149

00:33:42.480 --> 00:33:47.010

Mary Boatman (BOEM): They look at the absolute maximum possible that you could have on the OCS.

150

00:33:47.940 --> 00:33:58.590

Mary Boatman (BOEM): However, the reasonably foreseeable scenario is based on the technical resource potential of existing Atlantic leases. This includes any projects with awarded off take,

151

00:33:59.100 --> 00:34:05.970

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

152

00:34:06.870 --> 00:34:16.620

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

153

00:34:17.100 --> 00:34:30.660

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This potential for additional future development beyond named projects is also accounted for and analyzed in this scenario. Again, I refer you, refer you to Appendix E for a detailed discussion of the cumulative scenario.

154

00:34:31.920 --> 00:34:32.610

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

155

00:34:35.520 --> 00:34:41.190

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

156

00:34:41.670 --> 00:34:51.000

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Definitions for negligible, minor, moderate, and major are provided for each resource and for overall impacts are defined in the beginning of Chapter Three.

157

00:34:51.750 --> 00:34:56.070

Mary Boatman (BOEM): There's also a poster in the virtual meeting room that contains these overall definitions.

158

00:34:56.730 --> 00:35:13.500

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

159

00:35:14.730 --> 00:35:19.530

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The other two action alternatives would result in slightly lower impacts, because of fewer turbines.

160

00:35:19.860 --> 00:35:30.330

Mary Boatman (BOEM): In particular, the vessel transit lane alternative would have lesser impacts to commercial fishing, and the habitat alternative would reduce impacts to benthic or complex habitat. Next slide.

161

00:35:35.160 --> 00:35:42.420

Mary Boatman (BOEM): These potential impacts to resources are also seen in this table, which is found, can be found in Chapter Two in more detail.

162

00:35:43.230 --> 00:35:52.140

Mary Boatman (BOEM): So this is an overarching summary. This table summarizes the overall direct and indirect, and the cumulative impact levels for each resource.

163

00:35:52.710 --> 00:36:00.390

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This also allows for a comparison across alternatives and includes the No Action Alternative, which serves as a baseline.

164

00:36:01.350 --> 00:36:11.790

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

165

00:36:12.330 --> 00:36:21.360

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

166

00:36:22.350 --> 00:36:38.970

Mary Boatman (BOEM): with indirect and with direct, indirect, and direct impact levels of negligible to 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.

167

00:36:40.080 --> 00:36:48.000

Mary Boatman (BOEM): To understand the cumulative impact for each resource, BOEM analyzed the effects of the No Action Alternative, which includes baseline conditions,

168

00:36:48.420 --> 00:36:56.610

Mary Boatman (BOEM): ongoing activities of all types, and future offshore activities, including the reasonably foreseeable future offshore wind activities.

169

00:36:57.600 --> 00:37:12.300

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Resource impact levels seen here include air quality, water quality, bats, benthic resources, fin fish, invertebrates, and EFH. And the next few slides will illustrate the other resource areas. Next slide.

170

00:37:14.940 --> 00:37:26.760

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, this slide includes birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, and other terrestrial and coastal habitats. As a reminder, green is negligible, yellow is moderate. Next slide.

171

00:37:30.210 --> 00:37:46.530

Mary Boatman (BOEM): These resources' impact level seen here are for wetlands, commercial fisheries, and for-hire recreational fishing, cultural and demographics, employment and economics, and the grand. Green is negligible, yellow moderate, and the orange is for major. Next slide.

172

00:37:50.310 --> 00:38:03.300

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Resource impacts levels seen here include environmental justice, land use and coastal infrastructure, and navigation and vessel traffic . And, finally, the last slide on this topic.

173

00:38:05.370 --> 00:38:23.520

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This one resource seen here, it includes other uses, including research and surveys, military and national security, aviation and air traffic, cable and pipelines, and radar systems, and it also has recreation and tourism, and visual resources.

174

00:38:24.840 --> 00:38:25.590

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

175

00:38:27.750 --> 00:38:45.090

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, right now, we're obviously holding the public hearings for the draft EIS. The next step is to take these comments and prepare a final EIS, which is scheduled to be published in August, and then the record of decision is scheduled for October. Next slide.

176

00:38:47.880 --> 00:38:59.280

Mary Boatman (BOEM): BOEM's South Fork web page includes a variety of informative documents, including South Fork's construction and operations plan, the draft EIS, and a link to the virtual meeting room webpage.

177

00:38:59.760 --> 00:39:09.480

Mary Boatman (BOEM): As mentioned before, within the virtual meeting webpage, you will find posters and presentations highlighting key topics and resources, like our how to comment poster.

178

00:39:10.560 --> 00:39:12.870

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And finally, the last slide.

179

00:39:15.840 --> 00:39:21.540

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Again, how to comment. That's why we're all here. You can provide comments on the draft as today

180

00:39:22.260 --> 00:39:28.440

Mary Boatman (BOEM): as oral testimony, testimony during any of our public meetings, including this one, and it is being recorded.

181

00:39:29.340 --> 00:39:40.080

Mary Boatman (BOEM): If you prefer to submit your comments electronically, you can go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), search for BOEM docket BOEM-2020-0066.

182

00:39:40.530 --> 00:39:44.880

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And you'll see a "comment now" button that you simply click on and submit your comments.

183

00:39:45.720 --> 00:39:52.920

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And finally, comments can also be submitted by mail with envelopes clearly labeled South Fork Draft EIS.

184

00:39:53.370 --> 00:40:02.190

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Addressed to Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road,

185

00:40:02.940 --> 00:40:12.150

Mary Boatman (BOEM): VAM-OREP, Sterling, Virginia 20166. Comments must be postmarked no later than February 22, 2021.

186

00:40:12.780 --> 00:40:17.940

Mary Boatman (BOEM): BOEM does not consider anonymous comments. Please include your name and address as part of your submittal.

187

00:40:18.690 --> 00:40:29.850

Mary Boatman (BOEM): All comments will be made part of the public record and may be publicly posted without change. And with that, thank you very much. We hope to hear from you right now, and I'm going to turn it back over to Meg.

188

00:40:32.100 --> 00:40:41.250

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. Thank you, Mary for those, those contextual pieces of this this NEPA process, which I know is familiar to many but

189

00:40:42.090 --> 00:40:59.940

Meg Perry (SWCA): also can sound like a lot of acronyms. So helpful to get, get that introduction. Great, and we're already starting to see a few questions coming in, which is great. If you're just joining us, there's a Q and A button in Zoom that you can use to submit questions.

190

00:41:01.890 --> 00:41:11.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): And as, as Mary just mentioned, there are a few other ways to provide comments as part of this process, in addition to commenting during this meeting.

191

00:41:12.690 --> 00:41:16.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): In writing via mail or online.

192

00:41:17.520 --> 00:41:21.690

Meg Perry (SWCA): And the deadline for public comments submission is February 22.

193

00:41:23.130 --> 00:41:31.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): So we are going to shift now to the public comment portion of the meeting, so let me just walk you all through how we will handle that.

194

00:41:32.370 --> 00:41:40.110

Meg Perry (SWCA): As I mentioned earlier, there was an option during registration to indicate that you'd like to share a comment during the meeting, so we will start by

195

00:41:40.710 --> 00:41:57.870

Meg Perry (SWCA): turning to those people who preregistered to comment. And what I will do is call on you, as your name comes up in the queue, and you'll see that I will keep a running list in the chat box of who's up next so you can start to be prepared.

196

00:42:00.210 --> 00:42:10.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I will call on each person, in turn, and once we've heard from those who preregistered, then we will open it up to others who may wish to share a comment.

197

00:42:11.400 --> 00:42:18.330

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you can indicate that you'd like to do that by clicking the raise hand button in Zoom, or if you're on the phone only,

198

00:42:18.660 --> 00:42:28.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): you can dial star nine and that will also raise your hand and I'll see that you would like to chime in and I'll call on those people in the order that your hands go up.

199

00:42:30.870 --> 00:42:31.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): So.

200

00:42:33.990 --> 00:42:38.820

Meg Perry (SWCA): Just a couple of reminders regarding how these comments will work.

201

00:42:39.900 --> 00:42:50.430

Meg Perry (SWCA): As I mentioned, I'll, I will call on you. I'll invite you to unmute your line, and then we ask you to please state and spell your name, when you begin your comment

202

00:42:51.240 --> 00:42:59.190

Meg Perry (SWCA): so that we have that accurately for the record. I will unfortunately have to call on you before we hear that, so apologies in advance if I

203

00:42:59.430 --> 00:43:08.250

Meg Perry (SWCA): mispronounce your name. I know it's everyone likes to hear their name pronounced correctly and I will do my best, and please correct me if I get it wrong.

204

00:43:10.140 --> 00:43:16.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I'll ask you to state your name at the beginning, and then we do have over 100 people on the call today, so we're asking

205

00:43:17.250 --> 00:43:27.330

Meg Perry (SWCA): that you please limit your comments to five minutes for purposes of this meeting. And I'll have a little timer up on the screen so you can, you can check as you go through, how much time you have left.

206

00:43:28.560 --> 00:43:36.180

Meg Perry (SWCA): And if your if your comments do run longer than five minutes, you always have the option to submit your comments in writing in the ways that we already mentioned.

207

00:43:37.590 --> 00:43:51.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): Or, once we go through everyone else, you're welcome to get back in the queue if you have something additional to share. So that's the procedure for public comment and I believe my colleague Christy has the

208

00:43:53.820 --> 00:43:57.000

Meg Perry (SWCA): pre-signup list. And you should see if you click on "chat"

209

00:43:58.770 --> 00:44:02.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): the first set of five people up to speak.

210

00:44:03.330 --> 00:44:08.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I will call on those folks in the order that they are registered.

211

00:44:12.330 --> 00:44:14.070

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so.

212

00:44:15.720 --> 00:44:17.040

Meg Perry (SWCA): First.

213

00:44:18.450 --> 00:44:31.530

Meg Perry (SWCA): And that order for those on the phone is Pamela Mahoney first, then Ross Gould, then Caroline Hahn, then Dave Kapell, and then Francesca Rheannon.

214

00:44:32.700 --> 00:44:35.310

Meg Perry (SWCA): So those are our first five folks up to comment.

215

00:44:38.790 --> 00:44:44.130

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I will turn to you Pamela Mahoney first, if you are on.

216

00:44:50.400 --> 00:45:04.560

Michael Mahoney: Hi, it's Michael Mahoney filling in for Pamela Mahoney again, and I want to thank BOEM for these chances to speak. In that regards, I want to ask that, when you're evaluating

217

00:45:05.460 --> 00:45:22.740

Michael Mahoney: this project to please take notice that the cable route that the developer wants to use is the longest sea route, and there are shorter routes that they have proposed, as an alternative, plus there's an even shorter route.

218

00:45:23.850 --> 00:45:37.980

Michael Mahoney: And the route that they're planning, it also requires the installation of a new onshore cable that is going to be driven down the middle of a heavily used street.

219

00:45:38.520 --> 00:45:48.000

Michael Mahoney: And they say they're doing it off-season, but even-off season, this street is the only access for many homes along that, and it's a very narrow street.

220

00:45:48.720 --> 00:45:58.560

Michael Mahoney: The other route has a much larger working site, doesn't require it to go down the middle of the street, it would be safer for the public to access

221

00:45:59.010 --> 00:46:20.190

Michael Mahoney: the beach, which people do here all year-round. In addition to that, it would be much safer for the workers, so I'd like you to take a look at that. You know the Hither Hills route, Indian Wells is actually the shortest route to hook it up to the grid using the existing

222

00:46:21.240 --> 00:46:30.480

Michael Mahoney: transmission routes that are available to them along the Long Island Railroad. It's a straight shot up the short street and the little jog down Windmill and then they're right in the

223

00:46:31.890 --> 00:46:33.570

Michael Mahoney: Long Island Railroad right-of-way.

224

00:46:35.040 --> 00:46:36.150

Michaela Mahoney: Next thing I want you to

225

00:46:37.260 --> 00:46:38.280

Michael Mahoney: consider is that

226

00:46:39.630 --> 00:46:52.140

Michael Mahoney: this wind farm, South Fork, is being built adjacent to Sunrise. Now, somebody once suggested that they should just combine the cables and just have one trench out in the ocean,

227

00:46:52.920 --> 00:47:05.280

Michael Mahoney: and they came back and said well they're using DC turbines on South Fork and they're using AC on Sunrise. Why not just tell the developer to put in AC turbines is my suggestion.

228

00:47:05.820 --> 00:47:22.230

Michael Mahoney: Because then we are doing less environmental impact to our sea bottom and that power could be joined with that cable, which is going to run down further, that is a longer route, but that one's going to be run any time, anyhow.

229

00:47:23.250 --> 00:47:32.670

Michael Mahoney: In addition, though, running it with the Sunrise would then supply the power to the public at a much lower cost. This

230

00:47:34.170 --> 00:47:44.130

Michael Mahoney: South Fork Wind Farm is being paid for by only the ratepayers in Suffolk County where Sunrise is being paid for by all ratepayers in the state in New York.

231

00:47:45.510 --> 00:47:46.470

Pamela Mahoney: We've been told that

232

00:47:47.640 --> 00:48:00.030

Michael Mahoney: South Fork is going to result in Suffolk County having the highest rate cost to ratepayers of anywhere in the State of New York, five times higher than some projects.

233

00:48:01.560 --> 00:48:18.450

Michael Mahoney: Combining it with Sunrise, which is being paid for by all the ratepayers in the State of New York, in addition to which Suffolk County is going to be paying for, would result in much lower cost electricity to the ratepayers, which I believe is what should be done.

234

00:48:19.530 --> 00:48:23.250

Michael Mahoney: The other thing I'd point out with is that I'm concerned about the company,

235

00:48:24.630 --> 00:48:26.940

Michael Mahoney: Orsted Eversource. There has been

236

00:48:28.470 --> 00:48:34.020

Michael Mahoney: several litigation matters that have come up there, they've made statements that they haven't honored both

237

00:48:35.250 --> 00:48:50.250

Michael Mahoney: companies concerning, and I would encourage you to have a very careful analysis of whether you should even be working with this company. They have not honored commitments that they have made in writing to people in Wainscott.

238

00:48:51.930 --> 00:48:52.530

Michael Mahoney: I just

239

00:48:54.660 --> 00:49:02.220

Michael Mahoney: regret to say that they're out this, to do this to make money for them, which you know, a for-profit business should do it, but they're not out there

240

00:49:02.850 --> 00:49:15.750

Michael Mahoney: to do what's best for the ratepayers and the public. And I want to thank you again for hosting this and I will send you my written thoughts before the 22nd. Thank you, Meg.

241

00:49:17.340 --> 00:49:18.870

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

242

00:49:23.730 --> 00:49:27.900

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, next up, we have Ross Gould.

243

00:49:34.290 --> 00:49:36.360

Ross Gould: Hi, good evening, can you hear me? Yes.

244

00:49:37.950 --> 00:49:49.200

Ross Gould: Good evening, my name is Ross Gould, that's R-O-S-S G-O-U-L-D, and I am the vice president for supply chain development for the Business Network for Offshore Wind.

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00:49:49.680 --> 00:49:56.850

Ross Gould: I am here on behalf of the 335 members of the Business Network for Offshore Wind, 40 of whom are based in New York.

246

00:49:57.420 --> 00:50:06.300

Ross Gould: I would like to thank BOEM and the Army Corps of Engineers for the opportunity to address the draft environmental impact statement to the South Fork Wind Farm under consideration this evening.

247

00:50:06.750 --> 00:50:14.820

Ross Gould: The network will also be submitting written comments. Thank you for all the time and effort you have made to work responsibly to analyze the environmental impacts

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00:50:15.150 --> 00:50:22.320

Ross Gould: and benefits, may I say environmental benefits, including mitigating climate change, of the South Fork Wind Farm.

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00:50:23.040 --> 00:50:30.270

Ross Gould: The network is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization focused on the development of the U.S. offshore wind industry and its supply chain.

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00:50:30.630 --> 00:50:40.860

Ross Gould: Since 2012, the network has brought together business and government, both domestically and internationally to educate and enable American businesses of all sizes to enter the offshore wind market.

251

00:50:41.250 --> 00:50:53.760

Ross Gould: The network uses the voice of its diverse membership, comprised of the full spectrum of offshore wind supply chain, to educate and support federal state and local policies to advance the development of the U.S. offshore wind industry.

252

00:50:54.600 --> 00:51:06.270

Ross Gould: The network is a proud partner of the Bureau of Energy Ocean Management and the network looks forward to continuing successful partnership with BOEM, and we'd like to thank BOEM for conducting these virtual meetings

253

00:51:06.750 --> 00:51:13.260

Ross Gould: about the South Fork EIS under these challenging circumstances. And we want, and we do commend you on the job well done.

254

00:51:13.740 --> 00:51:24.420

Ross Gould: Speaking from personal experience, it is a Herculean behind-the-scenes effort to execute virtual events, so we recognize the effort and coordination that BOEM has clearly invested in preparing and making them run so smoothly.

255

00:51:26.730 --> 00:51:33.540

Ross Gould: And the Department of Interior approval of South Fork construction and operation plan will unleash a wave of investment.

256

00:51:33.900 --> 00:51:45.720

Ross Gould: More importantly, this approval will begin a domino effect that will ultimately put tens of thousands of hardworking Americans from across the economic spectrum and from literally all walks of life.

257

00:51:46.380 --> 00:52:00.510

Ross Gould: The building trades, vessel captains and deckhands, accountants, dockworkers, economists, welders, divers, aircraft pilots, atmospheric and marine scientists, truck drivers, attorneys, crane operators, project managers,

258

00:52:00.840 --> 00:52:07.110

Ross Gould: mechanics, and every imaginable engineering discipline, among many other occupations, back to work.

259

00:52:07.590 --> 00:52:13.500

Ross Gould: South Fork will also significantly contribute to energy security and improve local air quality in New York.

260

00:52:14.070 --> 00:52:25.800

Ross Gould: Offshore wind presents an enormous economic and job opportunity for the State of New York and it's either over 700 companies in New York that have listed themselves as capable and interested in participating in the offshore wind industry.

261

00:52:26.940 --> 00:52:46.200

Ross Gould: With five projects scheduled for New York, these projects are set to bring 6,000, projected to create 6,800 jobs and more than 12.1 billion in combined economic activity. Now we at the Business Network would ask that you, that BOEM

262

00:52:47.490 --> 00:52:51.900

Ross Gould: approve the proposal, the proposed South Fork Wind Farm, as proposed by

263

00:52:53.100 --> 00:53:01.740

Ross Gould: by Eversource and Orsted and reject the vessel transit lane alternative.

264

00:53:02.730 --> 00:53:09.690

Ross Gould: We look forward to submitting written comments and, once again, we will cede the rest of my time, and I want to thank BOEM for the opportunity

265

00:53:10.380 --> 00:53:22.080

Ross Gould: for the comments this evening, and we continue to partner with them to support the robust growth and responsible development of the U.S. offshore wind industry. So thank you, Meg. Thank you, Jim. Thank you all who are there, appreciate it.

266

00:53:23.520 --> 00:53:24.720

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

267

00:53:28.710 --> 00:53:29.370

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright.

268

00:53:30.990 --> 00:53:33.720

Meg Perry (SWCA): Caroline or Carolyn Hahn.

269

00:53:35.190 --> 00:53:37.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): I invite you to speak next.

270

00:53:43.350 --> 00:53:43.980

Caroline Hahn: Hear me?

271

00:53:44.460 --> 00:53:45.570

Meg Perry (SWCA): Yes, go right ahead.

272

00:53:46.080 --> 00:53:58.470

Caroline Hahn: Great good evening. My name is Caroline Hahn, that's C-A-R-O-L-I-N-E H-A-H-N, and I'm here today representing the New York League of Conservation Voters, or NYLCV, for short.

273

00:53:59.010 --> 00:54:06.480

Caroline Hahn: And NYLCV is committed to renewable energy and a clean energy future for New York. Offshore wind is the top priority for us both statewide here on Long Island.

274

00:54:07.230 --> 00:54:10.500

Caroline Hahn: Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on this important project today.

275

00:54:11.370 --> 00:54:21.000

Caroline Hahn: Offshore wind is critical to meet New York's renewable energy goals, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, and rebuild around and green energy economy, which will address climate change provide jobs and improve public health.

276

00:54:21.570 --> 00:54:30.210

Caroline Hahn: This is evident in your first offshore wind farm, a joint venture between Orsted and Eversource, consisting of up to 15 turbines, so it will generate enough clean energy to power 70,000 homes.

277

00:54:30.870 --> 00:54:36.090

Caroline Hahn: The wind farm will displace millions of tons of carbon emissions around the equivalent of taking 60,000 cars off the road.

278

00:54:37.410 --> 00:54:44.160

Caroline Hahn: And NYLCV is committed to ensuring that developers provide clear and transparent information to communities that will be home to energy infrastructure.

279

00:54:44.460 --> 00:54:59.250

Caroline Hahn: As evidenced by our educational programs offered to ensure the public has the opportunity to ask questions of the project developers, South Fork is an important and precedent-setting project to the U.S. offshore wind industry. Comprehensive DEIS assessment outlines this in great detail.

280

00:55:00.600 --> 00:55:08.850

Caroline Hahn: The majority of impacts in the DEIS for the South Fork project and moderate or below, while the higher-rated impacts can be addressed through ongoing stakeholder discussion and outreach.

281

00:55:09.210 --> 00:55:13.800

Caroline Hahn: An example of this is the ongoing discussion with regulatory agencies and other environmental stakeholders

282

00:55:14.130 --> 00:55:20.340

Caroline Hahn: about environmental protection measures for marine mammals and protected species, including the endangered North Atlantic right whale.

283

00:55:20.940 --> 00:55:26.880

Caroline Hahn: These programs will mitigate noise impacts during offshore monopile installation and minimize ship strikes during operation.

284

00:55:27.840 --> 00:55:32.790

Caroline Hahn: The project will continue to develop these measures, which will be included in the final EIS statement.

285

00:55:33.360 --> 00:55:41.910

Caroline Hahn: One area which requires additional focus is in the DEIS, the environmental justice section, which should include the beneficial impacts of the project, including job

286

00:55:42.240 --> 00:55:47.160

Caroline Hahn: for improvements, contributions to the local economy and climate change, climate change mitigation.

287

00:55:47.640 --> 00:55:52.740

Caroline Hahn: The section also did not incorporate discussion of public input and feedback from local and Labor communities.

288

00:55:53.340 --> 00:55:59.460

Caroline Hahn: And in addition to the proposed action by South Fork Wind, the EIS includes several alternatives, including a vessel alternative lane.

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00:55:59.790 --> 00:56:04.950

Caroline Hahn: But it is clear that the proposal put forth by South Fork Wind is the best option that will cause the least impacts to the environment.

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00:56:05.730 --> 00:56:12.270

Caroline Hahn: Additionally, the town leaders in East Hampton have been clear they believe that route from Beach Lane is the best option because it minimizes impacts to the whole community.

291

00:56:12.990 --> 00:56:23.010

Caroline Hahn: The EIS analyzes short-term use compared to long-term productivity, concluded that South Fork Wind would not result in impacts that significantly narrow range of future uses of the ocean.

292

00:56:23.460 --> 00:56:32.400

Caroline Hahn: The DEIS also states that South Fork Wind provides several long-term benefits, including the promotion of clean and safe development of domestic energy sources and the creation of clean jobs.

293

00:56:33.030 --> 00:56:39.270

Caroline Hahn: South Fork Wind offers a significant opportunity for economic development and the creation of good-paying Union and green economy jobs.

294

00:56:39.840 --> 00:56:47.250

Caroline Hahn: Long Island has the potential to become a center for an offshore work force at the center of a major industry that helps rebuild our economy and combat climate change.

295

00:56:48.000 --> 00:56:57.270

Caroline Hahn: And it's estimated that the three currently awarded offshore wind projects, including the South Fork Wind Farm, will create more than 1,600 new jobs and generate \$3.2 billion in private investment.

296

00:56:57.930 --> 00:57:04.410

Caroline Hahn: Offshore wind has the potential to drive economic recovery post the COVID-19 pandemic and stimulate economies up and down the East Coast.

297

00:57:04.860 --> 00:57:12.510

Caroline Hahn: Additionally, there is deep and diverse stakeholder support among local environmental and labor organizations from Long Island, and NYLCV is proud to be included in these groups.

298

00:57:12.900 --> 00:57:18.720

Caroline Hahn: We urge you to adopt the DEIS and enable the South Fork Wind Project to move forward exponentially. Thank you for your time.

299

00:57:20.850 --> 00:57:22.140

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

300

00:57:27.210 --> 00:57:27.930

Alright.

301

00:57:29.400 --> 00:57:31.560

Meg Perry (SWCA): Dave Kapell or Compel.

302

00:57:36.810 --> 00:57:37.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): I invite you to speak next.

303

00:57:39.390 --> 00:57:49.380

Dave Kapell: Good evening, my name is Dave Kapell, K-A-P-E-L-L. I am a consultant to Orsted, one of the developers of South Fork Wind.

304

00:57:50.280 --> 00:58:05.880

Dave Kapell: I'm also the former mayor of the village of Greenport and I'm joined this evening by my wife Eileen Kapell, E-I-L-E-E-N K-A-P-E-L-L. Together, we would like to submit these comments and we'll follow up with a written submission.

305

00:58:07.830 --> 00:58:16.770

Dave Kapell: We write in support of South Fork Wind in its application to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for approval to construct New York's first offshore wind farm.

306

00:58:17.670 --> 00:58:22.800

Dave Kapell: As residents of coastal Long Island in the West Dublin neighborhood in the village of Greenport,

307

00:58:23.430 --> 00:58:29.340

Dave Kapell: we are experiencing firsthand the reality of sea level rise and the global warming that is causing it.

308

00:58:29.970 --> 00:58:37.410

Dave Kapell: We recognize the scientific imperative to transition to renewable forms of energy production to help address this crisis.

309

00:58:38.040 --> 00:58:51.780

Dave Kapell: As one of the first offshore wind projects to be constructed in the United States, the success of South Fork Wind will be an important harbinger for the future of this a central component of the transition away from fossil fuel generation.

310

00:58:53.040 --> 00:59:07.440

Dave Kapell: Given the controversy caused by a handful of neighbors over the proposal over the proposed landfall of the export cable in Wainscott, and the fears those neighbors have over perceived impacts the project will have on their neighborhood, we believe we have a unique perspective to offer.

311

00:59:08.640 --> 00:59:20.430

Dave Kapell: In 2017, PSE&G Long Island undertook a project nearly identical to the proposed South Fork cable landing to eliminate a severe seasonal power constraint on Shelter Island

312

00:59:20.880 --> 00:59:29.250

Dave Kapell: that had previously been addressed with high-polluting portable diesel generators. The project involved running an underground transmission cable

313

00:59:29.640 --> 00:59:35.640

Dave Kapell: from the Long Island Power Authority substation in Southold for two miles through our quiet neighborhood,

314

00:59:36.060 --> 00:59:53.850

Dave Kapell: under our village beach, and then 120 feet below Greenport Harbor for a distance of 3,328 feet to a landing on Shelter Island using horizontal directional drilling. This is precisely the same technology proposed to be used in Wainscott ...

315

00:59:55.470 --> 01:00:05.490

Dave Kapell: To mitigate the impact of short-term disruption during construction, PSE&G pledged significant infrastructure improvements to the Greenport municipal electric system,

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01:00:05.940 --> 01:00:15.300

Dave Kapell: along with cash access payments of \$1.3 million to the village of Greenport and \$1.02 million to the Shelter Island Heights Property Owners Association.

317

01:00:15.960 --> 01:00:34.080

Dave Kapell: PSE&G also pledged to build the project over the offseason winter months, beginning in October 2017, successfully completing it the following May. A visit to the site today will reveal only repaved streets and the occasional manhole cover.

318

01:00:35.700 --> 01:00:43.800

Dave Kapell: We believe all parties came out as winners. Shelter Island gave the power it needed while eliminating the pollution and cost of portable generators.

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01:00:44.250 --> 01:00:52.770

Dave Kapell: Greenport and Shelter Island were properly compensated for their part in facilitating the project, most importantly, together as a community.

320

01:00:53.370 --> 01:01:05.250

Dave Kapell: We were able to take a small but important step to address the existential threat of climate change. The same will be true of South Fork Wind and we urge you to approve it.

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01:01:06.300 --> 01:01:16.050

Dave Kapell: In addition to ours, these neighbors have linked their names to this letter. We all live directly on or closely adjacent to PSE&G cable route.

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01:01:16.800 --> 01:01:30.750

Dave Kapell: Alex and Ju-Lie Bell, Rob Buchanan and Noemi Bonazzi, Sarah Williams and Tom Spackman, John Williams, Nathaniel and Emily Ewing, Hannah and David Walsh, Kenneth Ludacer,

323

01:01:31.500 --> 01:01:45.000

Dave Kapell: Peggy Lauber, and Paul Kreiling, Tim Betancourt and Isabelle Lion, Andrew and Heather Wolf, and Dinni Gordon. We would like to close by sharing this reflection of one of our neighbors:

324

01:01:46.980 --> 01:01:55.320

Dave Kapell: "I had, I had some reservations about the Shelter Island line and the construction. I felt Shelter Island should have paid more and the road construction was annoying.

325

01:01:55.920 --> 01:02:04.770

Dave Kapell: But now that it's done. I barely remember the inconvenience. I'm all for renewable energy." Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. Good evening.

326

01:02:07.020 --> 01:02:14.580

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you, and just to confirm, to be sure we capture those names, are you planning to submit those comments in writing, as well?

327

01:02:14.910 --> 01:02:15.990

Dave Kapell: Yes, I will. Thank you.

328

01:02:16.530 --> 01:02:19.590

Meg Perry (SWCA): Just want to make sure we get those accurately, thank you. Thank you.

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01:02:23.640 --> 01:02:28.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay next up, we have Francesca Rheannon.

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01:02:31.020 --> 01:02:32.460

Meg Perry (SWCA): I invited you to speak.

331

01:02:37.020 --> 01:02:38.790

Francesca Rheannon: Yes, hi, can you hear me?

332

01:02:39.120 --> 01:02:40.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): Yes, go ahead.

333

01:02:40.620 --> 01:02:56.310

Francesca Rheannon: Thank you, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment for this very important project. I'm a resident of East Hampton, a long-term resident, and a member of the East Hampton Energy Sustainability Advisory committee.

334

01:02:57.750 --> 01:03:06.900

Francesca Rheannon: I support the permitting of the South Fork Wind Project because of the fierce urgency of transitioning to clean energy.

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01:03:07.680 --> 01:03:15.120

Francesca Rheannon: We have but a small window to save our shoreline communities from the worst impacts of climate change.

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01:03:15.900 --> 01:03:25.800

Francesca Rheannon: Scientists estimate that we must transition to 100% clean energy by 2035 and go entirely fossil free by 2050.

337

01:03:26.670 --> 01:03:41.730

Francesca Rheannon: Wind energy, especially offshore wind energy, is key to accomplishing this. Offshore wind power is the swiftest and most cost-effective way to make a major transition toward clean energy.

338

01:03:42.360 --> 01:03:56.820

Francesca Rheannon: We cannot wait for solar panel installations roof by single roof. Offshore wind can supply clean energy to millions of homes in one fell swoop, of which the South Fork Wind Farm will play a part.

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01:03:58.620 --> 01:04:05.940

Francesca Rheannon: The farm, the South Fork Wind Farm, has already been delayed due to controversy over its cable route via Wainscott.

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01:04:06.690 --> 01:04:18.000

Francesca Rheannon: But that rule would mean the least amount of disruption to the East Hampton community as a whole. The alternative, Hither Hills, would add at least another year to construction.

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01:04:18.750 --> 01:04:26.880

Francesca Rheannon: The greater length of the route and its location on the sole major highway, Route 27 between East Hampton and Montauk, would mean

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01:04:27.210 --> 01:04:34.410

Francesca Rheannon: terrible disruption to traffic, affecting far more people for far longer than the Wainscott route.

343

01:04:35.280 --> 01:04:52.620

Francesca Rheannon: It would also mean the loss of badly needed community benefits from Orsted, like burying the electric power cables in Wainscott, which would, if the cable comes to Wainscott, that would make that hamlet more resistant to the effects of storms.

344

01:04:53.730 --> 01:05:10.500

Francesca Rheannon: The community benefits could also provide discounts and incentives to community members for adopting clean energy, like electric vehicles and battery storage that could make the whole community more resilient in the face of severe weather or other climate change–caused disruptions.

345

01:05:11.790 --> 01:05:23.760

Francesca Rheannon: Recently, we on the East End have seen the devastating impact on our shellfish industry of ocean warming and acidification, the total loss of our scallop harvest two years in a row.

346

01:05:24.510 --> 01:05:34.770

Francesca Rheannon: For example, our traditional eelgrass forest, which used to supply critical habitat for many marine species, have been unable to regenerate due to ocean heating.

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01:05:35.190 --> 01:05:44.310

Francesca Rheannon: Despite the efforts of marine scientists to regrow them, these are just two of the many impacts of climate change that are beginning to devastate our communities.

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01:05:44.640 --> 01:05:51.450

Francesca Rheannon: This is, of course, not to mention the increased risk of severe storms and the impact of sea level rise on our homes and roads.

349

01:05:52.290 --> 01:06:05.430

Francesca Rheannon: Finally, we're in the midst of an economic depression, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We need the hundreds to thousands of good jobs that the offshore wind power industry will provide our community,

350

01:06:05.850 --> 01:06:18.420

Francesca Rheannon: including other kinds of job expansion through the multiplier effect. These are all the reasons why we need to move forward with permitting the South Fork Wind Farm as soon as possible.

351

01:06:19.080 --> 01:06:27.750

Francesca Rheannon: Any delay would be terribly short sighted and devastating to us in the long term. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be heard.

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01:06:30.960 --> 01:06:32.490

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

353

01:06:37.470 --> 01:06:53.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, alright. So as I noted, we're keeping a running list in the chat of who's up next, so we have Alice Marlin, Tim McCarthy, and Nick Krakoff next up in the list. So Alice, I will turn to you.

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01:06:54.450 --> 01:06:55.950

Meg Perry (SWCA): And just a reminder to please

355

01:06:57.480 --> 01:07:04.380

Meg Perry (SWCA): state and spell your name your name so we're certain that we have you on the record correctly.

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01:07:05.940 --> 01:07:06.870

Meg Perry (SWCA): um.

357

01:07:09.810 --> 01:07:11.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm wondering if

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01:07:12.420 --> 01:07:15.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alice might be on the phone. Alice, if you are

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01:07:17.400 --> 01:07:24.180

Meg Perry (SWCA): you can use star nine to raise your hand so we know that you're there. I don't see Alice in the list of

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01:07:27.210 --> 01:07:28.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): participants at the moment.

361

01:07:30.300 --> 01:07:31.680

Meg Perry (SWCA): So we may circle back.

362

01:07:38.130 --> 01:07:50.010

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, not seeing any response from Alice at the moment, so we'll, we'll move that, move Alice's name down to the end of the queue and check again in the bit to see if

363

01:07:52.770 --> 01:07:54.060

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alice may have been able to join.

364

01:07:55.560 --> 01:07:58.260

Meg Perry (SWCA): So instead we'll turn next to Tim McCarthy.

365

01:08:04.830 --> 01:08:14.760

Tim McCarthy: Oh, good evening. Can you guys hear me? Yes. Alright, great,. Good evening. Thanks for letting me speak. My name is Tim McCarthy of Business Representative of Local 25 IBEW.

366

01:08:15.870 --> 01:08:21.930

Tim McCarthy: I think I speak for all of organized Labor and especially my members in showing strong support for this project.

367

01:08:23.010 --> 01:08:37.890

Tim McCarthy: Orsted Eversource is committed to working with the building trades, and that's very good news for the working men and women of Long Island. The South Fork Wind project is a critical part of Long Island's energy portfolio and following the governor's clean energy statute.

368

01:08:38.970 --> 01:08:45.870

Tim McCarthy: This also is a tremendous opportunity for merging economic development, responsible electrical energy, and generation for filing

369

01:08:47.040 --> 01:08:51.450

Tim McCarthy: the needs here on Long Island. I just want to say in closing,

370

01:08:52.590 --> 01:09:02.580

Tim McCarthy: that this, this project will impact Long Island. Long Island, there's so many positive aspects, but most important to me and my members, though, are our jobs, good-paying jobs.

371

01:09:03.600 --> 01:09:15.180

Tim McCarthy: And these are not so temporary, as this is going to be a new industry for Long Island and it's going, it's going to allow a lot of folks to gain careers.

372

01:09:15.630 --> 01:09:29.310

Tim McCarthy: So, again I'm, I'm in favor of this project, and I realized I didn't spell my name at the beginning of this, it's Tim McCarthy, T-I-M M-C-C-A-R-T-H-Y. I appreciate you for letting me speak on this. Have a great day.

373

01:09:30.900 --> 01:09:32.220

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

374

01:09:35.730 --> 01:09:39.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, next up is Nick Krakoff.

375

01:09:45.780 --> 01:09:47.700

Nick Krakoff: Yeah, hi. Can you hear me? Yes.

376

01:09:47.760 --> 01:09:55.740

Nick Krakoff: Go ahead. Yeah, hi, my name is Nick Krakoff. I'm a staff attorney speaking on behalf of the Conservation Law Foundation, otherwise known as CLF.

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01:09:56.430 --> 01:10:15.510

Nick Krakoff: I thank BOEM the opportunity to speak tonight. CLF also plans to submit written comments in response to the DEIS. CLF has long supported responsibly developed offshore wind energy. In our view, the transition to clean energy economy is urgently needed to combat effects of climate change.

378

01:10:16.620 --> 01:10:26.970

Nick Krakoff: Offshore wind presents a tremendous opportunity to fight climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and grow a new industry that supports tens of thousands of well-paying jobs.

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01:10:27.960 --> 01:10:35.730

Nick Krakoff: Without significant offshore wind development off the coast of New England, we will not be able to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

380

01:10:36.750 --> 01:10:50.700

Nick Krakoff: However, offshore wind development must be developed responsibly, meaning offshore wind development based on science and meaningful stakeholder input, and that includes effective mitigation to avoid and minimize impacts on marine wildlife and habitat.

381

01:10:52.020 --> 01:10:58.560

Nick Krakoff: CLF recommends that BOEM select the fisheries habitat management alternative as the preferred alternative for the project.

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01:10:59.040 --> 01:11:06.270

Nick Krakoff: It is the most, as it is the most environmentally responsible option that's been proposed for the South Fork Wind Project.

383

01:11:07.080 --> 01:11:12.150

Nick Krakoff: The habit alternative would avoid siting in complex habitats in the area of the South Fork Wind Farm.

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01:11:12.990 --> 01:11:25.740

Nick Krakoff: South Fork Wind Farm overlaps in part with Cox's Ledge, which contains vital benthic resources and provides essential fish habitat for a number of species, including the vulnerable and overfished Atlantic cod.

385

01:11:27.030 --> 01:11:34.530

Nick Krakoff: Cox's Ledge contains complex hard-bottom habitats that are important for Atlantic cod spawning and growth and support high biodiversity.

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01:11:35.610 --> 01:11:41.250

Nick Krakoff: Studies from the Block Island Wind Farm have shown that complex habitats take longer to recover from offshore wind construction

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01:11:41.730 --> 01:11:52.410

Nick Krakoff: than non-complex habitats consisting mostly of sand and mud. Because the fisheries habitat management alternative would avoid siting in complex hard-bottom habitat areas

388

01:11:52.800 --> 01:12:01.020

Nick Krakoff: they're important to several species all still achieving the expected power generation capacity and the South Fork Wind Farm, it is the best option for the project.

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01:12:02.520 --> 01:12:12.870

Nick Krakoff: CLF also urges BOEM to require a suite of strong mitigation measures to protect highly vulnerable endangered North Atlantic right whales and other marine mammals.

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01:12:13.920 --> 01:12:21.630

Nick Krakoff: Population estimates for the North Atlantic right whale were recently revised downward to only 366 remaining individuals.

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01:12:22.530 --> 01:12:38.430

Nick Krakoff: Due to the precariousness of the species survival, robust mitigation and monitoring measures are required for South Fork Wind Farm project for North Atlantic gray whales, including seasonal restrictions to avoid pile driving when right whales are most likely to be the area,

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01:12:39.480 --> 01:12:49.440

Nick Krakoff: shipboard passive acoustic aerial monitoring, use of underwater noise attenuation technologies, and restrictions on pile driving at night or during periods of low visibility,

393

01:12:51.000 --> 01:12:57.480

Nick Krakoff: and, as well as vessel speed restrictions for all vessels traveling to and from and within the project area, among other measures.

394

01:12:58.860 --> 01:13:04.620

Nick Krakoff: Due to the critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, these measures are necessary to ensure the survival of the species.

395

01:13:06.060 --> 01:13:12.540

Nick Krakoff: In order to better understand the impacts of offshore wind on the marine environment, as industry expands up and down the eastern seaboard,

396

01:13:13.500 --> 01:13:27.810

Nick Krakoff: CLF also strongly urges BOEM, in collaboration with NOAA Fisheries and adjacent states, to develop and implement comprehensive monitoring the wind energy area before, during, and after construction and during operation.

397

01:13:29.220 --> 01:13:37.380

Nick Krakoff: Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you tonight, and again, CLF plans to submit more detailed written comments on the DEIS. Thank you.

398

01:13:38.850 --> 01:13:40.230

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

399

01:13:44.340 --> 01:13:46.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay next up, we have,

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01:13:48.240 --> 01:14:00.510

Meg Perry (SWCA): let's see, next few people in the list, we'll turn to Miles Maier next, then Ryan McGarry, and then Diego Lopez. So, Miles, I will

401

01:14:01.590 --> 01:14:03.630

Meg Perry (SWCA): invite you to speak next.

402

01:14:10.680 --> 01:14:11.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): You need to unmute.

403

01:14:23.730 --> 01:14:26.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): If you're connected by phone, you might need to unmute your phone.

404

01:14:28.710 --> 01:14:30.180

Meg Perry (SWCA): It looks like

405

01:14:31.200 --> 01:14:32.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): Miles may have just logged off.

406

01:14:35.520 --> 01:14:37.530

Meg Perry (SWCA): So might be a connectivity issue there.

407

01:14:39.060 --> 01:14:42.540

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay Christy, let's, let's hold on Miles and circle back

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01:14:44.670 --> 01:14:48.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): at the end to see if they still want to share a comment.

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01:14:50.730 --> 01:14:52.740

Meg Perry (SWCA): Ryan McGarry.

410

01:14:53.760 --> 01:14:54.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): Let me

411

01:14:56.040 --> 01:14:57.120

Meg Perry (SWCA): invite you to speak.

412

01:15:00.510 --> 01:15:08.190

Ryan McGarry: Hi, good evening. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to address body. My name is Ryan McGarry, M-C-G-A-R-R-Y.

413

01:15:08.550 --> 01:15:14.940

Ryan McGarry: And, on behalf of Suffolk AME, the region's largest independent Labor union with approximately 10,000 active and retired members,

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01:15:15.450 --> 01:15:19.830

Ryan McGarry: I'm proud to offer our support of offshore wind and the South Fork Wind Project in particular.

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01:15:20.580 --> 01:15:30.210

Ryan McGarry: Through an investment in utility and infrastructure improvements, this project will provide needed Union jobs to our region, helping to stimulate our local economy at a time we need it most.

416

01:15:31.020 --> 01:15:34.410

Ryan McGarry: While this project will not directly impact the work of our AME members,

417

01:15:34.680 --> 01:15:43.110

Ryan McGarry: the creation of Union-represented jobs, the positive impact the project will have on our local economy, and the fact that this green energy investment will help protect our environment

418

01:15:43.500 --> 01:15:53.310

Ryan McGarry: on which both our hurting industries and tourism-related businesses rely, make us confident that the social or one project will surely have a positive impact on all our region's residents.

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01:15:53.940 --> 01:16:00.450

Ryan McGarry: Lastly, as my understanding that the Beach Lane cable route was thoroughly studied and is the best option to minimize community impact.

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01:16:01.020 --> 01:16:06.750

Ryan McGarry: Again, on behalf of Suffolk AME, we are proud to stand with our brothers and sisters from the Long Island Federation of Labor

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01:16:07.050 --> 01:16:16.020

Ryan McGarry: and climate jobs in New York to offer our full support of this regionally significant project. Again, I thank you very much for affording me the opportunity to speak to you this evening. Thank you.

422

01:16:17.640 --> 01:16:19.260

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

423

01:16:22.440 --> 01:16:26.430

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, Diego Lopez.

424

01:16:29.010 --> 01:16:31.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): I invite you to speak next.

425

01:16:43.140 --> 01:16:45.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you may need to click unmute, Diego, if you're there.

426

01:17:04.050 --> 01:17:09.630

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, we're not hearing you if you're speaking, Diego, so you may need to click unmute in order for us to hear you.

427

01:17:12.960 --> 01:17:14.700

Meg Perry (SWCA): If not, oh.

428

01:17:14.760 --> 01:17:15.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): There you are.

429

01:17:15.390 --> 01:17:16.140

Diego Lopez: Can you hear me?

430

01:17:16.530 --> 01:17:19.530

Diego Lopez: I actually I have no comment.

431

01:17:20.490 --> 01:17:21.540

Diego Lopez: Okay. But I appreciate.

432

01:17:23.460 --> 01:17:24.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, thank you very much.

433

01:17:27.810 --> 01:17:36.480

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, Simon Kinsella is next and will be followed by Jeremiah Mulligan and Tina Plesset.

434

01:17:39.300 --> 01:17:41.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): So let me invite you to speak.

435

01:17:53.070 --> 01:17:54.720

Meg Perry (SWCA): We're not hearing you, you may need to click

436

01:17:56.940 --> 01:17:57.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): on mute if you're there.

437

01:18:01.980 --> 01:18:03.930

Simon Kinsella: This is Simon Kinsella speaking, sorry about that.

438

01:18:04.170 --> 01:18:04.980

Thank you very much.

439

01:18:06.270 --> 01:18:07.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): Go ahead.

440

01:18:08.430 --> 01:18:21.360

Simon Kinsella: My name is Simon Kinsella, I support offshore wind generally, but I do not support this project. The evidence that I plan to submit by February 22 demonstrates

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01:18:22.170 --> 01:18:45.450

Simon Kinsella: the following and unnecessarily high price for delivered energy that is double the rate of 16.3 cents per kilowatt hour than Sunrise Wind of 8.1 cents per kilowatt hour. The overall project cost of South Fork Wind is more than \$1 billion more expensive per unit of energy

442

01:18:46.650 --> 01:19:06.870

Simon Kinsella: over 20 years, than Sunrise Wind. These costs have been concealed from ratepayers. Today, we still do not know the total amount of capacity that will be delivered by South Fork wind, nor do we know the final price that will be passed on to ratepayers for South Fork Wind.

443

01:19:08.190 --> 01:19:10.590

Simon Kinsella: This information has been hidden from us.

444

01:19:12.600 --> 01:19:23.490

Simon Kinsella: The company that administered the procurement process, PSEG Long Island, awarded South Fork Wind power purchase agreement

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01:19:24.090 --> 01:19:28.680

Simon Kinsella: to its business partner in a noncompetitive recruitment process.

446

01:19:29.640 --> 01:19:48.030

Simon Kinsella: South Fork Wind has willfully ignored overwhelming evidence of extensive and pervasive PFAS contamination that exceeds New York state regulatory standards by 100 times in the area where proposes to construct underground, its transmission infrastructure.

447

01:19:49.980 --> 01:19:59.520

Simon Kinsella: The reliability of South Fork Wind to provide power when it's needed most during the summer has not been considered by New York State Public Service Commission Article Seven review.

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01:20:00.240 --> 01:20:25.200

Simon Kinsella: Over 8,000 pages were stricken from the record that it tested to wind conditions. For example, if South Fork Wind was installed in 2016, the facility of 132 megawatts would have failed to deliver 82% of their acquired demand for energy on the South Fork from May first August 31 in 2016.

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01:20:27.180 --> 01:20:33.210

Simon Kinsella: Greater protection is needed for marine life, especially on Cox's Ledge and for Atlantic right whales.

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01:20:34.290 --> 01:20:51.900

Simon Kinsella: Necessary research into the correlation between temperature, low wind events, and demand for power has not been conducted. The evidence shows that offshore wind-generated power will not be able to provide energy when it is needed most during the summer.

451

01:20:53.580 --> 01:20:58.050

Simon Kinsella: The cumulative wind wake effect has not been adequately researched,

452

01:20:59.670 --> 01:21:02.280

Simon Kinsella: and how that will affect onshore conditions.

453

01:21:04.680 --> 01:21:14.790

Simon Kinsella: I asked BOEM to conduct a full environmental review pursuant to NEPA in the absence of New York State Public Service Commission Article Seven review.

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01:21:16.080 --> 01:21:17.460

Simon Kinsella: I'll be submitting comments

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01:21:18.630 --> 01:21:22.440

Simon Kinsella: by February 22. Thank you very much for your time.

456

01:21:24.990 --> 01:21:26.250

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

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01:21:32.190 --> 01:21:33.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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01:21:35.130 --> 01:21:48.330

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, I know we, we weren't able to connect with a couple of folks who, we'll circle back to so Diego and Miles, we will circle back to you and hope you can stay on.

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01:21:49.530 --> 01:21:51.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): Jeremiah Mulligan, you're up next.

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01:22:00.210 --> 01:22:02.190

Jeremiah Mulligan: Can you hear me? Yes.

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01:22:02.250 --> 01:22:10.530

Jeremiah Mulligan: Go ahead. Okay, thank you. My name is Jeremiah Mulligan and I'm a resident of East Hampton, New York. I'm a member of Win with Wind,

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01:22:11.040 --> 01:22:21.150

Jeremiah Mulligan: an independent, nonpartisan group of private citizens of the town of East Hampton that is not affiliated with or funded by any wind or energy development company.

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01:22:22.530 --> 01:22:32.850

Jeremiah Mulligan: Win with Wind aims to produce fact-based information regarding the benefits of offshore wind energy and is working to advocate for the South Fork Wind project

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01:22:33.390 --> 01:22:38.580

Jeremiah Mulligan: as an opportunity to place East Hampton at the forefront of clean energy leadership.

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01:22:39.450 --> 01:22:54.210

Jeremiah Mulligan: Win with Wind supports the project because of the contribution it will make to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and because it will lay the groundwork for offshore wind development along the southern shore of Long Island, as well as the eastern seaboard.

466

01:22:57.240 --> 01:23:06.930

Jeremiah Mulligan: Currently, our electricity comes from aging fossil fuel plants on Long Island and nearby states, as well as small, local diesel fuel peaker plants

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01:23:07.350 --> 01:23:20.370

Jeremiah Mulligan: such as those found in East Hampton and Southampton. Since our grid infrastructure is at full capacity, additional power cannot be sent from up-island without a very costly replacement of that infrastructure.

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01:23:21.180 --> 01:23:33.180

Jeremiah Mulligan: This is the reason that Long Island Power Authority put out a request for proposals in 2015, six years ago, that required power to be delivered directly to the East Hampton substation.

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01:23:34.140 --> 01:23:42.150

Jeremiah Mulligan: After a year-long process, engaging the private sector for the best ideas, Long Island Power Authority and PSE&G Long Island

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01:23:42.660 --> 01:23:58.380

Jeremiah Mulligan: evaluated 21 proposals, including detailed cost modeling and engineering analysis. In January 2017 LIPA approved a power purchase agreement to buy renewable energy from New York's first offshore wind firm.

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01:23:59.250 --> 01:24:13.950

Jeremiah Mulligan: The 15 South Fork wind turbines will be 35 miles east of Montauk Point and will provide power for 70,000 typical South Fork homes. The project has the support of more than 70% of residents of the South Fork.

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01:24:15.090 --> 01:24:25.710

Jeremiah Mulligan: Climate change is upon us and the dramatic local impacts of CO2 are obvious. As global temperatures rise, more than 90% of the increased heat is absorbed by the ocean.

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01:24:26.490 --> 01:24:36.030

Jeremiah Mulligan: Sea level rise is clear when the ferry docks and Shelter Island and Greenport need to be raised. Storm intensity is flooding local roads more frequently.

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01:24:36.660 --> 01:24:47.280

Jeremiah Mulligan: Beach erosion is increasing. Salt water is invading local water tables. Increased ocean temperature is driving familiar local fish north seeking cooler waters.

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01:24:48.000 --> 01:24:57.030

Jeremiah Mulligan: Shellfish are struggling, Montauk lobstermen have moved on, and as have some Maine lobstermen. Scallops are having a challenging time.

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01:24:57.750 --> 01:25:07.110

Jeremiah Mulligan: After the CO2 becomes airborne, much of it is absorbed by the ocean, which becomes exceedingly acidic, to the detriment of fish and aquatic life.

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01:25:08.010 --> 01:25:19.890

Jeremiah Mulligan: In addition, a significant concern is the impact of CO2 on human beings. These run the gamut from inflammation and reduce cognitive performance, to kidney and bone problems.

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01:25:20.340 --> 01:25:24.930

Jeremiah Mulligan: It is a grim reminder when I see the diesel exhaust pouring out of those peaker plants.

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01:25:25.560 --> 01:25:31.470

Jeremiah Mulligan: The South Fork Wind Project, will reduce CO2 emissions and has the support of the East Hampton Town Board.

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01:25:31.920 --> 01:25:38.880

Jeremiah Mulligan: The East Hampton trustees, a local community more, than 30 environmental organizations and Labor unions,

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01:25:39.330 --> 01:25:46.230

Jeremiah Mulligan: the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation, Department of State, Department of Public Service,

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01:25:46.680 --> 01:25:55.890

Jeremiah Mulligan: and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Further, South Fork wind will advance Governor Cuomo his goal for renewable energy

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01:25:56.220 --> 01:26:03.600

Jeremiah Mulligan: and President Biden's executive order to accelerate responsible development for renewable energy on public lands and water.

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01:26:04.500 --> 01:26:21.570

Jeremiah Mulligan: For these reasons, I support BOEM's environmental impact statement and the advancement of this critical project. I leave you with two questions: if we don't act now, when? And if we don't act, who will? Thank you for your time.

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01:26:25.500 --> 01:26:27.390

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

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01:26:30.330 --> 01:26:36.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, looks like next, the next few folks commenting will be Tina Plesset,

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01:26:38.070 --> 01:26:43.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): Krae Van Sickle, Bob DeLuca, and Kevin McAllister.

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01:26:44.280 --> 01:26:48.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I will call next on Tina.

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01:26:55.380 --> 01:27:13.950

Tina Plesset: Hello, can you hear me? Yes. Okay, I am Tina Plesset, P-L-E-S-S-E-T. I am a full-time resident of East Hampton. Recently, I have made an effort to learn more about the South Fork Wind Project and the approval process.

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01:27:14.460 --> 01:27:19.560

Tina Plesset: Needless to say, there has been a lot of controversy, as we are all so well aware.

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01:27:20.100 --> 01:27:36.240

Tina Plesset: In learning more about the issues though, I quickly saw that many concerns fall into two categories. The first category, in the first category, there are legitimate concerns about environmental impacts, agreements, and procedures.

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01:27:36.960 --> 01:27:46.980

Tina Plesset: In the second category, there are thinly veiled concerns that are backed by local residents who oppose the transmission cable landing in Wainscott.

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01:27:47.430 --> 01:28:00.180

Tina Plesset: They say they are for change, but just not in their backyards. There have been many informed comments with important details as to why the cable transmission should line,

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01:28:00.720 --> 01:28:10.200

Tina Plesset: land in Wainscott, so I won't reiterate them here. I merely want to ask you to address the legitimate procedural concerns

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01:28:10.500 --> 01:28:19.470

Tina Plesset: and differentiate them from the self-interested concerns voiced by a group of Wainscott residents, backed by wealthy donors.

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01:28:20.070 --> 01:28:26.910

Tina Plesset: Clean energy is a step forward for the town of East Hampton, the State of New York, and the nation.

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01:28:27.390 --> 01:28:47.640

Tina Plesset: We are fortunate to have this opportunity to move in the right direction for our future and for future generations to come. I urge you to help us make this move forward by approving the cable line to land at Beach Lane. I thank you very much for all your hard work.

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01:28:51.000 --> 01:28:52.380

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

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01:28:59.490 --> 01:29:00.360

Okay.

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01:29:02.010 --> 01:29:07.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): And I know we've heard, we're hearing a variety of perspectives this evening, as we have in the last two meetings and

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01:29:08.880 --> 01:29:19.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): so I want to just thank everyone for your continued attention. I, we're running a little over an hour already and we've got a few more comments to go.

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01:29:21.030 --> 01:29:25.110

Meg Perry (SWCA): But appreciate everyone sticking it out to share your views

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01:29:26.430 --> 01:29:28.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): and encourage you.

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01:29:30.240 --> 01:29:39.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): Everyone in comments to come to remember that these comments are directed at BOEM, and it's, it's their task to hear from everyone so

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01:29:41.760 --> 01:29:43.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): thank you for, for keeping that in mind.

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01:29:45.270 --> 01:29:47.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): Krae Van Sickle, you are up next.

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01:29:51.510 --> 01:29:52.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): I hope I pronounced that correctly.

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01:29:57.360 --> 01:30:04.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): And if you're on the phone, if you can use star nine to raise your hand, then we will know that it's you.

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01:30:07.020 --> 01:30:09.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm not seeing you in the list

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01:30:10.890 --> 01:30:11.700

Meg Perry (SWCA): at the moment.

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01:30:20.610 --> 01:30:22.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): So Krae Van Sickle, if you're there

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01:30:24.030 --> 01:30:27.060

Meg Perry (SWCA): you could raise your hand using star nine if you're on the phone.

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01:30:33.150 --> 01:30:33.690

Okay.

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01:30:35.820 --> 01:30:37.380

Meg Perry (SWCA): Not seeing them.

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01:30:39.240 --> 01:30:45.210

Meg Perry (SWCA): So they may not have been able to join us this evening, or maybe they'll join us later. So, Christy, if you wouldn't mind just

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01:30:46.320 --> 01:30:51.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): keeping that name is want to return to will double check that they

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01:30:52.380 --> 01:30:53.820

Meg Perry (SWCA): were not able to join us later.

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01:30:56.820 --> 01:31:00.870

Meg Perry (SWCA): In that case, we'll move on to Bob DeLuca, if you are with us.

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01:31:03.960 --> 01:31:04.470

Meg Perry (SWCA): You are.

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01:31:09.510 --> 01:31:15.930

Bob DeLuca: Good evening, Miss Perry, yes, and all those attending, my name is Bob DeLuca, D-E-L-U-C-A.

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01:31:16.440 --> 01:31:24.360

Bob DeLuca: And I serve as president of Group for the East End, a Group for the East End is, a professional, membership-based not-for-profit organization founded in 1972

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01:31:24.750 --> 01:31:34.110

Bob DeLuca: to protect and restore the natural resources of Long Island's five East End towns. We represent the conservation interests of several thousand member households and businesses from across the region.

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01:31:34.770 --> 01:31:39.630

Bob DeLuca: For the record, I hold undergraduate and advanced degrees and environmental science and have worked in my capacity at the Group

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01:31:39.990 --> 01:31:46.800

Bob DeLuca: and as a professor of field biologist and senior environmental analyst on Long Island for over 35 years. I've reviewed all the available materials

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01:31:47.250 --> 01:31:55.110

Bob DeLuca: for this proposal before preparing these comments. As a policy matter Group for the East End is supportive of the advancement of wind and solar energy infrastructure

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01:31:55.500 --> 01:31:59.010

Bob DeLuca: as a critical and urgent necessity and dealing with the increasing environmental,

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01:31:59.430 --> 01:32:07.860

Bob DeLuca: economic, and demographic impacts of climate change on our coastal environment and near shore communities. But this support is never offered without careful consideration.

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01:32:08.520 --> 01:32:17.430

Bob DeLuca: To this end, our project assessment leads us to support the South Fork Wind Farm and this DEIS, but we also want to strongly underscore the critical and enduring need

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01:32:17.940 --> 01:32:28.560

Bob DeLuca: for a final project that meets the highest standards for environmental research, mitigation, monitoring, and ongoing assessment that will make the project a model for other communities to emulate.

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01:32:29.310 --> 01:32:35.730

Bob DeLuca: To this end, it is a function of our review, we have supported the evaluation of alternate landing sites for the South Fork export cable.

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01:32:36.210 --> 01:32:43.860

Bob DeLuca: Today, based upon further assessment of these landing sites, we conclude the Beach Lane landing site represents the best option from the standpoint

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01:32:44.160 --> 01:32:49.650

Bob DeLuca: of reducing overall environmental and local community disruption from this phase of the project.

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01:32:50.280 --> 01:32:54.300

Bob DeLuca: We should also mention that, while the financial benefits associated with the host community agreement

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01:32:54.810 --> 01:33:12.360

Bob DeLuca: were an important consideration for some, we focused solely on the comparative disruption associated with each landing alternative and consistently arrived at Beach Lane as the most viable and least environmentally harmful option. Looking to the cable placement and magnetic field implications,

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01:33:13.380 --> 01:33:24.990

Bob DeLuca: from our analysis and not only of the work that BOEM produced, but also a parallel review of related research, we have a high level of confidence that any potential negative magnetic field implications

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01:33:26.190 --> 01:33:36.990

Bob DeLuca: will largely be negligible over time. That said, we urge the developer to make every effort to fully bury the cables and minimize any potential impacts with vessels or fishing here.

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01:33:37.320 --> 01:33:43.980

Bob DeLuca: Finally, as we looked at the proposed action alternatives with respect to the wind farm itself, we believe the most suitable configuration

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01:33:44.430 --> 01:33:53.880

Bob DeLuca: would be the one that provides for the maximum energy potential of the overall project but seeks to follow the design goals outlined in what is called the fisheries habitat alternative.

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01:33:54.510 --> 01:34:02.880

Bob DeLuca: Through this general approach, attention to the protection of complex fisheries habitats will have increased importance in the final design configuration,

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01:34:03.180 --> 01:34:08.340

Bob DeLuca: and we believe this is the appropriate priority given the value of limited resources we all strive to protect.

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01:34:08.760 --> 01:34:16.110

Bob DeLuca: On that point, let me conclude by making as strong a recommendation as I possibly can, for long-term transparent monitoring

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01:34:16.410 --> 01:34:24.810

Bob DeLuca: that continuously assesses potential and long-term impacts on the ocean's living resources, as well as those mitigation measures designed to protect

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01:34:25.080 --> 01:34:31.560

Bob DeLuca: a wide range of vertebrate and invertebrate life that may be impacted in one way or another by this or any wind farm proposal.

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01:34:32.250 --> 01:34:41.820

Bob DeLuca: Given the limited experience with offshore wind farm development in the U.S., there's no doubt that much remains to be learned, and it's also true that there will be many more wind farms to come.

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01:34:42.330 --> 01:34:51.870

Bob DeLuca: As such, we believe this project and our region have a unique opportunity to set the environmental standard for the most sustainable offshore wind industry we can envision.

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01:34:52.320 --> 01:35:01.830

Bob DeLuca: And that goal is consistent with the shared environmental values that have shaped our eastern region for the better for decades. I thank you very much for your time and consideration of our comments.

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01:35:04.530 --> 01:35:06.000

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

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01:35:07.050 --> 01:35:09.000

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, let's see.

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01:35:13.470 --> 01:35:27.090

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I'm going to turn next, so the next few people up in the in the queue, as you can see in the chat, are Kevin McAllister, Steven Brustein, Barbara Hafner, and John Hyland.

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01:35:28.740 --> 01:35:30.690

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I'll turn to Kevin in a moment.

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01:35:33.000 --> 01:35:46.230

Meg Perry (SWCA): And we may, depending on how many more, I'm just going to confirm how many more folks we have in the queue, but we may take a short break here in just a moment because I know we've we have been going for a while, but we'll get to everyone so

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01:35:47.430 --> 01:35:53.130

Meg Perry (SWCA): don't, don't give up. Kevin McAllister, I'm going to turn to you next.

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01:36:14.070 --> 01:36:16.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): You may need to unmute. We're not hearing you if you're speaking.

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01:36:19.710 --> 01:36:30.810

Kevin McAllister: Now we can start. Thank you Meg. Thanks for hearing my comments and holding a very efficient meeting. My name is Kevin McAllister. I'm President of Defend H2O,

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01:36:31.290 --> 01:36:44.400

Kevin McAllister: which is a local clean water advocacy group. As a preface to my comments, I'd like to share my background, which is in marine biological sciences and coastal zone management.

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01:36:45.270 --> 01:36:56.220

Kevin McAllister: For a number of years, I was directly involved in dredge and fill permitting down in South Florida, as well as beach management, so I believe I'm

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01:36:56.910 --> 01:37:13.590

Kevin McAllister: have the qualifications to speak to some of the issues here. Roughly two years ago, an administrative law judge, on behalf of the New York Public Service Commission, held a public hearing in East Hampton and, at the time, I provided some comments.

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01:37:15.060 --> 01:37:28.320

Kevin McAllister: From my perspective, I thought that the impacts from the pile driving jet plow for laying the cable, as well as the beach landing through horizontal directional drilling

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01:37:29.370 --> 01:37:45.960

Kevin McAllister: would have minimal impacts, that long-term would be really inconsequential, that recovery of the benthic zone would, would be quite rapid, and this again, based on experience in the permitting realm and that was of course my prism.

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01:37:47.370 --> 01:38:01.350

Kevin McAllister: In looking at the draft EIS, I thought the scoping comments were very thorough, I thought all areas are being covered and it did not surprise me that ultimately,

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01:38:02.190 --> 01:38:24.090

Kevin McAllister: you know, the draft statement identifies a minimal impact from, from the project itself. I know from the scoping it seemed to be repeated concerns about the cable landing, and again this is where I do have direct experience over many years of managing beaches and being involved in

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01:38:25.590 --> 01:38:37.410

Kevin McAllister: beach restoration projects. My own lifestyle, being out there all the time, I see the changes in beaches, I understand them through, again, my training and coastal processes.

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01:38:38.190 --> 01:38:51.900

Kevin McAllister: I believe the concern about the cable being exposed or misplaced or the hardships of horizontal directional drilling, while I don't have direct experience in the permitting realm, I am familiar with its capability.

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01:38:52.620 --> 01:39:06.570

Kevin McAllister: So, ultimately, with the, the depth that can be achieved, as well as the span from offshore to near shore, we're talking back dune, the concern about exposure in this cable.

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01:39:08.100 --> 01:39:11.580

Kevin McAllister: It will never happen, in, certainly in our lifetime.

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01:39:14.190 --> 01:39:15.510

Kevin McAllister: The last item,

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01:39:16.770 --> 01:39:22.290

Kevin McAllister: speaking to the transition to renewable energy, you know there's urgency and

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01:39:23.400 --> 01:39:38.250

Kevin McAllister: we see the erosion trends, the impacts on ocean acidification, climate change is real, or we have to move into renewable energy sources, and I applaud East Hampton for really taking a lead on this

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01:39:39.090 --> 01:39:47.550

Kevin McAllister: in establishing a project that will bring us into basically a new frontier. And it's not without concerns about

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01:39:48.420 --> 01:39:59.550

Kevin McAllister: long-term impacts, but, as Mr. DeLuca pointed out, I think, through the monitoring over time, we will demonstrate that this is a really positive project.

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01:40:00.210 --> 01:40:12.510

Kevin McAllister: I urge BOEM to move forward with the EIS, adopt the findings, and ultimately permit this project as soon as possible. Thank you for hearing my comments.

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01:40:15.360 --> 01:40:15.960

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you.

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01:40:21.630 --> 01:40:26.880

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, Steven Burstein, you are up next.

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01:40:33.450 --> 01:40:35.940

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you may need to click on, you, there you are.

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01:40:36.210 --> 01:41:01.830

Steven Brustein: Okay, can hear me? Yes. Thank you, my name is Steven Brustein, S-T-E-V-E-N B-R-U-S-T-E-I-N, and I am a recreational fisherman living in Rhode Island. I'm a member of the Rhode Island Salt Water Anglers Association, and I am a citizen concerned about the welfare of our oceans and our environment.

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01:41:03.690 --> 01:41:20.250

Steven Brustein: I believe that the driving force behind development and the search for renewable energy needs to be for the protection of our natural resources and to enhance the lives of everyone. And while commercial fishing industry is certainly important, it's one component.

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01:41:21.690 --> 01:41:36.540

Steven Brustein: I also believe that renewable wind farm energy, when thoughtfully implemented, can benefit both commercial fishing, recreational fishing, as well as the environment and the needs of people everywhere.

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01:41:38.580 --> 01:41:51.720

Steven Brustein: As a nation and a society, we need to seek and develop new ways to reduce the negative impact our energy consumption, and that our consumption in general, is having on climate change.

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01:41:52.590 --> 01:42:05.550

Steven Brustein: And, in addition to the reduction in use of fossil fuels, wind farm development creates a reef effect and structure for fish habitat, which I believe will lead to greater fish populations.

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01:42:06.990 --> 01:42:17.250

Steven Brustein: Furthermore, wind farms increase awareness of and participation in environmental management by those very consumers who have created the need for change.

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01:42:19.680 --> 01:42:27.750

Steven Brustein: So in my opinion, commercial and recreational fishing will benefit, as well as and most importantly, the environment will benefit from this project.

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01:42:28.590 --> 01:42:35.190

Steven Brustein: My understanding of the studies done in and around European wind farms is that data supports that belief.

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01:42:35.970 --> 01:42:49.650

Steven Brustein: And in addition to that, that the South Fork Wind Farm development is embracing more detailed research and collaboration, before, during, and after construction to enhance data and better serve us all.

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01:42:51.540 --> 01:43:06.390

Steven Brustein: It's because of the needs I've expressed here and my confidence in the management of this project that I support this wind farm. And I wanted to come here tonight to share that. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration.

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01:43:09.240 --> 01:43:10.830

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

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01:43:14.880 --> 01:43:20.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm Barbara Hafner, we'll have you up next.

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01:43:28.140 --> 01:43:30.120

Barbara Hafner: Hi, this is Barbara Hafner.

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01:43:30.960 --> 01:43:31.740

Barbara Hafner: B-A-R-B-

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01:43:32.100 --> 01:43:47.100

Barbara Hafner: R-A H-A-F-N-E-R., I am a retired educator. I serve on the Long Island Federation of Labor Board, and I also serve on the Long Island NYSEERA Environmental Committee,

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01:43:48.390 --> 01:43:54.420

Barbara Hafner: and I was thinking back—this is how old I am—I attended the first Earth Day

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01:43:55.800 --> 01:44:09.840

Barbara Hafner: convention or rally in New York City. I cut high school classes with my friend and we went to support how we could save our Earth. And so here we are 50 years later,

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01:44:10.590 --> 01:44:15.630

Barbara Hafner: and we are taking baby steps, but we're getting there. And so thank you for doing this.

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01:44:16.110 --> 01:44:27.210

Barbara Hafner: It's so important, we, we can't lose sight of what needs to happen in order for us to save our Earth and everything that we hope our children and grandchildren will

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01:44:27.720 --> 01:44:36.120

Barbara Hafner: soon appreciate. I just have a quick question based on what happened in Texas, with their wind energy

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01:44:36.930 --> 01:44:49.770

Barbara Hafner: and their loss of electricity. Is that something that we should be aware of and concerned about, since we are in New York? I mean this was a phenomenon in Texas,

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01:44:50.700 --> 01:45:09.960

Barbara Hafner: that their wind turbines would be frozen, but is this, something that we need to think about as we move forward? And I thank you all for everything you do, and I'm here to support you 100% and my Labor sisters and brothers, or who are looking to be a part of this construction.

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01:45:13.290 --> 01:45:24.120

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great, thank you for that comment, and just a reminder that we do have BOEM, the BOEM team developing answers to questions that folks have submitted.

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01:45:26.070 --> 01:45:31.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): And we'll get to those after we hear all the comments, so if you are looking for

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01:45:33.060 --> 01:45:35.610

Meg Perry (SWCA): a response to a question today from BOEM,

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01:45:36.630 --> 01:45:40.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): then we would encourage you to submit that in the Q and A feature in Zoom

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01:45:42.540 --> 01:45:45.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): so that they can have a minute to develop a response to you.

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01:45:47.880 --> 01:45:50.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so we do have,

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01:45:52.050 --> 01:45:53.100

Meg Perry (SWCA): I believe we have

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01:45:54.480 --> 01:46:11.520

Meg Perry (SWCA): five, at least five more commenters coming up, so I'm going to encourage us to just take a brief break since we've been going for about 90 minutes, and it looks like with comments and questions, we've got still a ways to go.

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01:46:13.380 --> 01:46:26.310

Meg Perry (SWCA): So when we come back, we'll take about a five-minute break, when we come back, we will turn to John Hyland next, followed by Dan Farnham, Sheri Lauten, and Tom Barracca.

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01:46:28.710 --> 01:46:33.900

Meg Perry (SWCA): So just going to take a brief break to give folks a chance to step away from their computers.

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01:46:35.100 --> 01:46:44.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then we'll resume in about five minutes to start back with their meeting comments and we will, we will stick with you to hear from everyone who would like to comment.

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01:46:46.830 --> 01:46:51.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): And maybe, just to keep it simple, let's say we'll be back at quarter till, so 6:45

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01:46:53.820 --> 01:47:00.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): to hear the remaining comments and then turn to questions and answers. So thank you all for sticking with us we'll be back in just a few minutes

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01:47:03.990 --> 01:47:13.710

Meg Perry (SWCA): And I encourage you to just turn off video, panelists, to just turn off of mute and everything rather than actually signing off so that you don't have to sign back in when we come back from the break.

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01:47:14.790 --> 01:47:15.240

Thank you.

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01:53:39.480 --> 01:53:43.770

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, thanks, everyone will we're going to get started again here.

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01:53:59.940 --> 01:54:03.450

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so I believe, where we left off

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01:54:04.800 --> 01:54:06.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): was with

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01:54:07.920 --> 01:54:09.540

Meg Perry (SWCA): John Hyland.

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01:54:17.640 --> 01:54:19.410

Meg Perry (SWCA): John Hyland, if you're with us.

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01:54:23.010 --> 01:54:24.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm not seeing you in Zoom.

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01:54:27.390 --> 01:54:32.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): So if you're on the phone, you can use star nine to raise your hand and let us know that you're there.

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01:54:42.240 --> 01:54:46.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, not seen anything from John Hyland, so we will circle back

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01:54:47.670 --> 01:54:48.540

Meg Perry (SWCA): on that.

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01:54:50.250 --> 01:54:55.440

Meg Perry (SWCA): Next, up to speak would be Dan Farnham, if you're with us.

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01:54:56.520 --> 01:54:57.870

Meg Perry (SWCA): I see you, okay.

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01:55:00.030 --> 01:55:01.560

Meg Perry (SWCA): And I need you to unmute your phone.

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01:55:02.970 --> 01:55:03.960

Dan Jr Farnham: Yes, hi, Thank you.

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01:55:05.940 --> 01:55:07.440

Dan Jr Farnham: Can you hear me? Yes.

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01:55:08.580 --> 01:55:16.680

Dan Jr Farnham: Alright, yes, my name is Daniel Jay Farnham. I am a commercial fisherman from Montauk, New York, and New Bedford, Massachusetts.

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01:55:17.340 --> 01:55:28.440

Dan Jr Farnham: And, speaking on behalf of the three vessels that I work with, that we provide year-round employment for 27 individuals, both in the East Hampton community and the bedroom communities.

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01:55:28.950 --> 01:55:36.450

Dan Jr Farnham: And we fish within the Rhode Island/Mass and Massachusetts wind energy areas, and also we have to transit through those areas year-round.

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01:55:37.590 --> 01:55:46.650

Dan Jr Farnham: I'm speaking to please implore BOEM to request that the South Fork Wind Farm developers use the vessel transit lane alternative.

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01:55:47.640 --> 01:55:54.750

Dan Jr Farnham: The reason for this is that when BOEM first designated the Rhode Island/Massachusetts wind energy areas, that they did not

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01:55:55.320 --> 01:56:07.860

Dan Jr Farnham: properly realize how large of an area this is. It is actually larger than the state of Rhode Island and it's a continuous wind energy area, meaning that there is no separation between the subleases of all the individual developers.

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01:56:09.480 --> 01:56:10.890

Dan Jr Farnham: And due to the

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01:56:11.280 --> 01:56:17.910

Dan Jr Farnham: RODA request for transit lanes, this is the only way we'll be able to safely navigate through this wind energy area.

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01:56:18.300 --> 01:56:30.090

Dan Jr Farnham: Without these vessel transit lanes, you will have to instead take a long route around these, the entire wind energy area, which has an average speed of eight or nine knots that our vessels maintain will take

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01:56:31.710 --> 01:56:39.990

Dan Jr Farnham: roughly close to a day to get around. Now when you're out there in the dead of winter, with a heavy winter storm or summer hurricane coming on you,

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01:56:40.500 --> 01:56:49.650

Dan Jr Farnham: you need to get home safely and effectively. You will not be able to do so in the one-by-one nautical mile grid pattern as is planned throughout this whole wind energy area,

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01:56:50.910 --> 01:56:56.490

Dan Jr Farnham: without a transit lane going through it. This is the way that we can effectively get to our fishing grounds and get home safely.

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01:56:58.080 --> 01:57:04.140

Dan Jr Farnham: We are ready and looking at these wind energy areas as a loss for our fishing activity, we will not be able to effectively fish within them.

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01:57:04.620 --> 01:57:10.530

Dan Jr Farnham: But all we are now asking for is that we no longer have to risk our lives by trying to navigate through these things.

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01:57:11.310 --> 01:57:22.650

Dan Jr Farnham: When we look at the cumulative effects of the full buildout of this area, there will be close to 2,000 turbines in this whole entire area, and a veritable forest that we will have to navigate of large structures over 800 feet tall.

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01:57:25.140 --> 01:57:33.660

Dan Jr Farnham: If we do not have this initial buildout of the South Fork Wind Farm follow this vessel transit lane alternative, then it will effectively crush

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01:57:34.020 --> 01:57:38.250

Dan Jr Farnham: the future of having vessel transit lanes throughout the rest of the projects. That is because

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01:57:38.790 --> 01:57:47.610

Dan Jr Farnham: even though it is only a small project, this is at the western terminus of the main primary east-west transit lane, from effectively dead ends

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01:57:48.150 --> 01:57:54.210

Dan Jr Farnham: the transit lane. So even if all the other developers do follow this pattern and put a transit lane

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01:57:54.660 --> 01:58:00.090

Dan Jr Farnham: you will come down a four-mile-wide transit lane and right smack in the middle of another wind turbine

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01:58:01.050 --> 01:58:04.320

Dan Jr Farnham: buildout and will not be able to see if we navigate through there.

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01:58:05.130 --> 01:58:12.810

Dan Jr Farnham: It seems like it will not have that large impact for them to just move the location of those five turbines that are required, or five or six turbines that are required to do so.

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01:58:13.500 --> 01:58:26.190

Dan Jr Farnham: And the tradeoffs, for that would, it would greatly enhance the safety of navigation and safety on seas for all commercial traffic, as well as recreational traffic in the area, and any and all shipping, too.

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01:58:27.480 --> 01:58:32.730

Dan Jr Farnham: This is a highly trafficked area, and without these transit lanes, we will see

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01:58:33.930 --> 01:58:43.830

Dan Jr Farnham: a very detrimental impact to the commercial fleets and also all the other users of this ocean. Thank you for your time, and I appreciate the ability to comment.

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01:58:45.900 --> 01:58:47.460

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

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01:58:51.480 --> 01:58:55.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright next up, I will turn it over to

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01:58:56.040 --> 01:58:57.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): Tom Barracca.

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01:59:05.010 --> 01:59:18.240

Tom Barracca: Good evening, Meg. Can you hear me? Yes. My name is Tom Barracca, spelled B-A-R-R-A-C-C-A, and I'm with ULC Technologies, a technology company based in Hauppauge, New York, on Long Island.

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01:59:18.930 --> 01:59:29.130

Tom Barracca: And I appreciate the opportunity to comment. I've been a Long Island resident for 30 years, and over those 30 years, I've worked in the energy field here on Long Island.

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01:59:30.150 --> 01:59:36.690

Tom Barracca: Particularly as a reliability electric manager and a R&D manager for

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01:59:37.740 --> 01:59:39.360

Tom Barracca: the utilities here on Long Island.

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01:59:40.830 --> 01:59:48.810

Tom Barracca: Also 25, 20 to 25 years ago, I was involved, supporting the Long Island Power Authority with the first offshore wind study.

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01:59:49.170 --> 02:00:08.730

Tom Barracca: So this has been a really long time coming, so I'm really happy to be sitting here tonight to support the project that South Fork Wind has proposed, as proposed. Just speaking from my past experience, before I talk about my role today in offshore wind, is the fact that

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02:00:09.870 --> 02:00:20.160

Tom Barracca: the East End of Long Island is a load pocket, so power flows from the west through transmission lines, but it's somewhat of a radial system, so

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02:00:20.880 --> 02:00:28.830

Tom Barracca: the need for this project is huge from two standpoints: from an environmental standpoint as being discussed, and also from serving that load pocket.

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02:00:29.280 --> 02:00:37.650

Tom Barracca: Currently, LIPA serves that load pocket by using diesel engines, which is a very polluting technology, as we all know.

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02:00:38.100 --> 02:00:46.920

Tom Barracca: And LIPA and the developers should be commended to delivering power into the load pocket. So economics and environmental

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02:00:47.670 --> 02:00:56.280

Tom Barracca: concerns collide in a positive way, because you're at the end of the island, so the way the product has been thought out and engineered by everyone

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02:00:56.640 --> 02:01:09.870

Tom Barracca: is to be very well commended. It's really been built on the back of 20 years' worth looking at this and solving that problem from an electric reliability standpoint, as well as an environmental standpoint.

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02:01:10.800 --> 02:01:22.530

Tom Barracca: I'm basically fast forwarding to ULC Technologies. We're a technology company that's been serving the energy industry for 20 years, more in the traditional utility space.

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02:01:22.800 --> 02:01:34.230

Tom Barracca: In other words, providing robots and unmanned aerial vehicles for the energy industry, but we really are excited about offshore wind. There's a huge opportunity for our company.

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02:01:35.070 --> 02:01:46.170

Tom Barracca: And we've done a little bit of work with the developer, and they're really to be commended for their diligence both professionally and in the environmental space.

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02:01:47.490 --> 02:01:56.160

Tom Barracca: You know, we, as the high-tech community on Long Island, really, really believe that technology is a key to the future of

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02:01:56.850 --> 02:02:06.090

Tom Barracca: renewable energy in the United States, and we really support this project because we've seen it's been really based upon years of study.

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02:02:06.750 --> 02:02:17.670

Tom Barracca: And just to kind of wrap up, there's always these difficult tradeoffs in doing any, any energy project, and you know the environmental concerns are very important, but I believe

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02:02:18.810 --> 02:02:29.310

Tom Barracca: the project as proposed makes the most sense for, for the area, for the United States, and for the energy, and the opportunities for employment are tremendous

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02:02:30.240 --> 02:02:40.050

Tom Barracca: built upon this project and future products. So thank you again for the opportunity to speak, and we look forward to seeing this product getting built as soon as possible.

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02:02:43.320 --> 02:02:44.340

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

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02:02:48.210 --> 02:02:49.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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02:02:50.460 --> 02:02:52.920

Meg Perry (SWCA): Meghan Lapp, you're up next.

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02:02:57.960 --> 02:03:00.090

Meghan Lapp: Okay, can you hear me? Yes.

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02:03:00.120 --> 02:03:00.600

Meg Perry (SWCA): Go ahead.

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02:03:01.140 --> 02:03:12.900

Meghan Lapp: Great. Thank you, my name is Meghan Lapp. I represent Seafreeze Limited and Seafreeze Shoreside, both commercial fishing companies in Narragansett, and we have three commercial fishing vessels.

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02:03:14.010 --> 02:03:17.220

Meghan Lapp: I understand that there are many New Yorkers who are supportive of this wind farm.

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02:03:18.840 --> 02:03:24.120

Meghan Lapp: But it's not in their backyard. This wind farm is actually off of Rhode Island, not New York.

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02:03:25.530 --> 02:03:28.110

Meghan Lapp: And our vessels will have to attempt to

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02:03:29.280 --> 02:03:40.800

Meghan Lapp: to both go through and fish in the area, which will be impossible if it goes forward as planned. The, the South Fork Wind Farm DEIS

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02:03:41.760 --> 02:04:01.620

Meghan Lapp: basically, it does not contain any cumulative impact analysis. If you compare it to the Vineyard Wind SEIS, which did contain those cumulative impact analysis, as well as impacts on commercial fishing in a detailed manner. The South Fork Wind Farm DEIS falls far short of that analysis.

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02:04:03.810 --> 02:04:11.160

Meghan Lapp: As well, the Vineyard Wind SEIS concluded that that there was no positive impact to climate change from that project,

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02:04:12.240 --> 02:04:17.460

Meghan Lapp: which proposed, I believe it's about 100 turbines, so the South Fork Wind Farm, which is smaller,

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02:04:18.300 --> 02:04:29.070

Meghan Lapp: is most certainly going to have no impact on climate change. So, then the question becomes, what is the cost-benefit analysis, and there is no cost-benefit analysis in the DEIS.

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02:04:29.760 --> 02:04:42.540

Meghan Lapp: The analysis is, is seriously lacking. It falls far short of the analysis that has already been previously released for a different project, so it doesn't make any sense that a newer DEIS

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02:04:44.010 --> 02:04:47.190

Meghan Lapp: has less analysis than a previous one, so.

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02:04:48.210 --> 02:04:57.990

Meghan Lapp: I would encourage BOEM to go back and to do a supplemental EIS for this project as well, because the DEIS is just seriously lacking.

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02:04:59.310 --> 02:05:10.650

Meghan Lapp: One of the examples of that is the impact to commercial fishing that is going to result from cables. There's going to be a cable that is extremely long that's going to go from offshore Rhode Island

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02:05:11.520 --> 02:05:18.030

Meghan Lapp: to New York as a result of this project, but when you read the analysis on the cable section, it talks about

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02:05:19.110 --> 02:05:29.670

Meghan Lapp: that there's, I believe it was up to 5%, armoring necessary on the cable, but that didn't include the seven cable crossings, where the cable

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02:05:30.240 --> 02:05:40.080

Meghan Lapp: would probably need to be armored on the way from offshore Rhode Island into New York. Those areas are fished by my commercial fishing vessels, which will not be able to fish

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02:05:40.770 --> 02:06:00.660

Meghan Lapp: on top of cable armoring because it will destroy their gear. And so the fact that the DEIS doesn't even have an analysis of, if it's going to require how much cable armoring it's going to require on seven cable crossings is, is, is seriously inadequate. It's very inadequate analysis.

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02:06:03.180 --> 02:06:16.080

Meghan Lapp: I do support the RODA transit lane alternative, the four-nautical-mile wide transit lane alternative, as previously stated by Mr. Farnham, that is extremely necessary for safe transit in the area.

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02:06:17.430 --> 02:06:31.920

Meghan Lapp: Our vessels transit that area frequently, and without wide enough transit lanes, there is not going to be any transit through one-nautical-mile spacing because it is extremely dangerous and the marine radar interference makes it impossible to see.

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02:06:33.330 --> 02:06:34.410

Meghan Lapp: And I'll conclude with

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02:06:35.430 --> 02:06:41.970

Meghan Lapp: the DEIS doesn't really add up the impacts to environmental justice communities. The commercial fishing industry,

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02:06:42.750 --> 02:06:54.480

Meghan Lapp: land-based facilities, employ a lot of first-generation immigrants. There are jobs for low-education workers, which are not going to be found in the wind industry.

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02:06:55.140 --> 02:07:05.400

Meghan Lapp: And if the commercial fishing jobs go away, those environmental justice communities are going to be negatively impacted, and that is not analyzed in the DEIS. Thank you.

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02:07:10.170 --> 02:07:11.550

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

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02:07:14.400 --> 02:07:15.660

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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02:07:18.330 --> 02:07:21.570

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, we have Bonnie Brady up next, Bonnie.

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02:07:26.550 --> 02:07:28.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you may have to unmute.

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02:07:28.470 --> 02:07:46.080

Bonnie Brady: Sorry, can you hear me? Yes. Thank you very much. Bonnie Brady, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association. I'm, am going to echo some of the comments by Daniel Farnham and Meghan Lapp regarding this project, which I've been working

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02:07:47.130 --> 02:07:50.580

Bonnie Brady: and having meetings around since 2015.

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02:07:51.900 --> 02:07:54.900

Bonnie Brady: First of all, when it comes to this project,

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02:07:57.540 --> 02:08:05.520

Bonnie Brady: the document uses out-of-date fisheries data, omits crucial analyses, and some of the analyses are very inconsistent.

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02:08:06.150 --> 02:08:14.430

Bonnie Brady: There's an out-of-date fisheries communication plan, and that doesn't have information on site assessment or early project proposals, or early versions of the COP, which,

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02:08:15.060 --> 02:08:23.370

Bonnie Brady: to my recollection, there have been six different versions of the COP submitted, resubmitted, and you cannot find that anywhere on the BOEM website,

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02:08:24.090 --> 02:08:38.100

Bonnie Brady: nor any of the relevant project details, in order to understand this project. I feel the DEIS is the same time both rushed and outdated, and I've addressed these issues and many more in past communications to BOEM in webinars like this.

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02:08:39.270 --> 02:08:48.090

Bonnie Brady: I did not see any mention of the Department of the Interior's legal memorandum outlining that offshore wind renewable energy projects cannot interfere with the legal right to fish.

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02:08:48.660 --> 02:08:55.680

Bonnie Brady: And that the DOI secretary must act to prevent interference. I was curious regarding the transit considerations.

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02:08:56.220 --> 02:08:59.250

Bonnie Brady: The RODA recommended transit lane proposal should be approved.

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02:08:59.700 --> 02:09:09.420

Bonnie Brady: It would be the only proposal that would provide safety at sea and reduced economic impacts to fishing. East-west transit is extremely important to New York fishermen going

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02:09:09.780 --> 02:09:13.110

Bonnie Brady: parts east to travel the lucrative squid, scuf, and whiting grounds.

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02:09:13.500 --> 02:09:24.990

Bonnie Brady: The DEIS talks only about 15 turbines but doesn't hit the cumulative effect of a Rhode Island/Massachusetts wind energy area that is two-thirds the size of the Grand Canyon National Park.

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02:09:25.530 --> 02:09:37.740

Bonnie Brady: I, we were part of a meeting, two years ago in November, trying to get these transit lanes and was told by this company Orsted, you can either go east, west, or you can go

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02:09:38.310 --> 02:09:50.010

Bonnie Brady: south, let me see what is, it northwest-southeast but you can't go both ways, which would require a 70-nautical-mile jog around this wind turbine. That is completely unacceptable.

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02:09:52.380 --> 02:09:56.880

Bonnie Brady: Overall, the cumulative impacts of transit is unclear, and it's inconsistent analysis.

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02:09:57.960 --> 02:10:00.630

Bonnie Brady: As far as the other, the fisheries communication plan,

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02:10:01.350 --> 02:10:10.860

Bonnie Brady: is the primary mitigation measure, but it is not a mitigation measure. There is no compensatory mechanism for losses from displacement for survey work through decommissioning.

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02:10:11.220 --> 02:10:24.120

Bonnie Brady: I spent four hours recently with a fisherman who was trying to appeal being shot down because they drove through his gear, not once, not twice, but three times, in order to be able to put the forms together for him, so he could submit that.

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02:10:26.460 --> 02:10:33.480

Bonnie Brady: As far as in right whales, I mean if you read that DEIS, it has, they talked about up to 30 days of pile driving

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02:10:33.780 --> 02:10:43.290

Bonnie Brady: for that one small 15 turbine project. Now imagine the buildout in the steel forest of thousands, and all you have to do is look at the right whale slow zones

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02:10:43.590 --> 02:10:50.370

Bonnie Brady: that have appeared, and basically for the last year, right whales have spent the entire time in the Rhode Island/Massachusetts wind energy area.

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02:10:50.910 --> 02:11:04.980

Bonnie Brady: I don't understand how anyone can call themselves an environmentalist and allow something like that to happen. There's not any amount of slow-down, slow-start, stop the process that could have the effect of the amount of power behind that pile driving.

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02:11:06.120 --> 02:11:18.300

Bonnie Brady: Also, the fact that there will be no analysis of potential impacts from disruption of North Atlantic right whale aerial monitoring programs, and no analysis for any incidental protected resource harm or mortality.

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02:11:20.820 --> 02:11:30.660

Bonnie Brady: I believe also regarding the cable route and the things that were spoken about, there's been zero input. We have had and tried for the project within state waters

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02:11:31.020 --> 02:11:43.110

Bonnie Brady: to be able to get anything as far as in a guarantee, as far as in depth. and we've gotten nothing. We've tried to work through the industry's Task Force and that hasn't frankly worked at all.

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02:11:50.250 --> 02:11:58.080

Bonnie Brady: We're worried both about the potential job and economic losses and also directly, because we're displaced, and indirectly,

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02:11:58.290 --> 02:12:09.570

Bonnie Brady: because the biological species that could be affected by this. I have many more comments, which I will submit in writing. And I believe I'm right about the five minute mark. I appreciate the time that you all, are taking today. Thank you.

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02:12:10.950 --> 02:12:12.990

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

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02:12:15.210 --> 02:12:21.390

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, looks like down to just a few commenters left.

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02:12:23.910 --> 02:12:33.600

Meg Perry (SWCA): We had, we had a few folks that we called on weren't on the meeting when we call their name, so we just wanted to circle back to those people in case they've been able to join us.

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02:12:35.940 --> 02:12:36.930

Meg Perry (SWCA): And,

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02:12:38.250 --> 02:12:41.970

Meg Perry (SWCA): then, if we don't see any other hands go up,

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02:12:44.010 --> 02:12:45.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): let's see, we have not.

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02:12:47.790 --> 02:12:52.140

Meg Perry (SWCA): I think that's everyone that was, that was preregistered, and then the hands that have gone up so far so

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02:12:54.120 --> 02:12:57.030

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm going to run through those that we said we would circle back to.

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02:12:58.560 --> 02:13:02.550

Meg Perry (SWCA): And then we will transition to the question-and-answer portion of the meeting.

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02:13:04.800 --> 02:13:08.190

Meg Perry (SWCA): And it looks like we have one other new hand up.

744

02:13:09.360 --> 02:13:17.130

Meg Perry (SWCA): So we'll put you in next, Julie Evans, after we hear if anyone else from this list has been able to join, so

745

02:13:18.390 --> 02:13:28.380

Meg Perry (SWCA): just, I'll call out these four names of folks that we would like to hear from if you have been able to join us. Alice Marlin, Miles Maier,

746

02:13:29.460 --> 02:13:33.150

Meg Perry (SWCA): Krae Van Sickle, and John Hyland.

747

02:13:37.680 --> 02:13:44.070

Meg Perry (SWCA): If you are on the phone, you can use star nine to raise your hand and let us know that you're here.

748

02:13:50.820 --> 02:13:55.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): But I'm not seeing any of those folks logged in on Zoom.

749

02:13:59.760 --> 02:14:00.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

750

02:14:01.410 --> 02:14:04.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): Let's go to Julie Evans, then, and then we will,

751

02:14:06.510 --> 02:14:09.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): unless we see anyone else for a comment, we will turn to Q&A.

752

02:14:18.930 --> 02:14:20.190

Meg Perry (SWCA): Oh okay, looks,

753

02:14:25.020 --> 02:14:30.300

Meg Perry (SWCA): looks like Julie, you might have a different version of Zoom, so I'm going to just change your status

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02:14:34.260 --> 02:14:36.600

Meg Perry (SWCA): here so that you can turn on your mic.

755

02:14:39.300 --> 02:14:41.400

Meg Perry (SWCA): You should be able to unmute now.

756

02:14:43.110 --> 02:14:43.620

Meg Perry (SWCA): Julie.

757

02:14:45.750 --> 02:15:11.790

Julie Evans: Thank you, my name is Captain Julie Evans, E-V-A-N-S, and I function as the fisheries advisory committee for the town of East Hampton representative to offshore wind. And of course we're very concerned about this project. As the past few speakers have told you, the option of

758

02:15:12.810 --> 02:15:13.860

Julie Evans: passing through

759

02:15:14.880 --> 02:15:18.240

Julie Evans: a very narrow corridor in, in

760

02:15:19.650 --> 02:15:22.680

Julie Evans: terrible weather as Dan Farnham said or

761

02:15:24.870 --> 02:15:25.860

Julie Evans: economic

762

02:15:27.510 --> 02:15:30.600

Julie Evans: restrictions as Bonnie or Meghan said

763

02:15:32.130 --> 02:15:45.930

Julie Evans: With aid to be close to their vessels is something that we're, we're opposed to here in East Hampton New York. We also have the cable landing coming on, so we are the epicenter for

764

02:15:46.890 --> 02:16:01.470

Julie Evans: offshore wind development in the United States, and I'm really hoping that BOEM will work towards getting this right. And by getting it right, I mean doing right by our fishermen.

765

02:16:03.270 --> 02:16:18.270

Julie Evans: I've had the experience of dealing with two cases where fishermen last year, due to no fault of their own, but due to the fault of Orsted's survey boats. Both fishermen were kind of just tossed aside by the company.

766

02:16:20.340 --> 02:16:36.780

Julie Evans: We hear about jobs. We're going to get all these great jobs, so where, where, where are the jobs we already have, where are the fishing jobs going to go? It's, it's a question that I don't see any answers to, and I think BOEM needs to do a lot more

767

02:16:37.830 --> 02:16:44.670

Julie Evans: investigation and I certainly would be happy to help since I've been working on this issue since April of 2018.

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02:16:46.650 --> 02:16:56.790

Julie Evans: There is no application set in stone that a fisherman, knows that if he loses his gear to any kind of

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02:16:57.450 --> 02:17:08.280

Julie Evans: interaction with offshore wind survey boats, or any kind of boats, or any investigative measures, that they will be compensated for their losses.

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02:17:08.520 --> 02:17:20.640

Julie Evans: And I'm not just talking about their gear, I'm talking about their time, I'm talking about their lost fuel, lost bait. There's a lot that goes into fishing that I don't think many people really understand.

771

02:17:21.360 --> 02:17:30.840

Julie Evans: So my hope, and all I can do is hope at this point, is that BOEM will spend a lot more time

772

02:17:32.010 --> 02:17:32.820

Julie Evans: looking at

773

02:17:33.960 --> 02:17:38.220

Julie Evans: the mitigation and compensation to fishermen

774

02:17:39.690 --> 02:17:52.230

Julie Evans: who lose gear, who lose their time, whose access to their species due the activities of offshore wind and I will supply comments

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02:17:53.880 --> 02:18:04.020

Julie Evans: before the 22nd as well. And I can supply you with case studies if you'd like. There's a lot more work that needs to be done here.

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02:18:05.250 --> 02:18:18.540

Julie Evans: I don't think people really dislike fishermen that much that they'd like to get rid of them, so I think if you like to eat seafood, you might want to spend a little bit more time on this. Thank you very much.

777

02:18:20.850 --> 02:18:21.960

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

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02:18:24.540 --> 02:18:25.470

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

779

02:18:32.070 --> 02:18:33.510

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, so.

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02:18:34.620 --> 02:18:44.520

Meg Perry (SWCA): It looks like we are, we've run through all those who wanted to comment, so just thank you again to everyone for your time and attention to this meeting, and to this

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02:18:45.180 --> 02:18:54.330

Meg Perry (SWCA): issue. I know many of you have been involved for a while, so appreciate your continued, continued engagement. We're going to turn in just a moment to

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02:18:56.010 --> 02:19:07.230

Meg Perry (SWCA): questions and answers. I know, several questions have come in, and the BOEM team has been working to address those, and we'll turn to those in just a moment.

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02:19:09.030 --> 02:19:16.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): But just to reiterate, for those of you who may be wishing to submit a comment in writing, there's two options for how to do that

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02:19:19.470 --> 02:19:32.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): by the February 22 deadline. Those can either go in hard copy to the address on your screen, and I'll put that in the chat in just a moment where it's a little easier to copy and paste if you'd like.

785

02:19:34.110 --> 02:19:42.480

Meg Perry (SWCA): Or online@regulations.gov, the address you see there. I'm.

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02:19:44.010 --> 02:19:56.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): using that docket number BOEM-2020-0066 and clicking "comment now," so some other options for how to share additional details.

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02:19:57.840 --> 02:20:04.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): with BOEM as they take all this into account in developing this final EIS.

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02:20:07.020 --> 02:20:23.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, so let's, then here are a few questions and answers. Thanks to those who submitted questions and thanks to BOEM staff who've been working steadily here in the background to pull answers together for you. So

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02:20:24.720 --> 02:20:33.120

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'm going to turn to Mary Boatman first to share a few answers, and then Michelle Morin, and then

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02:20:34.560 --> 02:20:38.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): Jennifer Miller. I'm just letting our staff know who's up next,

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02:20:42.420 --> 02:20:51.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): and then Arianna and Connie, you'll go toward the end. So Mary, looks like we're seeing you, so let me,

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02:20:53.280 --> 02:20:58.320

Meg Perry (SWCA): let me just remind you of some questions that came in and you can share answers.

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02:20:59.250 --> 02:21:03.030

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. So we had a question

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02:21:04.320 --> 02:21:06.750

Meg Perry (SWCA): from James Fletcher, who asked,

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02:21:08.460 --> 02:21:16.500

Meg Perry (SWCA): whether "there are any grants available for a more-efficient and less costly method to create electrical current from forces in the ocean

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02:21:18.840 --> 02:21:19.740

Meg Perry (SWCA): and

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02:21:21.480 --> 02:21:27.270

Meg Perry (SWCA): or to develop and perfect the simple replacement equipment, where would a grant be available?"

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02:21:30.720 --> 02:21:42.240

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Okay, thank you, and thank you to Mr. Fletcher for emailing that question in. And unfortunately BOEM does not provide grants for technology development. That's not within our mission within the government.

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02:21:42.750 --> 02:21:53.520

Mary Boatman (BOEM): But BOEM has the authority to issue leases, easements, and rights-of-way for OCS activities that support production, transmission of energy from other sources, from sources other than oil and natural gas.

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02:21:54.060 --> 02:22:04.830

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And BOEM also has the responsibility to evaluate proposals submitted to it, such as the South Fork COP, but again, we do not actually have an ability to do grants for other technologies.

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02:22:06.150 --> 02:22:06.450

Okay.

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02:22:08.550 --> 02:22:22.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): Next question was from Judith Weis, who asked, "Could you clarify the difference between 'direct and indirect' versus 'cumulative?' I would have thought that cumulative meant both direct and indirect." Yes.

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02:22:23.610 --> 02:22:34.530

Mary Boatman (BOEM): NEPA terminology can be challenging. In the DEIS analysis, direct and indirect impacts refer the impacts that would occur from the proposed action and alternatives.

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02:22:34.950 --> 02:22:50.040

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The cumulative impacts, it's the direct, indirect plus from the post action and alternatives, plus all other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions that would impact each resource, such as commercial shipping.

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02:22:50.730 --> 02:23:02.940

Mary Boatman (BOEM): In the case of the South Fork EIS, reasonably foreseeable future actions include other offshore wind facilities, and I would refer you to Appendix D of the DEIS for more information about the cumulative scenario and how it was developed.

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02:23:05.250 --> 02:23:05.610

Okay.

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02:23:10.200 --> 02:23:16.560

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, Malcolm Green asked, "Will this project be done by Union Labor IBEW?"

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02:23:17.850 --> 02:23:22.260

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Well, Malcolm BOEM does not dictate the labor source of the industry.

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02:23:22.980 --> 02:23:31.860

Mary Boatman (BOEM): BOEM has the authority to issue the leases, as I said, easements and rights-of-way for OCS activities that support production and transmission of energy. That's our job.

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02:23:32.310 --> 02:23:40.920

Mary Boatman (BOEM): From energy resources, and we also have a responsibility to evaluate these proposals, but we do not have the ability to dictate to any industry who they should hire.

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02:23:42.990 --> 02:23:43.860

Mary Boatman (BOEM): That's just BOEM.

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02:23:44.040 --> 02:23:44.700

Meg Perry (SWCA): That sounds good.

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02:23:46.230 --> 02:23:46.590

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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02:23:48.000 --> 02:23:55.320

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. Thank you, Mary. I'm going to turn to Michelle next for answers to a couple of other questions.

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02:23:57.450 --> 02:23:59.250

Meg Perry (SWCA): And if you could introduce yourself, Michelle.

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02:23:59.970 --> 02:24:04.650

Michelle Morin (BOEM): Hi, Michelle Morin, I'm the chief of BOEM's environment branch for renewable energy.

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02:24:05.910 --> 02:24:18.780

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. So first question was from Len Copicotto, who asked, "What have been the biggest obstructions to the advancement of this project, and what as citizens can we do to best support it?"

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02:24:21.240 --> 02:24:27.630

Michelle Morin (BOEM): So this review process may seem lengthy, but it's really necessary to ensure that we have a well-informed decision.

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02:24:28.110 --> 02:24:33.360

Michelle Morin (BOEM): So public and stakeholder involvement is an important part of BOEM's offshore renewable energy program.

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02:24:34.050 --> 02:24:45.270

Michelle Morin (BOEM): Before BOEM can make a decision to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the project, we must complete an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

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02:24:45.690 --> 02:24:52.470

Michelle Morin (BOEM): So there's two main purposes to our NEPA review. One is to inform the decision, and the other is to involve the public.

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02:24:52.890 --> 02:24:59.640

Michelle Morin (BOEM): Therefore, we're asking for comments on this draft EIS, which we'll address in the final EIS Mary Boatman described earlier.

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02:25:00.390 --> 02:25:15.600

Michelle Morin (BOEM): Whether you support or oppose the proposed project, we encourage any interested individual to fully participate in this process by providing reading comments by February 22. And thank you again for the question.

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02:25:17.850 --> 02:25:30.870

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks Michelle. OK, the next question was from Simon Kinsella, who asked, "In the absence of substantive onshore state environmental review, how will BOEM ensure compliance?"

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02:25:32.100 --> 02:25:42.450

Michelle Morin (BOEM): Thank you Simon. BOEM requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of a proposed action prior to making a decision, so this is federal decisions.

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02:25:42.990 --> 02:25:53.310

Michelle Morin (BOEM): Well BOEM's jurisdiction is limited to federal waters. Our NEPA analysis looks at impacts resulting from connected actions in state waters and lands,

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02:25:55.620 --> 02:26:08.550

Michelle Morin (BOEM): and it's not dependent on state or local agencies performing their own environmental analyses, but those entities couldn't form our analysis. In addition, under the Coastal Zone Management Act,

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02:26:09.600 --> 02:26:20.160

Michelle Morin (BOEM): federal actions within and outside of the coastal zone that have reasonably foreseeable effects on coastal use or natural resource of the coastal zone

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02:26:20.970 --> 02:26:38.940

Michelle Morin (BOEM): is required to be consistent with enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program. And these consistency determinations, in this case by Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York, are needed before BOEM can make a decision on the South Fork COP.

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02:26:40.170 --> 02:26:48.120

Michelle Morin (BOEM): As far as compliance requirements identified and the NEPA process and also associated consultations,

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02:26:48.630 --> 02:27:00.000

Michelle Morin (BOEM): those would take the form of conditions of COP approval if the COP was indeed approved and our sister agency, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, or BSEE.

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02:27:00.390 --> 02:27:09.780

Michelle Morin (BOEM): is a federal agency that's going to be responsible for environmental compliance for offshore wind projects and federal waters. And thank you for that question, as well.

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02:27:12.030 --> 02:27:21.030

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, thank you, Michelle. And we will turn next to an answer from Jennifer Miller, if you're there, Jennifer.

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02:27:23.430 --> 02:27:28.020

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): Hi. Thank you. I'm Jennifer Miller, and I'm a geophysicist with

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02:27:29.310 --> 02:27:33.540

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): the program, the renewal program at BOEM.

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02:27:34.740 --> 02:27:47.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): So the question was from Michael Mahoney, who asked, "The current severe weather episode in Texas clearly demonstrates the inability for wind turbines to provide a central power when it is needed most.

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02:27:48.030 --> 02:27:56.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): Our friends in Texas are very grateful to have generators for what looks like a very long haul. This has not been part of the renewable discussion here. Shouldn't it be?"

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02:27:58.290 --> 02:28:05.070

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): That's a great question, and I think the best way to answer it is to start off with, you know Texas, is a warm-weather state.

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02:28:05.430 --> 02:28:11.010

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): And the current conditions that they're experiencing are well outside of what their energy system is prepared to handle.

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02:28:11.760 --> 02:28:23.760

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): And it's actually all energy generating systems that have been affected, not just wind turbines. As the current conditions appear to be outside of the operational capacity, capabilities, sorry,

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02:28:24.630 --> 02:28:29.910

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): for natural gas, nuclear, and other energy-generating sources, along with wind power.

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02:28:30.420 --> 02:28:38.730

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): Best management practices include the evaluation of potential for icing events such as what they're experiencing in Texas right now. And

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02:28:39.480 --> 02:28:48.090

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): the best management practices include the development of both predictive and operational strategies and many active and passive methods are currently in development.

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02:28:48.600 --> 02:28:57.690

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): And there are a few currently available on the market, such as active heating up the blades, it, which is the most tested, used, and reliable way of preventing icing effects.

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02:28:58.080 --> 02:29:03.480

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): It is used in parallel with passive, hydrophobic coating to lower energy consumption.

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02:29:04.050 --> 02:29:14.430

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): Precise icing evaluation of the site should be done during the assessment phase to evaluate the necessity and the benefits of installing an anti-icing or deicing system.

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02:29:15.120 --> 02:29:27.600

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): BOEM does not impose a requirement for the icing. That is the basic responsibility of a prudent operator, and it is a state-level power generation regular regulator, the Public Utility Commission

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02:29:28.080 --> 02:29:31.260

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): it's primarily their responsibility to make sure that their

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02:29:31.710 --> 02:29:38.820

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): facility can operate and meet their targets that that they have imposed as far as reliability targets.

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02:29:39.090 --> 02:29:48.840

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): The developer, in its plan for design of the project, should evaluate the potential for these icing events and develop, as I mentioned, both predictive and operational strategies.

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02:29:49.170 --> 02:29:53.100

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): It's worth pointing out that wind turbines have been operating in cold weather climates

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02:29:53.610 --> 02:30:06.390

Jennifer Miller (BOEM): like the North Sea in Norway above the Arctic Circle, and even, in fact, Antarctica, without issue when cold weather and icy conditions are anticipated and the wind turbine generators are appropriately designed. Thank you so much for your question.

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02:30:07.950 --> 02:30:08.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks, Jennifer.

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02:30:11.190 --> 02:30:12.180

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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02:30:14.370 --> 02:30:26.040

Meg Perry (SWCA): Couple of a couple new questions coming in, so we're working on answers to those, and then a couple of more answers are ready. So I'm going to turn to

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02:30:28.140 --> 02:30:39.510

Meg Perry (SWCA): Ursula next for an answer to a question from David Ciochetto, and again, sorry, if I'm mispronouncing names here. My apologies.

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02:30:40.530 --> 02:30:41.340

Meg Perry (SWCA): Ursula, are you there?

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02:30:41.640 --> 02:30:42.480

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Yes, I am.

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02:30:42.960 --> 02:30:43.560

Alright.

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02:30:45.180 --> 02:30:56.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): So the question was, "Can we review the options that BOEM actually has to provide mitigation to the fishing community and the mechanisms?" So if you want to just introduce yourself and then share the answer there.

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02:30:57.330 --> 02:31:04.230

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Thanks Meg. My name is Ursula Howson, and I am the fish biologist with BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs.

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02:31:04.980 --> 02:31:15.090

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Monitoring of the South Fork Export Cable and cable and cable protection, where applicable, would further reduce the expected negligible to moderate impacts on commercial fisheries.

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02:31:15.690 --> 02:31:31.440

Ursula Howson (BOEM): By ensuring that the cable remains buried and that cable protections intact, thereby reducing the potential for mobile fishing gear hangs and more information about that is available in Table G-2, which is Appendix G.

864

02:31:33.030 --> 02:31:51.540

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Refer to that for details. BOEM is also open to working with state partners and the commercial and recreational fishing industries to investigate alternative strategies to negotiate compensatory mitigation agreements. At this time, BOEM has not received any compensation plans for review.

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02:31:53.010 --> 02:31:53.340

Okay.

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02:31:55.290 --> 02:31:55.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks Ursula.

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02:31:57.060 --> 02:32:16.110

Meg Perry (SWCA): And your audio was a little iffy, so it might be, we might just ask you to go audio only if you have other answers to share so that your video isn't eating up bandwidth. We'll see if we need to again. Okay, Arianna, are you ready to share an answer?

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02:32:17.040 --> 02:32:17.370

Hi.

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02:32:20.040 --> 02:32:21.630

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, you want to go ahead and introduce yourself?

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02:32:22.050 --> 02:32:26.370

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Hello, my name is Arianna Baker, and I'm the navigation analyst here at BOEM.

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02:32:28.110 --> 02:32:49.050

Meg Perry (SWCA): So question was from Ross Gould, who asked, "How many nautical miles are there between the southern boundary of the OCS-A-0517 (South Fork lease area) and the northern boundary of OCS-A-487? Are there any obstructions to vessel transit in the area between those two areas?"

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02:32:50.070 --> 02:33:02.100

Arianna Baker (BOEM): So for anyone who's confused about the numbering, 0517, OCS 0487, that's the way that we designate our leases, so that's just a quick shorthand for a lease designation.

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02:33:02.460 --> 02:33:13.860

Arianna Baker (BOEM): So the distance between the South Fork wind lease area 0517 and 0487, which is the lease across Cox's Ledge directly to the south, which is where the Sunrise

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02:33:14.130 --> 02:33:20.130

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Wind Project is currently being proposed. That distance is about 1.3 to two nautical miles.

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02:33:20.550 --> 02:33:27.600

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Note that if all projects in the Rhode Island and Massachusetts lease areas are approved with structure layouts

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02:33:27.930 --> 02:33:38.130

Arianna Baker (BOEM): as was proposed, both under the joint developer agreement, and as was also recommended by the United States Coast Guard and their Massachusetts and Rhode Island port access route study,

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02:33:38.520 --> 02:33:54.150

Arianna Baker (BOEM): then the nearest structure, between those two leases would be at least two nautical miles apart. There are no obstructions that BOEM is aware of in that area, but there may be some uncharted private buoys or traps within the vicinity. Thank you for your question.

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02:33:55.560 --> 02:33:55.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks everyone.

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02:33:58.980 --> 02:34:00.090

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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02:34:01.710 --> 02:34:05.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): Next up, Connie, we'll turn to you for an answer.

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02:34:09.750 --> 02:34:12.540

Connie Barnett (BOEM): Hi, my name is Connie, and I am BOEM's architectural historian.

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02:34:14.640 --> 02:34:29.400

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. So there's a question for you from William Cook, who asked, "Could someone please comment on whether and to what extent the DEIS considers use of aircraft detection lighting systems to minimize visual impacts from the proposed turbines at night?"

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02:34:30.870 --> 02:34:41.040

Connie Barnett (BOEM): Yes, ADLS was included in the South Fork Wind Farm DEIS and analyzed by BOEM as a potential mitigation measure for birds, cultural resources, recreation, and tourism.

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02:34:41.700 --> 02:34:46.380

Connie Barnett (BOEM): For those aren't familiar, ADLS stands for aircraft detection lighting system, as Meg said.

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02:34:46.950 --> 02:34:56.730

Connie Barnett (BOEM): This lighting system provides continuous 360-degree radar surveillance of the airspace around wind farms, communication towers, and power lines that require,

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02:34:57.420 --> 02:35:01.950

Connie Barnett (BOEM): sorry, that require Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, aircraft obstruction lighting.

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02:35:02.640 --> 02:35:10.830

Connie Barnett (BOEM): The radar system triggers activation of the obstruction lighting when aircraft enter the predetermined airspace perimeter in proximity to the turbines.

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02:35:11.430 --> 02:35:16.140

Connie Barnett (BOEM): By contrast, standard aviation obstruction lining would flash continuously throughout the night.

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02:35:16.830 --> 02:35:26.160

Connie Barnett (BOEM): The use of ADLS would reduce the frequency of nighttime lighting from continuous to intermittent, resulting in reduced impacts on cultural and visual resources.

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02:35:26.850 --> 02:35:36.600

Connie Barnett (BOEM): Nighttime lighting impacts are an expected outcome for this South Fork Wind Farm project as a result of the requirement for aviation hazard avoidance lighting on turbines and offshore substations.

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02:35:36.960 --> 02:35:43.920

Connie Barnett (BOEM): Should BOEM require it, South Fork would implement ADLS to reduce nighttime lighting impacts during operation of the wind farm.

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02:35:44.580 --> 02:35:54.030

Connie Barnett (BOEM): For additional information, please refer to Table G-2 in Appendix G of the DEIS labeled potential additional mitigation and monitoring measures. Thank you so much for that question.

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02:35:55.950 --> 02:35:56.670

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks Connie.

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02:35:59.580 --> 02:36:03.690

Meg Perry (SWCA): And that was Table G-2 for additional info there.

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02:36:04.710 --> 02:36:06.840

Meg Perry (SWCA): Appendix G of the DEIS.

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02:36:09.450 --> 02:36:18.990

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, I think our next answer is coming from Mary, if I'm not mistaken.

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02:36:22.110 --> 02:36:23.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): Mary, are you ready? Yes.

898

02:36:24.810 --> 02:36:25.620

Mary Boatman (BOEM): I found the button.

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02:36:26.670 --> 02:36:29.430

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. So we had a question from Michael Wilks. You asked,

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02:36:30.120 --> 02:36:45.420

Meg Perry (SWCA): "How will BOEM, once it has the information from the cooperating agencies, actually determine what an acceptable level of impact is? For example, must all major and moderate impacts be mitigated or may some impacts of this nature remain?"

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02:36:47.640 --> 02:36:54.570

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Well, BOEM has a responsibility to disclose the potential impacts for project in the environmental impact statement.

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02:36:55.320 --> 02:37:06.930

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Mitigation measures are identified to reduce or eliminate impacts that are major or moderate. And BOEM would include these mitigations as part of the record of decision. So thank you for your question.

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02:37:09.540 --> 02:37:09.960

Okay.

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02:37:12.810 --> 02:37:21.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thank you, and just as a reminder for everyone, I know we're running through all these questions and answers pretty quickly, but, and the transcript and the recording for these

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02:37:22.110 --> 02:37:41.940

Meg Perry (SWCA): meetings will be posted on the website at that link that I shared in the in the chat and I'll share that link again before we wrap up today. So if you want to go back and look at anything, that will be posted there. Okay Mary, thank you so much. We're going to move on to,

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02:37:48.150 --> 02:37:49.140

Who's up next here?

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02:37:50.880 --> 02:37:51.780

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Oh, more questions.

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02:37:51.870 --> 02:37:54.000

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you're still on mute, you're still on

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02:37:55.380 --> 02:37:58.980

Meg Perry (SWCA): video, Mary. There we go okay.

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02:38:01.410 --> 02:38:06.660

Meg Perry (SWCA): Yeah, we're getting some more questions in which is, which is great.

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02:38:07.980 --> 02:38:15.210

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay looks like we're, we're caught up to those we already had. We've had a few new questions come in, so we're working on answers.

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02:38:18.240 --> 02:38:19.290

Meg Perry (SWCA): And

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02:38:22.140 --> 02:38:29.580

Meg Perry (SWCA): while that's happening, I'll just give a couple of reminders, show you all a few things to help you with follow up from this meeting.

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02:38:30.840 --> 02:38:42.120

Meg Perry (SWCA): But I'll say I think at this point with just one question left to answer, kind of last call if you have a question you'd like to submit this evening

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02:38:43.980 --> 02:38:54.810

Meg Perry (SWCA): to please go ahead and do that, so that the folks developing those answers can have time to put their answer together. And thanks again for, for sticking with us this evening.

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02:38:56.940 --> 02:39:16.920

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay and I do see this question, I know we've, we've already have the transcript and recording up from the first meeting. It usually takes us a couple of days to turn those around, because as you've seen, probably be transcript that comes out of Zoom was not perfect, so

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02:39:19.350 --> 02:39:28.860

Meg Perry (SWCA): that does take a little bit of time to turn around, but we will get it up as soon as possible, and certainly before the February 22nd deadline.

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02:39:32.370 --> 02:39:33.420

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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02:39:37.050 --> 02:39:43.650

Meg Perry (SWCA): So let me just share my screen here, briefly, so you all can see

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02:39:46.410 --> 02:39:48.690

Meg Perry (SWCA): where you can find some of this information.

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02:39:57.270 --> 02:40:03.210

Meg Perry (SWCA): So this is that virtual meeting site for this project and

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02:40:04.770 --> 02:40:15.510

Meg Perry (SWCA): I'll put that link in the chat here once again in just a moment. When you go to that link, you will land first on this page, which has some background documents linked,

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02:40:17.880 --> 02:40:22.200

Meg Perry (SWCA): including the DEIS and the construction and operations plan.

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02:40:23.820 --> 02:40:35.340

Meg Perry (SWCA): And some information, supplemental information to what was shared today, so kind of similar to what you might have seen if we could do an in-person open house. If you click on any of these

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02:40:35.820 --> 02:40:45.180

Meg Perry (SWCA): little icons, there's a brief video giving an introduction to that resource and then, as you scroll down the page, there are some posters that share some additional details

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02:40:46.440 --> 02:40:49.830

Meg Perry (SWCA): related to the project, and this NEPA compliance process.

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02:40:51.540 --> 02:40:56.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): So that's on the main page, and then, if you click on virtual meeting schedule

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02:40:57.780 --> 02:41:00.090

Meg Perry (SWCA): you will see the three public meetings.

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02:41:01.260 --> 02:41:17.730

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you'll see the, the one from last week has links live for the video, and the transcript and the ones for Thursday and today's meeting will go up as soon as we have them.

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02:41:18.900 --> 02:41:21.420

Meg Perry (SWCA): So that's where you can find those following the meeting.

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02:41:24.840 --> 02:41:28.170

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I will put that link in the chat right now

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02:41:33.960 --> 02:41:35.310

Meg Perry (SWCA): so you can just click on it.

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02:41:44.880 --> 02:41:53.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): Great. And then the other thing I will share just briefly here is what that regulations.gov website looks like.

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02:41:54.660 --> 02:41:56.850

Meg Perry (SWCA): So if you'd like to submit your comments online.

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02:41:58.560 --> 02:42:11.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): And you go to this site and I'll put that in the chat as well, this is the site that you will arrive at. And to find the find this project you enter the code BOEM

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02:42:15.150 --> 02:42:18.960

Meg Perry (SWCA): -2020-0066.

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02:42:21.600 --> 02:42:22.740

Meg Perry (SWCA): I think I've got that memorized by now.

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02:42:23.820 --> 02:42:24.360

Meg Perry (SWCA): Yes.

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02:42:28.050 --> 02:42:35.520

Meg Perry (SWCA): And when you click search, you should see this project pop up and you can click the "comment now" button.

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02:42:36.840 --> 02:42:47.820

Meg Perry (SWCA): And there you'll have the opportunity to type in a comment and or attach a file, along with your name, and then submit your comment. So that's how that online comments admission works.

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02:42:53.040 --> 02:42:53.760

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay.

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02:42:55.020 --> 02:42:58.590

Meg Perry (SWCA): So I will put those links in the chat for you all.

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02:43:03.540 --> 02:43:05.490

Meg Perry (SWCA): And I think we're ready with the answer to

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02:43:06.840 --> 02:43:08.940

Meg Perry (SWCA): that last question.

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02:43:14.100 --> 02:43:17.220

Meg Perry (SWCA): And that is, Arianna is going to share an answer.

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02:43:19.650 --> 02:43:23.760

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Hello again. Arianna Baker, navigation analyst for BOEM.

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02:43:26.010 --> 02:43:35.460

Meg Perry (SWCA): Thanks, so the question was from Bonnie Brady, who asked, "Why are the only documents that are in the DEIS for navigation AIS only

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02:43:35.880 --> 02:43:49.800

Meg Perry (SWCA): when AIS was only required federally of commercial fishing boats as of 2016 and a majority of fishing boats from New York do not have AIS, which is only required on commercial fishing boats 65 feet or larger?

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02:43:50.520 --> 02:43:57.330

Meg Perry (SWCA): How can you possibly only allow the use of AIS to show navigational traffic when the method of analysis leaves out an entire state?

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02:43:58.530 --> 02:44:06.360

Arianna Baker (BOEM): So the short answer is, we didn't just exclusively use AIS. For your information, AIS, or Automatic Identification System data,

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02:44:06.750 --> 02:44:13.350

Arianna Baker (BOEM): is a navigational aid that is required under the United States Coast Guard regulations for all vessels 65 feet or larger.

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02:44:13.860 --> 02:44:24.180

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Well, AIS primarily used in our data analysis because it is a rich data source with frequent position reports that provides us a lot of opportunity for analysis.

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02:44:24.570 --> 02:44:41.070

Arianna Baker (BOEM): We did also use other data sources in our navigation analysis, such as vessel monitoring system, which is a tracking system monitored by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration for monitored fisheries and

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02:44:41.880 --> 02:44:56.160

Arianna Baker (BOEM): it's fishing vessel, exclusively, as well as any submitted vessel trip report data, which, again, is a fishing vessels-specific data type. And those data, we're not just using the navigational analysis, but also in our fisheries analysis as well.

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02:44:58.200 --> 02:44:59.430

Okay, thanks. Meg.

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02:45:03.510 --> 02:45:04.110

Meg Perry (SWCA): Right.

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02:45:07.590 --> 02:45:12.120

Meg Perry (SWCA): Okay, well, thank you again everyone for the good questions and comments.

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02:45:13.230 --> 02:45:13.890

Meg Perry (SWCA): We

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02:45:15.660 --> 02:45:27.420

Meg Perry (SWCA): look forward to hearing from many of you, between now and February 22 in writing, via the, the two methods show on your screen and also in the chat

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02:45:30.150 --> 02:45:32.190

Meg Perry (SWCA): in case you want to copy them.

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02:45:35.280 --> 02:45:53.160

Meg Perry (SWCA): And just want to say thank you again so much to everyone. As Michelle said earlier, it, public participation is a is a crucial component of the NEPA process and it's really important to have everyone's input, so, thank you for your engagement intention this evening.

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02:45:55.470 --> 02:46:01.680

Meg Perry (SWCA): With that, I think I will turn it to, back to Jim for some closing comments.

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02:46:04.740 --> 02:46:06.300

James Bennett (BOEM): Thank you, Meg. I'm

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02:46:08.130 --> 02:46:15.330

James Bennett (BOEM): want to thank the staff for another successful meeting, and Meg, you and SWCA for

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02:46:16.830 --> 02:46:19.770

James Bennett (BOEM): facilitating so well.

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02:46:21.060 --> 02:46:30.420

James Bennett (BOEM): I also, of course, want to thank everybody that's participating. I hope this exchange has made you more well-informed on his project and its effects.

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02:46:31.980 --> 02:46:41.700

James Bennett (BOEM): I also hope that we've provided a good forum for you to share your thoughts and suggestions on whatever aspects of the of the project are of concern to you.

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02:46:42.450 --> 02:46:52.680

James Bennett (BOEM): All of the comments that have been submitted will be evaluated with respect to the content of the draft EIS, and you, in addition to the oral comments made here.

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02:46:53.340 --> 02:47:11.730

James Bennett (BOEM): You can still provide comments and writing or regs.com by February 22. As I mentioned in the opening remarks, your input is essential to ensure the best decision-making possible, so thank you very much for participating, and thank you for your input.

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02:47:15.930 --> 02:47:17.910

Meg Perry (SWCA): Alright, thank you very much and

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02:47:18.960 --> 02:47:22.020

Meg Perry (SWCA): appreciate everyone's time and attention this evening. We will

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02:47:23.220 --> 02:47:24.750

Meg Perry (SWCA): hope to see you in the comments.

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02:47:25.800 --> 02:47:27.090

Meg Perry (SWCA): Have a good rest of your evening.