

WEBVTT

1

00:01:06.950 --> 00:01:23.870

Meg Perry | SWCA: Good evening and welcome to those of you already joining us. My name is Mike Perry, with SWCA Environmental Consultants, and I'll be facilitating the meeting this evening. We're gonna get started at the top of the hour. So stick with us for just a few more minutes, and we'll be getting started in just a few months.

2

00:04:49.720 --> 00:04:51.079

Meg Perry | SWCA: Good evening.

3

00:04:51.610 --> 00:05:00.899

Meg Perry | SWCA: Welcome to this Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Public Meeting. Focused on Revolution Wind Offshore Wind Project Draft environmental impact statement.

4

00:05:01.000 --> 00:05:04.980

Meg Perry | SWCA: We're so glad to see many of you uh joining today.

5

00:05:05.070 --> 00:05:11.609

Meg Perry | SWCA: It's like we got about forty people signed in at the moment, and those numbers are continuing to go up here, so we'll

6

00:05:11.720 --> 00:05:14.490

Meg Perry | SWCA: I continue to welcome people as they get signed in.

7

00:05:14.880 --> 00:05:22.909

Meg Perry | SWCA: I go ahead and begin the meeting. You'll notice that it is being recorded. So if you don't wish to be recorded, you're welcome to sign off um.

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00:05:22.970 --> 00:05:29.220

Meg Perry | SWCA: The recording will be posted on the Bureau of Ocean energy management website uh following this meeting,

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00:05:29.300 --> 00:05:33.830

Meg Perry | SWCA: so it'll be available there if you wish to view the meeting uh later.

10

00:05:38.650 --> 00:05:42.049

Just a couple of notes about what to expect in this evening's meeting.

11

00:05:42.520 --> 00:05:51.659

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um. First First we'll begin with welcome, and if you will just school notes about zoom, Webinar format will then turn to a presentation by boom

12

00:05:51.760 --> 00:05:53.890

Meg Perry | SWCA: on the

13

00:05:54.050 --> 00:05:57.630

Meg Perry | SWCA: National Environmental Policy Act and environmental impact statement.

14

00:05:57.870 --> 00:06:02.929

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um, as well as next steps in the process and the product itself.

15

00:06:03.180 --> 00:06:11.850

Meg Perry | SWCA: Presentation from the U.S. Army Court of Engineers. Then we'll have a session for public comment and follow that with question and answer session

16

00:06:11.870 --> 00:06:15.050

Meg Perry | SWCA: i'll. I'll explain a little bit more about that in a few minutes.

17

00:06:26.410 --> 00:06:27.720

Karen Baker, BOEM: Thanks, Meg.

18

00:06:27.880 --> 00:06:36.010

Karen Baker, BOEM: Hello. My name is Karen Baker. I'm the Chief of the Office of Renewable Energy Programs at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM.

19

00:06:36.540 --> 00:06:46.430

Karen Baker, BOEM: Welcome to BOEM's second of two virtual public hearings to discuss the draft Environmental impact statement for the Revolution Wind Project offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

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00:06:46.530 --> 00:06:53.479

Karen Baker, BOEM: We also hosted three in-person public meetings in Massachusetts and Rhode Island on October fourth, fifth, and sixth,

21

00:06:54.040 --> 00:07:05.029

Karen Baker, BOEM: for those of you who aren't familiar with BOEM we are a Federal bureau within the Department of Interior that oversees the development of our energy and mineral resources in the nation's outer Continental shelf or OCS.

22

00:07:05.100 --> 00:07:15.080

Karen Baker, BOEM: The OCS extends in most areas from about three miles offshore to the full extent of the exclusive economic zone. Approximately two hundred miles offshore

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00:07:15.510 --> 00:07:23.969

Karen Baker, BOEM: BOEM is responsible for the expeditious and orderly development of the energy resources of the

OCS, including renewables like offshore wind.

24

00:07:24.110 --> 00:07:30.089

Karen Baker, BOEM: It's our job to ensure this development is done in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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00:07:30.200 --> 00:07:35.470

Karen Baker, BOEM: This process starts with public input, data gathering, analysis, and leasing.

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00:07:35.770 --> 00:07:41.880

Karen Baker, BOEM: After many years. We now have twenty eight active commercial leases for offshore wind in the Atlantic,

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00:07:42.150 --> 00:07:51.519

Karen Baker, BOEM: As we've mentioned, we're here today to discuss the draft environmental impact statement for the Revolution Wind project one of those twenty-eight leases.

28

00:07:51.890 --> 00:08:04.640

Karen Baker, BOEM: Your participation feedback today are essential to BOEM's renewable energy program and play a vital role in our environmental analysis of the proposed project and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA

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00:08:04.880 --> 00:08:16.450

Karen Baker, BOEM: BOEM would also like to note on behalf of the U.S. Army corps of engineers, that these virtual public hearings will serve as the public hearings for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 and Section 404 Permit Review.

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00:08:16.460 --> 00:08:25.359

Karen Baker, BOEM: Tammy Turley Chief Regulatory division. New England district U.S. Army corps of engineers will also be presenting on the Corp's permitting processes for this project today.

31

00:08:26.290 --> 00:08:38.030

Karen Baker, BOEM: Thank you so much for joining more than one hundred individuals pre registered to attend today's meeting, with several participants indicating they would be providing comments. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

32

00:08:38.299 --> 00:08:49.540

Karen Baker, BOEM: There are a dozen or so members of the BOEM staff subject matter experts participating in today's meeting to help provide information as needed, so we all look forward to hearing your comments and answering any questions that you may have.

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00:08:50.030 --> 00:08:51.979

Karen Baker, BOEM: Now turn it back over to Meg.

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00:08:57.450 --> 00:08:58.779

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thank you, Karen.

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00:08:59.490 --> 00:09:01.349

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay. Just a few

36

00:09:01.800 --> 00:09:13.740

Meg Perry | SWCA: bits of information about this zoom webinar format. So we are in a zoom Webinar. Um, That means participants are on mute um automatically until we get to the formal comment period.

37

00:09:13.880 --> 00:09:27.460

Meg Perry | SWCA: If you do need help with the zoom platform you can use the Q. A. Feature at the bottom of the screen or send an email to Jennifer dot right out ri de out at Swca dot com for technical support.

38

00:09:27.950 --> 00:09:33.920

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um! And if you do have trouble accessing this meeting via zoom, and would like to call in instead.

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00:09:33.960 --> 00:09:39.070

Meg Perry | SWCA: The phone number for this meeting, where you can hear the audio is eight, eight, eight,

40

00:09:39.100 --> 00:09:42.519

Meg Perry | SWCA: four seven five or four four nine nine,

41

00:09:42.620 --> 00:09:49.449

Meg Perry | SWCA: and then you will need the Webinar Id which is nine, seven, six, three, two, three, zero,

42

00:09:49.640 --> 00:09:51.619

Meg Perry | SWCA: two, seven, eight, nine

43

00:09:52.380 --> 00:10:02.609

Meg Perry | SWCA: and we encourage you to close other apps and programs that you might have running on your device. Um, just to improve your your bandwidth and memory function for this type of session.

44

00:10:03.550 --> 00:10:04.510

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um,

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00:10:04.820 --> 00:10:24.339

Meg Perry | SWCA: One other thing to note is that you probably are. You may be seeing a transcript or a live closed caption going on um on your screen, and you. You hopefully have a Cc button. If you look in your zoom controls that allows you to turn that feature on or off, depending on your preference. So that's available to you that Cc button.

46

00:10:25.300 --> 00:10:32.310

Meg Perry | SWCA: And then, if we do have any uh representatives of the media joining today, we encourage those people to contact Lissa eng

47

00:10:32.390 --> 00:10:40.589

Meg Perry | SWCA: at lissa.eng@boem.gov.

48

00:10:44.690 --> 00:10:53.809

Meg Perry | SWCA: And then, just to orient you to the the two opportunities you have um as participants to to participate in this meeting today. Um. First of all,

49

00:10:53.830 --> 00:11:12.639

Meg Perry | SWCA: we will have a public comment period following the presentations, and we'll turn to the people who pre registered to comment first. But if you didn't pre register you, you still have the opportunity to comment. So once we get through the people who pre registered. We'll invite anyone else who'd like to share a comment to raise their hand um in zoom,

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00:11:12.650 --> 00:11:14.750

Meg Perry | SWCA: and we'll hear from those people.

51

00:11:16.710 --> 00:11:28.609

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um! And just to make sure we get to everyone. We're going to be limiting those comments to five minutes. So if you have more than five minutes worth. Um. We'll go over how you can submit comments in writing, or you can always get back in line once everyone else has shared

52

00:11:29.910 --> 00:11:38.559

Meg Perry | SWCA: um for questions and answers, There is a Q and A tool here in the zoom Webinar. You'll see two little talk bubbles and a Q and A Button.

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00:11:38.580 --> 00:11:51.179

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um. So If you have a question for the bone team uh please click on that Q and A Button and type it in. You can submit those questions uh during the presentation at any time or during the public comment period.

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00:11:51.240 --> 00:11:55.629

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um! So we'll be taking those questions and bringing them to the team

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00:11:56.050 --> 00:12:03.770

Meg Perry | SWCA: that's on today. Um! And then, once the public comment period ends, I will close or see the questions, and we'll

56

00:12:03.850 --> 00:12:20.930

Meg Perry | SWCA: start sharing out questions and answers in the in the Q and A session. So if you do have a question, you have an opportunity to submit that at any time during the presentation or during the public comment period, um. And then, once that's concluded, we'll share the responses to those questions submitted,

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00:12:21.340 --> 00:12:27.329

Meg Perry | SWCA: and as I mentioned before, this meeting is being recorded, Um! And there will be a transcript generated as well.

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00:12:30.190 --> 00:12:35.890

Meg Perry | SWCA: With that I'm going to go ahead and turn it to Trevis Olivier for the first presentation

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00:12:44.920 --> 00:12:46.120

Meg Perry | SWCA: Trevis.

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00:12:47.210 --> 00:12:50.539

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Okay, let me know. Let me know if you can't hear me.

61

00:12:52.260 --> 00:12:53.989

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Good! Can you hear me then?

62

00:12:59.940 --> 00:13:03.690

Meg Perry | SWCA: Yes, we're hearing.

63

00:13:05.690 --> 00:13:21.989

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Sorry about that. Alright, Thank you. Um! As Meg said, My name is Trevis Olivier. Um. I am one of the BOEM environmental coordinators for the Revolution Wind project, and this afternoon i'll be presenting an overview of the draft environmental impact statement or DEIS

64

00:13:35.700 --> 00:13:37.160

the next slide.

65

00:13:39.800 --> 00:13:58.789

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So the first thing I want to do is um for you all to some additional resources that we do have available on BOEM's virtual meeting room web page for the draft EIS. The link to that web page is available here at the bottom of the slide, and if you haven't already, we encourage you to

66

00:14:02.010 --> 00:14:10.389

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: browse that web page and um check out the additional information on the project that we have available there

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00:14:13.510 --> 00:14:14.760

next slide.

68

00:14:20.440 --> 00:14:31.669

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So this EIS is being developed under the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA, which

requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects

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00:14:38.670 --> 00:14:43.150

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: for Federal action that could

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00:14:43.920 --> 00:14:47.569

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: really affect the quality of the human environment.

71

00:14:47.730 --> 00:15:08.079

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: The EIS must also provide an analysis of reasonable and cumulative actions that us also includes public scoping and a minimum, and the need of process collects relevant to to make an informed decision on whether to approve approval, conditions or disapprove

72

00:15:16.540 --> 00:15:21.730

Meg Perry | SWCA: Trevis you're breaking up a little bit. I don't know if you maybe try turning your video off

73

00:15:22.020 --> 00:15:24.379

Meg Perry | SWCA: so we can hear your audio clearly.

74

00:15:31.370 --> 00:15:32.350

Okay,

75

00:15:33.570 --> 00:15:37.539

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: let me know if that's helping.

76

00:15:38.080 --> 00:15:41.310

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Are you? In the next slide, Please

77

00:15:41.380 --> 00:15:42.610

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: slide ten.

78

00:15:45.790 --> 00:16:02.029

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So the the notice of Intent or NOI to prepare the draft EIS was published back on april thirtieth of two thousand and twenty-one, which began a thirty day comment period, and the comment period was open through June eleventh of two thousand and twenty-one.

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00:16:02.770 --> 00:16:18.470

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: During that time BOEM also held three virtual scoping meetings on May thirteenth, eighteenth, and twentieth, and a scoping summary report which summarizes the comments and significant issues

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00:16:18.480 --> 00:16:26.149

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: that were raised during scoping was also prepared, and is available on BOEM's Revolution

Wind Project web page

81

00:16:27.900 --> 00:16:29.080

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: next slide.

82

00:16:34.030 --> 00:16:45.030

Meg Perry | SWCA: And Trevis, your sound is still a little bit choppy. So I don't know. If you have any other programs you can close like outlook or anything like that, just to make sure you're

83

00:16:45.640 --> 00:16:47.760

Meg Perry | SWCA: maximizing your bandwidth.

84

00:16:53.020 --> 00:16:53.900

Okay,

85

00:16:54.450 --> 00:16:58.970

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and a couple of things I close hopefully. That will help.

86

00:17:01.010 --> 00:17:10.110

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So the draft EIS Notice of Availability or NOI was published in the Federal register on September second, of two thousand and twenty-two

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00:17:10.750 --> 00:17:20.380

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: uh two virtual public hearings are scheduled. The first was held back on September twenty ninth, and the second one is taking place here today.

88

00:17:20.680 --> 00:17:40.449

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: BOEM also held in-person public hearings on October fourth on Martha's Vineyard, October fifth in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, and on October sixth, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and the forty-five day comment period on the draft EIS closes on October seventeenth

89

00:17:51.980 --> 00:18:04.220

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: so to provide a a brief overview of the Revolution Wind project it is being proposed on BOEM lease zero four hundred and eighty-six which was issued back on October first of two thousand and thirteen.

90

00:18:04.920 --> 00:18:23.300

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: The proposed Wind Farm is located roughly twelve to fourteen miles south-southwest of varying points along the Rhode Island and Massachusetts coastlines. That's about fifteen miles east of Block Island, and about twelve point one miles southwest of Martha's vineyard,

91

00:18:23.620 --> 00:18:36.499

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and using the project design envelope or PODE approach the Construction and Operations Plan proposes a range of parameters which BOEM is analyzing under the proposed action

92

00:18:37.050 --> 00:18:49.030

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: offshore. The project proposes up to one hundred wind turbine generators ranging from eight to twelve megawatts capacity each, and space at least one nautical mile apart,

93

00:18:49.770 --> 00:18:59.440

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: two offshore substations, and up to one hundred and fifty-five miles of inner array cables connecting the turbines to the offshore substations,

94

00:18:59.760 --> 00:19:11.920

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and two export cables, roughly forty-two miles long, one from each offshore substation, traveling up through Narragansett Bay and connecting to the onshore components at Quonset Point, Rhode Island,

95

00:19:15.070 --> 00:19:16.629

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: next slide, please.

96

00:19:19.270 --> 00:19:32.469

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So the turbines would have a maximum blade height of up to eight hundred and seventy-three feet, a maximum of height of up to five hundred and twelve feet, and a maximum rotor diameter of up to seven hundred and twenty-two feet,

97

00:19:32.640 --> 00:19:37.979

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and the offshore substations are up to two hundred and sixty-two feet tall.

98

00:19:38.220 --> 00:19:50.599

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Uh There are also several types of scour protection uh, also being considered in the PDE. Those include rock placement, mattress protection, sandbags and stone bags,

99

00:19:54.020 --> 00:19:56.230

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and the

100

00:19:58.190 --> 00:20:03.980

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: PDE also conservatively assumes uh up to

101

00:20:04.640 --> 00:20:24.400

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: ten percent of cables in Federal waters could require secondary cable protection and um up to fifteen percent in State waters could require a secondary cable protection where where um proper burial could not be achieved.

102

00:20:33.130 --> 00:20:46.809

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So for the onshore components the export cables would make landfall within the Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown, Rhode Island and would be installed, using horizontal directional drilling below the

shoreline to minimize surface disturbance.

103

00:20:47.800 --> 00:21:03.399

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: The two underground transmission cables would travel approximately one mile from the landfall location up to a new onshore substation and interconnection facility, and that would be constructed directly adjacent to the existing Davisville substation

104

00:21:07.540 --> 00:21:08.950

next slide,

105

00:21:10.760 --> 00:21:17.000

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and the project has an estimated operational life of twenty to thirty-five years,

106

00:21:17.210 --> 00:21:30.319

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and at the end of the project's operational life it would be decommissioned in accordance with the detailed project decommissioning plan developed in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and best management practices at that time,

107

00:21:30.370 --> 00:21:33.400

and it would be subject to BOEM review, and approval.

108

00:21:33.870 --> 00:21:41.989

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: All facilities would be removed to a depth of fifteen feet below the mudline, unless otherwise authorized by BOEM

109

00:21:42.290 --> 00:21:59.450

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and BOEM's implementing regulations at 30 CFR 585 provide specific financial security requirements for outer continental shelf projects, and requires the Lessee to provide a surety bond or other form of financial assurance for Decommissioning

110

00:21:59.960 --> 00:22:13.800

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: BOEM also requires leaseholders to prepare conceptual decommissioning plans when their project is first proposed, and requires more detail plans for evaluation at the time the decommissioning is actually being requested.

111

00:22:16.810 --> 00:22:17.950

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: That's why

112

00:22:22.390 --> 00:22:41.630

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: BOEM has been in ongoing consultation with federally recognized tribal nations throughout the development of the draft EIS and this slide presents a free summary of some, but not all, of the Government to Government consultation and coordination efforts that have occurred since publication of the NOI to prepare the EIS

113

00:22:44.410 --> 00:22:45.500
Trevis Olivier | BOEM: next slide

114

00:22:48.640 --> 00:22:56.599

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and BOEM is using NEPA substitution to fulfill it's Section 106 obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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00:22:57.250 --> 00:23:11.460

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: There are currently forty-eight consulting parties on the Revolution Wind project under Section 106, and these include tribal nations, federal agencies, State and local governments, as well as non-governmental organizations

116

00:23:12.070 --> 00:23:24.009

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: BOEM has conducted three consultant party meetings to date for this project uh, with additional consultation meetings to be scheduled as needed throughout two thousand and twenty-two and early two thousand and twenty-three.

117

00:23:28.910 --> 00:23:37.649

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So to highlight some notable sections of the draft EIS, chapters one, two, and three of the main body contain the Purpose and Need,

118

00:23:37.720 --> 00:23:46.590

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: alternatives, including those eliminated from detailed analysis and why, and then assessment of the environmental consequences for each alternative.

119

00:23:47.930 --> 00:23:54.719

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: The project design envelope parameters or maximum case scenario are described in detail in Appendix D.

120

00:23:55.200 --> 00:24:11.469

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: The cumulative impact scenario also referred to as the planned activities Scenario in the draft EIS is provided in Appendix E. And Appendix E. Also includes an assessment of the resources that were determined to have minor or lower impact from the project.

121

00:24:12.750 --> 00:24:19.499

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Appendix F. Contains the Lessee's mitigation measures, as proposed in the construction and operations plan,

122

00:24:20.210 --> 00:24:27.550

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: as well as other potential mitigation and reporting requirements identified for consideration by BOEM in the draft EIS

123

00:24:28.890 --> 00:24:36.879

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Appendix J. Contains the Section 106 Finding of Adverse Effect, and the draft Section 106

Memorandum of Agreement

124

00:24:36.980 --> 00:24:46.410

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and Appendix K provides additional background on alternatives development and BOEM's alternative screening criteria that were used during development of the draft EIS

125

00:24:53.830 --> 00:25:03.929

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: draft EIS analyzes the proposed action, which is the project as proposed in the construction and operations plan that was summarized in the previous slides,

126

00:25:04.000 --> 00:25:21.640

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: as well as four other action alternatives. It also evaluates a no action alternative which would be disapproval of the proposed construction and operations plan, and the next few slides will provide some very highlights of the additional four action alternatives,

127

00:25:29.490 --> 00:25:44.210

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Alternative C would exclude the following positions outlined in red on the slide from development to reduce impacts to complex and make habitats vulnerable to permanent and long-term impact from the proposed project.

128

00:25:44.750 --> 00:25:55.330

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: And BOEM worked with the National Marine Fishery Service to identify various habitat priority areas that were used to delineate the two options evaluated under Alternative C.

129

00:25:56.220 --> 00:26:06.079

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So option C1 minimizes bottom disturbance in large areas of contiguous complex and the habitat as identified in those priority areas,

130

00:26:06.140 --> 00:26:24.380

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and those similar to C1 option, option C2 shifts the exclusion of three turbine positions from the southeastern portion to areas further north, with the intent of reducing development in or adjacent to, known Atlantic cod spawning areas.

131

00:26:24.390 --> 00:26:36.180

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: And this slight shift in positions, however, would slightly reduce the amount of contiguous complex benthic habitat that would be avoided when compared to Alternative C1

132

00:26:46.260 --> 00:26:53.569

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Alternative D, to reduce space use conflict with commercial and fishing vessels within the outer perimeters of the project.

133

00:26:54.400 --> 00:26:59.600

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: There are seven possible combinations that could be selected under this alternative.

134

00:26:59.840 --> 00:27:04.600

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: The selection of all three sub options under Alternative D

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00:27:04.710 --> 00:27:09.919

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: would eliminate a total of twenty-two turbine locations from consideration.

136

00:27:11.830 --> 00:27:30.169

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Elimination of options D1 and D2 would eliminate fifteen turbine positions. Most of those Fifteen positions were also within the habitat priority areas used by BOEM and National Marine Fishery Service in developing Alternative C that we discussed in the previous slide

137

00:27:40.680 --> 00:27:52.969

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: under Alternative E certain turbine positions would be eliminated to reduce visual impacts to culturally important resources on Martha's vineyard, as well as the Rhode Island and Massachusetts coastlines.

138

00:27:53.140 --> 00:28:03.880

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Uh, and when viewed from these areas, option E1 aims to reduce the visual clutter and overall current effect from the overlapping of turbine towers and Blades

139

00:28:04.550 --> 00:28:11.020

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Option E2 shifts Elimination of positions to the north northwest side of the project,

140

00:28:11.310 --> 00:28:18.650

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and that is aimed at reducing the number of turbines that would occupy the sunset viewshed from the Aquinnah Cliffs overlook,

141

00:28:18.830 --> 00:28:24.309

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and other viewsheds on or near Martha's Vineyard, while still meeting the purpose

142

00:28:33.470 --> 00:28:42.360

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: under Alternative F, to select the implementation of a higher capacity turbine than what is proposed in the construction and operations plan,

143

00:28:42.420 --> 00:28:56.199

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and using a higher capacity turbine could potentially reduce the number of foundations needed to meet the purpose in need, and thereby potentially further reduce the impact when combining Alternative F with any of the other action Alternatives

144

00:28:56.570 --> 00:29:08.369

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: so Alternative F provides primarily a qualitative range of potential impact reductions in combination with the other action Alternatives however it does not propose a specific layout

145

00:29:09.470 --> 00:29:10.680

next slide.

146

00:29:17.850 --> 00:29:25.799

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So an analysis of each alternative by the following resource categories is found in chapter three of the EIS

147

00:29:25.860 --> 00:29:34.230

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and consistent with section one thousand five hundred and two point, one, five of the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations,

148

00:29:34.640 --> 00:29:50.829

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: the impact producing factors that are either not applicable to the resource category or we're determined to have minor or negligible effects are excluded from analysis in the body of the draft EIS but were retained in Appendix E

149

00:29:51.890 --> 00:29:53.110

next slide,

150

00:29:57.690 --> 00:30:09.819

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: so as presented in the example here the EIS uses a four level classification scheme and the following duration and incremental impact terms to characterize impacts

151

00:30:11.190 --> 00:30:21.399

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and the impact classifications are defined for both adverse and for beneficial effects. Uh, when when applicable to the resource,

152

00:30:23.550 --> 00:30:25.370

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: so as an example.

153

00:30:25.540 --> 00:30:29.760

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: And then on the slide here from Commercial For-Hire fisheries.

154

00:30:29.810 --> 00:30:38.720

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Um! It states the port utilization impacts of the proposed action on commercial and for-hire recreational fisheries would be noticeable

155

00:30:39.010 --> 00:30:49.540

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: when combined with the impacts of present and other reasonably foreseeable activities. The impacts are expected to be long-term minor to moderate adverse.

156

00:31:02.000 --> 00:31:04.780

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So the following um

157

00:31:05.840 --> 00:31:10.699

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: list of resource categories highlighted here were determined to have

158

00:31:10.810 --> 00:31:13.209

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: um minor or less

159

00:31:13.340 --> 00:31:14.730

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: impacts

160

00:31:14.900 --> 00:31:17.080

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: as a result of the action.

161

00:31:17.100 --> 00:31:19.929

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Uh and again, these were

162

00:31:20.270 --> 00:31:29.239

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: uh not carried in detailed analysis in the body of the document, however, they were um retained in

163

00:31:29.280 --> 00:31:47.150

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: um Appendix E of the EIS, and the intent there was to um help focus the the analysis in chapter three of the body of the EIS on those resource areas uh most likely to experience um substantive impact from from the proposed action.

164

00:31:52.970 --> 00:31:54.150

Next slide.

165

00:31:58.150 --> 00:31:59.950

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Environmental justice,

166

00:32:00.080 --> 00:32:17.829

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: navigation, and vessel traffic, marine mammals, benthic habitat and invertebrates, fin fish, and essential fish habitat could all experience up to moderate impacts from the proposed action, and when evaluated in the context of cumulative activities, these impact levels were the same, both with

167

00:32:17.840 --> 00:32:20.640

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: or without the proposed action taking place.

168

00:32:21.600 --> 00:32:30.650

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Each resource analysis in Chapter three also includes a discussion of potential mitigation measures that could be applied to reduce these potential effects.

169

00:32:32.570 --> 00:32:33.680

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Next slide

170

00:32:40.050 --> 00:32:57.010

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: commercial fisheries and for-hire recreational fishing, cultural resources, scientific research and surveys, and visual resources were concluded to experience potentially up to major impacts from the proposed action when combined with cumulative activities.

171

00:32:57.470 --> 00:33:03.590

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Visual resources, however, would reduce to moderate impacts under the no action alternative.

172

00:33:04.260 --> 00:33:11.319

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: And again, the draft EIS includes a discussion of potential mitigation measures that could be applied to reduce these potential effects

173

00:33:15.170 --> 00:33:16.360

next slide.

174

00:33:19.270 --> 00:33:33.649

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So the proposed action can also result in potential beneficial effects. Air quality and environmental justice could potentially experience beneficial impacts through reduced net greenhouse gas emissions in the area of analysis,

175

00:33:34.350 --> 00:33:46.199

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: benthic habitats, birds, finfish, recreational fishing, marine mammals and sea turtles could experience potentially beneficial artificial reef effects from project structures

176

00:33:46.590 --> 00:33:55.000

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and economics, employment, and coastal infrastructure could benefit through job creation and supporting designated uses at ports

177

00:33:55.300 --> 00:34:05.059

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: In addition, the estimated capacity range for the project is 704 to 880 megawatts, which could power more than three hundred thousand homes per year.

178

00:34:14.610 --> 00:34:21.580

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Each alternative has been analyzed both alone and when combined with other reasonably foreseeable planned actions.

179

00:34:21.800 --> 00:34:26.839

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Chapter 2 provides a summary comparison of the alternatives in table format

180

00:34:27.179 --> 00:34:42.240

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and on the slide. Here is a sample from Chapter 2 for Visual Resources and a more detailed narrative comparison of the alternatives is provided at the conclusion of each resource section in the Chapter 3 analysis, as well

181

00:34:49.050 --> 00:34:50.419

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: overall

182

00:34:51.380 --> 00:34:53.140

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Alternative C

183

00:34:54.440 --> 00:35:01.099

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: would reduce the overall extent of impacts to complex spinning habitats when compared to the proposed action

184

00:35:01.480 --> 00:35:08.980

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: in particular, around Cox Ledge, in areas of known or of higher likelihood to have Atlantic cod spawning

185

00:35:09.380 --> 00:35:25.149

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: uh Alternative D reduces navigation risks and space use conflicts with fishing and commercial vessels by removing outermost turbines adjacent to the Buzzards Bay Traffic Separation Scheme in battling and areas of Cox Lege,

186

00:35:25.670 --> 00:35:29.040

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and this is all on the on the slide before that

187

00:35:32.520 --> 00:35:33.719

there we go.

188

00:35:34.820 --> 00:35:44.059

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Alternative E reduces impacts to culturally important resources on and near Martha's Vineyard, and likely other national historic landmarks in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

189

00:35:44.160 --> 00:35:52.889

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Alternative F could possibly further reduce impacts if combined with one of the other action alternatives or the proposed action.

190

00:35:53.040 --> 00:35:55.080

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Um. However,

191

00:35:55.520 --> 00:36:05.650

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: no combination with Alternative F was found to reduce impacts to a degree that would change the overall impact ratings to any given resource category

192

00:36:07.180 --> 00:36:08.390

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: next slide,

193

00:36:15.080 --> 00:36:26.319

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: as far as next steps. Um. The comments received today and during the comment period will be assessed and considered by BOEM and the cooperating agencies during preparation of the final environmental impact statement.

194

00:36:26.640 --> 00:36:36.919

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Necessary changes to the document will be made in response to comments and new information and responses to comments will be provided in an appendix to the final environmental impact statement.

195

00:36:37.540 --> 00:36:41.730

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: The final EIS will also include a preferred alternative

196

00:36:42.640 --> 00:36:43.850

next slide.

197

00:36:49.840 --> 00:37:05.369

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So again, the the forty-five day comment period on the draft EIS ends on October seventeenth, and the next steps in the EIS schedule uh include publication of the final EIS which is currently targeted for June of two thousand and twenty-three,

198

00:37:05.380 --> 00:37:11.219

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: followed by issuance of a Record of Decision which is targeted for July of two thousand and twenty-three

199

00:37:12.850 --> 00:37:13.839

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: slide,

200

00:37:19.410 --> 00:37:28.190

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: so you can provide comments on the draft EIS by using regulations.gov, providing verbal or written comments during the public hearings,

201

00:37:28.270 --> 00:37:33.709

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: or by mailing written comments to the Office of Renewable Energy Programs

202

00:37:33.780 --> 00:37:41.319

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: at the address provided on the slide and comments must be postmarked no later than October the seventeenth, two thousand and twenty-two.

203

00:37:43.250 --> 00:37:46.519

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: If you prefer to submit your comments electronically,

204

00:37:46.740 --> 00:37:53.219

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: we ask you, Please visit [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

205

00:37:53.310 --> 00:38:04.850

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: <https://www.regulations.gov>

206

00:38:05.050 --> 00:38:15.030

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and search for docket number BOEM-2022-0045 and click on the comment button.

207

00:38:16.540 --> 00:38:28.629

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: As a reminder, BOEM does not consider anonymous comments, so please include your name and address as part of your submittal. All comments will be made part of the public record, and may be publicly posted without change,

208

00:38:38.660 --> 00:38:55.069

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: and to be most helpful comments should be as specific as possible. For example, a useful substantive comment would discuss the accuracy of the information in the analysis, suggest alternate methodologies and the reasons why they should be used,

209

00:38:55.480 --> 00:39:05.809

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: provide new information relevant to the analysis, identify a different source of credible research which it's used in the analysis could result in different effects.

210

00:39:05.930 --> 00:39:19.740

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: Uh provides clarification where needed in the analysis, or provides input or information to help inform BOEM's preferred alternative or selection of any of the alternatives in in the EIS

211

00:39:20.840 --> 00:39:21.859

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: next slide.

212

00:39:26.610 --> 00:39:40.040

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: So this concludes the BOEM portion of today's presentation on the draft EIS um. This here is just a reminder of the web site, and where more information on the project can be found. Um!

213

00:39:40.330 --> 00:39:49.310

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: I really appreciate everyone's time and attention for the presentation. Sorry for a couple of the hiccups we've had there. I appreciate everyone's patience. Um!

214

00:39:49.390 --> 00:39:59.719

Trevis Olivier | BOEM: And now i'd like to turn it over to Tammy with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a brief presentation on their permitting processes, as it relates to this project.

215

00:40:01.630 --> 00:40:03.959

Tammy Turley, USACE: Thanks, Trevis. Can you hear me? Okay,

216

00:40:05.760 --> 00:40:06.669

Yes,

217

00:40:07.010 --> 00:40:22.259

Tammy Turley, USACE: All right, thanks again. Good evening. My name is Tammy Turley. I'm the regulatory Division Chief for the U.S. Army corps of Engineers New England District. And thank you for participating in the meeting today. We really appreciate appreciate your input and comments

218

00:40:22.270 --> 00:40:35.989

Tammy Turley, USACE: I'll start by sharing the mission of the corps of Engineers regulatory program, and that is to protect the nation's aquatic resources and navigable capacity while allowing economic development through fair and balanced decisions.

219

00:40:37.790 --> 00:40:58.480

Tammy Turley, USACE: We've heard BOEM describe their role in the National Environmental Policy Act compliance. BOEM is the lead Federal agency, and for this proposal the corps is a cooperating agency and intends to adopt the BOEM led environmental impact statement to serve as the corps of Engineers NEPA evaluation and documentation.

220

00:40:58.490 --> 00:41:05.030

Tammy Turley, USACE: On the next slide I'll introduce the corps of engineers regulatory authorities that are applicable for this project.

221

00:41:06.560 --> 00:41:24.479

Tammy Turley, USACE: The Corps of Engineers regulatory program is primarily administered under two authorities. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and this diagram shows the limits of corps of Engineers authority in tidal waters and freshwaters.

222

00:41:24.490 --> 00:41:31.329

Tammy Turley, USACE: On the next few slides. I'll speak more specifically to the impacts proposed under each of these authorities,

223

00:41:32.730 --> 00:41:54.209

Tammy Turley, USACE: Under Section 10 of the rivers and harbors act, the corps regulates structures and other water work in navigable waters. For this project, the shoreward limit of navigable waters is the mean high waterline of Narragansett Bay and the seaward limit is three nautical miles measured from the baseline of the territorial seas.

224

00:41:54.310 --> 00:42:13.489

Tammy Turley, USACE: The proposed work regulated within navigable waters are outlined in red on this figure and that work includes the two export cables, the dredging and fill for installation of the cables, the horizontal directional drilling work and exit pits, and any hard armoring for cable protection,

225

00:42:15.460 --> 00:42:21.779

Tammy Turley, USACE: and on the next slide i'll talk about our Section 10 authorities on the Outer Continental Shelf

226

00:42:21.860 --> 00:42:38.730

Tammy Turley, USACE: for this project, regulated structures associated with the proposed work are outlined in red on the figure, and those structures include the turbines, offshore substations, all associated cables, and any required hard armoring for cable protection,

227

00:42:40.810 --> 00:42:47.520

Tammy Turley, USACE: and then on the next slide i'll speak to our Section 404 Authority, as it relates to the Clean Water Act.

228

00:42:47.660 --> 00:42:55.490

Tammy Turley, USACE: Um. Under this authority, the corps of engineers regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

229

00:42:55.500 --> 00:43:12.449

Tammy Turley, USACE: For this project, the shoreward limit of waters of the U.S. is the high tide line of Narragansett Bay, and the seaward limit of WOTUS extends three nautical miles as measured from the Baseline of the territorial seas, and this is highlighted in red on the figure,

230

00:43:12.460 --> 00:43:21.820

Tammy Turley, USACE: and the applicant has not proposed impacts to non-tidal waters, and that would include resources such as wetlands, mudflats, ill grass, et cetera.

231

00:43:22.780 --> 00:43:29.430

Tammy Turley, USACE: On the next slide I will speak to those specific 404 activities that are proposed for impact.

232

00:43:29.440 --> 00:43:45.820

Tammy Turley, USACE: Um. So for this project the proposed 404 discharges are related to cable installation and include the back filling of the trench during cable laying and the redeposition of dredge material within the two horizontal directional drill exit pits.

233

00:43:46.120 --> 00:43:52.230

Tammy Turley, USACE: discharges may also include the placement of hard armoring as needed for cable protection.

234

00:43:54.750 --> 00:44:03.579

Tammy Turley, USACE: So the corps of Engineers published a public notice on September 2nd. That's a forty-five day public notice next slide, please.

235

00:44:03.660 --> 00:44:17.539

Tammy Turley, USACE: And this public notice initiates our public interest review the public notice and attached plans can be accessed, using the link on the slide, and then looking under regulatory permitting public notices.

236

00:44:18.580 --> 00:44:24.139

Tammy Turley, USACE: and on the next slide I'll speak more specifically to the proposed impacts, and under each authority,

237

00:44:24.570 --> 00:44:41.039

Tammy Turley, USACE: so the proposed temporary impacts are primarily related to installation of the wind farm components, and then the permanent impacts are related to the structures themselves, and any hard armory placed over those cables that will remain in place permanently.

238

00:44:41.170 --> 00:44:47.659

Tammy Turley, USACE: The figure on the left depicts the wind turbines, while the figure on the right depicts the two offshore substations.

239

00:44:49.010 --> 00:45:08.859

Tammy Turley, USACE: So I mentioned our public interest review next slide, please, and we initiated that at the beginning of September the corps of Engineers public interest Review includes the evaluation of the probable impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The benefits that may reasonably accrue from the proposal

240

00:45:08.870 --> 00:45:26.839

Tammy Turley, USACE: and must be balanced against It's reasonably foreseeable detriment. The decision will reflect national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The corps can only issue a permit if the proposal is found to be not contrary to public interest,

241

00:45:26.850 --> 00:45:33.049

Tammy Turley, USACE: and the specific public interest review factors that we review are listed on the slide for your information.

242

00:45:36.080 --> 00:45:53.699

Tammy Turley, USACE: I mentioned our 404 authority that is, within the first three miles from the seaward baseline Um. The 404(B)(1) guidelines apply to work with it work within this section 404 jurisdiction specific to this project the export cable route.

243

00:45:53.710 --> 00:46:12.190

Tammy Turley, USACE: Within the 404 jurisdiction in Narragansett Bay is shown on this figure. To reach compliance with these guidelines, the corps is unable to authorize a proposed discharge. If there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge that would have a less adverse effect.

244

00:46:12.200 --> 00:46:29.779

Tammy Turley, USACE: on the aquatic ecosystem. So long as such alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences, and a practical alternative is available and capable of being done when considering costs,

logistics and technology,

245

00:46:29.820 --> 00:46:40.280

Tammy Turley, USACE: and the corps of engineers must identify that least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative, and may only permit that alternative after thorough evaluation.

246

00:46:41.240 --> 00:46:58.030

Tammy Turley, USACE: And lastly, when making a permit decision, the corps must ensure compliance with other Federal laws, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Management Act,

247

00:46:58.040 --> 00:47:12.140

Tammy Turley, USACE: And BOEM is also serving as the lead Federal agency for these consultations. The corps must also ensure that appropriate tribal consultation has occurred, and that we meet our very important tribal trust responsibilities.

248

00:47:12.160 --> 00:47:24.569

Tammy Turley, USACE: in addition, on the State level, a 401 water quality certification and a coastal zone management consistency determination, are both required prior to the issuance of a corps permit,

249

00:47:24.740 --> 00:47:29.400

Tammy Turley, USACE: And that concludes the corps of engineers overview. I'll turn it back to you, Meg.

250

00:47:41.640 --> 00:47:45.270

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thank you, Tammy, and thank you, Trevis, for those presentations.

251

00:47:45.370 --> 00:47:54.850

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um! We're now going to move into our listening session. So um! This is the part of the meeting where where the agencies will hear public comments.

252

00:47:54.900 --> 00:48:08.560

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um, i'll explain a little bit more about how we're going to do that in just a moment. But I've I'll just mention that we've already seen a number of questions coming in through the Q. A. In zoom here. So thank you for those um.

253

00:48:08.830 --> 00:48:20.270

Meg Perry | SWCA: So just a reminder that we will continue taking questions there through this listening session. So if you have a question, please go ahead and click on that Q. A. Button and zoom and type it in for the team.

254

00:48:20.690 --> 00:48:29.179

Meg Perry | SWCA: And then, once the listing session concludes, we will uh stop taking questions and start providing responses to those questions that you have submitted.

255

00:48:29.970 --> 00:48:33.199

Meg Perry | SWCA: If you do have uh comments

256

00:48:33.450 --> 00:48:37.780

Meg Perry | SWCA: just as a reminder, in addition to sharing them verbally today

257

00:48:37.810 --> 00:48:40.699

Meg Perry | SWCA: you have the option to submit them n writing

258

00:48:40.770 --> 00:48:41.979

Meg Perry | SWCA: to

259

00:48:42.570 --> 00:48:53.120

Meg Perry | SWCA: the program manager you can mail them into the following address, and we have some folks on the phone. So i'm going to read this address out. Um. That address is program Manager

260

00:48:53.330 --> 00:48:56.390

Meg Perry | SWCA: Office of renewable Energy programs,

261

00:48:57.450 --> 00:48:59.869

Meg Perry | SWCA: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

262

00:49:00.850 --> 00:49:04.100

Meg Perry | SWCA: four, five, six, Zero Zero

263

00:49:04.340 --> 00:49:06.129

Meg Perry | SWCA: Woodland Road,

264

00:49:06.890 --> 00:49:10.930

Meg Perry | SWCA: V. A. M.- O. R. E. P.

265

00:49:12.000 --> 00:49:13.939

Meg Perry | SWCA: Sterling, Virginia

266

00:49:14.550 --> 00:49:18.240

Meg Perry | SWCA: Zip Code, two, zero, one, six, six,

267

00:49:20.100 --> 00:49:28.659

Meg Perry | SWCA: and then another option for submitting comments and writing is online at Www.regulations.Gov.

268

00:49:29.090 --> 00:49:40.079

Meg Perry | SWCA: And when you open that website you'll see a search field and you'll want to search for docket number BOEM-2022-

269

00:49:40.340 --> 00:49:42.899

Meg Perry | SWCA: zero zero, four, five. And then you should see a comment button up here and you can submit your information

270

00:49:49.680 --> 00:49:52.109

Meg Perry | SWCA: Ah, there on the website

271

00:49:54.050 --> 00:49:55.069

Meg Perry | SWCA: So

272

00:49:55.160 --> 00:50:01.800

please continue submitting any questions by clicking on Q. A. And we're going to turn in just a moment to verbal comments from the public.

273

00:50:04.140 --> 00:50:05.959

Meg Perry | SWCA: Here's how that will work.

274

00:50:06.500 --> 00:50:17.269

Meg Perry | SWCA: So, as I mentioned earlier, we have some people who who registered in advance, indicating they would like to comment today. So i'm going to call on those people first.

275

00:50:17.590 --> 00:50:33.060

Meg Perry | SWCA: Once we've heard from our our pre registered commenters. I'll open it up and invite anyone else who has a comment to raise their hand. Um! For those of you joining us by phone. You can raise your hand by Pressing Star nine if you would like to share a comment verbally with us,

276

00:50:33.840 --> 00:50:38.170

Meg Perry | SWCA: and then I will walk through the list and

277

00:50:38.250 --> 00:50:41.669

Meg Perry | SWCA: um call on each person individually to share their comments.

278

00:50:50.690 --> 00:50:56.790

Meg Perry | SWCA: So once I call your name and and Christy, you, if you see in the chat, Christy is going to be listing out

279

00:50:56.880 --> 00:51:10.640

Meg Perry | SWCA: the next five people up um in the list, so you can kind of see where you are in the queue. Um, and i'll read those names out for our phone only listeners as well. Apologies in advance. If I mispronounce your name, please do correct me.

280

00:51:10.650 --> 00:51:23.770

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um. So i'll call on everyone individually, and then, when you begin your comment we'll ask that you please state and spell your name. We do have that transcript going, but we want to make sure that we have your name captured accurately from the record,.

281

00:51:24.740 --> 00:51:35.090

Meg Perry | SWCA: and then just a few other guidelines for comments today. Um, as I mentioned earlier. We're We're asking that you please limit your comments to five minutes, and i'll have a little timer up on screen to help you keep track.

282

00:51:35.150 --> 00:51:42.799

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um. If you have more than five minutes worth, you're welcome to submit that in writing, or you can get back in line once we've heard from others.

283

00:51:42.870 --> 00:51:43.959

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um!

284

00:51:44.470 --> 00:51:52.490

Meg Perry | SWCA: And then finally, uh probably goes without saying. But of course please be respectful. And um particularly with these

285

00:51:52.500 --> 00:52:04.729

Meg Perry | SWCA: uh virtual meetings. We never know, uh who else what of their little ears might be listening in the room with people. So please refrain from any profanity. Um. And of course direct your comments to our agency representatives.

286

00:52:06.130 --> 00:52:19.219

Meg Perry | SWCA: So without further ado Um! We have our first five pre registered folks listed in the chat. I'll read those out in just a moment, and we will start working our way through the list.

287

00:52:25.400 --> 00:52:26.770

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay.

288

00:52:27.010 --> 00:52:33.310

Meg Perry | SWCA: So our first five registered commenters are Megan Lapp, Carl van Warmerdam

289

00:52:33.400 --> 00:52:36.920

Meg Perry | SWCA: Diane Lauricella, Eluned Li

290

00:52:36.990 --> 00:52:43.229

Meg Perry | SWCA: Marcia Blount, so you all can be ready. I'm going to turn it to Megan Lapp first

291

00:52:44.090 --> 00:52:46.590

Meg Perry | SWCA: invite you to unmute.

292

00:52:50.850 --> 00:52:52.699

Meghan Lapp: Thank you. Can you hear me?

293

00:52:52.840 --> 00:52:56.599

Meg Perry | SWCA: Yes, we can, and please remember to state and spell your name for the record.

294

00:52:57.470 --> 00:53:02.369

Meghan Lapp: Yup, um Megan lap, M. E, G. H. A. N.

295

00:53:02.400 --> 00:53:07.129

Meghan Lapp: L. A. P. P. I'm with Sea Freeze

296

00:53:08.830 --> 00:53:21.269

Meghan Lapp: So um first off. I want to say that I am very disappointed that BOEM refused to schedule more than one meeting in the State of Rhode Island, despite the fact that the export cable makes landfall in Rhode Island, and

297

00:53:21.280 --> 00:53:41.029

the fact that Rhode Island is supposedly going to be purchasing the power from this project. Um Massachusetts, which didn't have any of those things, had two meetings um as opposed to our one, and the only Rhode Island meeting was scheduled during the um Fishery Management Council meeting, so that fishery stakeholders were prevented from participating Um,

298

00:53:41.040 --> 00:53:48.469

and I would request that BOEM would extend the comment period and schedule another Rhode Island hearing on this project.

299

00:53:48.630 --> 00:54:06.259

Meghan Lapp: Um, as far as the deis goes in the DEIS BOEM conflates the no action alternative with the cumulative impacts alternative, which is completely unacceptable. They should be two different sections two completely different sections. They are two completely different NEPA requirements,

300

00:54:06.270 --> 00:54:15.060

um, and putting them together as if it is one issue is unreasonable, and it's arbitrary and capricious on the agency's part

301

00:54:15.070 --> 00:54:30.579

Meghan Lapp: earlier on the presenter said that the navigation impacts were the same whether it was the proposed action or the no action alternative, and that is only because BOEM has conflated no action with cumulative impacts alternative.

302

00:54:30.590 --> 00:54:40.340

Meghan Lapp: um and the No action alternative in the document includes build out of all the current leases, even those currently unapproved which is

303

00:54:40.810 --> 00:54:53.609

Meghan Lapp: truly a cumulative impact analysis. Not a no, not a no action analysis. Um. So by doing that the impacts of this project are downgraded in the BOEM analysis, and that's unacceptable,

304

00:54:53.620 --> 00:55:04.709

Meghan Lapp: and I would request that BOEM reissue the DEIS with a true no action alternative, and a true cumulative impacts alternative in the documents and corresponding analyses.

305

00:55:05.150 --> 00:55:16.410

Meghan Lapp: Also the DEIS does not incorporate the newest science on the presence of North Atlantic right whales in the lease area, in two thousand and twenty-one researchers, including some from NOA Fisheries,

306

00:55:16.420 --> 00:55:29.240

Meghan Lapp: and had a report published in the peer-reviewed Journal Endangered species Research that show the presence of North Atlantic right whales in the project area year round. This is not referenced or incorporated in the DEIS.

307

00:55:29.250 --> 00:55:46.249

Meghan Lapp: So assumptions and assertions made in the DEIS about impacts to North Atlantic right whales, which are critically endangered species protected by the endangered species act, are completely erroneous. Um, The DEIS needs to go back and incorporate all of that information and update its analysis.

308

00:55:46.900 --> 00:55:59.080

Meghan Lapp: Also, the cumulative impact section must include locations and breadth of all the subsea cables. From this project and all other projects in the region in the region

309

00:55:59.090 --> 00:56:15.749

BOEM continues to ignore the hazards and the significant individual and cumulative impacts of export cables on fisheries, um commercial fisheries with mobile bottom tending gear will not be able to safely operate over export cables or inter-array cables

310

00:56:15.760 --> 00:56:29.590

Meghan Lapp: um BOEM has said in previous the EISs well the cable route is narrow. It's only going to be a minor impact. It's it's nothing really worth analyzing. That is not accurate. When you consider the spiderweb of cables

311

00:56:29.600 --> 00:56:42.790

Meghan Lapp: the export cables included that are going to arise from all of the proposed projects, and I would request that in this DEIS BOEM go back to the drawing board. Put a chart of all of the proposed export cable routes

312

00:56:42.800 --> 00:56:59.339

um, and the multiple cables that will be in them, and the wet, the the breadth of those cables, and the length of those cables, and conduct a cumulative impact analysis on fisheries with those cables, because much more area will be lost to fisheries than is

313

00:56:59.350 --> 00:57:08.370

Meghan Lapp: just consumed by the one hundred turbines themselves. Areas outside of the lease will also be lost to fisheries because of the export tables. Thank you.

314

00:57:10.910 --> 00:57:12.020

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thank you.

315

00:57:17.240 --> 00:57:18.760

Meg Perry | SWCA: All right.

316

00:57:25.500 --> 00:57:29.520

Meg Perry | SWCA: Our next commenter registered is Carl van Warmerdam.

317

00:57:31.600 --> 00:57:34.080

Meg Perry | SWCA: I'm going to invite you to unmute.

318

00:57:52.070 --> 00:57:53.999

Carl van Warmerdam: Oh, I'm, sorry. Can you hear me?

319

00:57:54.950 --> 00:57:56.130

Meg Perry | SWCA: Yes,

320

00:57:57.950 --> 00:57:59.910

Carl van Warmerdam: okay. Um.

321

00:58:00.110 --> 00:58:05.910

Carl van Warmerdam: My name is Carl Van Warmerdam that's Carl C. A. R. L.

322

00:58:06.390 --> 00:58:08.039

Carl van Warmerdam: V. A. N.

323

00:58:08.550 --> 00:58:13.809

Carl van Warmerdam: W. A. R. M. E. R. D. A. M.

324

00:58:15.600 --> 00:58:17.620

Carl van Warmerdam: And

325

00:58:19.230 --> 00:58:20.840

Carl van Warmerdam: so can you hear me?

326

00:58:21.570 --> 00:58:27.879

Carl van Warmerdam: Okay. So i'm going to concur with the the last speaker

327

00:58:28.050 --> 00:58:36.300

Carl van Warmerdam: uh specifically about the North American right right whale, which is listed critically endangered.

328

00:58:36.550 --> 00:58:41.620

Carl van Warmerdam: There's no efforts in the DEIS

329

00:58:41.860 --> 00:58:51.790

Carl van Warmerdam: specifically for the North American right whale. All that is termed under there is marine mammals,

330

00:58:51.830 --> 00:58:53.430

Carl van Warmerdam: which is uh

331

00:58:54.100 --> 00:58:57.649

Carl van Warmerdam: it that uh makes uh

332

00:58:58.220 --> 00:59:01.309

Carl van Warmerdam: very little sense when um

333

00:59:01.720 --> 00:59:04.060

Carl van Warmerdam: this is a critically

334

00:59:04.120 --> 00:59:06.089

Carl van Warmerdam: um endangered

335

00:59:06.380 --> 00:59:08.759

Carl van Warmerdam: um marine mammal

336

00:59:08.930 --> 00:59:11.360

Carl van Warmerdam: one of the most

337

00:59:11.400 --> 00:59:17.690

Carl van Warmerdam: critically endangered species in the world has been since the one thousand nine hundred and seventys.

338

00:59:17.710 --> 00:59:20.389

Carl van Warmerdam: There's only three hundred and fifty

339

00:59:20.620 --> 00:59:21.729

Carl van Warmerdam: uh

340

00:59:22.000 --> 00:59:24.040

Carl van Warmerdam: individuals left

341

00:59:24.370 --> 00:59:25.640

Carl van Warmerdam: on earth,

342

00:59:25.770 --> 00:59:26.870

Carl van Warmerdam: and

343

00:59:27.030 --> 00:59:30.939

Carl van Warmerdam: hundred of only a hundred are females,

344

00:59:31.150 --> 00:59:32.299

Carl van Warmerdam: so

345

00:59:32.360 --> 00:59:37.960

Carl van Warmerdam: uh, this should have it a a separate heading of

346

00:59:38.560 --> 00:59:41.340

Carl van Warmerdam: what the damage um

347

00:59:41.590 --> 00:59:46.519

Carl van Warmerdam: are there Takings not. Nothing is under there.

348

00:59:46.540 --> 00:59:49.579

Carl van Warmerdam: Uh, this is. This is the

349

00:59:50.080 --> 00:59:54.259

Carl van Warmerdam: the biggest issue with these windmills

350

00:59:54.770 --> 01:00:02.549

Carl van Warmerdam: number. That's uh, not even addressed specifically. So i'm. I was really

351

01:00:03.000 --> 01:00:05.710

Carl van Warmerdam: upset to see that that wasn't in there,

352
01:00:06.220 --> 01:00:10.950
Carl van Warmerdam: and just the stating of how critical the

353
01:00:11.010 --> 01:00:16.579
Carl van Warmerdam: this animal is, and once they're gone,

354
01:00:16.720 --> 01:00:20.140
Carl van Warmerdam: they're gone forever. Extinction

355
01:00:20.590 --> 01:00:21.600
Carl van Warmerdam: is

356
01:00:21.910 --> 01:00:26.060
Carl van Warmerdam: the end, and that is our main problem. So we

357
01:00:26.310 --> 01:00:32.820
Carl van Warmerdam: building wind turbines for the

358
01:00:33.230 --> 01:00:36.009
Carl van Warmerdam: trying to solve our um

359
01:00:36.570 --> 01:00:39.759
Carl van Warmerdam: climate uh issue

360
01:00:40.190 --> 01:00:46.619
Carl van Warmerdam: solving for the wrong variable because energy is not the problem.

361
01:00:46.670 --> 01:00:48.479
Carl van Warmerdam: A problem is

362
01:00:48.530 --> 01:00:50.720
Carl van Warmerdam: our destruction of the planet, the

363
01:00:50.760 --> 01:00:59.600
Carl van Warmerdam: our destruction of the biosphere and killing species and destroying habitat. And that's exactly what

364
01:00:59.720 --> 01:01:03.629
Carl van Warmerdam: uh these wind turbines will do the

365

01:01:03.950 --> 01:01:05.009

Carl van Warmerdam: so.

366

01:01:05.390 --> 01:01:16.120

Carl van Warmerdam: Uh I wish that was indicate got into consideration, because, uh, there's so much uh involved in them just the making them.

367

01:01:16.180 --> 01:01:21.310

Carl van Warmerdam: Uh the the mining that is required for these

368

01:01:21.420 --> 01:01:28.920

Carl van Warmerdam: industrial devices, the the manufacturing, the smelting

369

01:01:28.970 --> 01:01:31.379

Carl van Warmerdam: it's. All this takes

370

01:01:31.420 --> 01:01:36.490

Carl van Warmerdam: a tremendous destruction of the planet,

371

01:01:36.640 --> 01:01:41.469

Carl van Warmerdam: and requires energy to produce that this is energy

372

01:01:41.650 --> 01:01:49.839

Carl van Warmerdam: on top of energy that we're already using in a business as usual. So we're not

373

01:01:49.910 --> 01:01:55.950

Carl van Warmerdam: taking subtracting energy away building these machines we're adding

374

01:01:56.250 --> 01:01:57.350

Carl van Warmerdam: to

375

01:01:57.670 --> 01:02:02.220

Carl van Warmerdam: our fossil fuel and our emissions into the atmosphere.

376

01:02:02.400 --> 01:02:08.250

Carl van Warmerdam: So these will definitely not solve our problem, because

377

01:02:08.410 --> 01:02:09.500

Carl van Warmerdam: um,

378

01:02:09.780 --> 01:02:21.000

Carl van Warmerdam: global warming and climate change are symptoms of our problem, which is the the destruction of

379

01:02:21.120 --> 01:02:26.749

Carl van Warmerdam: species species uh extinction

380

01:02:26.780 --> 01:02:28.759

Carl van Warmerdam: and um

381

01:02:28.920 --> 01:02:45.579

Carl van Warmerdam: habitat loss. And so there's will be many, many that those involved in this, because you're outsourcing all the mining that will be involved, and all those habitats that will be destroyed in that

382

01:02:45.730 --> 01:02:57.510

Carl van Warmerdam: in that instance, too, so I wish those were uh considered also. But it's only you were. We're only accounting the direct uh externalities.

383

01:02:57.620 --> 01:03:07.480

Carl van Warmerdam: So I thank you for your time. I I hope that that would be considered, and that, uh, the decision would be to a No. Uh,

384

01:03:08.320 --> 01:03:10.249

Carl van Warmerdam: uh! To proceed

385

01:03:10.640 --> 01:03:12.920

Carl van Warmerdam: on purpose and need

386

01:03:13.110 --> 01:03:14.340

Carl van Warmerdam: Thank you again.

387

01:03:16.880 --> 01:03:18.290

Thank you for your comment.

388

01:03:22.720 --> 01:03:26.240

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay. Next up we have Diane Lauricella.

389

01:03:30.960 --> 01:03:32.470

Meg Perry | SWCA: and

390

01:03:32.930 --> 01:03:41.239

Meg Perry | SWCA: I'm not seeing you, Diane, in the zoom list of participants. But if you are with us. If you could raise your hand,

391

01:03:41.630 --> 01:03:47.249

Meg Perry | SWCA: and if you're on the phone you can press Star Nine to raise your hand and let us know that you're here.

392

01:04:02.140 --> 01:04:09.019

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay, i'm not seeing Diane right now. So let's um. We'll check back before the end of the comment period. Just one more time to see

393

01:04:11.290 --> 01:04:12.830

Meg Perry | SWCA: all right.

394

01:04:14.250 --> 01:04:18.659

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um next person that registered was um, Eluned Li,

395

01:04:21.740 --> 01:04:29.079

Meg Perry | SWCA: and again, not seeing that person in zoom. But if you are with us, if you could

396

01:04:29.230 --> 01:04:30.720

Meg Perry | SWCA: raise your hand

397

01:04:31.580 --> 01:04:34.549

Meg Perry | SWCA: On the phone, you can press Star Nine to let us know that you're here.

398

01:04:47.240 --> 01:04:48.319

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay,

399

01:04:49.320 --> 01:04:54.219

Meg Perry | SWCA: not with us at the moment. How about uh Marcia or Marcia Blount.

400

01:04:54.450 --> 01:04:55.790

Meg Perry | SWCA: Are you with us?

401

01:05:08.320 --> 01:05:13.099

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay, We'll check back at the end to see if your you have joined.

402

01:05:13.160 --> 01:05:14.229

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um,

403

01:05:14.440 --> 01:05:18.329

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thanks, Christy, for putting up the next few people. So those are

404

01:05:18.690 --> 01:05:20.830

Meg Perry | SWCA: Mike Okoniewski

405

01:05:21.180 --> 01:05:27.630

Meg Perry | SWCA: Olayiwola Otun, Dylan Gust and Wilfred Carney, Jr:

406

01:05:27.690 --> 01:05:30.160

Meg Perry | SWCA: So, Mike Okoniewski

407

01:05:30.640 --> 01:05:34.539

Meg Perry | SWCA: you're up next. If you are here. Let me just check

408

01:05:42.220 --> 01:05:49.349

Meg Perry | SWCA: Don't see you, Mike, but if you are here, if you could raise your hand, and if you're on the phone you can use Star nine to let us know that you're here.

409

01:06:02.720 --> 01:06:06.499

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay, How about Olayiwola Otun? Are you with us?

410

01:06:08.740 --> 01:06:12.010

Meg Perry | SWCA: Please go ahead and raise your hand. If you are. I'm not seeing you

411

01:06:12.230 --> 01:06:13.839

Meg Perry | SWCA: logged in on zoom.

412

01:06:14.900 --> 01:06:17.250

Meg Perry | SWCA: And again it's Star nine on the phone

413

01:06:17.410 --> 01:06:19.040

Meg Perry | SWCA: to let us know that you're here.

414

01:06:34.480 --> 01:06:37.249

Meg Perry | SWCA: And Dylan Gust, are you here?

415

01:06:37.430 --> 01:06:39.110

Meg Perry | SWCA: You could raise your hand.

416

01:06:40.090 --> 01:06:42.140

Meg Perry | SWCA: Press Star nine if you're on the phone.

417

01:06:58.820 --> 01:07:00.930

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay, Not

418

01:07:01.290 --> 01:07:05.559

Meg Perry | SWCA: seeing Dylan. How about Wilfred Carney, Jr:

419

01:07:12.300 --> 01:07:17.310

Meg Perry | SWCA: If you are with us, Wilfred, if you could raise your hand by pressing Star nine on the phone,

420

01:07:23.160 --> 01:07:27.370

Meg Perry | SWCA: it looks like we don't have those folks with us, either.

421

01:07:28.390 --> 01:07:29.609

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um

422

01:07:29.770 --> 01:07:32.680

Meg Perry | SWCA: Christy, Do we have anyone else pre-registered?

423

01:07:35.740 --> 01:07:39.480

Christy Hartmann | SWCA: No, we don't. I can post the second call to comment if you'd like,

424

01:07:46.380 --> 01:07:56.249

Meg Perry | SWCA: uh, sure. Well, let's take the let's take uh, we'll open it up to hands for people who may not have pre registered, and then we'll circle back to see if any of the other

425

01:07:56.290 --> 01:08:02.879

Meg Perry | SWCA: registrants may have been able to join us. So if you if you didn't pre register, and you would now like to share a comment,

426

01:08:02.920 --> 01:08:11.060

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um, Please go ahead and raise your hand in Zoom. And again for those joining us by phone, you can star nine to let us know that you have a comment to share.

427

01:08:16.310 --> 01:08:19.239

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay, Got a few hands up.

428

01:08:19.689 --> 01:08:27.300

Meg Perry | SWCA: Um. So i'm going to go to Justin Kelley first, then Francis Pullaro, then Charles Rothenberger and then Robert Hill.

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01:08:28.819 --> 01:08:32.239

Meg Perry | SWCA: So Justin Kelley, I'm going to invite you to unmute.

430

01:08:35.279 --> 01:08:37.349

Justin Kelley: Hi, good evening. Can you hear me?

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01:08:38.020 --> 01:08:51.219

Meg Perry | SWCA: We can.

432

01:08:57.189 --> 01:09:07.909

Justin Kelley: Okay. Great. Yeah, not a problem. My name is Justin J-U-S-T-I-N, and my last name is Kelley K-E-L-L-E-Y. Okay. Well, thank you so much for uh taking my testimony. Um! I wanted to uh testify tonight, not only for myself, which uh very much is the case.

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01:09:07.920 --> 01:09:24.210

Justin Kelley: Um, but also on behalf of my membership. Uh, I am a representative of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council Eleven. We handle um All the aspects of finishing trades throughout Southern New England, including Rhode Island, Connecticut, and parts of Massachusetts

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01:09:24.220 --> 01:09:34.520

Justin Kelley: and Um. I'm. Also tonight representing the Brown Building and Construction Trades Council, which is ten thousand members and sixteen different crafts, based in the State of Rhode Island.

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01:09:34.529 --> 01:09:45.429

Justin Kelley: Um. And i'm also testifying, like I said, for myself, as a father of two young daughters uh three, and now almost eight months old. Um!

436

01:09:45.880 --> 01:09:53.370

Justin Kelley: The reality is that climate change is upon us. We do not have a choice but to act.

437

01:09:53.540 --> 01:10:04.249

Justin Kelley: And projects like this revolution wind are a huge part of the solution. In fact, they are a key part of the solution.

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01:10:04.430 --> 01:10:10.849

Justin Kelley: The reality is that these projects not only will have a positive environmental impact

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01:10:10.880 --> 01:10:14.040

Justin Kelley: in the small area where they are,

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01:10:14.210 --> 01:10:20.729

Justin Kelley: but even more so in the macro impact of what we're facing as a country,

441

01:10:20.860 --> 01:10:26.000

Justin Kelley: and really as a globe and a species in the ravages of climate change,

442

01:10:26.120 --> 01:10:30.650

Justin Kelley: these wind turbines will produce renewable energy

443

01:10:30.730 --> 01:10:33.959

Justin Kelley: without putting forward any fossil fuels,

444

01:10:34.060 --> 01:10:42.810

Justin Kelley: and in the small impact they actually have a great benefit for the fisheries and the areas where they're sited.

445

01:10:43.250 --> 01:10:46.669

Justin Kelley: But I also talk about what we specialize in,

446

01:10:46.750 --> 01:10:57.969

Justin Kelley: which is ensuring that working people of diverse backgrounds have an opportunity to move oftentimes from a situation of poverty

447

01:10:58.080 --> 01:11:01.499

Justin Kelley: into the middle class with hard work,

448

01:11:01.570 --> 01:11:04.950

Justin Kelley: schooling, training, learning a skill set

449

01:11:05.020 --> 01:11:07.639

Justin Kelley: that protects our nation's infrastructure.

450

01:11:08.350 --> 01:11:18.480

Justin Kelley: I don't know if Brother Maximo is going to join us tonight, but I want to tell a quick story about one of my members who worked on the Block Island Wind Farm. These are five turbines

451

01:11:18.590 --> 01:11:21.429

Justin Kelley: that were installed off of the coast of Block Island

452

01:11:21.700 --> 01:11:23.540

Justin Kelley: on those turbines,

453

01:11:23.710 --> 01:11:33.719

Justin Kelley: My good friend and brother Maximo worked on this project with hundreds of other tradespeople from the State of Rhode Island and across New England.

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01:11:34.320 --> 01:11:38.090

Justin Kelley: Maximo was able to purchase his first home in the State of Rhode Island.

455

01:11:39.170 --> 01:11:41.240

Justin Kelley: From working on that project,

456

01:11:41.960 --> 01:11:51.769

Justin Kelley: I can say that this project changed his life as a man who lived and grew up in the south side of Providence. Dominican American background

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01:11:52.100 --> 01:11:58.090

Justin Kelley: projects like this offer that pathway, that ladder into the middle class.

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01:11:58.750 --> 01:12:11.840

Justin Kelley: We focus on ensuring that people from across the urban Center and Providence Pawtucket, Central Falls, and wherever people are from have an opportunity to learn a trade,

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01:12:11.910 --> 01:12:23.239

Justin Kelley: and then move into again that living that we view as the American dream which not all of us get handed to us. Some of us have to work very hard to get to

460

01:12:25.370 --> 01:12:29.580

Justin Kelley: This project is needed. Projects of its type are needed,

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01:12:29.650 --> 01:12:32.479

Justin Kelley: and we are so happy to support it,

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01:12:32.610 --> 01:12:38.500

Justin Kelley: and include and make sure that there's pre apprenticeship, apprenticeship, prevailing wages,

463

01:12:38.710 --> 01:12:44.109

Justin Kelley: and training offered to people, so that we can get these projects done, and provide the energy,

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01:12:44.250 --> 01:12:47.999

Justin Kelley: the clean, renewable energy that America needs.

465

01:12:48.170 --> 01:12:49.680

Justin Kelley: Thank you so much.

466

01:12:52.630 --> 01:12:53.790

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thank you.

467

01:12:58.610 --> 01:13:02.430

Meg Perry | SWCA: All right. Next up we have Francis Pullaro.

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01:13:08.460 --> 01:13:12.780

Francis Pullaro: Good evening. Can you hear me loud and clear?

469

01:13:12.940 --> 01:13:27.510

Francis Pullaro: Great So good evening. My name is Francis Polaro. Uh it's spelled F. R. A. N. C. I. S. last name Pullaro, P. U. L. L. A. R. O. I'm the executive Director of Renew Northeast.

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01:13:27.520 --> 01:13:47.480

Francis Pullaro: My organization brings together environmental advocates and the clean energy industry here in New England to promote the region's renewable energy resources. I thank you for the opportunity this evening to provide Renew's perspective concerning the draft environmental impact standard uh submitted by a revolution wind

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01:13:47.700 --> 01:13:59.240

Francis Pullaro: Renew, uh, recognizes that offshore wind projects uh, above all, must be developed with strong and reasonable protections in place to meet our coastal and marine environment and wildlife.

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01:13:59.250 --> 01:14:09.150

Francis Pullaro: Uh and on behalf of Renew, I'd like to offer my appreciation to BOEM for working, to ensure offshore wind is developed um and accomplished responsibly

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01:14:09.230 --> 01:14:27.089

Francis Pullaro: approval of the many offshore land projects now here off the coast of New England is pivotal. Um for not just New England, but also the entire Atlantic coast. To realize our nation's renewable energy potential and to reduce a carbon reduction

474

01:14:27.100 --> 01:14:41.269

Francis Pullaro: are to provide carbon reduction, or rather and revolution wind, and the several other projects in adjacent lease areas that are now under contract will also provide significant economic development benefits for New England,

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01:14:41.280 --> 01:14:47.329

Francis Pullaro: and we expect further economic development development benefits up and down the east coast.

476

01:14:47.520 --> 01:14:49.660

Francis Pullaro: Uh, for example, uh

477

01:14:49.850 --> 01:15:06.209

Francis Pullaro: a recent economic study that was conducted by American clean power reported that offshore wind development off the Atlantic coast could translate into fifty-seven billion dollars in direct investment, and eighty-three

thousand well paying jobs by two thousand and thirty.

478

01:15:06.220 --> 01:15:13.989

Francis Pullaro: This is all while stabilizing retail electricity rates and emitting no climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions,

479

01:15:14.610 --> 01:15:32.730

Francis Pullaro: Revolution Wind, along with other wind projects with contracts being developed here in my region, will strengthen the clean energy industry by creating green jobs. Um! And so will also help New England reach its goals for renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

480

01:15:32.740 --> 01:15:48.569

Francis Pullaro: The two contracting States have requirements for one hundred percent uh clean energy grid. Connecticut has established a one hundred percent zero carbon electric sector by two thousand and forty, while the other Contracting State, Rhode Island,

481

01:15:48.580 --> 01:16:01.959

Francis Pullaro: Uh, as of this year, requires a hundred percent of electricity demand, be from renewable energy by two thousand and thirty-three. So So this project and the others are instrumental for this region for my region. To me it's

482

01:16:01.970 --> 01:16:08.849

Francis Pullaro: um clean energy requirements, and as a become a major source of economic development

483

01:16:09.100 --> 01:16:21.379

Francis Pullaro: For those reasons. Um, we see that BOEM determination on the Revolution Wind, and other projects advanced and permitting, will sign a clear message to the entire offshore wind industry and welcoming it.

484

01:16:21.390 --> 01:16:30.350

Francis Pullaro: Uh, in making these the major investments in the clean energy sector. So with that I thank you for the opportunity for me to provide these comments.

485

01:16:33.240 --> 01:16:34.200

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thank you.

486

01:16:40.090 --> 01:16:43.980

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay. Next up to comment, You have Charles Rothenberger.

487

01:16:48.630 --> 01:17:06.459

Charles Rothenberger: There we go looking for the new icon. Um. Thank you very much. Uh my name is Uh. Charles Rothenberger. Uh That's. C. H. A. R. L. E. S. Um, and Rothenberger, R. O. T, H. E. N, B. E, R, G. E. R.

488

01:17:06.470 --> 01:17:13.149

Charles Rothenberger: and I'm. Uh the climate and energy attorney. Uh, with save the sound um

489

01:17:13.160 --> 01:17:43.129

Charles Rothenberger: uh save the sound appreciates opportunity to present these comments on the Revolution Wind Farm proposal, and to express our longstanding support for reasonably cited and operated offshore wind projects. Uh the mission of save the sound is to protect and improve the land, air, and Water of Connecticut Long Island sound Um, using legal and scientific expertise to bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment, for current and future generations. And uh revolution, wind um, and other offshore. When

490

01:17:43.140 --> 01:17:52.830

Charles Rothenberger: projects are really poised to play an essential role in the ability of Connecticut, Rhode Island and the entire region to meet critical greenhouse gas reduction and clean energy goals.

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01:17:52.840 --> 01:18:14.209

Charles Rothenberger: Um, Accordingly, Uh, We've been encouraging a robust procurement of these resources that maximize the deployment of offshore wind energy, while also satisfying stringent, environmental standards. Um and I do uh uh associate myself with some of the comments we heard at the top as well. Um, which I will get you in a moment.

492

01:18:14.220 --> 01:18:29.050

Charles Rothenberger: Um as noted in the draft uh environmental impact statement. Uh, the current project will provide three hundred and four megawatts of clean, mobile energy to Connecticut and four hundred megawatts Rhode Island. Uh: through separately executed power purchase agreements with each State

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01:18:29.060 --> 01:18:58.049

Charles Rothenberger: um. And these procurements, as you just heard, support Connecticut's goal of securing a hundred percent zero carbon electricity by two thousand and forty um, and they also for the support uh the Federal Government's goal of thirty gigawatts by two thousand and thirty um, and uh, that's even a nationwide. A pretty modest uh goal uh independent analysis is indicated that just in the northeast region. Uh, we're going to need between thirty to forty-five gigawatts of offshore wind resources uh to sufficiently to to

494

01:18:58.060 --> 01:19:05.130

Charles Rothenberger: displace uh fossil fuel generation and achieve our net zero emission goals by two thousand and fifty um

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01:19:05.140 --> 01:19:31.660

Charles Rothenberger: as the first offshore wind to sign a power purchase agreement with Connecticut. We're particularly interested in seeing this project fulfill its promise of delivering clean energy, providing good jobs and enhancing the local economies. Um, But this does, however, require careful balancing of the need to maximize energy output, minimizing disturbances to marine mammals and the marine environment.

496

01:19:31.670 --> 01:19:46.529

Charles Rothenberger: Um and uh A along those lines so uh to the extent that the DEIS is not uh separately evaluating potential impacts to uh the North Atlantic Right whale, um! That really is a serious oversight. Um.

497

01:19:46.540 --> 01:20:04.000

Charles Rothenberger: There have been numerous conversations among offshore wind developers and environmental groups. Um, with respect to um addressing impacts to the North Atlantic and to uh to minimizing those um, I suspect. Um, if there is a a

498

01:20:04.010 --> 01:20:11.989

Charles Rothenberger: discrete evaluation of those impacts. Um, it's going to change some of the outcomes of the alternatives Analysis. Um,

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01:20:12.000 --> 01:20:35.310

Charles Rothenberger: i'm thinking specifically as we look at the potential for larger size turbines and uh reducing the number of foundations that are needed. Um, taking advantage of the technological advances in wind turbine design uh not only is going to allow us to to sort of shake that for foot footprint. Um, but that's going to have uh probably significant benefits.

500

01:20:49.020 --> 01:20:51.900

Meg Perry | SWCA: I think we might have lost audio.

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01:20:52.940 --> 01:20:54.269

Meg Perry | SWCA: Are you still there?

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01:21:01.780 --> 01:21:03.049

Charles Rothenberger: Can you hear me?

503

01:21:03.890 --> 01:21:04.790

Meg Perry | SWCA: Yes,

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01:21:04.810 --> 01:21:33.820

Charles Rothenberger: I I I've lost my connection. I will I I I will wrap it up. Um. So uh, so uh, addressing this impact to uh the North Atlantic right whale, um will likely um change some of the outcomes of the uh the alternative analysis. Um, you know, we'll note uh the Vineyard Wind Project um, which actually entered into a uh agreement with the number of national environmental organizations to minimize impacts with the North Atlantic right whales

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01:21:33.830 --> 01:21:53.490

Charles Rothenberger: um change their proposal based upon advances in technology um to increase their turbine size uh from the original nine and a half megawatts um to twelve to thirteen megawatts. Uh we're able to shrink the number of proposed turbines from eighty-four to sixty-two um and that's going to require a lot less pile driving um, and a lot less sonic.

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01:21:58.360 --> 01:22:00.349

Meg Perry | SWCA: It's like we might have lost you again

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01:22:09.970 --> 01:22:13.689

Meg Perry | SWCA: like uh Charles is having some connection issues.

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01:22:17.410 --> 01:22:34.100

Charles Rothenberger: Yes, uh, my connection was fine all day long, except until right now. So I think I've made the point, so I appreciate your patience, and we will be submitting more detailed written the comments as well. Um. So thank you very much.

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01:22:34.830 --> 01:22:39.249

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thank you. And uh, thanks for Everyone's patience with the technology this evening.

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01:22:44.400 --> 01:22:51.319

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay, uh, we have. Robert Hill is up next, and then I will turn to Erica Hammond.

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01:22:55.410 --> 01:22:56.669

Robert Hill: Hello! Can you hear me?

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01:22:56.970 --> 01:23:04.140

Robert Hill: Yes, we can

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01:23:04.280 --> 01:23:08.590

Robert Hill: My name is Robert Hill R. O. B. E. R. T. H. I. L. L. uh trying to make this quick. I got a couple of hungry kids buzzing around me right now, but uh,

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01:23:08.710 --> 01:23:14.719

Robert Hill: i'll tell you a bit about myself. I live in a coastal town in Rhode Island, North Kingstown, right by Quonset Point.

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01:23:14.870 --> 01:23:19.659

Robert Hill: So the environment is, you know, very important to me and my family. My kids.

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01:23:19.800 --> 01:23:34.069

Robert Hill: Uh, I appreciate BOEM facilitating offshore wind and doing it a responsible, safe way. Uh by day I I an industrial painter, I paint bridges, power plants, and the like. So I've seen the impact in my own industry. Just

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01:23:34.570 --> 01:23:40.189

Robert Hill: you know, folks. I know a few folks that worked on the for the offshore Wind Farm. We built a couple of years back,

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01:23:40.470 --> 01:23:51.479

Robert Hill: and it like as a call or a couple of calls back mentioned It was. It was life altering. And you see a whole new industry popping up, and all new training certifications for working folks, and

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01:23:51.620 --> 01:23:58.159

Robert Hill: it's really inspiring. And it's something we really need here. It's not just good for the environment. I think

it's something that's good for our economy,

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01:23:58.380 --> 01:24:00.869

Robert Hill: and some that's good for our industry. It's it's.

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01:24:01.380 --> 01:24:05.630

Robert Hill: It's nice to sit and just think about where it could go. The possibilities are endless, and

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01:24:05.970 --> 01:24:08.809

Robert Hill: you know Rhode Island's workforce is geared up

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01:24:09.000 --> 01:24:13.020

Robert Hill: ready for it. Excited, excited about it, excited about the new industry,

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01:24:13.050 --> 01:24:16.490

Robert Hill: ready to take the training, ready to perform the work safely.

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01:24:16.730 --> 01:24:22.160

Robert Hill: And you know responsibilities to ensure that there's as little, you know, negative environmental impacts as possible.

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01:24:22.430 --> 01:24:26.849

Robert Hill: So yeah, we're I'm fully in favor of it. I think it's great on many fronts,

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01:24:26.870 --> 01:24:30.749

Robert Hill: and I guess i'll leave it there. Sounds great. Thank you, folks.

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01:24:32.190 --> 01:24:33.300

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thank you.

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01:24:38.180 --> 01:24:40.570

Meg Perry | SWCA: All right. We have

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01:24:40.770 --> 01:24:42.960

Meg Perry | SWCA: Erica Hammond next.

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01:24:56.540 --> 01:24:58.239

Erica Hammond: Yes, Can you hear me?

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01:24:58.710 --> 01:25:00.110

Meg Perry | SWCA: Yes, we can,

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01:25:00.220 --> 01:25:17.789

Erica Hammond: all right, Thank you so much. My name is Erica Hammond. It's E. R. I. C. A. H. A. M. M. O. N, D. And i'd like to start by thanking BOEM for this opportunity to offer these comments in strong support of the Revolution Wind Project, and on behalf of climate jobs. Rhode Island.

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01:25:17.800 --> 01:25:28.360

Erica Hammond: We are a coalition of Rhode Island, Rhode Island labor unions, environmental advocates, and community organizations that are working together to establish a just transition to a green economy in Rhode Island.

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01:25:28.370 --> 01:25:46.060

Erica Hammond: Together we are committed to working together to make sure that Rhode Island is a national leader in the development of an equitable pro worker pro climate twenty-first century economy. So in the last two years, as many of you, I am sure, are aware Rhode Island has set ambitious carbon emissions,

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01:25:46.070 --> 01:25:54.129

Erica Hammond: um and energy, clean energy goals that are essential to combating climate change and creating a healthier environment throughout the State

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01:25:54.140 --> 01:26:11.319

Erica Hammond: with the passage of the two thousand and twenty-one act on Climate Rhode Island is now required to achieve net zero emissions, economy wide by two thousand and fifty, and with last year's passage of the one hundred percent renewable energy standard. Rhod Island is also required to increase its renewable energy supply to one hundred percent by two thousand and thirty three.

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01:26:11.330 --> 01:26:21.049

Erica Hammond: This swift and efficient development of offshore wind projects, such as Revolution Wind, are absolutely key to Rhode Island meeting these clean energy targets,

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01:26:21.180 --> 01:26:36.249

Erica Hammond: the over seven hundred megawatt Revolution Wind Project will deliver four hundred megawatts of clean energy to Rhode Island, and over three hundred megawatts to Connecticut, producing enough clean energy to power, more than three hundred and fifty thousand homes

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01:26:36.260 --> 01:26:42.159

Erica Hammond: and displace by eliminating future emissions. More than one million metrics of carbon pollution.

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01:26:42.290 --> 01:26:56.449

Erica Hammond: In addition to these environmental benefits, revolution wind will also serve as a key driver of jobs, economic growth and investment. So, as both brothers, Robert Hill and Justin Kelley have already mentioned. Um,

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01:26:56.460 --> 01:27:08.860

Erica Hammond: we can start to recover from the unprecedented social and economic impacts of the Co. Covid, nineteen pandemic uh, with the approval of revolution wind pro of the Revolution Wind project and

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01:27:09.920 --> 01:27:21.589

Erica Hammond: developed by orsted and eversource. It will directly lead to the creation of union jobs that come with family sustaining wages and good benefits and revolution wind is expected to generate

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01:27:21.650 --> 01:27:33.750

Erica Hammond: one thousand two hundred jobs in Rhode Island and Connecticut during the project's development and construction. In addition to dozens more during operation and maintenance positions throughout the life of the Wind Farm.

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01:27:34.120 --> 01:27:52.289

Erica Hammond: So, as a community leader, I understand that the opportunity offshore wind presents for not only our State, but our entire region in the country, and I strongly believe that Americans should not have to choose between good jobs and clean a clean environment. We can, in fact, have both,

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01:27:52.300 --> 01:28:21.800

Erica Hammond: and revo the Revolution Wind project is an opportunity to not only drive the nation's clean energy future, but also create quality, family sustaining union jobs at the same time. So I urge BOEM to move forward with revolution wind's permitting process uh BOEM has provided six alternatives for further review, and within those six alternatives is really only one that BOEM should not consider, and that is no action, No action would harm our State's efforts to address

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01:28:21.810 --> 01:28:33.830

Erica Hammond: climate change, while also eliminating quality job opportunities and sustainable work for hard working local trades people that come with this project. We need revolution Wind to be built

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01:28:33.960 --> 01:28:51.800

Erica Hammond: offshore wind is critical to the future of our nation's security, environment, and economic recovery, and I urge BOEM to stick to its publishing schedule for re the Revolution wind project and put our trades people to work as soon as possible. I thank you for the opportunity to comment. Um, Thank you.

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01:28:57.080 --> 01:28:57.980

Meg Perry | SWCA: Thank you.

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01:29:02.770 --> 01:29:22.550

Meg Perry | SWCA: Okay, Um. We've been going now for almost an hour and a half, and I imagine some might need a moment to step away. So we're going to take a short break. When we come back we will double check. If any of our pre registered commenters um might have been able to join us, who, had we weren't with us previously,

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01:29:22.560 --> 01:29:38.640

Meg Perry | SWCA: and then we will move into responding to questions submitted. So now It' be a good time. If you have a question, and Haven't submitted it yet to go ahead and click on that Q. And a button and type in your questions so that the team can review it and provide a response. Um, after the break.

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01:29:39.080 --> 01:29:51.600

Meg Perry | SWCA: So thanks once again to everyone for those those comments and we'll do a double check. Um! Following the break. Those pre registered commenters who we did not um get to hear from previously,

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01:29:52.250 --> 01:29:54.019

Meg Perry | SWCA: so I have

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01:29:54.080 --> 01:29:56.629

Meg Perry | SWCA: uh six twenty-six

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01:29:56.940 --> 01:29:58.160

Meg Perry | SWCA: um.

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01:29:58.620 --> 01:30:03.050

Meg Perry | SWCA: So let's let's take about five minutes and be back just after six, thirty,

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01:38:29.550 --> 01:38:41.510

Meg Perry: All right. Thanks. Everyone for sticking with us this evening. Um, we're going to do a second call for some pre registered commenters. Um that we didn't get a chance to hear from earlier,

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01:38:41.550 --> 01:38:49.160

Meg Perry: in case they may have joined us, and then um move into responses to questions that you all have submitted.

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01:38:49.380 --> 01:38:51.050

So

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01:38:57.600 --> 01:38:58.550

Meg Perry: um,

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01:39:01.590 --> 01:39:08.170

Meg Perry: and I had to log out and log back in. So, Christy, if you could re-post, then that that list in the chat for everyone

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01:39:08.680 --> 01:39:09.960

Meg Perry: perfect.

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01:39:10.060 --> 01:39:11.920

Meg Perry: Okay. So

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01:39:12.680 --> 01:39:28.070

Meg Perry: checking again to see if any of these people have been able to join us. Um. And and i'm going to just read out the list, and if you hear your name, if you could raise your hand Um! If you're joining us by phone, you can raise

your hand by Pressing Star nine,

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01:39:29.920 --> 01:39:31.190

Meg Perry: So

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01:39:31.930 --> 01:39:34.960

Meg Perry: those people are Diane Lauricella,

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01:39:35.550 --> 01:39:37.179

Meg Perry: Eluned Li,

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01:39:38.090 --> 01:39:39.719

Meg Perry: Marcia Blount,

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01:39:40.830 --> 01:39:42.820

Meg Perry: Mike Okoniewski, Olayiwola Otun,

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01:39:46.540 --> 01:39:48.230

Meg Perry: Dylan Gust,

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01:39:48.530 --> 01:39:50.970

Meg Perry: and Wilfred Carney, Jr.

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01:39:51.200 --> 01:40:00.420

Meg Perry: If any of those people have been able to join us this evening. If you could raise your hand by clicking the raise hand button in zoom, or by pressing Star Nine on your phone.

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01:40:14.960 --> 01:40:16.370

Meg Perry: Okay,

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01:40:17.800 --> 01:40:35.530

Meg Perry: it does not look like we have any of those people with us. So, um, we're going to continue on and move into responses to questions. So. Um thanks for all the questions you all have submitted. We're gonna close receipt of new questions at this time and turn to our responses from the team.

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01:40:45.910 --> 01:40:47.210

Meg Perry: Okay,

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01:40:48.640 --> 01:40:51.729

Meg Perry: So I think i'm going to go to

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01:40:53.070 --> 01:40:54.190

Meg Perry: um,

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01:40:55.280 --> 01:40:59.619

Meg Perry: Whitney first. It looks like we have a few uh questions

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01:40:59.730 --> 01:41:04.989

Meg Perry: that you're ready to respond to. So if you could come on and just introduce yourself to everyone.

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01:41:09.090 --> 01:41:10.730

Whitney Hauer: Hello! Good evening,

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01:41:14.160 --> 01:41:18.159

Meg Perry: Great! And can you let our attendees know your role in the project?

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01:41:18.180 --> 01:41:24.490

Whitney Hauer: Sure, my name is Whitney Hauer and I am a renewable energy Project specialist and program

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01:41:24.730 --> 01:41:30.760

Whitney Hauer: coordinator within the projects and coordination branch here at at BOEM.

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01:41:31.520 --> 01:41:33.909

Whitney Hauer: and I believe I'm. On on

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01:41:33.950 --> 01:41:37.950

Whitney Hauer: on the spot to answer a few questions. Um!

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01:41:38.180 --> 01:41:50.839

Whitney Hauer: Meg, should I read the questions aloud in response. Or,

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01:41:50.850 --> 01:41:58.229

Meg Perry: Yeah, i'll read them out, and then you can share the response. The first question was from Megan Lapp, who asked, Are the offshore substations closed system? Are they recirculated seawater cooling systems that are closed, or are they open systems which release heated fluid into the ocean.

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01:41:59.090 --> 01:42:16.649

Whitney Hauer: Okay, thanks. Great question. So there is not a proposal from the lessee for either open cycle cooling system which would have an associated heated discharge or for a closed cycle cooling for the offshore sub stations that was proposed in the construction and operations plan. Or Cop.

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01:42:18.570 --> 01:42:19.620

Meg Perry: Okay,

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01:42:20.670 --> 01:42:39.320

Meg Perry: Um. Second question was also from Megan Lapp, who asked for the dollar amounts required for financial security requirements related to decommissioning per 30 cfr five hundred and eighty-five public. Will the public be able to see the dollar amounts that BOEM is holding as security for decommissioning of the project?

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01:42:40.050 --> 01:42:54.520

Whitney Hauer: So thanks again for the question. The decommissioning bond or other financial assurance is not posted publicly. Most of the lessee financial related information is considered confidential business information, and is not disclosed to the public.

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01:42:54.530 --> 01:43:09.230

Whitney Hauer: The EIS analyzes the impacts associated with the description of the conceptual decommissioning activities in the construction operations plan, however, BOEM conducts a separate analysis to determine the decommissioning cost for financial assurance.

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01:43:10.710 --> 01:43:11.719

Meg Perry: Okay.

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01:43:12.510 --> 01:43:16.719

Meg Perry: And then there was sort of a related question

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01:43:16.990 --> 01:43:33.629

Meg Perry: from Katie Almeida who asked about whether the substation recirculation systems will be open or closed, and if they are open, will they be releasing warm water back into the ocean? So um really kind of similar to that first question from Megan Lapp. Was there anything different to add there?

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01:43:33.910 --> 01:43:41.650

Whitney Hauer: No, nothing additional, just reiterating that there is not a proposed open or closed cycle cooling system for the offshore substations.

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01:43:43.110 --> 01:43:44.120

Thank you

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01:43:46.840 --> 01:43:49.160

Meg Perry: all right, I think.

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01:43:49.660 --> 01:43:58.260

Meg Perry: Next i'm going to go to um, Kate, for or sorry Tre, for response to um

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01:43:58.680 --> 01:44:01.080

Meg Perry: a question from Carl. Could you introduce yourself to everyone, Please,

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01:44:02.760 --> 01:44:12.020

Tre Glenn | BOEM: Yes, I'm Tre Glenn, I'm a protected species biologist here in the gulf and uh

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01:44:12.590 --> 01:44:16.319

Tre Glenn | BOEM: environmental engineer. I look forward to answering your question.

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01:44:16.900 --> 01:44:22.819

Meg Perry: Great. So, Carl van Warmerdam, asks Is there a takings for the North Atlantic Right Whale?

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01:44:23.790 --> 01:44:33.660

Tre Glenn | BOEM: Okay. So uh, take of a marine mammal is a term that is specifically defined under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the endangered species act.

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01:44:34.020 --> 01:44:44.990

Tre Glenn | BOEM: While the DEIS analyzes impacts to North Atlantic right whales and other marine mammals, the taking of a marine mammal is not determined through NEPA, but through that

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01:44:45.020 --> 01:44:48.280

Tre Glenn | BOEM: marine mammal Protection act, and or Endangered Species Act.

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01:44:48.400 --> 01:45:04.060

Tre Glenn | BOEM: The lessee has submitted an application under the marine mammal Protection Act to the National Marine Fishery Service for an incidental Take regulation for the construction operation and decommissioning of the Revolution wind project

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01:45:04.390 --> 01:45:09.489

Tre Glenn | BOEM: this includes requested unintentional level be take for the North Atlantic right whale.

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01:45:09.630 --> 01:45:25.420

Tre Glenn | BOEM: The National Marine Fishery Service is expected to publish a proposed incidental take regulation for this project in the Federal Register for the public comment period in late. Well, late two thousand and twenty-two late this year later. This year. Thanks.

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01:45:26.170 --> 01:45:27.059

Meg Perry: Okay. So further details forthcoming later through NMFS.

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01:45:35.290 --> 01:45:36.429

Tre Glenn | BOEM: Great question.

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01:45:39.730 --> 01:45:43.700

Meg Perry: Yes, excellent excellent questions all around. Um,

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01:45:44.140 --> 01:45:46.479

Meg Perry: Okay, It looks like

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01:45:47.240 --> 01:45:53.670

Meg Perry: we have some that we're ready to hear responses from Trevis on. Trevis, are you ready?

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01:46:09.490 --> 01:46:11.320

Trevis Olivier: hey? I' to see

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01:46:12.150 --> 01:46:15.489

Trevis Olivier: if video go again, Is it working, okay?

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01:46:16.750 --> 01:46:21.640

Meg Perry: Uh, I'm, It's looks like your video is a little bit delayed to me. So

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01:46:21.800 --> 01:46:24.179

Meg Perry: maybe let's just audio

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01:46:25.720 --> 01:46:26.679

thanks.

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01:46:28.810 --> 01:46:30.059

Meg Perry: Okay.

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01:46:30.270 --> 01:46:34.109

Meg Perry: So. Um. The first question

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01:46:34.770 --> 01:46:47.240

Meg Perry: was from Jonathan Fedderson, who asked, How have the other three In-person meetings been documented? Will transcripts for recordings of these meetings being made available via BOEM's website as well?

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01:46:50.920 --> 01:47:07.989

Trevis Olivier: Uh: Yeah. So the meeting presentation is posted to the virtual meeting room and the public testimony, provided will be uploaded to regulations.gov under the docket number for the draft EIS which again is

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01:47:08.330 --> 01:47:15.179

Trevis Olivier: uh B o e, m dash, two, zero, two, two, zero, zero, four, five

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01:47:15.390 --> 01:47:23.530

Trevis Olivier: uh, and all all public comments, including those provided during the In-person meetings. Uh will be addressed in the final environmental impact statement.

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01:47:24.200 --> 01:47:40.679

Trevis Olivier: So um! If it's not already there, Meg, if we can, you know, remind folks of where that link to the virtual meeting Room page is that we feature reference. Once we get those transcripts in the in the presentations process, they will be posted there.

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01:47:41.580 --> 01:47:50.180

Meg Perry: Great. Yes, i'm putting that. I posted it earlier, but i'm going to post it again in the chat for everyone's reference. Um, That link to the virtual meeting room.

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01:47:50.460 --> 01:47:53.469

Meg Perry: Um, where you can find this information in the future.

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01:47:56.350 --> 01:47:58.550

Meg Perry: So posting that now.

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01:48:03.640 --> 01:48:04.940

Meg Perry: Excellent.

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01:48:05.420 --> 01:48:06.750

Meg Perry: Okay,

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01:48:08.330 --> 01:48:10.109

Meg Perry: Um. And then

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01:48:11.380 --> 01:48:19.010

Meg Perry: I think this is for you as well. Trevis Travis um will cook as Can you provide a list of those people or entities attending this meeting.

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01:48:21.360 --> 01:48:31.829

Trevis Olivier: Yeah. So the the public commenters are required to identify themselves and their the comments will be published again along with the final EIS.

635

01:48:31.870 --> 01:48:39.819

Trevis Olivier: Um. But we can also, however, provide list of participants upon request. Um, following the close of the meeting.

636

01:48:41.250 --> 01:48:43.069

Meg Perry: Okay, thank you.

637

01:48:44.360 --> 01:48:56.830

Meg Perry: Um. And then somewhat along similar lines a question from Meghan Lapp. Will the written transcript of the

public comment be provided to registered Webinar registered Webinar attendees at the end of the comment period.

638

01:49:01.100 --> 01:49:08.259

Trevis Olivier: Yeah. So again, the written transcript for both the the in person and the virtual hearings

639

01:49:08.440 --> 01:49:17.439

Trevis Olivier: will be posted to the website as previously stated, once we get those processed. And uh again the the comments um

640

01:49:17.570 --> 01:49:23.770

Trevis Olivier: through the transcripts and otherwise will all be accessible through regulations.gov

641

01:49:24.690 --> 01:49:25.809

Meg Perry: Okay,

642

01:49:28.950 --> 01:49:48.750

Meg Perry: excellent. Um. Then a follow up additional question from Will Cook, who asked, Why won't boom extend the time limit for submitting comments on the DEIS and Section One of six matters, when consulting parties, including tribes, have repeatedly asked for an extension for a variety of legitimate reasons.

643

01:49:50.350 --> 01:49:53.110

Trevis Olivier: So at this time um

644

01:49:53.270 --> 01:50:04.119

Trevis Olivier: correct, the public comment period is is still currently, forty-five days

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01:50:05.220 --> 01:50:17.189

Trevis Olivier: BOEM has has iteration, and it would say that the agency um, you know it is still taking those and taking into consideration, and may or may not make it a decision. Otherwise.

646

01:50:21.090 --> 01:50:33.169

Meg Perry: Yeah, thanks. And you are breaking up a little bit there. So i'm just going to repeat what you said, which was the public. Currently, the public comment period for the draft primal impact statement is forty-five days and ends on October seventeenth,

647

01:50:33.430 --> 01:50:38.790

Meg Perry: and BOEM has heard those requests to extend the comment period, and is considering them

648

01:50:39.410 --> 01:50:40.370

Trevis Olivier: correct.

649

01:50:46.040 --> 01:50:53.700

Meg Perry: All right. And then I think, final question for you, Trevis um from Carl van Warmerdam who asked

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01:50:54.190 --> 01:51:04.110

Meg Perry: um. Energy and employment are not the question and climate change is only a symptom of our problem. How does this project help stop humans from destroying life on the planet?

651

01:51:06.380 --> 01:51:20.890

Trevis Olivier: Yeah, um, And thank you for that question and the interest I I you know, recognize that from your verbal comments as well earlier. Um BOEM is evaluating the submitted construction and operations Plan

652

01:51:20.970 --> 01:51:37.000

Trevis Olivier: um specific for the revolution wind farm Project and revolution wind Export cable project. So the draft environmental impact statement focuses on the potential impact on the human and natural environment from this project.

653

01:51:37.140 --> 01:51:49.800

Trevis Olivier: Uh, So the question is beyond the scope of BOEM's jurisdiction and environmental review and beyond the scope of uh, what This specific proposal and BOEM's evaluation of it

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01:51:49.860 --> 01:51:51.290

Trevis Olivier: do entail.

655

01:51:53.220 --> 01:51:55.269

Meg Perry: Okay, Thank you.

656

01:51:59.840 --> 01:52:01.240

All right.

657

01:52:03.000 --> 01:52:14.589

Meg Perry: I think we have just a couple of other questions um for response, and I believe Sarah Stokely is going to share responses to the next couple of them. Sarah, can you introduce yourself to everyone?

658

01:52:15.310 --> 01:52:30.579

Sarah Stokely: Hi! Good evening, everyone. My name is Sarah Stokely. I'm. The section one hundred and six lead, and the office of renewable energy programs in the Atlantic region, and I'm. Also the section one hundred and six lead for this project for the Revolution Wind project.

659

01:52:32.490 --> 01:52:45.729

Meg Perry: So we have a couple of questions from Will Cook. The first is, uh, says, consulting parties and interested stakeholders would like to review revolution wind's visual simulations in person, in a public forum. How can this be arranged.

660

01:52:46.370 --> 01:53:01.999

Sarah Stokely: Thank you so much, Mr. Cook, for this question. Um revolution wind's visual simulation photographs were presented by BOEM in digital format at public meetings that were held in person last week on October fourth, fifth, and sixth, two thousand and twenty-two

661

01:53:02.050 --> 01:53:21.419

Sarah Stokely: additionally BOEM's visual resources lead. John McCarty also was available to review these visual simulations on um on a computer. Um. During these in person public meetings held last week, BOEM has previously reviewed visual simulations with the consulting parties under Section One hundred and six of the National Historic Preservation Act

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01:53:21.430 --> 01:53:27.729

Sarah Stokely: at um consulting party meetings, and would continue to do so at future meetings as appropriate

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01:53:27.990 --> 01:53:38.830

Sarah Stokely: Um. Also, it's important to note the photo simulations for the revolution wind project may be viewed online at the following website: I'm. Going to read it out loud for everyone.

664

01:53:38.840 --> 01:53:55.590

Sarah Stokely: It's some [https colon forward slash, forward slash. Www.boem.gov, forward slash, renewable energy, dash, energy, forward slash, state dash activities](https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities)

665

01:53:55.600 --> 01:54:13.540

Sarah Stokely: forward slash, revolution, dash, Wind. And we can also share that in the um. We believe in the in the chat box, and when you open this website. You can click on the visual simulations Tab, and that's um in that tab you'll be able to view the visual simulations.

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01:54:14.870 --> 01:54:23.090

Meg Perry: Great thanks, Sarah, and Yes, I just put that link and the instructions in the chat for everyone, if you'd like to take a look at those um photos simulations.

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01:54:23.970 --> 01:54:25.150

Sarah Stokely: Thank you.

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01:54:26.050 --> 01:54:29.810

Meg Perry: Um, and the second question for you, Sarah, was Um.

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01:54:30.220 --> 01:54:42.040

Meg Perry: What has BOEM done to comply with Section three oh four of the National Historic Preservation Act, including what steps has BOEM taken to consult with the National Park Service on Section Three oh four issues for the Revolution Wind project?

670

01:54:42.920 --> 01:55:00.039

Sarah Stokely: Thank you. Um, Thank you, Mr. Cook, we appreciate your questions. Um. As discussed during our last section one oh six meeting for the Revolution wind project, BOEM is planning to respond to these section three oh four

questions in writing um and address Um. Our responses to the consulting parties.

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01:55:03.160 --> 01:55:04.330

Great. Thank you.

672

01:55:07.360 --> 01:55:09.179

Meg Perry: Right. Thanks, Sarah.

673

01:55:09.520 --> 01:55:12.300

Meg Perry: Um. Next. Let me see where we stand with questions here.

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01:55:29.160 --> 01:55:33.140

Meg Perry: Okay, Whitney. I think we had a follow up question

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01:55:33.320 --> 01:55:35.590

Meg Perry: Um for you,

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01:55:35.940 --> 01:55:45.080

Meg Perry: asking uh from Katie Almeida asking, When will they be, I presume the lessee, propose the substation plan?

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01:55:45.880 --> 01:55:48.269

Whitney Hauer: Great thanks, Katie, for the follow up.

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01:55:48.280 --> 01:56:11.499

Whitney Hauer: So the construction operations plan, and this was updated in July of this year is posted to our web page, and in that plan it includes a description of the offshore substation which includes the design and construction sequence. And this is in section three point three point five, which is on page ninety-eight uh within the cop. And I'm asking meg if you could post the the link to the cop in the

679

01:56:11.660 --> 01:56:12.969

Whitney Hauer: in the chat.

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01:56:13.270 --> 01:56:19.619

Meg Perry: Yes, and i'll include that section number and page so that's Section three point three point five,

681

01:56:20.070 --> 01:56:30.880

Meg Perry: and pay on page ninety-eight. So i'll put that in the chat here for everyone in just a moment,

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01:56:31.000 --> 01:56:33.360

Whitney Hauer: and it's page ninety-eight as the page number in the document not of um not searching within the Pdf.

683

01:56:50.760 --> 01:56:52.880

Meg Perry: Great. All right. Thank you.

684

01:56:59.770 --> 01:57:00.880

Meg Perry: Okay.

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01:57:06.040 --> 01:57:12.799

Meg Perry: All right, then. I think we had a few questions for the corps. So, Tammy, are you ready to share responses there.

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01:57:23.600 --> 01:57:31.149

Tammy Turley, USACE: Hi, Meg: Yeah. I pasted the location of our public notice again with the expiration date of October the seventeenth.

687

01:57:31.170 --> 01:57:51.030

Tammy Turley, USACE: And then, once you go to our website. Um, you will look under regulatory public notices, and then the specific number of the public notice um is listed on our slides, but i'll just read it off again if that would be okay. Uh, and apologies the question

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01:57:51.190 --> 01:58:00.400

Meg Perry: go ahead. That's what I was going to do. Just my folks, they haven't seen it. So the question was, where where the corps notice of um

689

01:58:00.590 --> 01:58:03.859

Meg Perry: notice is posted. Uh,

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01:58:04.090 --> 01:58:13.050

Meg Perry: and was that link provided? So the answer is, there is a link. Put it in the chat that Tammy is going to read it out for you here right now.

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01:58:13.520 --> 01:58:31.789

Tammy Turley, USACE: Yeah, so um again it's it's it's in the chat or will be in soon, and it's um https colon slash, slash, www.nae.usace.army.mil slash missions slash regulatory slash public notices,

692

01:58:31.800 --> 01:58:39.220

Tammy Turley, USACE: and then the public notice number is

693

01:58:39.230 --> 01:58:56.499

Tammy Turley, USACE: um nae dash, twenty, twenty dash zero, zero, seven, zero, seven, and those are in chronological order, and again this public notice was issued on September second, and I just went there to verify It's it's on there, and it is there.

694

01:58:56.550 --> 01:59:03.120

Meg Perry: And Can you give that public notice a number one more time? So I can include that in the chat. It's nae

695

01:59:03.550 --> 01:59:10.399

Tammy Turley, USACE: Yeah, nae, dash twenty, twenty, dash zero, zero, seven, zero, seven

696

01:59:16.930 --> 01:59:25.099

Meg Perry: great, Thank you, and it looks like that Link got chopped up when I pasted it. So i'm gonna i'm gonna repaste it. Oh, there we go! Christy. Just put it in.

697

01:59:25.160 --> 01:59:26.519

Meg Perry: Thanks, Christy.

698

01:59:27.640 --> 01:59:31.700

Meg Perry: Okay. And then there was a question about deadline for comments. Um.

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01:59:32.780 --> 01:59:34.240

Meg Perry: And

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01:59:34.520 --> 01:59:41.500

Meg Perry: so I think you confirmed that ends October seventeenth as well same as the current DEIS comment period.

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01:59:42.260 --> 01:59:43.400

Meg Perry: Um,

702

01:59:44.250 --> 01:59:51.559

Meg Perry: and that also addressed a question about where the corps has notified the public about the um

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01:59:52.100 --> 01:59:54.570

Meg Perry: Corps of Engineers comment period deadline.

704

01:59:54.650 --> 01:59:56.430

Meg Perry: That's also at that

705

01:59:56.650 --> 02:00:00.099

Meg Perry: on that public notice uh website that we just shared.

706

02:00:02.880 --> 02:00:04.859

Meg Perry: So thank you, Tammy.

707

02:00:07.830 --> 02:00:13.099

Meg Perry: Great Just double checking to see that we've covered all our questions.

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02:00:15.690 --> 02:00:22.480

Meg Perry: Looks like it. Um. So i'm going to turn it back to Karen Baker for some closing remarks from BOEM.

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02:00:26.070 --> 02:00:36.169

Karen Baker, BOEM: Thanks, Meg uh, as introduced at the beginning of the session, I'm Karen Baker. I'm the chief of the office of renewable energy programs for the bureau of ocean energy management.

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02:00:36.260 --> 02:00:48.379

Karen Baker, BOEM: I'd like to say thank you to the corps of engineers, SWCA, and BOEM Staff for holding this successful virtual public hearing for revolution wind draft environmental impact statement,

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02:00:48.780 --> 02:01:01.490

Karen Baker, BOEM: and to everyone who participated in today's meeting. I want to thank you for spending these last few hours with us, and from the many thoughtful comments and questions you have submitted. We had a great turnout this evening, peaking at about one hundred participants

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02:01:01.890 --> 02:01:10.760

Karen Baker, BOEM: all the comments that we received today, and during the comment period, will be assessed and considered by BOEM during the preparation of the final environmental impact statement.

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02:01:10.960 --> 02:01:20.440

Karen Baker, BOEM: I hope you feel we've provided you a good forum to share your comments on aspects of the project that are concerned to you, and that you found our answers to your question to both useful and responsive.

714

02:01:21.140 --> 02:01:35.499

Karen Baker, BOEM: Your input is essential to ensure that the best informed decision will be made for the proposed project. I also want to reiterate that there are multiple methods available to you to provide your comments on the draft environmental impact statement By October seventeenth two thousand and twenty-two

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02:01:35.590 --> 02:01:51.319

Karen Baker, BOEM: comments can be submitted through regulations Gov. Using docket number BOEM dash, two, zero, two, two, dash zero, zero, four, five. Let me repeat that B O E M dash two zero, two, two, dash zero, zero, four, five.

716

02:01:51.330 --> 02:01:57.590

Karen Baker, BOEM: Or mail to BOEM enclosed in an envelope labeled Revolution, Wind, COP DEIS.

717

02:01:58.370 --> 02:02:14.599

Karen Baker, BOEM: That's revolution Wind COP DEIS and address to program Manager Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, four, five, six, zero, zero woodland Road, Sterling, S T E R L I N G, Virginia,

718

02:02:15.240 --> 02:02:17.730

Karen Baker, BOEM: two zero, one, six, six,

719

02:02:18.220 --> 02:02:27.089

Karen Baker, BOEM: as a reminder a recording of today's virtual meeting, as well as the first virtual meeting, will be posted on BOEM's revolution wind virtual meeting Room page.

720

02:02:27.360 --> 02:02:32.140

Karen Baker, BOEM: Thank you again for participating tonight in in our virtual public hearing.

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02:02:35.600 --> 02:02:52.059

Meg Perry: Thanks, Karen and I'll just echo that That appreciation for everyone's partition participation today. Um taking time out of your evening to be part of this process, it's incredibly valuable to the agencies and to a robust process. So thank you again, and we are adjourned.