

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PUBLIC MEETING

FACILITATOR:

Meg Perry, SWCA

PRESENTERS:

Jess Stromberg, BOEM

Trevis Olivier, BOEM

Tammy Turley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Aquinnah Old Town Hall

955 State Road

Aquinnah, MA 02535

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3 MS. PERRY: We're going to get started
4 here with the presentation in just a moment.
5 You could start to make your way to a spot where
6 you can see the screen.

7 (Audience Chatter)

8 Good evening. I would say welcome,
9 but I'm really the guest here tonight. We are
10 the guests. So I'll say thank you so much for
11 having us here and thank you all for coming out
12 in the wet evening to be with us.

13 My name is Meg Perry. I'm with
14 SWCA Environmental Consultants. And I'll be
15 facilitating our meeting this evening.

16 I'll turn it over in just a moment to
17 the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. But,
18 first of all, just a few orienting comments.

19 As many of you may be familiar, the
20 restrooms are just out here to the right, under
21 that exit light. And we do have Comment Forms
22 on these back tables. And we will have a chance
23 after this presentation for anyone who'd like to
24 share a verbal comment for the record.

1 So with that, we will go ahead and
2 kick off this Revolution Wind Offshore Wind
3 Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement
4 Public Hearing.

5 And so, we're going to start with --
6 whoops, let's see if our slides are working.
7 There we go.

8 We're going to start with a brief
9 presentation, both from the Bureau of Ocean
10 Energy Management and from the U.S. Army Corps
11 of Engineers.

12 And then, we will turn it to the
13 listening session. So we have some folks who
14 signed up in advance to share a comment. So we
15 will hear from those people first. And then,
16 anyone else who would like to share a comment is
17 welcome to do so, as well.

18 So, with that, I'll turn it to
19 Jess Stromberg from Bureau of Ocean Energy
20 Management to welcome you all.

21 CHIEF STROMBERG: Yeah, so any
22 Media Representatives who have not indicated
23 that they are can contact Lissa Eng. And
24 Lissa, can you raise your hand? Great. Thanks.

1 This is a holdover slide. All right.
2 Thank you, everyone. Good evening. Thank you,
3 Meg.

4 My name is Jess Stromberg and I am the
5 Acting Branch Chief of the Environment Branch
6 for Renewable Energy in the Bureau of Ocean
7 Energy Management's Office of Renewable Energy
8 Programs. I am continuing to go through these
9 new slides. Here we go, sorry. All right.

10 And I want to welcome you all this
11 evening to BOEM's second Public Hearing. And
12 this is to discuss the Draft Environmental
13 Impact Statement for the Revolution Wind
14 Project, which is offshore Rhode Island and
15 Massachusetts.

16 In addition to this in-person Public
17 Meeting, we will be hosting two other in-person
18 Public Meetings October 5th and 6th in Rhode
19 Island and Massachusetts. And we also have one
20 more virtual Public Hearing which is on
21 October 11th.

22 For those of you who aren't familiar
23 with BOEM, we are a Federal Bureau within the
24 Department of the Interior that oversees the

1 development of our energy and mineral resources
2 on the nation's Outer Continental Shelf, or OCS.

3 And the OCS extends in most areas
4 offshore from about 3 miles to the full extent
5 of the exclusive economic zone, which is about
6 200 miles offshore.

7 BOEM is responsible for the
8 expeditious and orderly development of the
9 energy resources on the OCS, including
10 renewables like offshore wind.

11 And it's our job to ensure that this
12 development is done in an environmentally and
13 economically responsible way. And that process
14 starts with public input, data gathering,
15 analysis, and leasing.

16 After many years, we now have
17 28 active Commercial Leases for offshore wind in
18 the Atlantic. And as we've mentioned, we are
19 here today to discuss the Draft Environmental
20 Impact Statement for the Revolution Wind
21 Project, which is on one of those 28 Leases.

22 So your participation and your
23 feedback are essential today to BOEM's renewable
24 energy program, and play a vital role in our

1 environmental analysis of the proposed project,
2 as well as compliance with the National
3 Environmental Policy Act or NEPA.

4 BOEM would also like to note that, on
5 behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that
6 these meetings will serve as the public meetings
7 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 10
8 and Section 404, Permit Review.

9 And Tammy Turley, who is the Chief of
10 the Regulatory Division in the New England
11 District for the Army Corps of Engineers will be
12 presenting a few slides about their permitting
13 process after Trevis.

14 So, I want to, again, thank you for
15 joining today. And as Meg mentioned, we have
16 some folks who did preregister to give public
17 comments. And we will go into details about how
18 they can do so after the presentations.

19 We also have, as you can see, posters
20 around the room. And we have
21 BOEM Subject-Matter Experts that are
22 participating and can also help provide
23 information, if you have any specific questions.

24 So we all look forward to hearing your

1 public comments. And now, I'm going to turn it
2 over to Trevis, who will walk through a brief
3 presentation about the NEPA process and the
4 project.

5 MR. OLIVIER: All right, hello.
6 Thank you, Jess. All right, Lissa. All right.
7 So, just hello.

8 My name is Trevis Olivier. I'm one of
9 the BOEM Environmental Coordinators for the
10 Revolution Wind Project. And today, I'll be
11 presenting an overview of the Draft
12 Environmental Impact Statement, or DEIS, as you
13 may hear me call it.

14 So, first, just wanted to point
15 everyone to some additional resources that we do
16 have available on BOEM's virtual meeting room
17 page for the project.

18 The web address is provided here on
19 the slide. And if you haven't already, we
20 encourage you to go check out the project
21 webpage, as well, for some additional content
22 that's available there.

23 So this EIS is being developed under
24 the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA,

1 which requires Federal Agencies to assess the
2 environmental effects of major Federal actions
3 that could significantly affect the quality of
4 the human environment.

5 The EIS must also provide an analysis
6 of reasonable Alternatives and the direct,
7 indirect, and cumulative effects of the project.
8 The NEPA process also includes public scoping
9 and a minimum 45-day public comment period on
10 the Draft EIS, which is what we're currently in
11 for this project.

12 The NEPA process is intended, and the
13 goal here is to collect relevant information for
14 the decisionmaker to make an informed decision
15 on whether to approve, approve with conditions,
16 or disapprove the Revolution Wind proposed
17 Construction and Operations Plan.

18 So, the Notice of Intent, or NOI, to
19 prepare this EIS was published back on
20 April 30th of 2021, which began a 30-day comment
21 period. And that comment period was open
22 through June 11th of 2021.

23 And during that time, BOEM also held
24 three virtual scoping meetings, on May 13th,

1 18th, and 20th. And there is a Scoping Summary
2 Report produced at the scoping, which summarizes
3 the comments and significant issues that were
4 raised during scoping. And that is also
5 available on BOEM's Revolution Wind Project
6 webpage.

7 The Draft EIS Notice of Availability,
8 or NOA, was published in the Federal Register on
9 September 2nd. Two virtual Public Hearings are
10 scheduled.

11 The first was held last week on
12 September 29th. And the second virtual hearing
13 will be on Tuesday, October 11th.

14 In addition to today's in-person
15 Public Hearing, BOEM is also holding in-person
16 meetings tomorrow and Thursday at the locations
17 and the times that you see here. And the 45-day
18 public comment period on the Draft EIS is open
19 through October 17th.

20 So, a brief overview of the Revolution
21 Wind Project, as proposed in the COP, it is
22 being proposed on BOEM Lease 0486, which was
23 issued back on October 1st of 2013.

24 The proposed Wind Farm is located

1 roughly 12 to 14 miles south/southwest of
2 varying points along the Rhode Island and
3 Massachusetts coastlines; about 15 miles east of
4 Block Island; and about 12.1 miles southwest of
5 Martha's Vineyard.

6 And using the Project Design Envelope
7 approach, or PDE approach you may sometimes
8 hear, the Construction and Operations Plan
9 proposes a range of parameters which BOEM is
10 analyzing under the proposed action.

11 So, offshore, the project is proposing
12 up to 100 wind turbine generators, ranging in 8
13 to 12 MW capacity each, and spaced at least
14 1 nautical mile apart; two offshore substations
15 and up to 155 miles of inter-array cables
16 connecting the turbines to the offshore
17 substations; and two export cables roughly
18 42 miles long: one from each of the offshore
19 substation, traveling up through Narragansett
20 Bay and connecting to the onshore components at
21 Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

22 The turbines would have a maximum
23 blade tip height of up to 873 feet, a maximum
24 hub height of up to 512 feet, and a maximum

1 rotor diameter of up to 722 feet. And the
2 offshore substations could be up to 262 ft tall.

3 There are also several types of scour
4 protection being considered in the COP, which
5 include rock placement, mattress protection,
6 sandbags, and stone bags.

7 And the Project Design Envelope also
8 conservatively assumes that up to 10 percent of
9 cables in Federal waters and up to 15 percent of
10 the cables in State waters could require
11 secondary cable protection.

12 For the onshore components, the export
13 cables would make landfall within the Quonset
14 Business Park in North Kingstown, Rhode Island,
15 and would be installed using horizontal
16 directional drilling below the shoreline to
17 minimize surface disturbance.

18 The two underground transmission
19 cables would travel approximately 1 mile from
20 the landfall location up to a new onshore
21 substation and interconnection facility that
22 would be constructed next to the existing
23 Davisville Substation.

24 So, BOEM has been in ongoing

1 consultation with federally-recognized
2 Tribal Nations throughout development of the
3 Draft EIS. This slide presents a summary of
4 some, but not all, of the
5 Government-to-Government consultation and
6 coordination efforts that have occurred since
7 publication of the Notice of Intent to prepare
8 this Draft EIS.

9 And BOEM is using NEPA substitution to
10 fulfill its Section 106 obligations under the
11 National Historic Preservation Act. There are
12 currently 48 Consulting Parties on the Rev Wind
13 Project under Section 106. And this includes
14 Tribal Nations, Federal Agencies, State and
15 Local Governments, as well as non-governmental
16 organizations.

17 And BOEM has conducted three
18 Consulting Party Meetings under 106 to-date for
19 the project, and anticipates having additional
20 consultation meetings as needed throughout 2022
21 and early 2023.

22 So, to highlight some notable sections
23 of the Draft EIS, Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the
24 main body contain the Purpose and Need,

1 Alternatives, including those eliminated from
2 detailed analysis and why, and an assessment of
3 the environmental consequences for each
4 Alternative.

5 The PDE parameters and the
6 maximum-case scenario are described in detail in
7 Appendix D. The cumulative impact scenario,
8 also referred to as the Planned Activities
9 Scenario in the Draft EIS, is provided in
10 Appendix E.

11 And Appendix E also includes the
12 assessment of resources that were determined to
13 have minor or lower impacts. Appendix F
14 contains the Lessee's mitigation measures as
15 proposed in the COP, as well as other potential
16 mitigation and reporting requirements that were
17 identified by BOEM for consideration in the
18 Draft EIS.

19 Appendix J contains the Section 106
20 Finding of Adverse Effect and the Draft Section
21 106 Memorandum of Agreement. And Appendix K
22 provides additional background on the
23 Alternatives development and BOEM's Alternative
24 screening criteria that were used in developing

1 the Draft EIS.

2 So, the Draft EIS analyzes the
3 proposed action, which is the project as
4 proposed in the COP, which we summarized a
5 minute ago, and then four other action
6 Alternatives.

7 It also evaluates a no action
8 Alternative, which would be disapproval of the
9 proposed Construction and Operations Plan. And
10 in the next few slides, I'll highlight a little
11 more on each of the four other action
12 Alternatives with a little more detail.

13 So, Alternative C would exclude the
14 following positions that you see shaded here in
15 the red from development to reduce impacts
16 to complex benthic habitats vulnerable to
17 permanent and long-term impacts from the
18 proposed project.

19 BOEM worked with the National Marine
20 Fisheries Service to identify various habitat
21 priority areas. And those were used to
22 delineate the two options that were ultimately
23 evaluated under Alternative C.

24 Alternative C1, Option C1 here,

1 minimizes bottom disturbance in large areas of
2 contiguous complex benthic habitat as identified
3 in those priority areas.

4 And C2, while it looks similar to C1,
5 it does shift the exclusion of three of those
6 turbine positions from the southeastern corner
7 further north in the exclusion area there.

8 And the goal there is to reduce
9 development in or adjacent to known Atlantic cod
10 spawning areas. The slight shift in those
11 positions, however, would result in slightly
12 less contiguous complex benthic habitat being
13 avoided under C2, when compared to
14 Alternative C1.

15 So, Alternative D aims to reduce
16 space-use conflicts with commercial and fishing
17 vessels within the outer perimeters of the
18 project.

19 And as seen here, there are seven
20 possible combinations that could be selected
21 under this Alternative. The selection of all
22 three sub-options under Alternative D would
23 eliminate a total of 22 turbine locations from
24 consideration.

1 And elimination of D1 and D2 would
2 eliminate 15 positions, and most of which were
3 also included within those habitat priority
4 areas that were used in developing Alternative C
5 that we discussed in the previous slide.

6 Alternative E would eliminate certain
7 turbine positions to reduce visual impacts to
8 culturally important resources, both on
9 Martha's Vineyard, but as well as on the
10 Rhode Island and Massachusetts coastlines.

11 And when viewed from these areas,
12 Option E1 aims to reduce the visual clutter and
13 overall curtain effect from the overlapping of
14 turbines' towers and blades.

15 And Option E2 shifts elimination of
16 positions to the north/northwest side of the
17 project. And that is aimed at reducing the
18 number of turbines that would occupy the sunset
19 viewshed from the Aquinnah Cliffs Overlook and
20 from other viewsheds on or near
21 Martha's Vineyard, while still meeting the
22 purpose and need.

23 And under Alternative F, BOEM could
24 select the implementation of a higher capacity

1 turbine than what is proposed in the
2 Construction and Operations Plan.

3 And using a higher capacity turbine
4 could potentially reduce the number of
5 foundations that would be needed to meet the
6 purpose and need and thereby could potentially
7 further reduce impacts, if combined with any of
8 the other action Alternatives.

9 So, Alternative F provides a primarily
10 a qualitative range of potential impact
11 reductions in combination with the other action
12 Alternatives. And it does not propose any
13 specific layout.

14 So, an analysis of each Alternative by
15 the following resource categories is found in
16 Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS. And consistent with
17 Section 1502.15 of the Council on Environmental
18 Quality NEPA-implementing Regulations,
19 Impact-Producing Factors that were either not
20 applicable to the resource area, or were
21 determined to have minor to negligible effects,
22 were excluded from the body of the EIS and were
23 retained in Appendix E.

24 And as you can see from the example

1 provided here on this slide, the EIS uses a
2 four-level classification scheme and the
3 following duration and incremental impact terms
4 to characterize impacts. And these impact
5 classifications are defined for both adverse and
6 beneficial impacts when applicable.

7 So, the following resource categories
8 were concluded to experience minor, or less,
9 impacts from the proposed action and were
10 retained in Appendix E.

11 And again, this is intended to focus
12 the analysis in Chapter 3 on the resource areas
13 that are most likely to experience effects from
14 the proposed action.

15 So, Environmental Justice, Navigation
16 and Vessel Traffic, Marine Mammals, Benthic
17 Habitat and Invertebrates, Finfish, and
18 Essential Fish Habitat could all experience up
19 to moderate impacts from the proposed action.

20 And when evaluated in the context of
21 cumulative activities, these impact levels were
22 the same both with or without the proposed
23 action taking place.

24 And each resource analysis in

1 Chapter 3 also includes a discussion of
2 potential mitigation measures that could be
3 applied to reduce these effects.

4 So, Commercial Fisheries and For-Hire
5 Recreational Fishing, Cultural Resources,
6 Scientific Research and Surveys, and Visual
7 Resources were concluded to experience
8 potentially up to major impacts from the
9 proposed action, when combined with cumulative
10 activities.

11 Visual resources, however, would
12 reduce to moderate impacts if the no action were
13 to be selected. And again, the Draft EIS
14 includes a discussion of potential mitigation
15 measures that could be applied to each of these
16 resource areas to reduce the potential effects.

17 The proposed action can also result in
18 potential beneficial effects. Air Quality and
19 Environmental Justice could potentially
20 experience beneficial impacts through reduced
21 net greenhouse gas emissions in the area of
22 analysis over the long term.

23 Benthic Habitats, Birds, Finfish,
24 Recreational Fishing, Marine Mammals, and Sea

1 Turtles could experience potentially beneficial
2 impacts through artificial reef effects from the
3 project.

4 Economics, employment, and coastal
5 infrastructure could also benefit through job
6 creation and supporting designated uses at
7 ports.

8 And in addition, the estimated
9 capacity range for this project is anywhere from
10 704 to 880 megawatts of renewable energy, which
11 could power more than 300,000 homes per year.

12 Each Alternative has been analyzed
13 both alone, and when combined with other
14 reasonably foreseeable planned actions, which
15 would be the cumulative activities.

16 And Chapter 2 provides a summary
17 comparison of the Alternatives in table format.
18 And on the slide is a sample from Visual
19 Resources.

20 And a more detailed narrative
21 comparison of the Alternatives is provided at
22 the conclusion of each resource section in
23 Chapter 3.

24 So, overall, Alternative C would

1 reduce the overall extent of impacts to complex
2 benthic habitats when compared to the Proposed
3 Action, in particular around Cox Ledge and in
4 areas of known or of higher likelihood to have
5 Atlantic cod spawning.

6 Alternative D reduces navigation risks
7 and space-use conflicts with fishing and
8 commercial vessels by removing the outermost
9 turbines adjacent to the Buzzard's Bay Traffic
10 Separation Scheme Inbound Lane and the areas of
11 Cox Ledge.

12 Alternative E reduces impacts to
13 culturally important resources on and near
14 Martha's Vineyard and likely to National
15 Historic Landmarks in Rhode Island and
16 Massachusetts, as well.

17 And Alternative F can possibly reduce
18 impacts if combined with any of the other action
19 Alternatives. However, the EIS analysis did not
20 reach any conclusions that, when combining F
21 with one of the action Alternatives, that it
22 would reduce impacts enough to drop an impact
23 level to when it was with that Alternative,
24 alone.

1 As far as next steps, comments
2 received today and during the comment period
3 will be assessed and considered by BOEM and the
4 Cooperating Agencies during preparation of the
5 Final EIS.

6 Necessary changes to the document will
7 be made in response to comments and new
8 information. And the responses will be provided
9 in an Appendix to the Final EIS. And the Final
10 EIS will also identify a preferred Alternative.

11 So, the 45-day comment period for the
12 Draft EIS again ends October 17th. And the next
13 steps in the EIS schedule would be to publish
14 that Final EIS, which is targeted in June of
15 2023. And then, following that would be the
16 issuance of a Record of Decision, which is
17 targeted for July of 2023.

18 So, you can provide comments on the
19 Draft EIS by using [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), providing
20 verbal or written comments during any of the
21 Public Hearings, or by mailing written comments
22 to the Office of Renewable Energy Programs at
23 the address provided on the slide. The comments
24 must be postmarked no later than October 17th,

1 2022.

2 And If you prefer to submit your
3 comments electronically, please visit
4 regulations.gov at [HTTP://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
5 and search for Docket Number BOEM-2022-0045.
6 And then click on the Comment button.

7 And I think we also may have a laptop
8 available here today, if folks want to do that
9 while at this meeting. If you want to submit
10 electronically on regs.gov, you can do it here,
11 as well. And we can help you with that.

12 As a reminder, BOEM does not consider
13 anonymous comments. So please include your name
14 and address as part of your submittal. And all
15 comments will be made part of the public record.

16 And finally, to be most helpful, the
17 comments should be as specific as possible. For
18 example, a useful substantive comment would
19 discuss the accuracy of the information
20 presented in the Draft EIS; would suggest
21 alternate methodologies and the reasons why they
22 should be used; provide new information relevant
23 to the analysis; identify a different source of
24 credible research, which, if it were used, could

1 result in different effects; or would provide
2 clarification that are needed in the document.

3 So this concludes the BOEM portion of
4 today's presentation. I thank you all for your
5 time.

6 One other thing I would like to point
7 out -- I'll see if I can pull it up -- we wanted
8 to make folks aware of. Let me see if I can get
9 it over here. That didn't work. Bear with me.
10 Get over there.

11 I wanted to make sure everyone was
12 also aware that if you want to receive
13 information from BOEM on renewable energy or any
14 other things that BOEM's managing or doing,
15 whether it's studies or any other programming
16 areas, that you can sign up to receive
17 information from BOEM.

18 If you see on our website here this
19 little envelope, you can click on this. And you
20 can sign up to be on BOEM's mailing list. And
21 that'll give you information on not only this
22 project but other projects, as well.

23 Now, I got to see if I can get it off
24 the screen. There. All right. So, again,

1 thank you, all, for your time.

2 I'm going to hand it over to Tammy
3 now. And she's going to give a presentation of
4 the Corps' permitting processes related to this
5 project.

6 CHIEF TURLEY: Thank you, Trevis.

7 Good evening. Again, my name is Tammy Turley.

8 I'm the Regulatory Division Chief for the New
9 England District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

10 Thank you, again, for coming tonight.
11 Your input is critical to a thorough
12 environmental review. And we really appreciate
13 the hospitality.

14 As a reminder, the mission of the
15 Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Program is to
16 protect the nation's aquatic resources and
17 navigable capacity while allowing economic
18 development through fair and balanced decisions.

19 The National Environmental Policy Act
20 that you've heard about this evening is required
21 for proposals that have a Federal component.

22 So, for this project, BOEM is the lead

23 Federal Agency for the NEPA review.

24 And the Corps is a Cooperating Agency

1 in this environmental review, and intends to use
2 the BOEM EIS and adopt that as the
3 Corps of Engineers' Environmental Impact
4 Statement.

5 On the next slide, I'll introduce the
6 Corps of Engineers regulatory authorities that
7 are applicable to this project. The
8 Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Program is
9 primarily administered under two authorities:
10 Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act; and
11 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This
12 diagram shows the limits of Corps of Engineers'
13 authority in tidal waters and fresh waters.

14 Under Section 10 of the Rivers and
15 Harbors Act, the Corps regulates structures and
16 work in navigable waters. For this project, the
17 shoreward limit of navigable waters is the mean
18 high waterline of Narragansett Bay. And the
19 seaward limit is 3 nautical miles measured from
20 the baseline of the territorial seas.

21 The proposed work regulated within
22 navigable waters are outlined in red on this
23 figure and includes the two export cables, the
24 dredging and fill for the installation of the

1 cables, the horizontal directional drilling work
2 and exit pits, and any hard armoring for cable
3 protection.

4 Section 10 also regulates structures
5 on the Outer Continental Shelf. For this
6 project, regulated structures associated with
7 the proposed project are outlined in red on the
8 figure.

9 And these structures include the
10 turbines, offshore substations, all associated
11 cables, and any required hard armoring for cable
12 protection.

13 Under Section 404 of the Clean Water
14 Act, the Corps of Engineers regulates the
15 discharge of dredged or fill material into
16 Waters of the United States.

17 For this project, the shoreward limit
18 of Waters of the U.S. is the high tide line of
19 Narragansett Bay. And the seaward limit of
20 WOTUS extends 3 nautical miles as measured from
21 the baseline of the territorial seas.

22 The Applicant has not proposed impacts
23 to non-tidal waters. And those would include
24 wetlands, mudflats, eelgrass, or any of the

1 other special aquatic sites.

2 Proposed activities subject to
3 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act are outlined
4 in red on the figure. And these proposed 404
5 discharges include the backfilling of the trench
6 during cable laying and the redeposition of
7 dredged material within the two horizontal
8 directional drill exit pits. Discharges also
9 include the placement of any hard armoring as
10 needed for cable protection.

11 The USACE published our Public Notice
12 on September 2nd with a 45-day comment period.
13 And this Public Notice initiates the public
14 interest review for the Corps of Engineers.

15 You can access the Public Notice by
16 going to the website located here, and then
17 looking under Regulatory/Permitting Public
18 Notices.

19 I will now speak more specifically to
20 the impacts proposed under each authority. So
21 the proposed temporary impacts are primarily
22 related to installation activities.

23 And then, the permanent activities are
24 related to the structures on the Outer

1 Continental Shelves, and then any hard armoring
2 placed over the cables for protection.

3 The figure on the left depicts the
4 wind turbines while the figure on the right
5 depicts the two offshore substations. And any
6 of this information you'd like to have in
7 reference, please let us know. And we'd be
8 happy to provide that to you.

9 I mentioned the Public Notice
10 initiates the Corps public interest review. And
11 that includes the Evaluation of the probable
12 impacts of the proposed activity on the public
13 interest.

14 The benefits that may reasonably
15 accrue from the proposal must be balanced
16 against any reasonably foreseeable detriments.
17 And then, any decision will reflect the national
18 concern for both the protection and utilization
19 of important resources.

20 And the Corps of Engineers can only
21 issue a Permit if the proposal is found to be
22 not contrary to the public interest. And the
23 public interest review factors are listed on the
24 screen.

1 I mentioned our Section 404 of the
2 Clean Water Act authority. We have a set of
3 Guidelines we refer to as the
4 404(b)(1) Guidelines. And those apply to work
5 within the Section 404 jurisdiction.

6 So, specific to this project, that
7 would include the export cable route within the
8 404 jurisdiction in Narragansett Bay, as shown
9 on the picture.

10 To reach compliance with these
11 Guidelines, the Corps is unable to authorize a
12 proposed discharge if there's a practicable
13 alternative to the proposed discharge that would
14 have less adverse effect on the aquatic
15 ecosystem, so long as such alternative does not
16 have other significant adverse environmental
17 consequences.

18 And a practicable alternative is
19 available and capable of being done in light of
20 cost, technology, and logistics. And the
21 Corps of Engineers must identify the Least
22 Environmentally Damaging Practicable
23 Alternative, and may only permit that
24 Alternative.

1 And lastly, when making a Permit
2 decision, the Corps must ensure compliance with
3 many other Federal Regulations and Statutes,
4 very similar to BOEM.

5 And those include Section 106 of the
6 National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of
7 the Endangered Species Act, and the
8 Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act.

9 The Corps must also ensure that a
10 appropriate Tribal consultation has occurred and
11 that we have met our important Tribal trust
12 responsibilities.

13 In addition, on the State level, a
14 401 Water Quality Certification and a Coastal
15 Zone Management Consistency Determination are
16 required prior to the issuance of a Corps
17 Permit.

18 And that includes the Corps overview.
19 I appreciate your time. And again, please reach
20 out to us if you'd like any additional
21 information. Thank you.

22 MS. PERRY: All right. Thanks to our
23 Presenters. We're going to open it now to
24 public comments.

1 And I know we just threw a lot of
2 information at you right here at the end of the
3 day. So, just to recap, we're at that stage in
4 the process where the Draft Environmental Impact
5 Statement is out there. It's available online
6 for folks to review.

7 And the two Agencies are here tonight
8 to listen and hear if there is feedback on that
9 draft document that they should take into
10 consideration.

11 So I'm going to start. Let's see.
12 We've got two folks with microphones: Christy
13 and --

14 SUE: Sue.

15 MS. PERRY: -- Sue, my Colleagues, who
16 are going to be walking around to give our
17 Commentors a chance to speak. And as I
18 mentioned, we have a list of folks who signed up
19 in advance.

20 So we will walk through those first.
21 And then, assuming we have time and we're --
22 we've got plenty of time here in the space
23 tonight -- we will go through as many other
24 people as we can.

1 So just a few reminders before we move
2 into that, as Trevis mentioned, this is not your
3 only way to submit comments. We do have a
4 Court Reporter with us tonight -- thank you very
5 much -- taking down everything that's shared.
6 So it will be part of the official record.

7 But if you'd rather not share your
8 comment verbally, or if you'd like to share a
9 written comment in addition to your comments
10 tonight, you can do that in any of these ways:
11 in writing; in a Comment Sheet that you can put
12 in one of the boxes at the back; on the website,
13 as Trevis showed you; or by mailing in a comment
14 to the address on the screen. So those are all
15 options between now and October 17th.

16 All right. And we will -- we don't
17 have a huge crowd tonight. But we want to make
18 sure we get time for everybody who wants to
19 comment to share.

20 So we will just have a five-minute
21 timer up on-screen for you, and ask that if your
22 comments are longer than five minutes, that you
23 get back in line at the end to share anything
24 additional.

1 So with that, I'm just going to read
2 off the first four names that I have on the
3 list. And we will go through one-by-one, but
4 just so you know that your name's coming up
5 next.

6 So the first four I have registered
7 are -- and apologies if I mispronounce any names
8 here -- Laura Hastings, Jed Thorp, Fred Mattera,
9 and Antonio Alvernaz.

10 So we're going to go to Laura Hastings
11 first, if you're here with us tonight. Maybe
12 not.

13 All right. How about Jed Thorp?
14 Okay. Fred Mattera? And Antonio Alvernaz?
15 Okay. Well, hopefully they're cozy at home
16 submitting their comments in writing.

17 Okay. Our next four are Joseph
18 Lopes, Amanda Barker, Priscilla De La Cruz, and
19 Berta Welch.

20 So, do we have Joseph Lopes with us
21 here? How about Amanda Barker? And
22 Priscilla De La Cruz? Berta Welch? Yea.

23 MS. WELCH: I will say that the
24 registration was a little confusing.

1 MS. PERRY: And if you can speak into
2 the mic there?

3 MS. WELCH: Okay.

4 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

5 MS. WELCH: I will say that the
6 registration was a little confusing. I thought
7 I was just registering to be here.

8 So -- but I guess my comments or
9 questions would be, you know, how does this
10 project really benefit the residents of
11 Martha's Vineyard?

12 And I also want to say welcome to our
13 indigenous homeland of Aquinnah, where we've
14 been here for quite some time. So, I guess
15 that's it. That's my question.

16 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

17 MS. WELCH: Um-hmm.

18 MS. PERRY: All right. And just to be
19 clear, I don't -- we're not doing responses to
20 questions right now.

21 MS. WELCH: Okay.

22 MS. PERRY: So that question is on the
23 record. And if there's time after and you want
24 to speak to any of the BOEM Staff about it,

1 happy to do that.

2 MS. WELCH: So, can I ask, will there
3 be a response to the questions, either in
4 writing or at another time?

5 MS. PERRY: So the comments -- and I'm
6 looking at Christy to confirm this. I believe
7 the comments will be summarized.

8 And then, a response will be provided
9 to each of the types of comments. So your
10 individual comment will be grouped with others
11 along similar topics. And each topic will have
12 a response in the Final EIS. Did I get that
13 right?

14 CHRISTY: That's correct.

15 MS. PERRY: Okay, great. Okay. Let's
16 see. Beverly Wright, are you with us?

17 MS. WRIGHT: Yes.

18 MS. PERRY: Great, right here.

19 MS. WRIGHT: Can you hear me?

20 MS. PERRY: Yeah.

21 MS. WRIGHT: Oh, thank you for being
22 here. And I don't mean this as a reproach. But
23 when you come into Tribal lands, you all must do
24 a Land Acknowledgement. And this was not done

1 by BOEM.

2 My question is: what happens with a
3 disaster? And what happens? How many years
4 before you decommission these towers?

5 And my third question, when I was
6 looking back there, it says potential that we
7 will not see any towers from our cliffs. I
8 didn't like the word "potential".

9 MS. PERRY: Thank you. All right.
10 Roxane Ackerman, are you here? Right there; see
11 if I can get my timer to work.

12 MS. ACKERMAN: Thank you for being
13 here. I have been on School Committee and I'm
14 an Official Man.

15 I'm looking for resources for island
16 children. And if we have something that we can
17 aim at them to participate in looking for
18 employment, looking for opportunities,
19 curriculum frameworks. Okay. That's good.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Okay. Great;
22 and our BOEM -- just so everyone's aware of
23 what's going on out front -- our BOEM and
24 Corps of Engineers folks are here as the

1 listeners. And they're all taking notes, as you
2 all are talking. And it's officially on the
3 record. So, thank you. Julianne Vanderhoop,
4 did you want to share comments?

5 MS. VANDERHOOP: Not today.

6 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you. All
7 right. That's all our preregistered Commentors.
8 But we will open it up for anyone else who wants
9 to share a comment.

10 So if you could just put your hand up,
11 and then we will have Christy, I think, this
12 person here, and then back to Beverly. And
13 please make sure to give us your name, so we
14 have that on record.

15 MR. MADISON: Okay. Jeffrey Madison,
16 I'm the Town Administrator for the Town of
17 Aquinnah.

18 Not looking for a lot of answers, but
19 just to comment on the meeting this evening.
20 The Town of Aquinnah was never provided notice
21 of this, despite the -- of the meeting --
22 despite the fact that, you know, we have been
23 carrying -- a number of town residents have been
24 carrying on discussions with Revolution Wind for

1 the past -- I don't know -- five, six months,
2 and noticed that the Town of Aquinnah was not
3 listed as a Consulting Party.

4 As the Owners of the Gay Head
5 Lighthouse, the Edwin Vanderhoop Homestead, the
6 land on which the shops are located at the
7 Aquinnah Cliffs, we insist on being included as
8 a Consulting Party. And we've been treated as
9 such by Revolution -- Representatives of
10 Revolution Wind, if not BOEM.

11 So, I've entered these comments into
12 the record. I will be contacting BOEM to
13 include the consideration for mitigation to the
14 impacted properties that I've mentioned. Thank
15 you very much.

16 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Go ahead.

17 MS. WRIGHT: Last --

18 MS. PERRY: And if you could just
19 state your name once more --

20 MS. WRIGHT: Oh.

21 MS. PERRY: -- so we make sure we know
22 who it's coming from.

23 MS. WRIGHT: Beverly Wright, a Member
24 of the Wampanoag Tribe.

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

2 MS. WRIGHT: And last winter, or maybe
3 it was the winter before, the towers in Texas
4 did not operate because the weather was so cold.
5 And there were thousands of people without
6 power. How would they affect us, when we're --
7 I'm assuming that we're colder than in Texas?

8 MS. PERRY: Great, thank you. All
9 right. Other comments? Going to give you a
10 minute to think, because I know we've had a lot
11 flying around here.

12 CHRISTY: Just say your name again.

13 MS. ACKERMAN: Roxane Ackerman; what
14 are the opportunities for Martha's Vineyard to
15 have a benefit? And all the electricity doesn't
16 go past us, that it comes directly to us. It
17 seems to me, if you go through Rhode Island, and
18 then is that -- are we talking about the
19 (inaudible)?

20 And then, we've offered our locale.
21 Is there any benefit? Thank you.

22
23 MS. PERRY: Yeah, thank you.

24 MR. LEFEBER: Can I just follow up on

1 that, please? Hi, Anthony Lefeber. I live here
2 in Aquinnah, as well.

3 This is a really good point, seeing as
4 Martha's Vineyard doesn't get all the visual
5 impact of this. Who is going to assure that
6 benefits come back to the island, both in terms
7 of education, employment, environmental
8 protections, and so forth?

9 I think that's an excellent point and
10 really important to the island. Thank you.

11 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

12 MS. WRIGHT: I have another question.
13 Might get approximately one question. How long
14 -- oh, Beverly Wright again.

15 With the towers, how long before
16 they're decommissioned? I mean, what's their
17 lifespan?

18 MS. PERRY: Good questions; and
19 unfortunately we're in a comment format. So I
20 can't give you an answer right now.

21 Some of these questions are answered
22 in the Environmental Impact Statement. And the
23 folks here tonight can either give you the
24 answer or can tell you where there are more

1 details in that document.

2 So, really good questions, noted for
3 the record. And depending on how long we run,
4 hopefully you'll have a chance to talk to some
5 of the Staff here who can provide some answers.

6 (Cellphone ringing)

7 All right. One more right here.

8 MS. WASHINGTON: Bettina Washington;
9 for some of you folks, you all know that I'm the
10 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the
11 Wampanoag Tribe at Gay Head, Aquinnah.

12 This particular wind project, out of
13 all of them that are planned for south of our
14 island, I believe, from what I have seen, will
15 have the most detrimental effect on our
16 viewshed.

17 Tribally speaking, this is off our
18 sacred place. It affects Nomans. It affects
19 Moshup's Rock. It affects the Aquinnah Cliffs,
20 Moshup's Bridge, the Elizabeth Islands, the
21 Vineyard Sound.

22 That's the cultural viewshed for us.
23 There's nothing more important in terms of our
24 oral history. That is the place. We have been

1 here for time immemorial.

2 It was interesting when I heard the
3 NEPA. It says harm to humans. Speaking as a
4 Tribal person, we are part of the chain, that
5 whole circle. We cannot separate ourselves from
6 our relatives that live in the ocean.

7 And I have stated more than once how
8 important the Right Whale is to our culture.
9 There are 340 of those whales in the world, in
10 the world.

11 I am concerned with the boat traffic.
12 How many of these boats are going to be running
13 back-and-forth? Where they're coming from,
14 where are they going to be in the harbor?

15 There are a lot of unknowns. These
16 cables will be running through and they will be
17 running into ancient submerged archaeological
18 sites.

19 Once these are uncovered, they are
20 destroyed. How are we going to gather that
21 information without destroying them? We can't.
22 They're gone. We don't have the technology yet.

23 And once we are -- we don't know about
24 the siltation of when these turbines are placed

1 into the ocean. Where is that going? How is
2 that going to affect the fish?

3 I know there are closed periods.
4 However, we still need to be careful. Right
5 now, we have the bass derby going on. Is that
6 going to affect that, when -- if that is,
7 indeed, when the construction time happens?

8 What about our herring run in the
9 spring? Well, that's the spring and the fall.
10 That leaves the summer and that's when the
11 whales are here.

12 I don't -- I have not received the
13 complete picture of the effects on the marine
14 environment, which, in turn, affects the economy
15 of this island that relies so heavily.

16 Not the fishing in and of itself, but
17 also the economic part of it. People come to
18 the island to fish.

19 People come here for tourism. And I'm
20 not so sure that's what they want to see,
21 especially at sunset, because they will be
22 backlit.

23 So those are just some of the issues,
24 because, as some of you may understand,

1 Section 106, BOEM has been consulting with us
2 for quite some time.

3 And there are a number of issues. And
4 once you go on one issue, you end up down a
5 rabbit hole.

6 But I'd like to thank you, all, for
7 coming here. Thank you for putting that comment
8 notice in the paper, because I had asked for
9 that.

10 I tell people not everybody reads the
11 Federal Register. So I do appreciate that.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Any other
14 comments? All right. Well, I'll just say thank
15 you very much to everyone again. Oh, one more?

16 MS. WELCH: Berta Welch again.

17 MS. PERRY: Well, let me make sure you
18 get the mic, so our Court Reporter can hear you.

19 MS. WELCH: How is it that the island
20 -- if this is the only meeting on the island --
21 public meeting, how is it there's only
22 12 Islanders here?

23 I'm just wondering how this was
24 advertised. It -- that doesn't seem correct.

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Anyone else?
2 All right. If not, I'm going to turn it back to
3 Jess Stromberg to wrap things up for us.

4 And then, the Staff will be here. I
5 heard some really good questions in a lot of
6 those comments.

7 So if you'd like to speak to any of
8 them, I'm happy to help try to point you to the
9 right person, as can Christy and Sue in the
10 back.

11 So, if you're able to stay and you'd
12 like to talk about other things, ask questions,
13 you're welcome to. But with that, I'll turn it
14 to Jess to close us out.

15 CHIEF STROMBERG: Thank you. Thank
16 you, Meg. I want to say thank you to all of you
17 for coming here tonight.

18 And I want to also thank my Colleague
19 from -- and other Colleagues from the Army Corps
20 of Engineers, SWCA, who has helped facilitate
21 this meeting, as well as all of the BOEM Staff.

22 And I think as Meg mentioned, we are
23 available to answer questions, that we do have
24 Staff at each of the posters. I think some

1 folks are going to be catching the ferry, so
2 some Staff will have to leave a little after
3 8:00 to catch that last ferry.

4 And we do have to be out of this
5 meeting room at 9:00. But we will be here for
6 as long as you guys need, up until those points,
7 to answer questions.

8 And I just wanted to say, thank you
9 for coming here. It's really great to see
10 everyone in-person.

11 I want to thank everyone for their
12 thoughtful comments, the questions that you
13 submitted. All of that information is going to
14 be assessed and considered by BOEM when we
15 prepared the Final Environmental Impact
16 Statement.

17 So, I hope that this was a good forum
18 and continues to be a good forum for sharing
19 your comments on aspects of the projects that
20 are a concern to you, and also that you found,
21 or that you will find, answers to your questions
22 that we can provide to be useful and responsive.

23 And your input is really essential to
24 ensure that the best informed decision is made

1 on this proposed project. And so, just want to
2 thank you again and wrap it up. So, thanks.

3 (Whereupon, the Public Information Meeting
4 concluded at 7:40 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

COMMONWEALTH OF Massachusetts

COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH, SS

I, Darcy Schramn, a Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the foregoing BOEM Public Information Meeting was taken under my direction October 4, 2022.

The said testimony was taken audiographically by Anne-Marie Maillet and then transcribed under my direction.

To the best of my knowledge, the within transcript is a complete, true and accurate record of said Meeting.

I am not connected by blood or marriage with any of the said parties, nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter in controversy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and Notary Seal this 10th day of October, 2022.

Darcy Schramn, Notary Public
My Commission Expires:
April 24, 2025

