

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PUBLIC MEETING

FACILITATOR:

Meg Perry, SWCA

PRESENTERES:

Jess Stromberg, BOEM

Trevis Olivier, BOEM

Tammy Turley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Swift Community Center

121 Peirce Street

East Greenwich, RI 02818

## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2  
3 MS. PERRY: You don't have to move,  
4 but I'll just offer a few words of orientation  
5 to those of you who are already here, right on  
6 time.

7 We're so happy to see you. And as  
8 many of you have already discovered, we have a  
9 whole bunch of Experts around the room available  
10 to answer questions.

11 So if you're coming in wondering about  
12 something related to Revolution Wind Project,  
13 now is a great time to go try and get that  
14 question answered. And I'm happy to help point  
15 you to the right person, if you're not sure  
16 where to begin.

17 I'll be facilitating our listening  
18 session a little bit later this evening. And  
19 so, right at 5:30, we will do a brief  
20 presentation. And then, we will turn to  
21 comments from anyone who would like to share a  
22 comment.

23 So, for now, you're welcome to keep  
24 circulating, ask questions, take a look at

1 posters. There are some Comment Boxes in the  
2 back, if you'd like to submit a comment in  
3 writing. And we also have a Court Reporter  
4 here, if you'd like to share some comments  
5 verbally.

6 So, let me know if you have any  
7 questions. And otherwise, we will see you at  
8 5:30 for the presentation.

9 (Audience Chatter)

10 Hi, everyone. We're going to get  
11 started with the presentation in about  
12 10 minutes.

13 So, just for your awareness, now's a  
14 great time to circulate, chat with the folks at  
15 the posters who can help answer any questions  
16 you might have.

17 And then, we will get started with the  
18 presentation at 5:30, and follow that with the  
19 public comments. So, thanks for coming out.  
20 And we will get that presentation going in about  
21 10 minutes.

22 (Audience Chatter)

23 Good evening. We're going to begin  
24 the presentation here in just a moment. So if

1           you could make your way to a seat? And we will  
2           get started in just a second.

3                     All right. Well, good evening. I'm  
4           Meg Perry with SWCA Environmental Consultants.  
5           And I want to say thank you so much for having  
6           this meeting here.

7                     We really appreciate the hospitality.  
8           And we will be getting to the presentation from  
9           the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the  
10          U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in just a moment.

11                    I'm going to give you just a couple  
12          orienting pieces of information. So, first,  
13          just in case you weren't sure where you are,  
14          this is a public hearing for the Revolution Wind  
15          Offshore Wind Project, Draft Environmental  
16          Impact Statement. And you'll hear more about  
17          that Draft Environmental Impact Statement in the  
18          presentation.

19                    The program for this evening is  
20          welcome, which we're in the middle of. We will  
21          then, hear from BOEM and U.S. Army Corps of  
22          Engineers.

23                    And then, we will turn to a listening  
24          session, where anyone is welcome to share

1           comments with the Agencies. And I'll help  
2           moderate that part of this meeting.

3                       We have some folks who signed up in  
4           advance. So we will go to those folks first.  
5           And then, anyone else who has a comment would is  
6           welcome to comment, as well.

7                       If we have any Media Representatives  
8           here with us this evening, we encourage you to  
9           speak with Lissa here from Bureau of Ocean  
10          Energy Management. She just waved. So she's  
11          happy to speak with you.

12                      With that, I'll turn it to  
13          Jess Stromberg for opening remarks from the  
14          Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

15                      CHIEF STROMBERG: Thank you, Meg.  
16          Just bear with me for a moment. All right.  
17          Good evening. I want to thank you for joining  
18          us today on the ancestral lands of the  
19          Narragansett.

20                      And my name is Jess Stromberg. I am  
21          the Acting Branch Chief for the Renewable Energy  
22          Office, Environment Brand for Renewable Energy,  
23          in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

24                      And I want to welcome you, as Meg

1 mentioned, to BOEM's third Public Hearing. And  
2 this is to discuss the Draft Environmental  
3 Impact Statement for the Revolution Wind  
4 Project, which is offshore Rhode Island and  
5 Massachusetts.

6 In addition to this in-person Public  
7 Meeting, we will be hosting one additional  
8 in-person Public Meeting October 6th in  
9 Massachusetts. And we have one more virtual  
10 Public Hearing on October 11th.

11 For those of you who aren't familiar  
12 with BOEM, we are a Federal Bureau within the  
13 Department of the Interior that oversees the  
14 development of the energy resources on the Outer  
15 Continental Shelf, including renewables like  
16 offshore wind.

17 It's our job to ensure that this  
18 development is done in an environmentally and  
19 economically responsible way. And this process  
20 starts with public input, data gathering, and  
21 leasing.

22 After many years, we now have  
23 28 active Commercial Leases for offshore wind in  
24 the Atlantic. And as we've mentioned, we're

1 here today to discuss the Draft Environmental  
2 Impact Statement for the Revolution Wind  
3 Project, which is on one of those 28 Leases.

4 So your participation and your  
5 feedback are essential to BOEM's process. And  
6 your feedback plays a vital role in the  
7 environmental analysis.

8 BOEM would also like to note that we  
9 have a Representative from the U.S. Army Corps  
10 of Engineers here today, and that these virtual  
11 meetings will serve as the public meetings for  
12 the Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 and  
13 Section 404, Permit Reviews. And Paul will be  
14 presenting a few slides about the permitting  
15 process, after BOEM makes its presentation.

16 So, I want to thank you all for  
17 joining. And as we mentioned, there are posters  
18 around the room.

19 And we do have BOEM Staff  
20 Representatives, Subject-Matter Experts, that  
21 are here to answer any questions that you might  
22 have.

23 We all look forward to hearing the  
24 public comments. And now, I'm going to turn it

1 over to Trevis, who will introduce himself. And  
2 he's going to give the first presentation.

3 MR. OLIVIER: All right. See if I can  
4 get this in here. Get in there. All right.  
5 Good?

6 All right. Thank you, Jess. As she  
7 said, my name is Trevis Olivier. I'm one of the  
8 BOEM, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,  
9 Environmental Coordinators for the Revolution  
10 Wind Project.

11 And I will give a brief presentation  
12 on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Or  
13 you may hear me say DEIS.

14 So, first, just wanted to point some  
15 additional resources that are available on  
16 BOEM's virtual meeting room webpage for the  
17 Draft EIS.

18 The webpage address is shown here on  
19 the slide. And if you haven't already, we  
20 encourage you to go to this website and look at  
21 the resources that we have available there.

22 This EIS is being developed under the  
23 National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA,  
24 which requires Federal Agencies to assess the



1 environmental effects of any major Federal  
2 action that may significantly affect the quality  
3 of the human environment.

4 The EIS must also provide an analysis  
5 of reasonable Alternatives and the direct,  
6 indirect, and cumulative effects of the project.  
7 The NEPA process also includes scoping and a  
8 minimum 45-day comment period on the Draft EIS.

9 And the NEPA process is -- the goal is  
10 to collect relevant information for the  
11 decisionmaker, so that it can make an informed  
12 decision on whether to approve, approve with  
13 conditions, or to disapprove the Revolution Wind  
14 Proposed Construction and Operations Plan, as it  
15 was submitted.

16 So, the Notice of Intent, or NOI, to  
17 prepare the Draft EIS was published back on  
18 April 30th of 2021. And that began the 30-day  
19 public comment period. And the comment period  
20 was open through June 11th of 2021.

21 During that time, BOEM also held three  
22 public scoping meetings, on May 13th, 18th, and  
23 20th of 2021. And following scoping, a Scoping  
24 Summary Report, which summarizes the comments

1 and the significant issues that were raised  
2 during scoping, was prepared. And that is also  
3 available on the Revolution Wind Project page  
4 that I mentioned earlier.

5 So, the Draft EIS Notice of  
6 Availability, or NOA, was published in the  
7 Federal Register on September 2nd. Two virtual  
8 Public Hearings were scheduled.

9 The first was held on September 29th.  
10 And we have a second virtual hearing that will  
11 be held on October 11th.

12 And BOEM is also holding in-person  
13 hearings. We had one yesterday on Martha's  
14 Vineyard.

15 We have this hearing today. And then,  
16 we have another one tomorrow in New Bedford.  
17 That also starts at 5:00 p.m. And the 45-day  
18 public comment period on the Draft EIS closes on  
19 October 17th.

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

24 The Windfarm is located roughly 12 to

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

5 Using a Project Design Envelope  
6 approach, or a PDE, approach, the Construction  
7 and Operations Plan proposes a range of  
8 parameters that BOEM is analyzing under the  
9 proposed action in the Draft EIS.

10 So, offshore, the project is proposing  
11 up to 100 wind turbine generators, that could  
12 range anywhere from 8 to 12 megawatts in  
13 capacity each. And those would be spaced at  
14 least 1 nautical mile apart.

15 Two offshore substations and up to  
16 155 miles of inter-array cables connecting the  
17 turbines to those offshore substations; and up  
18 to two export cables roughly 42 miles long: one  
19 from each of those offshore substations that  
20 would travel up a shared corridor through  
21 Narragansett Bay and connect to the onshore  
22 components at Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

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

1 hub height of up to 512 feet, and a maximum  
2 rotor diameter of up to 722 feet. And the  
3 offshore substations could be up to 262 feet in  
4 total height.

5 There are also several types of scour  
6 protection being considered. Those include rock  
7 placement, mattress protection, sandbags, and  
8 stone bags.

9 And the Project Design Envelope also  
10 conservatively assumes that up to 10 percent of  
11 cables within Federal waters and up to  
12 15 percent of cables in State waters could  
13 require secondary cable protection, where a  
14 burial couldn't be accomplished.

15 For the onshore components, the export  
16 cables would make landfall within the Quonset  
17 Business Park in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.  
18 And those would be installed using horizontal  
19 directional drilling below the shoreline to  
20 minimize surface disturbance.

21 And the two underground transmission  
22 cables would travel approximately 1 mile from  
23 the landfall location up to a new onshore  
24 substation and interconnection facility. And

1 those would be constructed directly adjacent to  
2 the existing Davisville Substation.

3 And the project has an estimated  
4 operational life ranging from 20 to 35 years.  
5 And at the end of the project's operational  
6 life, it would be decommissioned in accordance  
7 with a Detailed Project Decommissioning Plan.

8 And that Plan would be in compliance  
9 with the applicable laws, Regulation, and best  
10 management practices that are in place at that  
11 time. And that Plan would also need to go  
12 through BOEM review and approval.

13 All facilities would be removed to a  
14 depth of up to 15 feet below the mudline, unless  
15 otherwise authorized by BOEM. And BOEM's  
16 implementing Regulations at 30 CFR 585, provides  
17 specific financial security requirements for  
18 offshore wind projects, and requires Lessees to  
19 provide a surety bond or some other form of  
20 financial assurance.

21 BOEM also requires Leaseholders to  
22 prepare Conceptual Decommissioning Plans when  
23 their project is first proposed, and requires  
24 more detailed plans or evaluation at the time

1 that the decommissioning is requested.

2 So, BOEM has been in ongoing  
3 consultation with federally-recognized  
4 Tribal Nations throughout development of the  
5 Draft EIS.

6 And this slide presents a summary of  
7 some, but not all, of the  
8 Government-to-Government consultation and  
9 coordination efforts that have taken place since  
10 we issued the NOI.

11 BOEM is also using NEPA substitution  
12 to fulfill its Section 106 obligations under the  
13 National Historic Preservation Act. And there  
14 are currently 48 Consulting Parties on the Rev  
15 Wind Project.

16 And those include Tribal Nations,  
17 State and Local Governments, other Federal  
18 Agencies, as well as non-governmental  
19 organizations.

20 And BOEM has conducted three  
21 Consulting Party Meetings to-date for the  
22 project. And we expect that there will be  
23 additional Section 106 consultation meetings  
24 throughout 2022 and 2023, as well.

1           To highlight some notable sections of  
2           the Draft EIS, Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the main  
3           body contain the Purpose and Need, Alternatives,  
4           including those eliminated from detailed  
5           analysis and why, and an assessment of  
6           environmental consequences for each Alternative.

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

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

21          Appendix J contains the Section 106  
22          Finding of Adverse Effect and the Draft  
23          Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement. And  
24          Appendix K provides additional background on

1 Alternatives' development and BOEM's Alternative  
2 screening criteria that were used while drafting  
3 the EIS.

4 So, the Draft EIS analyzes the  
5 proposed action, which is the project as we  
6 summarized earlier, as Alternative B, as well as  
7 four other action Alternatives.

8 It also evaluates a no action  
9 Alternative, which would be the disapproval of  
10 the Construction and Operations Plan, as it was  
11 submitted. And in the next few slides, I'll do  
12 a brief overview of the four other action  
13 Alternatives.

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

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



1 Draft EIS.

2 Alternative C1, the Option C1 you see  
3 here, minimizes bottom disturbance in large  
4 areas of contiguous complex benthic habitat as  
5 identified in those priority areas.

6 And C2, it shifts exclusion of three  
7 of those turbines positions further north within  
8 the priority areas. And the intent is to reduce  
9 development in or adjacent to known Atlantic cod  
10 spawning habitat.

11 Alternative D aims to reduce space-use  
12 conflicts with commercial and fishing vessels  
13 within the outer perimeters of the project. As  
14 you could see here, there are seven different  
15 possible combinations that could be selected  
16 under this Alternative.

17 Those are D1, D2, and D3, that you see  
18 in the blue boxes illuminated there. And the  
19 selection of all three of those sub-options  
20 under this Alternative would eliminate  
21 22 turbine positions.

22 Elimination of D1 and D2 would  
23 eliminate 15 turbine positions. And most of  
24 those 15 positions were also included within

1 those habitat priority areas that were used for  
2 developing Alternative C, which we discussed in  
3 the previous slide.

4 Alternative E, it eliminates certain  
5 turbine positions for consideration to reduce  
6 visual impacts to culturally important  
7 resources, on Martha's Vineyard, as well as  
8 along Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

9 And when viewed from these areas,  
10 Option E1 aims to reduce the visual clutter and  
11 the overall curtain effect from the overlapping  
12 of turbine towers and blades.

13 And Option E2, it shifts elimination  
14 of some of those positions to the  
15 north/northwest side of the project area. And  
16 that is aiming at reducing the amount of  
17 turbines that would occupy the sunset viewshed  
18 from Aquinnah Cliffs Overlook, as well as other  
19 important areas upon Martha's Vineyard.

20 And under Alternative F, BOEM could  
21 select the implementation of a higher capacity  
22 turbine than what was proposed in the  
23 Construction and Operations Plan.

24 And using a higher capacity turbine

1           could potentially reduce the number of  
2           foundations that the project would need to meet  
3           the purpose and need, with the goal of  
4           potentially further reducing the impacts, when  
5           you would combine Alternative F with any of  
6           those other Alternatives.

7                         The analysis for Alternative F is  
8           primarily qualitative in its comparison of if  
9           you would apply that Alternative to one of the  
10          other action Alternatives. And it does not  
11          propose a specific layout.

12                        So, an analysis of each Alternative by  
13          the following resource categories here is found  
14          in Chapter 3. And consistent with  
15          Section 1502.15 of the Council on Environmental  
16          Quality NEPA-implementing Regulations, the  
17          Impact-Producing Factors that are either not  
18          applicable to the resource areas, or were  
19          determined to have minor-or-less impacts, were  
20          excluded from the main body of the analysis and  
21          were retained in Appendix E of the document.

22                        And as you could see from the example  
23          provided here on this slide, the EIS uses a  
24          four-level classification scheme and the

1 following duration and incremental impact terms  
2 to characterize impacts. And those impact  
3 classifications are defined for both adverse and  
4 beneficial effects, when applicable.

5 So, the following resource categories  
6 were concluded to have minor-or-less impacts  
7 from the proposed action and were retained in  
8 Appendix E.

9 This is intended, again, to focus the  
10 analysis in Chapter 3 on those resource areas  
11 that are most likely to be affected by the  
12 project.

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

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

23 And each resource analysis in  
24 Chapter 3 also includes potential mitigation

1 measures that could be applied to reduce these  
2 effects.

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

10 Visual resources, however, could  
11 reduce down to moderate impacts in the no action  
12 Alternative. And again, the Draft EIS includes  
13 a discussion of mitigation measures that could  
14 potentially be applied to reduce these impacts.

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

21 And for Benthic Habitats, Birds,  
22 Finfish, Recreational Fishing, Marine Mammals,  
23 and Sea Turtles, those resources could  
24 experience potential beneficial effects through

1 artificial reef effects from the project.

2 Economics, employment, and coastal  
3 infrastructure could also benefit through job  
4 creation and through supporting designated uses  
5 at ports. And the estimated capacity range for  
6 the project is 704 to 880 megawatts, which could  
7 power more than 300,000 homes per year.

8 Each Alternative has been analyzed  
9 both alone, and when combined with other  
10 reasonably foreseeable planned actions, with the  
11 cumulative activities.

12 And Chapter 2 provides a summary  
13 comparison of the Alternatives in table format.  
14 On the slide here is a sample from Visual  
15 Resources.

16 And a more detailed narrative  
17 comparison for each of the Alternatives is  
18 provided in the Conclusion Section for each of  
19 those resources in Chapter 3.

20 So, overall, Alternative C would  
21 reduce the overall extent of impacts to complex  
22 benthic habitats when compared to the Proposed  
23 Action, in particular around Cox Ledge and in  
24 areas of known or higher likelihood to have

1 Atlantic cod spawning.

2 Alternative D reduces navigation risks  
3 and space-use conflicts with fishing and  
4 commercial vessels by removing the outermost  
5 turbines adjacent to the Buzzard's Bay Traffic  
6 Separation Scheme Inbound Lane and the areas in  
7 and around Cox Ledge.

8 Alternative E reduces impacts to  
9 culturally important resources on and near  
10 Martha's Vineyard and likely additional National  
11 Historic Landmarks in Rhode Island and  
12 Massachusetts.

13 And Alternative F could possibly  
14 further reduce impacts if combined with any of  
15 the other action Alternatives, or the proposed  
16 action.

17 However, the combination of  
18 Alternative F was not found in the document to  
19 reduce impacts to a level that would change the  
20 overall impact determination for any human  
21 resource.

22 As far as next steps, comments  
23 received today and during the comment period  
24 will be assessed and considered by BOEM and the

1 Cooperating Agencies during preparation of the  
2 Final EIS.

3 We will make necessary changes to the  
4 document in response to the comments and new  
5 information. And responses to all comments  
6 received will also be provided in the Final EIS.  
7 And the Final EIS will also identify a preferred  
8 Alternative.

9 And again, the 45-day comment period  
10 on Draft EIS again ends October 17th. And the  
11 next steps in the EIS schedule would be to issue  
12 a Final Environmental Impact Statement, which is  
13 currently targeted for June of 2023, followed by  
14 the issuance of a Record of Decision, which is  
15 targeted for July of 2023.

16 So, you can provide comments on the  
17 Draft EIS by using [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), or providing  
18 verbal or written comments during any of the  
19 Public Hearings, or by mailing written comments  
20 to the Office of Renewable Energy Programs at  
21 the address provided here on the slide. And  
22 again, comments must be postmarked no later than  
23 October 17th, 2022.

24 If you prefer to submit your comments



1 electronically, we ask you to visit  
2 regulations.gov at HTTP://regulations.gov and  
3 search for Docket Number BOEM-2022-0045. And  
4 click on the Comment button on that screen.

5 And I think we also may have a laptop  
6 available here, as well, if you want to access  
7 regulations.gov while at the meeting here.  
8 Anyone of us in the room here could help you do  
9 that, as well.

10 And as a reminder, BOEM does not  
11 receive or consider anonymous comments. So, if  
12 you do comment, please include your name and  
13 your address as part of your comment submittal.  
14 And all comments are made available and part of  
15 the public record, and are publicly posted  
16 without change.

17 And finally, to be most helpful, the  
18 comments should be as specific as possible. So,  
19 for example, a useful substantive comment would  
20 discuss the accuracy of the information, or  
21 suggest alternate methodologies and the reasons  
22 why they should be used; or provide new  
23 information relevant to the analysis.

24 Identify a different source of

1 credible research, which, if used in the  
2 analysis, could result in different effects; or  
3 provide some clarification where needed; or  
4 provides input on the Alternative or preferred  
5 Alternative, if you want to weigh-in on that, as  
6 well.

7 So that's the end of the presentation  
8 for BOEM. A couple other things that we  
9 mentioned the links to the Revolution Wind  
10 Project page, which, again, is available here.

11 You can go get more information.  
12 Let's see if we can click on it. I'll attempt  
13 here.

14 Yeah, so if you go to the Revolution  
15 Wind Project page, you'll see a number of links  
16 to get more information about the project.  
17 We've talked about the virtual meeting room.

18 So if you're under that tab, you could  
19 find a link to that here. And that provides you  
20 with information on how to comment, the Public  
21 Hearings schedule, all of the posters and  
22 everything you see here today.

23 That's also available on that virtual  
24 meeting room page. You can access the Draft EIS

1 and Construction and Operations Plan, virtual  
2 simulations for the project, and numerous other  
3 things to inform you about the project, as well.

4 Also available on BOEM's website, if  
5 you want to receive future information from BOEM  
6 related to this project, or other projects  
7 offshore, you could sign up for the BOEM mailing  
8 list.

9 There's a link to that if you go over  
10 here in the top-right corner of BOEM's website.  
11 There's a little letter, just like a little  
12 email here.

13 You can click on that. And if you're  
14 interested, you could also sign up to receive  
15 future information from us, as well.

16 Now, I got to see if I can get out of  
17 here. All right. So, that concludes my  
18 presentation. Thank you for your time.

19 The Corps' going to give a  
20 presentation now. Tammy's here, so I'll hand it  
21 over to her.

22 (Applause)

23 CHIEF TURLEY: Thank you, Trevis.

24 Good evening. I am Tammy Turley, the Regulatory

1 Division Chief for the New England District  
2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

3 And thank you for attending today and  
4 participating in this process. Your input is  
5 important to a thorough environmental review.  
6 So we appreciate you being here and hope to hear  
7 a lot of great comments.

8 The mission of the Corps of Engineers'  
9 Regulatory Program is to protect aquatic  
10 resources and navigable capacity, while allowing  
11 economic development through fair and balanced  
12 decisions.

13 The National Environmental Policy Act  
14 is required for proposals requesting Federal  
15 authorization from the Army Corps of Engineers.  
16 For this proposal, as you've heard, BOEM is the  
17 lead Federal Agency for the NEPA review.

18 The Corps is the Cooperating Agency  
19 for the NEPA review. And we intend to utilize  
20 this Environmental Impact Statement and adopt it  
21 as the Corps of Engineers' NEPA review, as well.

22 On the next slide, I'll introduce the  
23 Corps of Engineers regulatory authorities that  
24 are applicable for this project. The

1 Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Program is  
2 primarily administered under two authorities:  
3 Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act; and  
4 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

5 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act  
6 regulates the discharge of dredged or fill  
7 material into waters of the U.S. And Section 10  
8 of the Rivers and Harbors Act authorizes  
9 activities and structures in navigable waters,  
10 and on the Outer Continental Shelf. And on the  
11 next few slides, I'll speak more specifically to  
12 the impacts proposed under each of these  
13 authorities.

14 So I've mentioned Section 10 of the  
15 Rivers and Harbors Act. And again, we regulate  
16 the structures and other work in navigable  
17 waters.

18 For this project, the shoreward limit  
19 of navigable waters is the mean high waterline  
20 of Narragansett Bay. And the seaward limit is  
21 3 nautical miles measured from the baseline of  
22 the territorial seas.

23 And the proposed work regulated within  
24 navigable waters are outlined in red on the

1 figure. And they include the two export cables,  
2 the dredging and fill for installation of the  
3 cables, the horizontal directional drill work  
4 and exit pits, and any hard armoring for cable  
5 protection.

6 Section 10 also regulates work on the  
7 Outer Continental Shelf -- or excuse me,  
8 structures on the Outer Continental Shelf. For  
9 this project, regulated structures associated  
10 with the proposed project are outlined in red on  
11 the figure.

12 And these structures include the  
13 turbines, offshore substations, associated  
14 cables, and any required hard armoring for that  
15 cable protection.

16 Under Section 404 of the Clean Water  
17 Act, the Corps of Engineers regulates the  
18 discharge of dredged or fill material into  
19 Waters of the U.S.

20 For this project, the shoreward limit  
21 of Waters of the U.S. is the high tide line of  
22 Narragansett Bay. And the seaward limit of  
23 Waters of the U.S. extends 3 nautical miles as  
24 measured from the baseline of the territorial

1 seas.

2 And the Applicant has not proposed  
3 impacts to non-tidal waters. And those would  
4 include wetlands, mudflats, eelgrass, or any  
5 other special aquatic site. So impacts  
6 associated with this project are all tidal.

7 So, the proposed activities that are  
8 subject to the Clean Water Act, Section 404,  
9 authority are outlined in red on this figure.  
10 And those proposed discharges are related to the  
11 cable installation, and include the backfilling  
12 of the trench cable laying, the redeposition of  
13 any dredged material within the two horizontal  
14 directional drill exit pits. And the discharges  
15 also include the placement of any hard armor as  
16 needed for cable protection during installation.

17 The Corps of Engineers published a  
18 Public Notice on September 2nd with a 45-day  
19 comment period. The Public Notice and Plans can  
20 be accessed on the following link on the slide.  
21 And then, you would look under Regulatory  
22 Permitting and Public Notices.

23 And I'll now speak more specifically  
24 to those proposed impacts we talked about. So

1 the proposed temporary impacts associated with  
2 the project are primarily related to  
3 installation of the windfarm components.

4 And then, the permanent impacts are  
5 related to the structures, themselves, and any  
6 hard armoring placed over the cables for their  
7 protection.

8 The figure on the left depicts the  
9 wind turbines. And the cable on the right -- or  
10 the figure on the right depicts the two offshore  
11 substations.

12 I mentioned our Public Notice. So our  
13 Public Notice initiates the public interest  
14 review. And that includes the Evaluation of the  
15 probable impacts of the proposed activity on the  
16 public interest.

17 The benefits that may reasonably  
18 accrue from the proposal must be balanced  
19 against the reasonably foreseeable detriments.  
20 The decision will reflect national concern for  
21 both the protection and utilization of important  
22 resources.

23 And the Corps can only issue a Permit  
24 if the proposal is found to not be contrary to



1 the public interest. And the public interest  
2 review factors are listed here on this slide for  
3 your information.

4 The 404(b) (1) Guidelines are specific  
5 to those activities that fall within the  
6 Section 404 jurisdiction, as I mentioned before.  
7 And specific to this project, the export cable  
8 route is within the 404 jurisdiction in  
9 Narragansett Bay, as shown on this figure.

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 when  
20 considering cost, technology, and logistics.  
21 And the Corps must identify the Least  
22 Environmentally Damaging Practicable  
23 Alternative, and can only permit that  
24 Alternative.

1           And lastly, when making a Permit  
2           decision, the Corps must ensure compliance with  
3           other Federal Laws, including, but not limited  
4           to, Section 106 of the National Historic  
5           Preservation Act, Section 7 of the Endangered  
6           Species Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries  
7           Management Act. And BOEM is also serving in the  
8           Lead Agency role on those Statutes, as well.

9           The Corps must also ensure that  
10          appropriate Tribal consultation has occurred and  
11          that we meet our Tribal trust responsibilities.  
12          And in addition, on the State level, the  
13          401 Water Quality Certification and a Coastal  
14          Zone Management Consistency Determination are  
15          required prior to the issuance of a Corps  
16          Permit. And that includes the Corps overview.  
17          Thank you.

18          (Applause)

19                 MS. PERRY: All right. Thank you.  
20          Thank you, again, to our Presenters. You all  
21          hearing me okay on this other mic? Is that --  
22          okay.

23                 Thank you again to our Presenters.  
24          And hopefully that gives you all a little better

1 sense of the project and the purpose of today's  
2 meeting, which is to hear comments on the Draft  
3 Environmental Impact Statement.

4 So we're now going to transition into  
5 that listening session portion of the meeting.  
6 And so, your Agency folks are here to listen.  
7 And we're going to hear from any of you who'd  
8 like to share comments.

9 I'll just give you a few reminder  
10 before we move into that. As Trevis mentioned,  
11 in addition to sharing a comment verbally today,  
12 you have a couple of other options.

13 We have Comment Cards in the back, if  
14 you'd prefer to write something down. We have a  
15 laptop over here, where you can submit a comment  
16 on the website.

17 You can also, of course, do that on  
18 your own time on the web. Or send in a hardcopy  
19 to the address here on the screen. And that's  
20 all due by October 17th.

21 For our comments today, we're going to  
22 take them -- we had some folks register in  
23 advance. And then, some of you signed up as you  
24 came in the door.

1           So we're going to go through those  
2 people who have already indicated they'd like to  
3 share a comment. And then, once we've heard  
4 from all of those, we will open it up for anyone  
5 else who has a comment they'd like to share.

6           And just to ensure that we have a time  
7 to hear from everyone, we will be holding  
8 comments to five minutes. And you'll see a  
9 five-minute timer up here on the screen to help  
10 keep track.

11           And then, my Colleague, Sue, will come  
12 around with a microphone to -- for you to speak  
13 into. And we do ask that you please state your  
14 name and spell it, when you make your comment,  
15 because our Court Reporter is listening  
16 carefully and documenting all this for the  
17 record.

18           So we want to make sure that we have  
19 your name accurately recorded. That's also the  
20 purpose of the microphone, so that are all, and,  
21 for the record, can hear you comments clearly.

22           So, with that, I'm going to turn to  
23 our list of preregistered commenters. And I  
24 think first up is -- well, I'll give you the

1 first few, so you have a sense of where you're  
2 coming in the list.

3 So, the folks we have preregistered  
4 are Laura Hastings, Jed Thorp, Amanda Barker,  
5 Priscilla De La Cruz, Fred Mattera, Rob Groves,  
6 Susannah Hatch, Scott Yerman, David Monti, and  
7 Gordon Videll.

8 Okay? So we will go in that order and  
9 then we will open it up to anyone else who'd  
10 like to share a comment. So, Laura Hastings?

11 MS. HASTINGS: Hi, I am Laura  
12 Hastings, L-A-U-R-A, H-A-S-T-I-N-G-S. I am  
13 Workforce Development and HSE Director with the  
14 Business Network for Offshore Wind.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to speak  
16 on behalf of this project today. The Business  
17 Network is the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit  
18 organization focused on the development of the  
19 U.S. offshore wind industry and supply chain.

20 Since 2013, the network has brought  
21 together business and Government, both  
22 domestically and internationally, to educate and  
23 to prepare companies and small businesses to  
24 enter the offshore wind market.

1           The network uses the voice of its  
2 Members to educate and support Federal, State,  
3 and Local Policies to advance the development of  
4 the offshore wind industry.

5           The Network is a proud partners of  
6 BOEM and looks forward to continuing this  
7 positive partnership as the U.S. offshore wind  
8 industry advances.

9           Responsibility developed U.S. offshore  
10 wind projects, including off the coast of  
11 Connecticut and Rhode Island, present a truly  
12 once in a generation opportunity for Americans.

13           BOEM advancing the EIS process for the  
14 Revolution Wind Project is another demonstration  
15 of the Biden Administration's clear interest in  
16 advancing the U.S. offshore wind industry.

17           The Network supports BOEM's deliberate  
18 consideration and commitment to environmental  
19 protection. The Network also encourages BOEM to  
20 continue moving the Revolution Wind Project  
21 forward through the Federal permitting process,  
22 so that it can commence operations soon and  
23 avoid delays.

24           By meeting existing crucial timelines,

1 BOEM will foster greater certainty in the  
2 U.S. offshore wind market. This certainty  
3 drives investment decisions that benefit  
4 Connecticut and Rhode Island residents and  
5 businesses.

6 Advancement of this project is another  
7 clear public interest of the United States and  
8 the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island.  
9 Presidential Executive Order 14008 issued on  
10 January 27th, 2021, states that it is the Policy  
11 of the United States to combat the climate  
12 crisis, reduce climate pollution in every sector  
13 of the economy, and spur well-paying jobs and  
14 economic growth, especially through the  
15 development of clean-energy technologies and  
16 infrastructure.

17 Furthermore, the Executive Order  
18 specifically calls on the Secretary of the  
19 Interior to review permitting processes in  
20 offshore waters to increase renewable energy  
21 production in those waters, with the goal of  
22 increasing offshore wind power in the United  
23 States to 30 gigawatts, and to create good jobs.

24 This project is designed to contribute

1 to Connecticut's mandate of 2,000 megawatts of  
2 offshore wind energy by 2030, and Rhode Island's  
3 100-percent renewable energy goal by 2030.

4 The proposed Revolution Wind Project  
5 is already directly contributing to the  
6 formation of the U.S. supply chain and major  
7 investments are dependent on its advancement.

8 With \$40 million invested in Rhode  
9 Island ports and \$77.5 million invested in  
10 Connecticut ports, the port investment, alone,  
11 will have substantial impacts on redevelopment  
12 efforts in both States.

13 To bolster their commitment to the  
14 Project, [indiscernible] has created a long-term  
15 operations and maintenance hub for this project  
16 and others at the port at Davisville.

17 In addition, this project is  
18 supporting the first ever U.S. HeliService  
19 Contract for offshore wind. The port of  
20 Davisville will support Crew transfer and  
21 hosting for the South Port Wind, Revolution  
22 Wind, and Sunrise Wind Offshore Windfarms.

23 Revolution Wind has selected two  
24 Regional Vessel Operators that will partner with



1 Rhode Island shipyards to build Crew transfer  
2 vessels serving the offshore wind company's  
3 northeast Windfarms.

4 Three of those vessels will be built  
5 at Wind Surf Marine's affiliate shipyards. And  
6 that's Skill Marine at Quonset Point. And those  
7 vessels will be built at Blount Boats and  
8 Shipyard in Warren.

9 [Indiscernible] has also signed a  
10 Hosting Agreement with New London, Connecticut  
11 to provide the City with \$5.25 million. And  
12 that, combined with other payments, will allow  
13 for State here to support at least two other  
14 Windfarms in the region, which collectively will  
15 provide enough clean energy to power more than  
16 900,000 homes in the northeast.

17 However, the United States is not in a  
18 vacuum. And offshore winds is experiencing  
19 exponential growth globally.

20 To help States and the nation achieve  
21 our collective goals, the development of a  
22 robust domestic supply chain is absolutely  
23 necessary.

24 Further development off the Rhode

1           Island/Connecticut post and further engagement  
2           across the nation will help build up supply  
3           chain and benefit each State's residents in the  
4           process.

5                         We, at the Business Network for  
6           Offshore Wind, thank BOEM. And we look forward  
7           to continuing to partnership with them to  
8           support the robust growth and responsible  
9           development of the U.S. offshore wind industry.  
10          Thank you.

11                        MS. PERRY: Thank you. Okay. Next  
12          up, we have Jed Thorp.

13                        MR. THORP: Hi, Jed Thorp. That's  
14          J-E-D, T-H-O-R-P. I'm the Rhode Island State  
15          Director for Clean Water Action.

16                        We are an environmental advocacy  
17          organization. And we've worked on a variety of  
18          energy issues, climate change, water issues here  
19          in Rhode Island over the past 40 years.

20                        First, I want to say thank you to the  
21          Bureau for all of your hard work in putting  
22          together the EIS. It's clear that, honestly, a  
23          lot of work that went into this, so kudos to the  
24          Bureau for all your hard work.

1           I have not -- a confession -- I have  
2 not read the EIS in its entirety. I did skim  
3 it. It looks pretty good. I'll give it a more  
4 thorough review and will submit more detailed  
5 comments on the substance of the EIS at a later  
6 date.

7           I'm going to make some general  
8 comments in support of the project which may or  
9 may not actually fall under your purview. But,  
10 I'm going to say them anyway.

11           So, as others have noted, climate  
12 change is the biggest environmental issue of our  
13 time. It may be the biggest issue of our time.

14           Here, in Rhode Island, we have -- are  
15 already feeling the impacts of climate change  
16 through sea-level rise, more intense rainfall,  
17 more intense storm events.

18           Climate change is here. It's  
19 happening. And those impacts are only going to  
20 get worse as time goes on.

21           We set some ambitious goals here in  
22 the Ocean State. We adopted the Act on Climate  
23 last year, which puts us on a path to --  
24 eventually to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions

1 by the year, 2050. And earlier this year, we  
2 set a goal that's now law to get 100 percent of  
3 our energy from renewables by the year, 2033.

4 We cannot meet those goals without  
5 projects like this coming online. So this  
6 project and others that you'll be reviewing at  
7 some pointed later are extremely important and  
8 essential, if we're going to meet our climate  
9 change goals here in Rhode Island.

10 I've worked on every energy issue you  
11 can think of: coal, fracking, nuclear, wind,  
12 and solar. There is not a perfect energy source  
13 out there. There is not a 100-percent  
14 environmentally benign energy source.

15 But, I really feel that offshore wind  
16 is really our best bang for our buck, in terms  
17 of meeting our energy needs, but also taking  
18 care of our environment and making our  
19 climate-change goals, as well. So, we strongly  
20 support offshore wind, including this project.

21 The Project Developers, Ørsted, they  
22 are not new to Rhode Island. They've been  
23 operating the Block Island Windfarm for just  
24 about five years now. They've been here for

1 probably 10 years-or-more.

2 They put down roots here in the Ocean  
3 State. And I think Ørsted can be trusted to go  
4 about this project the right way.

5 I think they've learned a lot from the  
6 Block Island Project. That project went pretty  
7 well, a couple of hiccups. And I think that  
8 they've learned from whether mistakes that they  
9 made and will certainly get it right this time.

10 The last thing that I'll say is that  
11 this project -- I'm just going to say a couple  
12 words on behalf of my friends in Organized Labor  
13 -- this project is also good for the economy.

14 The jobs created by this project are  
15 real jobs for real people with real paychecks.  
16 So this project is good for the economy, as  
17 well.

18 Some of those construction jobs, those  
19 are short-term projects. But if you work in  
20 construction trades, you know that the  
21 construction business is all about short-term  
22 projects. You build one thing. You move onto  
23 the next, then you build something else.

24 So these are real jobs for those

1 people. And so, we support the project for  
2 those reasons, as well. And with that, I thank  
3 you for your time.

4 MS. PERRY: Thank you. All right.  
5 Amanda Barker?

6 MS. BARKER: Hi, my name is  
7 Amanda Barker. That's A-M-A-N-D-A, B-A-R-K-E-R.  
8 I live in Cranston, Rhode Island. And I'm a  
9 Policy Associate with Green Energy Consumers  
10 Alliance.

11 We are a nonprofit working on  
12 decarbonizing our electricity, transportation,  
13 and building sectors. And our organization  
14 wants to emphasize that offshore wind is the  
15 biggest lever that we can pull to reduce our  
16 greenhouse gas emissions, address the climate  
17 crisis, and meet our energy needs.

18 Revolution Wind, alone, will produce  
19 enough clean energy to power more than  
20 350,000 homes and displace more than 1 million  
21 metric tons of carbon pollution.

22 This is especially critical to Rhode  
23 Island, as greenhouse gas emission deductions  
24 are mandated under the Act on Climate. The

1 State is also mandated to transition to  
2 100-percent renewable energy by 2033. And the  
3 400 megawatts that Rhode Island could procure  
4 from Revolution Wind is crucial in achieving  
5 these mandates.

6 We want to emphasize that the no  
7 action Alternative should not be considered.  
8 Without the expansion of offshore wind,  
9 fossil-fuel energy facilities will either come  
10 online or be kept online to meet our future  
11 energy demands. This would threaten their  
12 reliability and increase pollution, energy  
13 costs, and the climate crisis.

14 I want to be clear, though, that our  
15 organization is not advocating for you to rush  
16 this. We want a thorough review to limit  
17 environmental impacts, ensure local economic  
18 benefits, and social equity.

19 But we urge you to expedite the  
20 process as much as responsible development will  
21 allow. The greenhouse gas emissions' reductions  
22 from this project are far too great to not  
23 proceed swiftly. Thank you for the opportunity  
24 to comment.

1                   MS. PERRY: Thank you. Okay. Do we  
2                   have Priscilla De La Cruz with us? Okay. She  
3                   may have preregistered, but not been able to  
4                   attend. How about Fred Mattera? Okay. Rob  
5                   Groves?

6                   MR. GROVES: Here. My name is  
7                   Robert Groves, R-O-B-E-R-T, G-R-O-V-E-S. I'd  
8                   like to thank BOEM for this opportunity to speak  
9                   in support of Revolution Wind's Draft  
10                  Environmental Impact Statement.

11                  I have been a Professional Mariner for  
12                  25 years. Fourteen of those years has been in  
13                  tugboats here along the east coast.

14                  I have fished commercially in  
15                  small-scale fishing. And I worked in the  
16                  offshore supply industry down in the Gulf of  
17                  Mexico, down in [indiscernible]. So I have been  
18                  around a little bit and seen a few things.

19                  I strongly believe in a need to  
20                  accelerate and advance renewable energy and  
21                  offshore wind. I have solar panels on my roof,  
22                  so I practice what I preach.

23                  But in particular, I strongly support  
24                  the development and construction of Ørsted's  
                  Revolution Wind Project. The ocean environment



1 is being affected by climate warming today. And  
2 I want to thank BOEM for doing the rigorous work  
3 of evaluating this offshore wind project.

4 I grew up in Florida and it breaks my  
5 heart to see the pictures coming out of Fort  
6 Meyers. And it's only speeding up.

7 We need to get offshore windmills  
8 spinning and creating massive amounts of clean  
9 energy as soon as possible. And I certainly  
10 appreciate the work that it's providing me and  
11 other Mariners, and my fishing cohorts.

12 I've recently captained Sea Service  
13 vessels on the fishing vessel, New Horizon. I  
14 did 60 days out there, about 60 miles south of  
15 Nantucket.

16 So I appreciate the safety and the  
17 professionalism that I see already. Fishermen  
18 are familiar with these waters and know how to  
19 communicate with other Fishermen.

20 So our results are better than those  
21 conventional vessels, I think, in communicating  
22 with the Fishermen that we're interacting with  
23 out there.

24 It is clear to me that Ørsted and

1 other offshore wind companies have worked with  
2 real interest in reducing conflict. Scouting is  
3 just one example.

4 Also, anyone who has fished has horror  
5 stories about one life-threatening situation  
6 after another. Health and safety are always a  
7 concern for guys on the water.

8 And Offshore Wind Developers who are  
9 using Sea Services are applying and funding very  
10 high standards to boats and Crews for upgrades  
11 and training. This is a big deal.

12 I know a lot of guys just can't make a  
13 living fishing fulltime anymore. I saw a lot of  
14 them coming out of New Bedford and Point Judith,  
15 having to come work on tugboats because the  
16 fishing just wasn't there. So, it's outstanding  
17 that the Fishermen are being included in this  
18 work.

19 Revolution Wind is critical for jobs,  
20 for safety, and for our environment. Please  
21 keep this Proposal moving rapidly forward  
22 through its process. Thank you very much.

23 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

24 Susannah Hatch?

1 MS. HATCH: Hello, everyone. Thank  
2 you for holding this meeting. Really appreciate  
3 it being in-person after several years of having  
4 these virtually. It's really nice to see  
5 people's faces.

6 I'm Susannah Hatch, S-U-S-A-N-N-A-H,  
7 H-A-T-C-H. I'm a Director of Clean Energy  
8 Policy at the Environmental League of  
9 Massachusetts.

10 I'm also the Regional Lead for a  
11 regional coalition called New England for  
12 Offshore Wind, which is a coalition of over  
13 100 organizations: [indiscernible] advocacy  
14 organizations, Labor Unions, businesses, and  
15 academic institutions. And I just saw a  
16 familiar face.

17 We support an expeditious and thorough  
18 environmental review of the Revolution Wind  
19 Project. I want to just highlight a few things  
20 here.

21 I'm going to keep it high-level. We  
22 will be submitting comments in writing, as well.  
23 But just want to highlight, as a number of other  
24 folks have, that this is the best opportunity

1 for renewables that New England has.

2 It's likely -- State analyses and  
3 independent analyses have shown that it's likely  
4 that offshore wind is going to provide nearly  
5 50 percent of the region's electricity by 2050.

6 So it's absolutely critical, as a  
7 source of energy, for the States to not only  
8 keep the lights on, but meet those climate goals  
9 and mandates that all six New England States  
10 have.

11 The economic benefits are also  
12 astounding. Not only would it help minimize  
13 price spikes, which we are currently seeing both  
14 in New England and across the country due to the  
15 conflict in Ukraine. So that is going to be  
16 extremely helpful.

17 But the economic benefits are also  
18 going to be quite impressive, including the  
19 number of jobs that we're going to see on our  
20 shores.

21 I do want to flag the MOU between  
22 Ørsted and North America's Building Trades  
23 Unions. That's a really important MOU and one  
24 will help drive creation of high-quality jobs in

1 the region. And it's also important that we are  
2 driving equitable access to economic  
3 opportunity, as well.

4 We believe in responsible development  
5 of offshore wind and believe that offshore wind  
6 can be developed responsibly for wildlife and  
7 for habitat.

8 We will be studying some of the  
9 Alternatives that were discussed tonight. But  
10 for now, I just want to highlight that we do not  
11 think that the no action Alternative is one that  
12 should be considered, because the result would  
13 be a continued overreliance on methane gas in  
14 our region, which is spiking energy crisis as  
15 well as causing pollution, particularly in our  
16 most vulnerable communities.

17 So, I will stop there. And I'd just  
18 thank BOEM for the hard work that you all have  
19 been doing.

20 We've been struggling to keep up with  
21 all the comment periods, and really appreciate  
22 the work. Thank you.

23 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Scott Yerman?

24 MR. YERMAN: How are you doing? My

1 name is Scott Yerman, S-C-O-T-T, Y-E-R-M-A-N. I  
2 live in Westerly, Rhode Island. I've been  
3 fishing for 40 years, starting with my father  
4 when I was eight years old.

5 I don't particularly enjoy speaking at  
6 public hearing. I am actually glad to be here  
7 tonight to support Ørsted's Revolution Wind  
8 Project.

9 There are three things that I want to  
10 share. The concerns that remain out there are  
11 real about offshore wind. And I share them.

12 But, after really digging into  
13 offshore wind with my father and other  
14 Fishermen, who are now Vessel Partners in the  
15 Sea Services Group, I came away much more  
16 realized than I thought possible.

17 Particularly with the windfarms  
18 remaining open for fishing and the turbines  
19 spaced a mile apart, my biggest concerns were  
20 resolved.

21 If more people did the same work, I'm  
22 pretty sure that they would come to the same  
23 conclusions we had. Offshore wind and  
24 commercial fishing will be fine side-by-side in

1 years to come.

2 Ørsted's Team have been  
3 straightshooters with us from the beginning, few  
4 years back. We were tough on them as Fishermen,  
5 and we like straight talk. And, as it turns  
6 out, so does Ørsted.

7 They do what they say. Can't say --  
8 can't ask for more than that. Ørsted is  
9 providing guys like me with a new way to earn  
10 money. And it has already been good for me and  
11 for my family.

12 I'm looking forward to working on  
13 Revolution Wind, once it's approved and  
14 construction next year. Thank you.

15 MS. PERRY: Thanks. David Monti?

16 MR. MONTI: Thank you. I have to move  
17 that a little closer so I can see. I'm reading  
18 off my sheet of paper here, because I don't want  
19 to go over my five minutes.

20 My name is Dave Monti, M-O-N-T-I. I'm  
21 a Charter Captain and Angler from Rhode Island.  
22 For 10 years, I kept my charter boat right down  
23 the street here in Greenwich Cove. And now my  
24 charter boat's in [Indiscernible], Rhode Island.

1           I'm a Board Member at the American  
2           Saltwater Guides Association, an active Board  
3           Member of Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers,  
4           Vice Chair of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries  
5           Council, and a Member of the Narragansett Bay  
6           Estuary Program Steering Committee, and the  
7           Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association.

8           I thank BOEM, NOAA, the Army Corps,  
9           and all the other National and State Agencies,  
10          and the Revolution Windfarm for proposing and  
11          working on this project. Without it, we would  
12          miss out on badly needed renewable energy.

13          The fish I catch today as a  
14          Charter Captain are vastly different in type and  
15          abundance due to climate-change impacts. The  
16          fishing industry needs renewable energy to help  
17          stem the tide on negative-climate impacts.

18          This was heard loud and clear this  
19          spring at the University of Rhode Island  
20          Graduate School of Oceanography Baird Symposium  
21          on Climate Impacts on Recreational Fishing and  
22          Boating.

23          One after another, Anglers,  
24          Recreational Fishing Industry Leaders, and



1 Area Charter Captains testified how they are  
2 being impacted by climate.

3 And Scientists, including the  
4 Chief Science Officer for NOAA, explained why we  
5 Anglers are experiencing these climate impacts.  
6 We need the Revolution Windfarm to help stem the  
7 tidal climate impacts.

8 The Revolution Windfarm has  
9 acknowledged the importance of private  
10 recreational fishing and has reached out to  
11 Recreational Anglers with Leader interviews,  
12 surveys, in-person meetings, a series of online  
13 [indiscernible] throughout the pandemic, and  
14 research, research specifically for recreational  
15 significant data for stocks like  
16 [indiscernible].

17 Recreational Anglers are supportive of  
18 offshore wind as long as the farms are developed  
19 responsibility with research before, during, and  
20 after construction.

21 Revolution Windfarm is being  
22 responsibility developed with an aggressive  
23 research and monitoring plan in place that  
24 Recreational and Commercial Fishermen helped

1 develop, the kind of research and monitoring  
2 plan that every windfarm should have.

3 Yes, I say there will be positive  
4 impacts as I honestly believe offshore windfarms  
5 will have a major positive impact on habitat and  
6 fish.

7 A peer-reviewed mega analysis of  
8 multiple fish-abundant studies in Europe went on  
9 to relay its greater fish abundance inside  
10 windfarms than outside.

11 And at Block Island, recreational  
12 fishing there is good, too, perhaps a bit better  
13 than before, even though fishing pressure has  
14 increased 200 percent.

15 Fish there now include large striped  
16 bass and bluefish, in addition to scut, black  
17 seabass, lute, and cuttle. Spear Fishermen dive  
18 on the pylons. And Rod-and-Reel Anglers use  
19 eels to target striped bass right next to the  
20 pylons.

21 At the Block Island Windfarm,  
22 gillnets, pots, trawlers, and  
23 Recreational Fishermen all fish in the same  
24 windfarm area.

1           And this year, we had a seven-year  
2           study completed at the Block Island Windfarm.  
3           For all areas of the windfarm, in  
4           [indiscernible] areas, as well as in two control  
5           areas, results show that there is a great fish  
6           abundance of cod and black seabass in the  
7           windfarm. And every other species, it was just  
8           about even.

9           The reef effect of the foundations and  
10          associated scour protection will have major  
11          positive impacts for fishing in the Revolution  
12          Windfarm, just as it had in Block Island.

13          To summarize, I reject the idea that  
14          fishing will be worse in the Revolution Farm.  
15          It will likely be better, as science tells us.

16          I understand the negative impacts  
17          during construction. And Fishermen should be  
18          compensated. But existing science and  
19          experience tells us there will be no long-term  
20          negative impacts, but rather positive impacts.

21          As [indiscernible] by the Revolution  
22          Windfarm Draft Environmental Impact Statement,  
23          impacts will be negligible and often temporary.  
24          I encourage BOEM and all to approve the EIS and

1 Construction Plan and allow this project to be  
2 built to generate the energy we need, while  
3 being sensitive to the environment and helping  
4 us stem the tide on climate impacts.

5 Once again, thank you. And I am  
6 grateful for this opportunity to come here  
7 tonight.

8 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'll second that.

10 MS. PERRY: Gordon Videll's next, yes,  
11 right there.

12 MR. VIDELL: Good everything,  
13 everyone. Probably would have made more sense  
14 if I spoke before some of the guys who work with  
15 us.

16 But my words aren't nearly as  
17 important as the Fishermen who are directly  
18 affected by this. So, I appreciate the  
19 opportunity to speak.

20 Gordon Videll, V-I-D-E-L-L, and I'm  
21 the CEO of Sea Services North America. And  
22 essentially what we are is a consortium of  
23 working Fishermen who -- that range from  
24 Massachusetts to Virginia. And we're expanding

1 rapidly.

2 Our mission to increase commercial  
3 fishing safety and provide Fishermen with the  
4 opportunity to work as scout and safety vessels  
5 to Offshore Developers.

6 And I just have to say none of this  
7 would be possible without Ørsted's absolute  
8 commitment to working with the Fishermen. And  
9 they reached out to a lot of people.

10 And we were lucky enough to continue  
11 those conversations and build a trust. And here  
12 we are.

13 So, now, we have eight boats being  
14 prepared for this project. And Ørsted is solely  
15 responsible for doing that.

16 Now, eight boats may not sound like a  
17 lot. But that's eight boats for this project  
18 times five, six Crewmembers. That's real money  
19 for real families in real communities. So it  
20 couldn't be more important.

21 We want to thank BOEM and the Staff  
22 for the years of effort that has gone into this.  
23 We appreciate it.

24 And I think that everybody who's

1 actually read the Plan understands their level  
2 of commitment to getting this right. And we all  
3 appreciate that.

4 But I also want to say that no plan's  
5 perfect. But what you've done, coupled with  
6 Ørsted's commitment to the fishermen of the  
7 community, is a pretty good start. And we're  
8 very thankful for all of that.

9 The national security and general  
10 welfare require a vast number of energy sources.  
11 And offshore wind is a significant piece of the  
12 solution.

13 Our Fishermen Partners didn't run to  
14 that idea. But they've gotten there. And it's  
15 through education. It's hard work. And it's a  
16 trust-building exercise.

17 And now that they're seeing the  
18 benefits, like I said, we are expanding very  
19 quickly. And they're seeing real benefits.

20 The work they're doing here, it will  
21 be very consistent, as opposed to the problems  
22 they have with fishing. I mean, we have quota  
23 issues. We have Regulation issues. We have  
24 climate change.

1           And we have ongoing problems staffing  
2 a lot of the posts. So we're working with the  
3 Workforce People hopefully on some of this  
4 stuff, as well.

5           But what we've come to -- they've come  
6 to understand is the negative impacts -- and we  
7 can't say there's not going to be any  
8 disruption. We know there is. But the benefits  
9 are to the Fishermen and the communities, far  
10 outweigh the negative -- the very short-term  
11 negatives.

12           There are many factors that we have to  
13 contend with. Like I said, the  
14 Commercial Fishermen, it's not easy work.

15           And oftentimes, it ebb-and-flows, pun  
16 intended. But this works up letting their  
17 fishing -- gives them a career. And that  
18 couldn't be more important for these struggling  
19 fishing communities.

20           As I said, from actively preparing  
21 eight boats for this project, we're currently  
22 working with 15 boats. And we need 45 boats  
23 with the people we're negotiating with now, like  
24 I said, from Virginia to Massachusetts.

1           So there's an opportunity for a lot of  
2 people. And we hope the Fishermen contact us.  
3 We have a lot of outreach going and we're pretty  
4 busy. And there's an opportunity for everybody.

5           And Ørsted is to thank for that.  
6 They're bringing Fishermen to the table. And  
7 that wasn't happening until they engaged us with  
8 a significant Framework Agreement that we've  
9 been building on.

10           And I'll just close with this. We  
11 have to weigh our need for energy against the  
12 small disruption to the environment, Fishermen,  
13 and the effected communities.

14           We've seen firsthand benefit of  
15 working together. And we hope everyone  
16 understands BOEM's hard work so far, and also  
17 understands the commitment that Ørsted's put  
18 forth.

19           I'd love to share more of this story  
20 with everybody. But it's been absolutely  
21 overwhelming. And there is a commitment here  
22 that I don't think anybody would have expected.

23           So we're looking for -- to help. And  
24 we believe that you guys have done a great job.



1 And we hope that this goes forward as quickly as  
2 possible.

3 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Great; that's  
4 all of our preregistered commenters. So, thank  
5 you, all, for those comments.

6 And we're going to open up the floor  
7 now for anyone else who would like to share a  
8 comment. And as you see, the Agency folks  
9 really are just listening during this session.

10 If you have questions and you're  
11 hoping to get an answer tonight, once we  
12 conclude the listening session, assuming we are  
13 not at our 8:30 time when we have to be out of  
14 this space, we will go back to open house. And  
15 you'll have a chance to speak with the Staff  
16 around the room at the posters to hopefully get  
17 some of those questions answered.

18 But, at this time, we will take any  
19 other comments. You can just raise your hand to  
20 let us know if you'd like to share or not.

21 I know we've thrown a lot of  
22 information at you. You've just heard a lot  
23 from other commenters.

24 So I'm going to give you a minute to

1 cogitate. And then, we will take any other  
2 comments.

3 All right. Well, if no other comments  
4 at this time, then I'll turn it back to Jess to  
5 close us out.

6 And then, we will go back to open  
7 house. And I welcome you to stick around and  
8 ask any other questions.

9 CHIEF STROMBERG: Thank you. Really  
10 appreciate everyone's attendance today, and your  
11 participation, as well.

12 It's great to see everyone in-person.  
13 And we appreciate spending this amount of time  
14 with you together.

15 And I just want to thank you for the  
16 comments that have been submitted, and encourage  
17 you to continue to review the information, and  
18 submit comments in the many ways that we have  
19 available.

20 All of the comments that we've  
21 received today, and that we will receive during  
22 the comment period, will be assessed and  
23 consider by BOEM during preparation of the Final  
24 Environmental Impact Statement.

1                   So I hope that this has been a good  
2                   forum for you to share your comments, and on all  
3                   aspects of the projects that might be of concern  
4                   to you, and that you find there our answers to  
5                   your questions will be both useful and  
6                   responsive during the open house.

7                   Your input is really essential to  
8                   ensure that the best-informed decision will be  
9                   made for the proposed project. So I want to  
10                  thank you, again, for participating in today's  
11                  Public Hearing. And we will go back to open  
12                  house session. Thank you.

13                  (Whereupon, the Public Information Meeting  
14                  concluded at 7:42 p.m.)

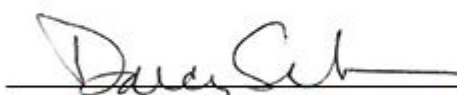
C E R T I F I C A T E

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

I, Darcy Schramn, a Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the foregoing Public Information Meeting was taken under my direction October 5, 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 19th day of October, 2022.



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

