

Public Hearing #1 Meeting Transcript – February 9, 2021

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00:01:16.350 --> 00:01:21.600

Meg Perry, SWCA: Hi, welcome. I see some folks are already joining us. So glad you're with us today.

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00:01:22.920 --> 00:01:26.370

Meg Perry, SWCA: As noted on the slide, we'll be getting started at the top of the hour.

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00:01:28.920 --> 00:01:30.000

Meg Perry, SWCA: and

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00:01:31.110 --> 00:01:40.080

Meg Perry, SWCA: I will put in the chat this link, so you can click to it. There's some background information available on the website, so if you have a few minutes before we get started,

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00:01:40.590 --> 00:01:54.450

Meg Perry, SWCA: that's a good resource to take a look at, and if you do have any technical issues, we have a technical support person, Jen Rideout, available at the number email listed on your screen. So we'll be getting started

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00:01:55.860 --> 00:01:56.580

Meg Perry, SWCA: at one o'clock.

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00:03:43.950 --> 00:03:48.960

Meg Perry, SWCA: Hello, and welcome to those who are just joining us. I will be getting started at the top of the hour.

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00:03:49.860 --> 00:04:06.780

Meg Perry, SWCA: And I just put the link to the background information in the chat, so if you click on the little chat icon in your Zoom, you should have a clickable version of that link if you'd like to take a few minutes to look at the background information that's available online.

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00:08:01.920 --> 00:08:09.690

Meg Perry, SWCA: Hello, and welcome to those who are just joining us. We'll be getting started here in just about five minutes, at the top of the hour.

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00:08:11.430 --> 00:08:20.730

Meg Perry, SWCA: You hopefully, in the chat, can see the link to the homepage for these meetings, which has some background information if you'd like to take a look at that.

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00:08:21.990 --> 00:08:22.830

Meg Perry, SWCA: and

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00:08:26.700 --> 00:08:37.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: We will be getting started here in just a moment. We do have tech support available via the number in an email on your screen, if you are having any issues accessing the Zoom meeting.

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00:12:20.490 --> 00:12:25.080

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright, welcome everyone. We're going to get started here in just a moment.

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00:12:26.460 --> 00:12:31.380

Meg Perry, SWCA: And I believe we do already have the recording in progress.

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00:12:36.300 --> 00:12:39.990

Meg Perry, SWCA: We have a great group logged in.

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00:12:42.480 --> 00:12:54.180

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right, let's go ahead and get started. So welcome everyone to this South Fork Wind Farm and South Fork export cable project draft environmental impact statement public meeting.

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00:12:55.590 --> 00:13:04.830

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for joining us virtually today via Zoom. We have a few folks on the phone, we have a number logged in in the Zoom platform.

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00:13:06.870 --> 00:13:22.590

Meg Perry, SWCA: And this meeting is being recorded, so if you don't want to be recorded, now would be a good time to disconnect. And the recording will be available afterward if you'd like to watch it on your own. So that will be posted on the website following this meeting.

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00:13:25.020 --> 00:13:32.820

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

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00:13:33.360 --> 00:13:44.430

Meg Perry, SWCA: And we'll hear welcome from them in just a moment. The agenda for this meeting starts with opening remarks from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, followed by remarks from the Army Corps of Engineers.

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00:13:45.000 --> 00:14:00.120

Meg Perry, SWCA: And there will then be a short presentation about the draft EIS. We will hear public comments on the draft EIS, and some folks have already registered in advance to share comments. And there will be an opportunity for those who didn't register to comment, as well.

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00:14:01.320 --> 00:14:03.930

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then, once we've heard all the comments, we will

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00:14:06.180 --> 00:14:25.560

Meg Perry, SWCA: turn to question and answer with BOEM, and so anyone can submit a question at any time during the meeting, using the Q and A button in Zoom. And if you're on the phone only, you will, we'll turn to you in that last session, and you can share question that way, as well.

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00:14:27.210 --> 00:14:34.230

Meg Perry, SWCA: So welcome again, my name is Meg Perry with SWCA Environmental Consultants. I'll be facilitating for you today.

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00:14:35.790 --> 00:14:42.180

Meg Perry, SWCA: And with that, I'm going to turn to the responsible official for BOEM, Jim Bennett, to welcome everyone.

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00:14:45.750 --> 00:14:47.370

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Thank you, can you hear me okay?

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00:14:47.880 --> 00:14:48.630

Meg Perry, SWCA: Yes, you sound good.

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00:14:50.130 --> 00:14:59.130

Jim Bennett (BOEM): All right, well good afternoon everyone, and thank you for joining us. My name is Jim Bennett and I'm the program manager for the Office of Renewable Energy Programs

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00:14:59.910 --> 00:15:04.590

Jim Bennett (BOEM): here at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in the Department of the Interior.

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00:15:05.070 --> 00:15:14.430

Jim Bennett (BOEM): I would like to welcome you to the first virtual meeting to discuss the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed South Fork Wind Project.

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00:15:15.150 --> 00:15:22.740

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

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00:15:23.100 --> 00:15:35.880

Jim Bennett (BOEM): But I'm very grateful that technology allows us to be, to use creative alternatives to the in-person meetings. We've had some success with this in the past, and I'm sure that will be the case today.

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00:15:36.630 --> 00:15:47.010

Jim Bennett (BOEM): For those of you who aren't familiar with BOEM, we're the bureau within the Department of the Interior that oversees the development of our energy and mineral resources

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00:15:47.400 --> 00:15:58.590

Jim Bennett (BOEM): on almost 2.5 billion acres of the nation's outer continental shelf, or OCS. We are responsible for the expeditious in order to lead development

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00:15:58.920 --> 00:16:13.350

Jim Bennett (BOEM): of the energy resources of the OCS, which extends from the Three Mile Line, the three-mile limit of jurisdiction of the states out to the extent of the exclusive economic zone about 200 miles.

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00:16:13.830 --> 00:16:20.880

Jim Bennett (BOEM): It is our job to ensure that this development is done in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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00:16:22.200 --> 00:16:29.160

Jim Bennett (BOEM): We consider public input to be a critical component of safe and responsible offshore resource management.

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00:16:30.330 --> 00:16:35.790

Jim Bennett (BOEM): The development of the offshore industry has seen ups and downs over the years.

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00:16:36.570 --> 00:16:44.850

Jim Bennett (BOEM): But the one constant has been our effort to ensure that we have appropriate stakeholder and public input to the decision-making process.

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00:16:45.570 --> 00:16:56.610

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Your participation and feedback today is essential to BOEM's renewable energy program and plays a vital role in our environmental analysis of the proposed project.

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00:16:57.300 --> 00:17:02.220

Jim Bennett (BOEM): I look forward to your questions and comments on the draft environmental impact statement.

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00:17:03.210 --> 00:17:22.140

Jim Bennett (BOEM): I'd also like to note that these virtual public meetings will serve as the public hearings for the Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 and Section 404 permit review. And with that, I'd like to turn it over to Steve Ryba for the opening remarks from the Corps of Engineers.

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00:17:23.250 --> 00:17:23.700

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Steve.

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00:17:25.290 --> 00:17:27.870

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Thank you very much. Can you hear me okay?

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00:17:33.180 --> 00:17:40.950

Stephan Ryba, USACE: All right, good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Stephan Ryba, the chief of the regulatory branch of the New York District's U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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00:17:41.430 --> 00:17:46.500

Stephan Ryba, USACE: I'll be the presiding officer, on behalf of the Corps of Engineers for today's public hearing.

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00:17:47.430 --> 00:18:03.000

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Also present today from the New York District Army Corps of Engineers, Lisa Grudzinski, regulatory project manager, and Carolyn Kelly from our office of counsel. I'd like to thank the folks at BOEM for hosting this joint public hearing.

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00:18:04.050 --> 00:18:11.670

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Corps of engineers is here today to obtain information and evidence and received public comment to assist in the regulatory review

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00:18:12.420 --> 00:18:32.100

Stephan Ryba, USACE: of a Department Of Army permit application by South Fork Wind limited liability corporation. The applicant proposes to construct an offshore wind farm export cable and operations and maintenance facility in the Atlantic Ocean and in Lake Montauk in the town of East Hampton, New York.

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00:18:34.200 --> 00:18:46.290

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

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00:18:46.740 --> 00:18:57.150

Stephan Ryba, USACE: and the distribution to the New York energy grid. The details of the proposed activities will be described in BOEM's upcoming presentation.

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00:18:57.810 --> 00:19:09.060

Stephan Ryba, USACE: A detailed description of the proposed work that requires Department of Army authorization may also be found in the Corps' public notice dated January 6

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00:19:10.110 --> 00:19:11.160

Stephan Ryba, USACE: 2021.

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00:19:12.270 --> 00:19:24.030

Stephan Ryba, USACE: You can also find, you could find that, on the Corps New York District's website as well, it could be found within the background information on BOEM's web page for today's meeting.

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00:19:27.240 --> 00:19:37.320

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Because of the project proposes the installation of structures within navigable waters of the United States and the discharge of dredged to fill material until waters of the U.S.

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00:19:38.160 --> 00:19:48.750

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

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00:19:50.040 --> 00:19:56.070

Stephan Ryba, USACE: The Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent for nor an opponent of the proposed work.

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00:19:57.060 --> 00:20:08.370

Stephan Ryba, USACE: Our role is to determine whether the proposed activity in this case, the construction of wind turbine generators, installation of South Fork export cable,

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00:20:09.150 --> 00:20:24.600

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

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00:20:25.980 --> 00:20:37.860

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

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00:20:39.510 --> 00:20:50.010

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

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00:20:50.940 --> 00:21:05.400

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

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00:21:06.630 --> 00:21:19.650

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

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00:21:20.070 --> 00:21:27.000

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

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00:21:28.380 --> 00:21:33.330

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

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00:21:35.850 --> 00:21:41.550

Meg Perry, SWCA: Hey, thank you for those introductory comments and words of welcome.

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00:21:42.270 --> 00:21:55.470

Meg Perry, SWCA: And welcome again to everyone, we've had a few folks joining us. We've been getting started here, so thanks everyone for joining us, and once again I'm Meg Perry with SWCA Environmental Consultants, and I'll be facilitating the meeting today.

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00:21:56.520 --> 00:21:59.220

Meg Perry, SWCA: So just a couple of reminders as we get started here.

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00:22:01.470 --> 00:22:02.730

Meg Perry, SWCA: We are.

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00:22:05.250 --> 00:22:07.980

Meg Perry, SWCA: In the welcome and logistics portion of today's meeting.

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00:22:09.780 --> 00:22:17.160

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then shortly will be turning to a presentation from BOEM on the project and the DEIS.

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00:22:17.670 --> 00:22:25.380

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then we will turn to the public comment portion of the meeting, followed by an opportunity for questions and answers with BOEM.

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00:22:26.010 --> 00:22:38.190

Meg Perry, SWCA: So Stephan Ryba just noted the Corps of Engineers is hearing and listening capacity. BOEM will be responding to questions, and any of you can submit a question, using the Q and A button in your Zoom

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00:22:39.390 --> 00:22:54.720

Meg Perry, SWCA: screen. So just a couple of Zoom reminders, I imagine, many of us are becoming all too familiar with Zoom at this point, but if you if you need a little refresher you should see a black bar with some buttons either at the bottom or the top of your screen.

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00:22:56.880 --> 00:23:13.620

Meg Perry, SWCA: That includes the Q and A button, where you can submit a question, if you have one, and then you should also see a chat button, where you can see any messages that the that we, as the host send out to everyone.

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00:23:14.790 --> 00:23:19.620

Meg Perry, SWCA: So there's a link there that goes to some background information for this meeting that is available online.

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00:23:21.450 --> 00:23:31.410

Meg Perry, SWCA: You also may notice there's a live transcript for closed captions showing up on your screen. The meeting is being recorded and will be, will be posted

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00:23:32.730 --> 00:23:42.300

Meg Perry, SWCA: on the website, following the end of the meeting, so you have it for reference. If you'd like to turn off those closed captions, you should see a

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00:23:43.080 --> 00:23:54.390

Meg Perry, SWCA: button that says "CC" and I believe you have the option to turn those off. If you're not seeing that button, there may be a little three dots that says more and it might be hiding in there.

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00:23:56.640 --> 00:24:02.640

Meg Perry, SWCA: So that gives you some orientation and then just as a reminder, we do have technical support available

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00:24:04.320 --> 00:24:05.640

Meg Perry, SWCA: from Jen Rideout

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00:24:06.870 --> 00:24:15.090

Meg Perry, SWCA: at the email and phone number on your screen. For those who are on the phone that the number is

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00:24:16.560 --> 00:24:28.320

Meg Perry, SWCA: 360-715-2530. So if you get stuck or you're having issues with Zoom, please feel free to reach out to Jen and she can help you get connected.

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00:24:30.480 --> 00:24:31.380

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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00:24:34.740 --> 00:24:44.310

Meg Perry, SWCA: So at this point I'm going to turn it over to Mary Boatman with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to provide introductory presentation.

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00:24:45.240 --> 00:25:03.360

Meg Perry, SWCA: And so throughout the presentation, if you have questions, feel free to click on that little Q and A button and submit them. We have team from BOEM in the background, who will be working on answers to those questions, which they will provide after the public comments have concluded.

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00:25:04.770 --> 00:25:19.860

Meg Perry, SWCA: So we'll see those coming in and the BOEM team will be answering those in the background. And if you're just on the phone, you'll have the chance to share a question when we get to that question and answer part of the meeting

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00:25:21.480 --> 00:25:25.590

Meg Perry, SWCA: by raising your hand, so we'll make sure you can get your question in, as well.

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00:25:26.790 --> 00:25:28.440

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright, Mary are you ready?

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00:25:30.960 --> 00:25:31.890

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Yes, I'm ready.

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00:25:33.270 --> 00:25:34.320

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right, great.

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00:25:38.430 --> 00:25:48.060

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And I'll say hello, and welcome again to the South Fork Wind Farm and South Fork export cable draft environmental impact statement virtual public meeting.

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00:25:49.050 --> 00:26:00.390

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

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00:26:01.170 --> 00:26:12.660

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

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00:26:13.200 --> 00:26:24.420

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

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00:26:25.800 --> 00:26:34.950

Mary Boatman (BOEM): To the greatest extent possible, we are working to maintain services to the American people and our stakeholders consistent with evolving guidance provided by the CDC,

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00:26:35.340 --> 00:26:46.890

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

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00:26:47.250 --> 00:26:59.790

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

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00:27:03.030 --> 00:27:04.380

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Meg, next. Okay, thank you.

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00:27:05.760 --> 00:27:14.400

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

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00:27:15.090 --> 00:27:25.890

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

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00:27:26.970 --> 00:27:40.290

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The posters seen here relay a brief summary of important topics to our stakeholders. Most importantly, is how to comment. We also have publications that provide more detailed information about topics of interest. Next.

103

00:27:41.850 --> 00:27:54.450

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

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00:27:55.650 --> 00:27:56.220

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next.

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00:27:57.570 --> 00:28:09.990

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, is a law requiring federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action and reasonable alternatives prior to making decisions.

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00:28:10.590 --> 00:28:20.070

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

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00:28:22.530 --> 00:28:23.010

Next.

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00:28:24.600 --> 00:28:37.290

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And why we're here, through the NEPA process and environmental impact statement, or EIS, must be prepared, if the agency is proposing a major federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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00:28:37.860 --> 00:28:51.930

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

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00:28:53.700 --> 00:28:54.240

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next.

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00:28:55.710 --> 00:29:04.500

Mary Boatman (BOEM): So where is South Fork in this renewable energy process for BOEM? BOEM's renewable energy leasing and development process occurs in four phases.

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00:29:05.010 --> 00:29:12.930

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The first three phases include identifying an area for leasing and issuing lease, development of a site assessment plan by that lessee,

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00:29:13.380 --> 00:29:26.010

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

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00:29:26.670 --> 00:29:32.190

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

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00:29:33.150 --> 00:29:51.120

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

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00:29:52.170 --> 00:29:52.800

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

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00:29:55.890 --> 00:30:06.720

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

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00:30:07.680 --> 00:30:17.610

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Construction operations plan was submitted in June of 2018 and has been updated several times. The most recent version is available on the BOEM website.

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00:30:18.510 --> 00:30:24.960

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

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00:30:25.680 --> 00:30:42.450

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The post-project or in NEPA terminology "proposed action" also includes up to 15 wind turbines, an offshore substation, and an export cable that will make landfall at either Beach Lane or Hither Hills, and also includes the O&M facility, mentioned by Steve.

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00:30:43.530 --> 00:30:52.650

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The project has a design envelope with turbines, ranging from six to 12 megawatts, and the foundations of their proposal is monopile style. Next.

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00:30:57.540 --> 00:31:03.990

Mary Boatman (BOEM): A notice of intent for this project to prepare any EIS was published on October 19, 2018.

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00:31:04.740 --> 00:31:17.940

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Three public meetings were held in New Bedford, Narragansett, and East Hampton. The public comments are available on regulations.gov, and the summary report of the public scoping is available on the South Fork project web page.

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00:31:20.790 --> 00:31:21.210

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next.

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00:31:24.540 --> 00:31:34.770

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The notice availability for the DEIS was published on January 8, 2021, in the *Federal Register*. We are holding three virtual public meetings.

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00:31:35.250 --> 00:31:47.640

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

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00:31:48.690 --> 00:31:49.980

Mary Boatman (BOEM): You can see the link here.

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00:31:51.660 --> 00:31:52.260

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next.

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00:31:55.860 --> 00:32:04.260

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

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00:32:04.860 --> 00:32:11.310

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

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00:32:11.790 --> 00:32:24.570

Mary Boatman (BOEM): identifies a different source of credible research, which, if using the analysis, could result in different effects; or provides clarification where needed. So we're looking for very good comments from all of you.

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00:32:25.830 --> 00:32:26.430

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next.

133

00:32:28.680 --> 00:32:37.470

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Just looking at the draft EIS, some of the notable sections, we have the Executive Summary, which provides a high-level summary of the project and its potential impacts.

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00:32:38.310 --> 00:32:55.260

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Chapter One provides an introduction to the project, while Chapter Two discusses the alternatives. Chapter Three provides resource-specific analysis of the potential environmental impacts. Due to required page limits, some resources are discussed in more detail in Appendix H.

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00:32:56.310 --> 00:33:07.620

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Appendix D includes the project design envelope and maximum case scenario, and a detailed description of the cumulative impact analysis and methodology and scenario can be found in Appendix E.

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00:33:11.370 --> 00:33:21.120

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

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00:33:21.840 --> 00:33:32.760

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

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00:33:37.200 --> 00:33:46.380

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

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00:33:46.830 --> 00:33:53.730

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

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00:33:54.360 --> 00:34:05.490

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Structures would not be allowed within the transit lane, and therefore six proposed turbine locations could not be used. The layout still maintains a 1-mile nautical mile grid pattern.

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00:34:06.390 --> 00:34:16.920

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

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00:34:20.130 --> 00:34:28.050

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

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00:34:28.950 --> 00:34:37.590

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The lease area has complex geology. It's not the typical sea floor you imagine with sandy flat, that it's very complex. It has

144

00:34:37.950 --> 00:34:51.330

Mary Boatman (BOEM): rocks and boulders, which are depicted in the black by the black dots, as well as a mix of non-complex habitat that's generally sand, and complex habitat defined as containing greater than 5% gravel, essentially small rocks.

145

00:34:52.110 --> 00:35:00.120

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The non-complex area is shown in the light blue, while the more complex and potentially complex areas are the darker blue shades.

146

00:35:01.230 --> 00:35:05.940

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

147

00:35:07.080 --> 00:35:11.430

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The proposed project layout is depicted to scale on top of this lease area.

148

00:35:12.300 --> 00:35:26.520

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Where the red circles represent the wind turbine and scour protection that would surround the turbines. Now, scour protection is small rocks that the company puts around there to prevent removal of sediment from right around the turbine base.

149

00:35:30.450 --> 00:35:48.660

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, locations in complex habitat where the turbines cannot be moved to reduce impacts to complex habitat would not be occupied by the turbines. The identification of the specific locations for adjustment or removal will be determined through the essential fish habitat assessment process.

150

00:35:49.890 --> 00:35:50.490

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

151

00:35:53.310 --> 00:36:10.080

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

152

00:36:12.450 --> 00:36:12.960

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next slide.

153

00:36:15.570 --> 00:36:25.230

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The draft EIS is also includes a cumulative impact scenario for offshore wind, based on the scenario developed for the Vineyard Wind supplemental EIS.

154

00:36:26.310 --> 00:36:32.550

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The top, as you can see, this triangle, with the top being the maximum amount and at the bottom, just the project.

155

00:36:33.630 --> 00:36:42.210

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

156

00:36:43.110 --> 00:36:51.390

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

157

00:36:51.930 --> 00:37:02.010

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

158

00:37:02.880 --> 00:37:12.660

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

159

00:37:12.900 --> 00:37:26.430

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This potential for additional future development beyond name projects is also accounted for and analyzed in this scenario. And you can read more about the scenario in the Appendix E of the draft EIS. Next slide.

160

00:37:28.320 --> 00:37:33.510

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

161

00:37:34.170 --> 00:37:43.710

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

162

00:37:44.430 --> 00:37:49.290

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

163

00:37:50.040 --> 00:38:04.620

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

164

00:38:05.850 --> 00:38:21.480

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

165

00:38:24.390 --> 00:38:30.480

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now, I'm going to step through these tables, there's summary tables, you can read the full table within Chapter Two.

166

00:38:31.980 --> 00:38:42.600

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This table summarizes the overall direct and indirect, as well as the cumulative impact levels for each resource. This allows, this also allows for comparison across alternatives

167

00:38:43.020 --> 00:38:51.990

Mary Boatman (BOEM): and includes the no action alternative, which serves as a baseline. The color coding in this table indicates the highest impact level of minor, moderate, or major,

168

00:38:52.440 --> 00:39:03.150

Mary Boatman (BOEM): with green being minor, yellow moderate, and orange major. Again, you can find the definition of impact levels within each resource and for overall impacts at the beginning of Chapter Three.

169

00:39:04.080 --> 00:39:10.860

Mary Boatman (BOEM): For resources with an indirect and direct impact level of negligible or minor, the impact analyses have been moved to Appendix H.

170

00:39:11.280 --> 00:39:18.000

Mary Boatman (BOEM): This was done to meet the page limits goals, again outlined in the Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3355.

171

00:39:18.990 --> 00:39:25.470

Mary Boatman (BOEM): To understand the cumulative impact for each resource, BOEM analyzed the effects of the no action alternative, which includes baseline conditions,

172

00:39:25.950 --> 00:39:32.460

Mary Boatman (BOEM): ongoing activities of all types, and future offshore activities, both with offshore wind and other activities.

173

00:39:33.090 --> 00:39:48.480

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And this particular slide, the resource impact levels seen here are for air quality, water quality, bats, benthic resources, fin fish, invertebrates, and EFH. And we'll go through these next few slides, you can see, the different resource areas. Next.

174

00:39:50.700 --> 00:40:06.060

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And this additional side, you can see birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, and other terrestrial coastal habitats. As a reminder, green is negligible, yellow is minor, yellow is moderate. Excuse me, continue on to the next slide.

175

00:40:07.410 --> 00:40:20.820

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And this slide, we have wetlands, commercial fisheries, and for-hire recreational fishing, cultural, and demographics. And again as a reminder, the orange is major, yellow is moderate, green is minor. Next slide.

176

00:40:25.860 --> 00:40:33.390

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And in this slide, we have the resource impact levels for environmental justice, land use, and coastal infrastructure, and navigation and vessel traffic.

177

00:40:33.750 --> 00:40:45.090

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now these slides are overall summaries, the more detailed information can be found in Chapter Two, there's a table comparing the different alternatives. And then, finally, we have our last slide

178

00:40:46.410 --> 00:41:01.770

Mary Boatman (BOEM): on this topic, which includes other uses, which includes research and surveys, military, national security, aviation and air traffic, cable and pipelines, and radar systems, as well as recreation and tourism, and visual resources.

179

00:41:03.600 --> 00:41:08.040

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now the next slide, and again I point you to the draft EIS for more detailed information.

180

00:41:09.060 --> 00:41:18.300

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Now the remaining EIS schedule right now, it's February, of course, we're holding our public meetings, and again, the comment period closes on February 22.

181

00:41:19.920 --> 00:41:32.280

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The schedule we will publish the final EIS, which will include your comments and responses to your comments, in August of 2021, with a record of decision being published in October of 2021.

182

00:41:34.860 --> 00:41:35.400

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Next.

183

00:41:38.640 --> 00:41:48.180

Mary Boatman (BOEM): So where can you find more information? Well, of course, you can go to BOEM's website, the South Fork project. We also have South Fork's construction and operations plan.

184

00:41:48.900 --> 00:42:03.930

Mary Boatman (BOEM): We have the draft EIS and, of course, as I've discussed, our virtual meeting room web page that includes the posters, presentations, registration link, and frequently asked questions. And, most importantly, it has the poster on how to comment. Next.

185

00:42:06.450 --> 00:42:13.620

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And finally, why you're all here, we want to hear from you, so you can make your comments during this public meeting. It's all being recorded.

186

00:42:14.760 --> 00:42:22.110

Mary Boatman (BOEM): You can also make your comments in writing to the Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,

187

00:42:22.740 --> 00:42:34.680

Mary Boatman (BOEM): 45600 Woodland Road VAM-OREP, still will get it to him without that, Sterling, Virginia 20166, and please mark your envelopes "South Fork draft EIS."

188

00:42:35.520 --> 00:42:49.740

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Or, finally, most importantly, if you want to submit it electronically, you can do it online at regulations.gov, you can search for docket BOEM-2020-0066, and click on comment now,

189

00:42:50.850 --> 00:42:58.230

Mary Boatman (BOEM): and then submit your comments. And with that, that's the end. We hope to hear from you and it's time for your public comments.

190

00:42:59.670 --> 00:43:12.090

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great. Thank you, Mary, for that overview of the draft environmental impact statement and context to help people understand what's in that document and just a couple of reminders that the

191

00:43:13.680 --> 00:43:21.150

Meg Perry, SWCA: homepage for the project is in the chat, so you can see that and click on that Mary was referencing in her presentation.

192

00:43:23.220 --> 00:43:30.840

Meg Perry, SWCA: And there's some background information in the posters that Mary was referencing are available on the virtual meeting site,

193

00:43:31.740 --> 00:43:38.370

Meg Perry, SWCA: which was also shared in the chat. I'll just drop that in once more, in case those who joined more recently aren't seeing it.

194

00:43:39.270 --> 00:43:51.420

Meg Perry, SWCA: So that's just a couple of places you can look for additional information, and then, of course, as Mary just mentioned, these opportunities on your screen to share comments, today, during this meeting,

195

00:43:52.830 --> 00:44:06.480

Meg Perry, SWCA: on the other two upcoming meetings later this week and next week, or via mail, or online at regulations.gov So those are all opportunities for you to learn more and share your comments.

196

00:44:08.220 --> 00:44:24.150

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so at this point we're going to we're going to begin the public comment portion of the meeting, I see a few questions have already started to come in through the Q and A, which is great, so thank you to those who have already submitted questions. If you have a question,

197

00:44:25.260 --> 00:44:41.280

Meg Perry, SWCA: you can click on the little Q and A button in Zoom and share your question and our BOEM team in the background will be putting the answers together and we'll share those once the public comments have been completed. So please continue to submit questions there.

198

00:44:43.710 --> 00:44:52.140

Meg Perry, SWCA: And I'm seeing some hands go up, so let me go ahead and walk us through what how we're going to manage this virtual environment.

199

00:44:54.210 --> 00:44:55.170

Meg Perry, SWCA: So.

200

00:44:56.730 --> 00:45:10.890

Meg Perry, SWCA: We did have, there was opportunity when you registered for this meeting to indicate that you wanted to share public comments, so we have kind of that initial list of registered commenters and we're going to start by calling on those people in the order that they registered.

201

00:45:12.300 --> 00:45:22.080

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then, once we've heard from all of those people, we will invite others on the call to raise their hands, and we'll call on each of you to share your comments.

202

00:45:24.210 --> 00:45:39.870

Meg Perry, SWCA: And so I'll call on you when when it's your turn and I will do my best to pronounce your name correctly, and unfortunately we don't have the opportunity for me to meet you as you're coming in the door, so apologies in advance if I,

203

00:45:41.460 --> 00:45:44.010

Meg Perry, SWCA: if I mispronounce your name but I'll call on you, and then,

204

00:45:45.450 --> 00:45:48.060

Meg Perry, SWCA: once I call on you,

205

00:45:49.380 --> 00:45:54.870

Meg Perry, SWCA: I'll ask you to unmute your line and you'll have a little pop-up that that lets you unmute

206

00:45:55.320 --> 00:46:10.860

Meg Perry, SWCA: and we'll ask you to start by stating your name for the record and spelling it for us so that we make sure we have that accurately recorded. And then, because we do have actually have 159 participants on the on the meeting today, we're asking folks to

207

00:46:12.240 --> 00:46:18.930

Meg Perry, SWCA: to limit your comments to five minutes, and I'll have a little timer up so you can kind of pace yourself as you go along.

208

00:46:20.190 --> 00:46:35.460

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then, if you run out of time, you're, of course, welcome to submit your comments in writing or get back in the queue and raise your hand again once others have all had a chance to weigh in, but we definitely want to make sure that everyone who wants to get a chance to speak.

209

00:46:36.840 --> 00:46:48.660

Meg Perry, SWCA: So that's the process and, as I mentioned, you can continue to submit questions if there's sort of clarifying questions that you'd like BOEM to respond to using that Q and A feature.

210

00:46:50.220 --> 00:46:57.990

Meg Perry, SWCA: And when we get to this point, I'll invite folks to raise their hands to share a comment, if you did not preregister.

211

00:46:58.590 --> 00:47:14.310

Meg Perry, SWCA: So we'll we'll turn to those folks once we get through the registration list. So my colleague, Christy, is going to be keeping track of who's in the queue and putting that up for us, and I will kind of give you a heads up that you are next in line

212

00:47:15.570 --> 00:47:19.320

Meg Perry, SWCA: so that you know and have a few minutes to be prepared.

213

00:47:21.810 --> 00:47:22.290

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great.

214

00:47:23.790 --> 00:47:42.180

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, and just a reminder that all these comments are being recorded and they'll be part of the record for this meeting and they'll be included and incorporated into the final environmental impact statement, which Mary mentioned is planned to come out in August. So,

215

00:47:44.940 --> 00:47:54.450

Meg Perry, SWCA: with that, I think we're ready to start the queue, so Christy is going to put up the first few folks who registered.

216

00:47:56.070 --> 00:47:58.950

Meg Perry, SWCA: So, if Mariah Dignan is on.

217

00:48:00.480 --> 00:48:02.280

Meg Perry, SWCA: I'm just checking here.

218

00:48:04.110 --> 00:48:15.990

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great that we have such wonderful turnout. We're really glad to see so much interest. Thank you everyone for joining. Looks like I see Mariah, so I'm going to invite you to talk, Mariah.

219

00:48:24.360 --> 00:48:25.320

Mariah Dignan: Great. Can you hear me? Oh.

220

00:48:25.680 --> 00:48:29.670

Meg Perry, SWCA: There's a little feedback, so you might need to mute your speakers

221

00:48:30.840 --> 00:48:31.650

Meg Perry, SWCA: while you're talking.

222

00:48:32.670 --> 00:48:33.690

Mariah Dignan: Is this more clear?

223

00:48:33.990 --> 00:48:34.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: That sounds great.

224

00:48:35.490 --> 00:48:35.940

Mariah Dignan: Perfect.

225

00:48:36.240 --> 00:48:38.580

Meg Perry, SWCA: And just remember to state your name for the record, please.

226

00:48:40.860 --> 00:48:54.840

Mariah Dignan: Thank you. My name is Mariah Dignan. M-A-R-I-A-H D-I-G-N as in Nancy-A-N as in Nancy. And I'm the Long Island organizer for Climate Jobs New York.

227

00:48:55.560 --> 00:49:04.740

Mariah Dignan: We're a growing coalition of Labor unions representing 2.6 million working New Yorkers united to combat climate change and reverse inequality.

228

00:49:05.340 --> 00:49:14.940

Mariah Dignan: We are educating our fellow workers, building alliances, and advocating for policy solutions, demonstrating that we don't not have to choose between a healthy planet and good jobs.

229

00:49:15.780 --> 00:49:22.200

Mariah Dignan: I'm a Long Islander acutely aware of the impacts climate change has and continues to have globally and here in my community.

230

00:49:22.920 --> 00:49:31.110

Mariah Dignan: I enthusiastically support the South Fork Wind project and the DEIS, which clearly demonstrates how to responsibly develop an offshore wind project.

231

00:49:31.980 --> 00:49:48.960

Mariah Dignan: I'd like to take a moment to thank BOEM for completing this DEIS during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are undeniably addressing intersectional crises: public health, the economy, environmental justice, and climate change, all of which are interwoven with offshore wind development.

232

00:49:50.520 --> 00:49:58.140

Mariah Dignan: South Fork Wind is slated to be New York's inaugural offshore wind project. This project will propel the United States' offshore wind industry

233

00:49:58.530 --> 00:50:11.850

Mariah Dignan: and deliver clean, renewable, and cost-effective power to the South Fork of Long Island. In addition, this project will provide thousands of good union jobs and attract global supply chain manufacturers to the Northeast.

234

00:50:13.680 --> 00:50:17.010

Mariah Dignan: Orsted and Eversource has committed to working with Long Island labor

235

00:50:17.430 --> 00:50:27.360

Mariah Dignan: by using contractors who have project Labor agreements with the Nassau Suffolk building trades and investing in our local workforce with the \$10 million dollar off-shore wind training center.

236

00:50:28.170 --> 00:50:34.140

Mariah Dignan: This project has truly set the stage for offshore wind developers to work in conjunction with organized Labor.

237

00:50:34.980 --> 00:50:45.330

Mariah Dignan: Labor unions offer world-class training programs through apprenticeships, and by coordinating with industry, we will continue to lead and train the offshore wind workforce of the very near future.

238

00:50:46.860 --> 00:50:58.350

Mariah Dignan: In addition to working with Long Island Labor, the developers have listened, engaged, and altered construction plans based on local community feedback. This is something we must replicate in other projects.

239

00:50:59.970 --> 00:51:03.840

Mariah Dignan: Orsted Eversource has worked tirelessly with the local East Hampton community.

240

00:51:04.800 --> 00:51:17.790

Mariah Dignan: After working hand-in-hand for four years with East Hampton electees and representatives, there are additional mitigation efforts that include construction, environmental, and fishery concerns of local residents, businesses, and mariners.

241

00:51:19.680 --> 00:51:32.130

Mariah Dignan: It is worth highlighting that the East Hampton trustees have unanimously approved a joint proposal, and five New York state agencies have invested extensive time and expertise in this process, and have also signed on to the agreement.

242

00:51:33.780 --> 00:51:41.040

Mariah Dignan: This clearly demonstrates a methodical and thoughtful approach to working with the community to actualize New York's first offshore wind project.

243

00:51:42.030 --> 00:51:55.170

Mariah Dignan: And not only have the developers worked with local community stakeholders on construction-related and community benefit agreements, but they have thoroughly vetted and studied cable-ending options, which has resulted in the best onshore cable route.

244

00:51:56.550 --> 00:52:08.250

Mariah Dignan: The Beach Lane route for the South Fork export cable mitigates community environmental impacts, as demonstrated in numerous geotechnical field surveys samplings and studies, both on land and in the water.

245

00:52:09.000 --> 00:52:17.610

Mariah Dignan: The necessary easements and leases for this route were passed with overwhelming support by both the East Hampton Town Board and Trustees last month.

246

00:52:19.530 --> 00:52:23.550

Mariah Dignan: Climate Jobs New York also supports the one-by-one nautical mile layout compromise.

247

00:52:24.300 --> 00:52:39.150

Mariah Dignan: Not only does the Coast Guard approve of this mitigation effort, but adding additional mileage to the layout would only take away from the efficiency in carbon reduction potential, the project is meant to address, I urge BOEM to reject the transatlantic alternative in the final EIS.

248

00:52:40.230 --> 00:52:53.520

Mariah Dignan: To maximize the economic development and job potential of this industry, I urge BOEM to move forward expeditiously on this and other offshore wind projects and stick to the timeline that was just outlined during this presentation.

249

00:52:54.630 --> 00:53:12.000

Mariah Dignan: Focusing on New York, the nation's leader in offshore wind energy standards, the only way to achieve 9 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035 is to advance permitting in a timely manner and develop safe and fair conditions with community stakeholders, as was done with South Fork.

250

00:53:13.050 --> 00:53:21.990

Mariah Dignan: We can provide long-term sustainability, economic development, and create a skilled green economy workforce for a consequential new industry.

251

00:53:22.860 --> 00:53:32.820

Mariah Dignan: And this time of bold transformation, smart investments and clean energy future can simultaneously put people back to work, build infrastructure to address climate change

252

00:53:33.270 --> 00:53:43.440

Mariah Dignan: and spur development in our communities. I will also submit written comments that provide for the details on these general overview. Thank you for your time and consideration.

253

00:53:46.020 --> 00:53:47.460

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for those comments.

254

00:53:50.400 --> 00:53:51.090

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright.

255

00:53:52.440 --> 00:54:11.670

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, we have a little Queue, that you can see if you click on the chat, so you can see if you're up coming up soon. So next in the queue will be Edwin Hill, Jr., then Joel Merriman, then Tom Melone, and then Mila Buckner. So Edwin,

256

00:54:16.470 --> 00:54:18.270

Meg Perry, SWCA: we invite you to share your comment.

257

00:54:22.560 --> 00:54:35.910

Edwin Hill Jr: Hi. Again, that's Edwin Hill Jr., and I would like to forgo my verbal comments in order to submit written comments at a later time. My apologies for signing up to speak.

258

00:54:37.050 --> 00:54:40.410

Edwin Hill Jr: And not intentionally prepared to do so today.

259

00:54:41.160 --> 00:54:46.470

Meg Perry, SWCA: that's quite all right. The written comments submission is just fine. Thank you so much, thank you.

260

00:54:48.990 --> 00:54:51.360

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright, next will be Joel Merriman.

261

00:55:02.610 --> 00:55:03.180

Meg Perry, SWCA: Joel, are you there?

262

00:55:04.080 --> 00:55:04.590

Joel Merriman: Can you hear me?

263

00:55:05.070 --> 00:55:16.980

Joel Merriman: Yes, great. Yeah, hi, my name is Joel Merriman. I'm the Bird Smart Wind Energy campaign director at American Bird Conservancy and I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

264

00:55:17.730 --> 00:55:31.440

Joel Merriman: ABC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to conserving birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. As part of our threat abatement program, we have been working with stakeholders to promote bird-smart wind energy development practices for over 10 years.

265

00:55:32.670 --> 00:55:42.300

Joel Merriman: I would like to start by thanking the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the states, and other stakeholders, for the forward-thinking approach that has been taken to identify offshore wind energy development areas.

266

00:55:42.960 --> 00:55:51.240

Joel Merriman: Collaborative studies with Fish and Wildlife Service and others have informed planning for citing a model that we would like to see replicated in many other parts of the country.

267

00:55:52.200 --> 00:55:58.380

Joel Merriman: However, we think that plans for South Fork wind and other offshore wind facilities fall short on protective measures for birds.

268

00:55:59.040 --> 00:56:03.300

Joel Merriman: We are embarking on a new industry with an incredibly packed pipeline of projects.

269

00:56:03.990 --> 00:56:12.900

Joel Merriman: Predictive modeling and informed opinions of bird impacts is necessary in these early stages, but we must err on the side of caution and validate predictions with solid data.

270

00:56:13.740 --> 00:56:25.770

Joel Merriman: We are excited about the prospect of offshore wind energy, but we can't support this project or this new industry without more robust considerations for birds. We offer some key recommendations for how this might be accomplished.

271

00:56:27.030 --> 00:56:33.690

Joel Merriman: First point, the project documentation does not substantively evaluate likely impacts on land birds, which must be remedied.

272

00:56:34.470 --> 00:56:41.460

Joel Merriman: Huge numbers of these birds make nocturnal migratory flights in fall from the northeastern U.S. to wintering grounds in the Caribbean and South America.

273

00:56:42.300 --> 00:56:54.240

Joel Merriman: For example, a 2015 study found that the black pole warbler, a songbird weighing less than half an ounce, makes a nonstop fall migratory flight from New England and southeast Canada as far as northern South America.

274

00:56:55.320 --> 00:57:02.400

Joel Merriman: We have very little data about their flight heights or behavior when they leave our shores, leaving risk that they may collide with turbines and the offshore space.

275

00:57:03.300 --> 00:57:10.830

Joel Merriman: What's more, these birds migrate and flocks so any such instance may result in relatively large numbers of birds being killed during a single event.

276

00:57:12.480 --> 00:57:16.980

Joel Merriman: Second point, requirements to monitor impacts two birds postconstruction are inadequate.

277

00:57:17.640 --> 00:57:24.390

Joel Merriman: The biological assessment indicates that telemetry receiving stations and acoustic monitoring devices will be established at the facility.

278

00:57:25.110 --> 00:57:29.760

Joel Merriman: We strongly support this and recommend that this be carried forward to the COP and, final EIS.

279

00:57:30.630 --> 00:57:37.440

Joel Merriman: However, this falls short on one very important issue, which is how to detect bird strikes and how to identify which species are struck.

280

00:57:38.250 --> 00:57:51.630

Joel Merriman: A 2018 study in Europe use digital video cameras to accomplish this at an offshore facility, and this technology has continued to improve since. We strongly recommend that video cameras be used to monitor bird collisions at the South Fork wind project.

281

00:57:52.890 --> 00:58:02.430

Joel Merriman: Third point, we appreciate the studies and analysis that went into assessment of likely impacts to ESA listed species, but find that we do not share the confidence that this is this countable.

282

00:58:03.240 --> 00:58:08.700

Joel Merriman: In particular, we are concerned about movement of roseate turns between breeding areas and post-breeding staging areas.

283

00:58:09.660 --> 00:58:17.220

Joel Merriman: Studies of this species' movements to inform risk assessment have strong data for near-shore areas, but not as much within the wind lease areas themselves.

284

00:58:18.090 --> 00:58:29.910

Joel Merriman: In our view, this leaves too much unknown to assume that the species will not be substantively affected. This species, as well as red knots and piping plovers, are also at risk of colliding with turbines during migration.

285

00:58:31.470 --> 00:58:37.290

Joel Merriman: Fourth point, we know that there will be impacts to birds and compensatory mitigation must be provided to offset these impacts.

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00:58:37.830 --> 00:58:47.490

Joel Merriman: Project planning is proceeding at a faster pace than the science and technology needed to effectively measure impacts to birds, and we must err on the side of protecting this important resource.

287

00:58:48.240 --> 00:58:57.090

Joel Merriman: This requires proactive compensatory mitigation for species likely to be affected, whether this occurs within the regulatory context or is proactively provided by the developer.

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00:58:58.440 --> 00:59:07.950

Joel Merriman: Given these concerns and others, we urge the following revisions to the DEIS and COP. First we recommend studies of collision risks to nocturnal migrant land birds.

289

00:59:08.700 --> 00:59:22.830

Joel Merriman: Second, we recommend robust monitoring of bird presence and collisions with turbines postconstruction, including use of digital video technology, to allow bird identification. This is particularly important for roseate turns and other ESA listed species.

290

00:59:23.970 --> 00:59:35.970

Joel Merriman: Third, we recommend that impacts to birds be compensated by initiating conservation work that will replace lost birds. Compensatory mitigation takes time from concept to success, so it is critical that we start this process now.

291

00:59:37.110 --> 00:59:50.970

Joel Merriman: Until these measures are implemented, we believe that operational curtailment should be considered during periods of high collision risk, such as fall migratory flights for nocturnal migrants and ESA listed bird species. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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00:59:54.090 --> 00:59:57.240

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for sharing those comments. All right.

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01:00:01.980 --> 01:00:07.020

Meg Perry, SWCA: So we are working down our list, and just a reminder again, if you do have questions for BOEM

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01:00:08.640 --> 01:00:14.280

Meg Perry, SWCA: we encourage you to share those and if you can share them in that Q and A.

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01:00:15.270 --> 01:00:28.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: Type them into the Q and A function. That gives the staff who are working in the background to prepare answers a little more time to get their answers together, So the sooner the better on sharing those questions which, we'll turn to later.

296

01:00:30.720 --> 01:00:51.870

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great. Okay so next up, we have Tom Melone, which again hopefully I'm pronouncing things correctly, but apologies if not. And then after Tom will be Mila Buckner, Catherine Labadia, Pamela Mahoney, and Gordian Raacke. So Tom, let me

297

01:00:53.280 --> 01:00:54.540

Meg Perry, SWCA: bring you up.

298

01:01:07.890 --> 01:01:09.690

Tom Melone: Hello, can you hear me? Yes.

299

01:01:11.220 --> 01:01:21.870

Tom Melone: Hello, Tom Melone from Allco Renewable Energy Limited. Thanks for the opportunity today to speak. I've actually decided to just, not comment today but submit our comments in writing by the deadline.

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01:01:22.920 --> 01:01:24.360

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, thank you very much.

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01:01:26.520 --> 01:01:29.880

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then next I will turn to

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01:01:31.080 --> 01:01:32.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: Mila Buckner.

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01:01:34.740 --> 01:01:43.170

Meg Perry, SWCA: Apologies, I have to scroll through this very long list and find you, so that's why it takes me a minute to bring each person up.

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01:01:45.180 --> 01:01:45.960

Meg Perry, SWCA: There you are.

305

01:01:52.260 --> 01:02:05.130

Mila Buckner: Good afternoon, can you hear me? Yes. Great. Mila Buckner on behalf of the Trustees of East Hampton. We are going to submit our comments by writing as well, I think I'd just like to summarize them at a high level.

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01:02:06.180 --> 01:02:16.950

Mila Buckner: To start, the trustees have participated in the BOEM review and the preparation of the DEIS from the start and have continuously called for an alternative

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01:02:17.250 --> 01:02:29.160

Mila Buckner: recognizing the importance of Cox's Ledge as an essential fish habitat area for fish species, marine resources and other wildlife particularly vulnerable to project construction.

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01:02:29.820 --> 01:02:47.910

Mila Buckner: And after reviewing the DEIS, the trustees feel strongly that among the four alternatives listed, the fisheries habitat impact minimization alternative is really the only and best option that will protect this critical habitat. We strongly urge BOEM to

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01:02:48.930 --> 01:02:58.770

Mila Buckner: move forward with this alternative, and in doing so, also consider some additional mitigations and, in particular, we would like to see

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01:03:00.090 --> 01:03:05.010

Mila Buckner: the use of micro-siting for the turbines within the selected area, to ensure that

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01:03:06.120 --> 01:03:11.670

Mila Buckner: as little impact on Cox's Ledge is occurring as possible. And in addition, there have been

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01:03:12.750 --> 01:03:19.200

Mila Buckner: some technological updates and improvements in wind turbine design technology since this project was

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01:03:20.220 --> 01:03:39.000

Mila Buckner: first submitted for review. So, if possible, we'd like there to be a consideration of whether the project could be built so that it still produces 130 megawatts of energy but possibly with fewer turbines. So currently the project is slated to have 15 turbines, but if

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01:03:40.170 --> 01:03:49.770

Mila Buckner: if possible, if we could use bigger turbines and a fewer number, that could greatly reduce the impacts of the project and provide quite a few benefits.

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01:03:51.870 --> 01:04:01.980

Mila Buckner: And the rest are, the rest of our comments are rather detailed questions about the analysis that was conducted and whether certain species were taken into account.

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01:04:03.960 --> 01:04:13.320

Mila Buckner: And, and just sort of very specific product-level details that I think would be better to submit over writing. So with that, I will stop there, thank you.

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01:04:14.640 --> 01:04:21.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great. Thank you so much, and yes, those written comments will go into the record, just like any submitted verbally today.

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01:04:22.530 --> 01:04:26.910

Meg Perry, SWCA: And, and be reviewed in, in preparation of the final EIS, so thank you.

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01:04:30.630 --> 01:04:33.690

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, next we have Catherine.

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01:04:35.940 --> 01:04:36.690
Meg Perry, SWCA: Labadia.

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01:04:41.040 --> 01:04:47.010

Catherine Labadia: Yes, good afternoon, thank you. I am representing the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

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01:04:47.580 --> 01:04:57.060

Catherine Labadia: And I will also submit my comments in writing, but I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the presentation

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01:04:57.450 --> 01:05:09.810

Catherine Labadia: and to say that I did notice within the DEIS that you had listed the potential impacts to State Pier in New London as a reasonably foreseeable activity.

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01:05:10.500 --> 01:05:15.240

Catherine Labadia: And so I'm responding relative to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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01:05:15.540 --> 01:05:26.430

Catherine Labadia: And I just wanted to let you know that our office has already responded to an Army Corps permit related to activities at the pier and has made a finding of adverse effect.

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01:05:27.420 --> 01:05:35.430

Catherine Labadia: So I will put, give you copies of that prior correspondence, as well as a written response to the DEIS, but thank you for today.

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01:05:37.830 --> 01:05:39.390

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great, thank you for those comments.

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01:05:40.800 --> 01:05:41.220

Right.

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01:05:43.320 --> 01:05:46.230

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay next we have Pamela.

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01:05:57.930 --> 01:06:02.700

Meg Perry, SWCA: not seeing Pamela in the list, but it's possible.

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01:06:04.710 --> 01:06:07.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: That Pamela Mahoney is on the phone.

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01:06:16.050 --> 01:06:24.720

Meg Perry, SWCA: So Pamela Mahoney, if you are joining us via phone, if you could hit star nine on your phone, then I will see that you

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01:06:25.830 --> 01:06:33.360

Meg Perry, SWCA: are asking to speak and I can let you talk. If not. it's possible they were not able to join.

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01:06:45.150 --> 01:06:54.540

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, not seeing Pamela Mahoney, and again, Pamela Mahoney, if you're on the phone, you can, you can use star nine to let us know that you are with us, and I can unmute you.

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01:06:58.290 --> 01:07:02.700

Meg Perry, SWCA: But, if not, then we will move on to the next person.

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01:07:05.310 --> 01:07:07.500

Meg Perry, SWCA: Gordian Raacke or rock.

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01:07:08.700 --> 01:07:09.270

Meg Perry, SWCA: Are you there?

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01:07:13.170 --> 01:07:15.330

Gordian Raacke: Hello, can you hear me? Yes.

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01:07:16.560 --> 01:07:22.830

Gordian Raacke: Great. Good afternoon, my name is Gordian Raacke. I'll spell that G-O-R-D-I-A-N

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01:07:23.880 --> 01:07:41.550

Gordian Raacke: R-A-A-C-K-E. I'm the executive director of Renewable Energy Long Island, a regional-not-for profit organization. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for compiling such a comprehensive draft environmental impact statement on the South Fork Wind Farm.

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01:07:42.720 --> 01:07:50.190

Gordian Raacke: The South Fork Wind Farm is of great significance, not only here in East Hampton and the South Fork of Long Island but statewide

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01:07:50.790 --> 01:08:11.400

Gordian Raacke: because it will be the first offshore wind project and the State of New York, and as such, is instrumental in building an offshore wind industry in our region. Well, this industry is just emerging in the U.S., the offshore wind industry is fully developed in Europe.

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01:08:12.510 --> 01:08:26.220

Gordian Raacke: The first offshore wind projects in Europe were built in 1991 and they now have 22 gigawatts for more than 5,000 turbines over there and they continue the rapid growth of offshore wind development.

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01:08:27.360 --> 01:08:38.940

Gordian Raacke: And tapping into our large offshore wind resources here will deliver significant benefits, including climate environmental and health benefits,

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01:08:39.390 --> 01:08:51.870

Gordian Raacke: as well as important economic benefits, such as the creations of tens of thousands of well-paying jobs, establishing a new industry and related supply chain activity, and benefits for

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01:08:52.650 --> 01:09:03.840

Gordian Raacke: utility customers. Now, in order to obtain these benefits, we need to not only catch up with the European industry, but we need to demonstrate that

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01:09:04.230 --> 01:09:24.480

Gordian Raacke: responsibly developed offshore wind projects will be able to obtain the required permits with reasonable regulatory restrictions, as appropriate, and within reasonable time frames. But, time is of the essence, for another much more existential reason.

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01:09:26.700 --> 01:09:35.070

Gordian Raacke: We are facing a climate crisis of immense proportions and must quickly deploy solutions

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01:09:36.450 --> 01:09:40.260

Gordian Raacke: to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. And, as we speak,

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01:09:41.580 --> 01:09:47.100

Gordian Raacke: I was just listening in on the East Hampton Town Board session here found in East Hampton and.

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01:09:48.120 --> 01:09:54.690

Gordian Raacke: on the east end of Long Island, the town board is considering adopting a climate emergency declaration.

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01:09:55.770 --> 01:10:08.400

Gordian Raacke: Now we have waited far too long to act, and now we need to act decisively and quickly to reduce carbon emissions to net zero essentially by mid-century.

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01:10:09.210 --> 01:10:17.400

Gordian Raacke: The window of opportunity to bend our emissions curve downward is now very small and closing quickly.

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01:10:18.240 --> 01:10:29.790

Gordian Raacke: So, moving responsibly developed offshore wind projects like the South Fork project through the regulatory review and permitting without undue delay is now more important than ever.

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01:10:30.600 --> 01:10:42.000

Gordian Raacke: The good news is that the EIS finds that expected impacts of the project are in most cases at moderate level or below that.

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01:10:43.080 --> 01:10:54.600

Gordian Raacke: The negative impacts of this and also finds that in any impacts that are rated at higher impact level can likely be, and should be, mitigated, I think.

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01:10:55.860 --> 01:11:05.010

Gordian Raacke: So it, as it is also important to note that we need to weigh any negative impacts, not only against the benefits of the project,

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01:11:05.820 --> 01:11:13.800

Gordian Raacke: but the fact that negative impacts from climate change would of course be many magnitudes greater.

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01:11:14.760 --> 01:11:27.390

Gordian Raacke: The EIS lists many of the long-term benefits of the project, including the safe development of domestic and clean energy and job creation.

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01:11:27.930 --> 01:11:37.440

Gordian Raacke: The geopolitical security and climate benefits and the electricity needs on the South Fork here, as well as the New York's renewable energy needs.

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01:11:37.980 --> 01:11:45.030

Gordian Raacke: And another important benefit is that the project will enable the town East Hampton, which I just mentioned

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01:11:45.810 --> 01:11:55.260

Gordian Raacke: to meet its communitywide 100% renewable energy goals, a goal set back in 2014 by the town board. To sum up,

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01:11:56.100 --> 01:12:06.480

Gordian Raacke: I thank you for your diligent work and urge you to move forward as expeditiously as possible to ensure that our region and the State of New York and the country

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01:12:07.020 --> 01:12:15.420

Gordian Raacke: will be able to harness our offshore wind resource and the environmental and economic benefits that come with it. Thank you very much.

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01:12:18.990 --> 01:12:20.700

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

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01:12:23.550 --> 01:12:24.300

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right.

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01:12:25.680 --> 01:12:29.760

Meg Perry, SWCA: Moving on to the next person in the queue, we have Kathryn Lustig.

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01:12:34.140 --> 01:12:39.570

Meg Perry, SWCA: I will just invite you to speak here, Kathryn, if you're on.

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01:12:44.370 --> 01:12:46.320

Kathryn Lustig: Okay, can you hear me?

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01:12:46.650 --> 01:12:59.730

Kathryn Lustig: Yes. Okay, my name is Kathryn or Kay K-A-Y Lustig L-U-S as in Sam-T-I-G. I've lived in Great Neck in Nassau County since 1978.

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01:13:00.360 --> 01:13:10.830

Kathryn Lustig: I'm a member of Sierra Club and a concerned citizen of Long Island. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the South Fork Wind project.

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01:13:11.460 --> 01:13:21.180

Kathryn Lustig: New York State, under Governor Cuomo and after years of hard work by many organizations, passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act in 2019.

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01:13:21.750 --> 01:13:33.420

Kathryn Lustig: That act codifies the nation-leading goal that at least 70% of New York's electricity will come from renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, by 2030.

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01:13:34.320 --> 01:13:44.970

Kathryn Lustig: I may not be around in 2040 when New York state's goal is to have its electric sector 100% free of carbon emissions with resulting cleaner,

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01:13:45.330 --> 01:13:55.320

Kathryn Lustig: healthier air, water, environment, and communities, but my children all of our children and our grandchildren will likely be here, and it's for them,

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01:13:55.620 --> 01:14:00.390

Kathryn Lustig: for the future of our communities and our environment that I'm most concerned.

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01:14:00.930 --> 01:14:10.260

Kathryn Lustig: I'm concerned too, about the need for remaking the energy economy to providing good jobs and training and clean energy production and transmission.

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01:14:10.740 --> 01:14:23.130

Kathryn Lustig: So, today I joined with concerned people throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties and throughout New York state in urging that BOEM go forward with the South Fork Wind project. Thank you.

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01:14:25.980 --> 01:14:27.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for those comments.

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01:14:32.460 --> 01:14:36.120

Meg Perry, SWCA: Judith Hope, you will be up next.

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01:14:45.330 --> 01:14:47.670

Meg Perry, SWCA: Then, Michael Hansen will be after Judith Hope.

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01:14:52.770 --> 01:14:56.070

Meg Perry, SWCA: And you may have to unmute yourself Judith, you.

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01:14:57.090 --> 01:14:57.690

Meg Perry, SWCA: There you are.

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01:14:58.050 --> 01:15:18.300

Judith Hope: You hear me? Yes. Thank you, my name is Judith Hope, that's J-U-D-I-T-H, last name Hope, H-O-P-E, a former town supervisor of East Hampton, Long Island, the community that will be most impacted by the South Fork Wind Energy project.

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01:15:19.350 --> 01:15:29.790

Judith Hope: The turbines will be located at 35 miles offshore of Montauk, as has been stated. Montauk, with its famous and historic fishing and tourism economy.

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01:15:30.660 --> 01:15:34.770

Judith Hope: Montauk is the most easterly community within the town of East Hampton.

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01:15:35.730 --> 01:15:42.180

Judith Hope: The transmission cable from the turbines to the compound distribution center are proposed to come ashore in Wainscott,

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01:15:42.600 --> 01:15:51.120

Judith Hope: a small, wealthy enclave of mostly second-home owners on the west end of East Hampton town, who have organized to oppose the project.

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01:15:51.780 --> 01:15:56.520

Judith Hope: The need for an additional energy source on eastern Long Island is urgent and must not be delayed.

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01:15:57.000 --> 01:16:05.790

Judith Hope: South Fork Wind would supply energy to approximately 70,000 homes in this area, which would greatly alleviate the strain on the system.

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01:16:06.570 --> 01:16:16.440

Judith Hope: Currently diesel-burning peaker plants provide electricity during high-demand periods. East Hampton is projected to greatly exceed our current energy supply

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01:16:16.920 --> 01:16:25.830

Judith Hope: due to two decades of steady growth now accelerated by the arrival of year-round COVID refugees from New York City.

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01:16:26.430 --> 01:16:38.250

Judith Hope: The noxious black emissions from these peaker plants are clearly visible during much of the year. The source of local air pollution would be dramatically reduced or eliminated entirely with the South Fork Wind project.

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01:16:40.620 --> 01:16:50.370

Judith Hope: Every fundamental change in establish systems involves tradeoffs. Usually one side of economic and environmental interests sacrifices more than the other side.

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01:16:51.030 --> 01:17:02.250

Judith Hope: But remarkably that does not seem to be the case with the South Fork Wind project. The local economy of Montauk will benefit greatly if the Block Island Wind Farm is any guide.

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01:17:02.790 --> 01:17:17.550

Judith Hope: Tourism will not suffer at all. In fact, the Block Island Wind Farm is actually become a destination with visitors eager to see and learn about the technology that has long provided electricity to Europeans but is new to us.

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01:17:18.270 --> 01:17:26.670

Judith Hope: The local fishing industry, which has long suffered under enormous pressures both environmental and economic, would most certainly benefit in the long run.

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01:17:27.270 --> 01:17:37.290

Judith Hope: A major cause of decline in Montauk commercial fisheries is due to the deterioration of the marine environment and the impact on species migration caused by climate change.

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01:17:37.860 --> 01:17:49.290

Judith Hope: If we do not begin the long and difficult challenge of slowing, ceasing, and eventually reversing this environmental travesty, commercial fishing, as we have known it will cease to exist entirely.

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01:17:50.010 --> 01:17:59.700

Judith Hope: South Fork wind project would be an important part, an important first step toward realizing the ambitious clean energy goals of both New York State and East Hampton town.

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01:18:00.510 --> 01:18:04.830

Judith Hope: As for sports fishing, so important to the tourism industry of Eastern Long Island.

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01:18:05.250 --> 01:18:13.320

Judith Hope: The Block Island example is that the turbines have become the equivalent of artificial reefs, attracting great numbers and varieties of fish.

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01:18:13.800 --> 01:18:19.890

Judith Hope: The turbines have actually benefited this important marine economy. The commercial fishing industry,

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01:18:20.820 --> 01:18:30.870

Judith Hope: regarding concerns, regarding the potential impact on their livelihood, is real and valid and receives appropriate attention in the draft environmental impact statement.

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01:18:31.260 --> 01:18:34.140

Judith Hope: But one area that needs clarification is this.

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01:18:34.650 --> 01:18:45.720

Judith Hope: A well-defined process should be established and published with clear rules and standards for compensation of losses suffered during the construction period due to damage to rigs,

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01:18:46.080 --> 01:18:54.510

Judith Hope: lost fishing time, or any other risks that can be reasonably due to the presence of South Fork wind activity in the construction area.

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01:18:55.020 --> 01:19:02.520

Judith Hope: Such a process and also include standards or compensation of damages caused by South Fork during the maintenance of the turbines.

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01:19:02.850 --> 01:19:12.660

Judith Hope: The developers have agreed or expressed their willingness to do so, but if there's an agreement about the proposed process, the general public is not aware of it.

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01:19:13.290 --> 01:19:28.320

Judith Hope: I see I'm almost out my time, but I just want to conclude by urging of quick attention to approve the South Fork Wind Farm. We are already seeing the effects of climate change on the east end with devastating impacts.

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01:19:28.890 --> 01:19:36.480

Judith Hope: The Shelter Island ferry has applied to raise their docks because of rising sea levels, same with the docks in Montauk.

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01:19:36.930 --> 01:19:46.050

Judith Hope: We've lost thousands of old-growth pines in East Hampton due to the invasion of the southern pine beetle, again due to climate change.

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01:19:46.620 --> 01:20:01.950

Judith Hope: Please add favorably and expeditiously on this application. It is a wonderful first step towards a clean environment, a clean planet, and the clean energy that we all seek to realize. Thank you so much.

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01:20:03.690 --> 01:20:05.010

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for those comments.

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01:20:06.180 --> 01:20:06.780

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right.

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01:20:12.450 --> 01:20:21.840

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so next up, we have Michael Hansen, and then Michael will be followed by Vincent Albanese, Linda James, and Luciano Sabatini.

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01:20:25.350 --> 01:20:26.400

Meg Perry, SWCA: So I will

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01:20:30.540 --> 01:20:32.760

Meg Perry, SWCA: invite you to talk now, Michael.

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01:20:34.470 --> 01:20:35.160

Michael Hansen: Hello, Meg.

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01:20:35.910 --> 01:20:36.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: Hi.

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01:20:37.350 --> 01:20:46.980

Michael Hansen: My name is Michael Hansen, H-A-N-S-E-N, and I live in Wainscott, New York, with my wife and my three small children.

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01:20:48.210 --> 01:20:55.980

Michael Hansen: First, I support this project wholeheartedly. Why? Because we are in a climate crisis.

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01:20:57.150 --> 01:21:10.350

Michael Hansen: There's really no other side to this argument, this is, this is from, the following's from the NASA global change website, quote, the planet's average surface temperature has risen 2.12 degrees Fahrenheit,

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01:21:10.890 --> 01:21:24.360

Michael Hansen: 1.18 degrees Celsius, since the late 19th century, a change, driven by, largely by increased carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and other human activities.

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01:21:24.690 --> 01:21:39.990

Michael Hansen: Most of the warming occurred in the past 40 years with the seven most recent years, being the warmest. The years 2016 and 2020 are tied for the warmest year on record, unquote.

426

01:21:41.730 --> 01:21:43.140

Michael Hansen: And while

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01:21:45.120 --> 01:21:56.700

Michael Hansen: 12 to 15 turbines 35 miles southeast of Montauk will not in one fell swoop solve our climate crisis, it is nevertheless

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01:21:58.020 --> 01:22:15.780

Michael Hansen: an essential first step for the State of New York. We will still need solar, we will still need geothermal, we will still need more efficient appliances and better insulated houses, and we will need offshore wind.

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01:22:16.890 --> 01:22:26.430

Michael Hansen: Second, wind power works. A few years ago, I visited County Roscommon in Ireland, where my grandmother's from.

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01:22:27.690 --> 01:22:46.710

Michael Hansen: The hills there surrounding Lough Allen are filled with wind turbines, and why did they have wind turbines? Because they closed down the coal mines. I even took a tour of an old coal mine. No one in Roscommon misses the coal mines.

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01:22:47.940 --> 01:23:00.990

Michael Hansen: Wind works in Ireland, it works in California, it will work here. It is working here, now look at Block Island.

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01:23:02.670 --> 01:23:05.100

Michael Hansen: Before the five turbines were installed

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01:23:06.390 --> 01:23:14.040

Michael Hansen: Block Island burned 1 million gallons of diesel fuel every year for their electricity needs.

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01:23:15.090 --> 01:23:23.160

Michael Hansen: Every single year, this means that 1 million gallons of burnt fuel was dropped into the ocean every year.

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01:23:24.270 --> 01:23:35.730

Michael Hansen: Since the five turbines went online off of Block Island, the five diesel generators have been turned off. That is an incredible success.

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01:23:38.040 --> 01:23:38.700

Michael Hansen: Finally,

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01:23:39.870 --> 01:23:47.370

Michael Hansen: I support this project because of my children. They are 9 years old, 7 years old, and 11 months.

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01:23:49.230 --> 01:23:58.410

Michael Hansen: They will live to see the tricentennial of the United States, they deserve cleaner oceans and cleaner air.

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01:23:59.430 --> 01:24:00.420

Michael Hansen: Thank you very much.

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01:24:03.210 --> 01:24:04.740

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for those comments.

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01:24:06.990 --> 01:24:13.320

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, um, next up will be Vincent Albanese. I'm gonna

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01:24:14.640 --> 01:24:16.260

Meg Perry, SWCA: invite you to speak.

443

01:24:23.430 --> 01:24:24.180

Vincent Albanese: Thank you, Meg.

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01:24:25.590 --> 01:24:35.310

Vincent Albanese: My name is Vincent Albanese with the New York State Labor's organizing fund. I'm the director of policy and public affairs. New York State Labor's organizing fund

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01:24:36.090 --> 01:24:47.430

Vincent Albanese: represents over 40,000 working men and women in the LIUNA members in the State of New York, many of which those Members live and work here on Long Island.

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01:24:48.270 --> 01:25:00.480

Vincent Albanese: I wanted to just touch on a few quick things regarding our support for this project. I think the first that should not be understated is

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01:25:01.500 --> 01:25:09.900

Vincent Albanese: how, both Orsted and Eversource have worked, not just within the community or within the labor community specifically,

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01:25:10.290 --> 01:25:30.360

Vincent Albanese: within the building trades, with building trades councils, with individual Union affiliates and trade affiliates, with our signatory contractor base and to ensure that these jobs would be good, Union, middle-class families sustaining jobs, right here on Long Island.

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01:25:31.650 --> 01:25:39.120

Vincent Albanese: And I would say that, as we make this transition, the so-called just transition,

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01:25:40.560 --> 01:25:52.860

Vincent Albanese: we must do this in a way that provides the maximum amount of opportunities to replace the phasing out of fossil fuel jobs all across the state and specifically on Long Island.

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01:25:54.060 --> 01:26:02.370

Vincent Albanese: Without moving forward with a project of this scale magnitude, we will not come anywhere near replacing

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01:26:03.510 --> 01:26:15.750

Vincent Albanese: the good, current existing jobs that are relying on fossil fuel infrastructure. It's imperative that this project move forward. I would just add one other piece to this.

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01:26:17.040 --> 01:26:19.860

Vincent Albanese: The Beach Lane route is the route to go.

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01:26:20.940 --> 01:26:37.440

Vincent Albanese: East Hampton Town and Trustees have overwhelmingly supported this route. They voted for it last month, formally. I would say the 1.1 nautical mile compromise should be adhered to, and we ask BOEM to reject transit lane alternative.

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01:26:39.270 --> 01:26:45.270

Vincent Albanese: It is critical we move forward with this project for the workers on Long Island, for our environment,

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01:26:46.350 --> 01:26:51.630

Vincent Albanese: and to continue to build not just an offshore wind industry in Long Island,

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01:26:52.740 --> 01:26:57.540

Vincent Albanese: but a renewable industry that is here to stay and thrive. Thank you very much.

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01:26:59.250 --> 01:27:00.930

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for your comments.

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01:27:03.810 --> 01:27:11.040

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, continuing on and thanks again to everyone who's joined and listening and weighing in on this.

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01:27:12.300 --> 01:27:17.070

Meg Perry, SWCA: We have Linda James up next, and then Luciano Sabatini after Linda.

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01:27:18.510 --> 01:27:19.770

Meg Perry, SWCA: So, Linda, I'm just gonna

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01:27:22.230 --> 01:27:23.430

Meg Perry, SWCA: invite you to speak.

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01:27:27.780 --> 01:27:30.060

Meg Perry, SWCA: And you may need to click on mute.

464

01:27:36.600 --> 01:27:36.960

Okay.

465

01:27:38.010 --> 01:27:38.730

Linda James: Can you hear me?

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01:27:39.090 --> 01:27:41.910

Linda James: Yes, this is a first for me.

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01:27:42.390 --> 01:27:43.020

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right.

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01:27:44.370 --> 01:27:59.280

Linda James: Linda James, Renewable Energy Long Island associate, a resident for 50 years in East Hampton, and a climate change activist, a colleague

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01:27:59.760 --> 01:28:16.710

Linda James: of Gordian Raacke, whom you've heard from earlier. My colleague and I have been performing promoting the offshore wind farm as the most

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01:28:17.670 --> 01:28:47.940

Linda James: effective way to fight climate change. No one will be ultimately safe from the consequences of runaway global warming, according to a new study from Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the burning of fossil fuels kills an estimated 350,000 people alone in the United States.

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01:28:49.200 --> 01:29:02.130

Linda James: The contribution of the South Fork Wind Farm's success also in meeting the town's 100% goal, not just in terms of the power

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01:29:02.640 --> 01:29:20.550

Linda James: but the benefits that it will provide in raising awareness in this community and on Long Island and, consequently, as we have been in the leadership of speaking out about renewable energy.

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01:29:21.030 --> 01:29:39.960

Linda James: It will raise awareness of renewable energy resources, replacing fossil fuel dependence. 350 years ago, our pilgrims here in East Hampton used the windmill

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01:29:40.650 --> 01:30:01.500

Linda James: for their source of power. I like to think that these windmills have floated out to sea and are now the turbines that we are talking about today. I firmly support their renewable energy replacement. Thank you very much.

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01:30:03.960 --> 01:30:05.970

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you very much for sharing your comments.

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01:30:07.770 --> 01:30:08.520

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right.

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01:30:12.480 --> 01:30:24.360

Meg Perry, SWCA: So Luciano Sabatini is up next and then George Povall, Josh Slaughter, and Timothy White will be

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01:30:25.440 --> 01:30:27.690

Meg Perry, SWCA: coming up after that, so.

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01:30:32.280 --> 01:30:33.630

Meg Perry, SWCA: Luciano, are you there?

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01:30:36.510 --> 01:30:37.290

Luciano Sabatini: Yes, I'm here.

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01:30:39.030 --> 01:30:48.720

Luciano Sabatini: I, my name is Luciano Sabatini. I am a member of the Sierra Club. I support the South Fork Wind Farm,

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01:30:50.130 --> 01:31:10.620

Luciano Sabatini: for the following reasons. On October 29, 2012, I was in my home when Hurricane Sandy flooded my home and my entire community. It was a devastating experience, and there are still people today who are still not in their homes because of the destruction that was created by Hurricane Sandy.

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01:31:13.650 --> 01:31:21.870

Luciano Sabatini: Let this past season, this past storm season, hurricane season, we ran out of names for storms, so the

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01:31:23.130 --> 01:31:30.210

Luciano Sabatini: frequency and the destruction of storms is just getting worse each year.

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01:31:32.340 --> 01:31:45.270

Luciano Sabatini: We know about other extreme weather events, the wildfires in California, the droughts in Africa and so forth. These are all red flags that of the future that we are about to inherit if we don't do something quickly.

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01:31:49.080 --> 01:32:07.950

Luciano Sabatini: Climate scientists have told us we have about 10 years. We wasted four years of the Trump Administration, that we have 10 years to curb carbon emissions. If we don't act on wind farm projects like this one, to begin that process of

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01:32:09.210 --> 01:32:18.600

Luciano Sabatini: curbing carbon emissions, so we are, we are headed for a future that is going to be terrible for our children and grandchildren.

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01:32:20.370 --> 01:32:21.150

Luciano Sabatini: That's all I have to say.

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01:32:23.400 --> 01:32:24.780

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for those comments.

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01:32:26.850 --> 01:32:27.750

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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01:32:28.890 --> 01:32:32.760

Meg Perry, SWCA: George Povall, you are up next.

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01:32:50.730 --> 01:32:55.200

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, I think we're hearing you, George, but mostly background noise right now.

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01:32:55.260 --> 01:33:11.010

George Povall: Okay, hi, my name is George Povall. I'm the Executive Director of All Our Energy a local Long Island South Shore Nassau organization, promoting environmental advocacy and protections.

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01:33:12.450 --> 01:33:24.480

George Povall: Thank you to everyone for having this hearing today and moving this process forward. Let me just start by making it perfectly clear that we support offshore wind.

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01:33:26.580 --> 01:33:34.080

George Povall: And really it boils down to what, what you've been hearing from everybody else today, which is climate change. We just cannot afford to keep waiting.

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01:33:35.940 --> 01:33:51.420

George Povall: At the same time, we are wholeheartedly behind a robust and thorough process to make sure that what we do now has the least environmental impacts that are possible.

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01:33:54.240 --> 01:33:55.950

George Povall: So, having said that,

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01:33:57.270 --> 01:34:06.030

George Povall: we think that moving forward with the South Fork Wind Farm is a great first step, but it is just the first step.

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01:34:08.850 --> 01:34:13.500

George Povall: Deciding of in right, where there is the greatest need for fossil fuels

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01:34:14.550 --> 01:34:15.780

George Povall: to be displaced,

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01:34:16.890 --> 01:34:32.280

George Povall: and this is the way to do it. Those fossil fuels have been eating up our climate and now we have a place that has a giant need for electricity, and we have a clean answer to supplying that, which is also when.

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01:34:35.670 --> 01:34:48.360

George Povall: We are also have the mind that the landfall on Beach Lane in Wainscott really is the least impactful, most direct, and really it's right where the power is needed.

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01:34:49.770 --> 01:34:54.180

George Povall: We don't see any other really viable option that makes any sense.

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01:34:56.580 --> 01:35:01.710

George Povall: And so we just want to make very clear that we support that landing site.

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01:35:03.540 --> 01:35:11.010

George Povall: Also, we want to reject the transit lane alternate. We don't feel that that's necessary.

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01:35:12.210 --> 01:35:17.100

George Povall: It's just another setback upon the previous setback, and really,

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01:35:19.470 --> 01:35:31.890

George Povall: nobody has shown any reason why the current shipping situation can't handle what they currently use, why they need even more in the future, nobody has explained that.

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01:35:34.500 --> 01:35:36.060

George Povall: So just to keep things brief,

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01:35:37.500 --> 01:35:46.890

George Povall: we want to make sure that that you know, and that we thank, the East End of Long Island for choosing this option, because the other option was to jam a

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01:35:49.050 --> 01:36:05.940

George Povall: track gas pipeline across Long Island to feed a new power plant that would have needed to be placed to generate this, in addition to all the problems with that and the miles and miles and miles of impact that that would have had to the rest of Long Island.

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01:36:07.380 --> 01:36:10.830

George Povall: This South Fork Wind Farm really is the least

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01:36:12.450 --> 01:36:15.810

George Povall: impactful on the environment, and actually

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01:36:17.730 --> 01:36:22.950

George Povall: it really solves a lot of issues with the current system that we use of fossil fuels.

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01:36:24.330 --> 01:36:36.330

George Povall: So we just want to say, we support this robust environmental process to ensure that all work and infrastructure is least impactful for our environment and we support the rapid development of offshore wind

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01:36:36.870 --> 01:36:48.810

George Povall: within those parameters to display 30 fossil fuels and move Long Island to renewable energy to help stop climate change and avert environmental pollution. Thank you.

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01:36:51.090 --> 01:36:51.630

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you.

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01:36:53.640 --> 01:36:54.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right.

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01:36:56.160 --> 01:37:08.220

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so, as I mentioned next step will be Josh Slaughter, followed by Timothy White, and then we'll turn to Bonnie Brady, and we'll check again to see if Pamela Mahoney may have been able to join us.

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01:37:09.270 --> 01:37:11.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: So Josh, let me

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01:37:16.650 --> 01:37:17.640

Meg Perry, SWCA: invite you to talk.

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01:37:19.380 --> 01:37:20.220

Josh Slaughter: Yes, thank you.

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01:37:21.540 --> 01:37:33.300

Josh Slaughter: My name is Josh Slaughter, S-L-A-U-G-H-T-E-R, I'm the Long Island political coordinator for the Mason Tenders District Council. We represent, several thousand working Long Islanders

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01:37:33.780 --> 01:37:44.010

Josh Slaughter: who are ready and willing to construct a clean energy future for Long Island. We've been working diligently to educate our members on the importance of climate change and how sound policy solutions

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01:37:44.520 --> 01:37:53.010

Josh Slaughter: such as South Fork Wind's proposed project will allow us to make great strides towards a healthier planet and while producing good-paying jobs for the local economy.

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01:37:53.520 --> 01:38:04.320

Josh Slaughter: I'm a lifelong Long Islander who has seen firsthand the impacts of climate change on my community, and as a Labor leader, I understand the need for good-paying job opportunities for our skilled workforce.

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01:38:04.920 --> 01:38:10.860

Josh Slaughter: I enthusiastically support the South Fork wind project, which will improve our environmental footprint,

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01:38:11.310 --> 01:38:20.550

Josh Slaughter: especially since South Fork Wind has worked hard to engage the local community as well as work with local Labor to ensure they have responsibility developed this offshore wind project.

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01:38:20.940 --> 01:38:28.770

Josh Slaughter: And this is going to be New York's very first offshore wind project, it's fitting that Long Island will host this project, considering the very recent impacts

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01:38:29.190 --> 01:38:35.760

Josh Slaughter: we have had experienced from climate change related to storms, as well as our need to deliver clean, renewable, and cost-effective power

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01:38:36.150 --> 01:38:43.230

Josh Slaughter: to the South Fork of Long Island. Long Island's Union labor force is enthusiastic to be a part of this historic moment for our region.

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01:38:43.830 --> 01:38:51.780

Josh Slaughter: Orsted has committed to working with local Labor by using project Labor agreements with the Nassau Suffolk Building Trades and by directly investing

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01:38:52.170 --> 01:38:57.810

Josh Slaughter: in local workforce training. The laborers and other Union trades provide extensive training programs

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01:38:58.290 --> 01:39:06.870

Josh Slaughter: and apprenticeships, at no cost to taxpayers. By coordinating with the wind energy, industry, we can continue to lead and train the offshore wind workforce of the future.

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01:39:07.740 --> 01:39:12.420

Josh Slaughter: The project developers have spent years working with local stakeholders on construction-related

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01:39:12.780 --> 01:39:21.090

Josh Slaughter: and community benefits agreements, and they have carefully considered all the cable landing options, which I believe has resulted in the best onshore cable route.

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01:39:21.750 --> 01:39:30.990

Josh Slaughter: The Labor is recognized the concerns raised by commercial fishermen local community stakeholders, but we believe that the proposed mitigation efforts provide acceptable solutions

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01:39:31.440 --> 01:39:38.040

Josh Slaughter: that, in the end, allow for environmental economics and energy benefits that far outweigh any negative impacts have been raised.

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01:39:38.520 --> 01:39:46.860

Josh Slaughter: For these reasons, we support the one by one nautical mile layout compromise and we urge BOEM to reject the transit lane alternative in the final EIS.

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01:39:47.610 --> 01:39:58.110

Josh Slaughter: This project is too important to move folks, not move forward to expeditiously it will provide long-term sustainability, economic development, and create a new, skilled workforce here in Long Island.

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01:39:58.590 --> 01:40:06.120

Josh Slaughter: As we begin to rebuild our economy in a post-COVID world, this will put people back to work, build infrastructure to address climate change,

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01:40:06.570 --> 01:40:15.630

Josh Slaughter: and spur economic development in our communities. For these reasons, I urge you to approve the environmental impact statement so that this critical project and move forward. Thank you.

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01:40:17.760 --> 01:40:19.470

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you for sharing those comments.

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01:40:20.520 --> 01:40:21.420

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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01:40:24.120 --> 01:40:26.790

Meg Perry, SWCA: Next up, we have

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01:40:28.470 --> 01:40:29.490

Meg Perry, SWCA: Timothy White.

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01:40:35.640 --> 01:40:47.940

Meg Perry, SWCA: Timothy if you are on the phone, if you can press star nine, that will let me know who you are, and then I can invite you to speak.

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01:40:49.980 --> 01:40:52.710

Meg Perry, SWCA: I'm not seeing Timothy logged in on Zoom but

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01:40:54.540 --> 01:40:59.370

Meg Perry, SWCA: you can use star nine to let us know that you are on the phone.

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01:41:07.980 --> 01:41:16.920

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay. I'm not seeing Timothy, so Christy, look let's skip Timothy for now and then we'll just circle back at the end in case they're able to join us later.

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01:41:19.170 --> 01:41:21.120

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so next.

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01:41:22.650 --> 01:41:35.850

Meg Perry, SWCA: We have and we're starting, I think, we are we've reached the end of our preregistered list, so at this point, if there are others who did not say in advance that they wanted to share a comment

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01:41:37.380 --> 01:41:46.590

Meg Perry, SWCA: you have the opportunity to raise your hand now, and let us know that you would like to share a comment. So if you're in Zoom there's that little raised hand button.

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01:41:47.010 --> 01:41:58.620

Meg Perry, SWCA: If you're joining us via the phone only, you can use star nine, and that will raise your hand and you'll pop up in the queue that I'm able to see as the facilitator and I'll call on folks

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01:41:59.310 --> 01:42:20.640

Meg Perry, SWCA: in the order that you raised your hands, and same process, so I'm going to turn to Bonnie first, who's had her hand up, then we'll check in with Pamela. Glad to see you were able to join, and it looks like Jordan Christensen is next after those two, so Bonnie, go ahead.

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01:42:27.390 --> 01:42:27.810

Meg Perry, SWCA: Are you there?

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01:42:28.650 --> 01:42:30.120

Bonnie Brady: And you mean yes, can you hear me?

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01:42:30.630 --> 01:42:33.630

Bonnie Brady: Yes, sorry, I was trying to shift-command-A and then you

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01:42:33.660 --> 01:42:47.190

Bonnie Brady: changed it up on me. I'm Bonnie Brady, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association. We will be submitting comments, additionally written comments. I just had a couple of comments, based upon the comments that I was hearing before me.

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01:42:48.540 --> 01:42:52.170

Bonnie Brady: Some of these I've written down, so let's see, five minutes, yeah, we can do this.

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01:42:53.100 --> 01:43:02.310

Bonnie Brady: There have been many comments made regarding commercial fisheries and fishermen that have been made that are frankly patently false, as are many of the comments of the benefits of offshore wind.

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01:43:02.940 --> 01:43:10.590

Bonnie Brady: Talks of what is working in Europe until the creation of the Hornsea project, the majority the wind turbines in megawatts could fit inside the Equinor lease.

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01:43:11.010 --> 01:43:23.790

Bonnie Brady: The combined Rhode Island-Massachusetts wind energy area that exists, of which South Fork Wind Farm as a project in, and there's many others, is equal to two-thirds of the size of the Grand Canyon National Park

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01:43:24.150 --> 01:43:32.610

Bonnie Brady: with the windmill every one nautical mile in every direction. I'd like for as many of the people listening to kind of imagine what that might be like.

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01:43:33.630 --> 01:43:42.360

Bonnie Brady: Fishermen in Europe are routinely compensated for all components of a wind farm from survey through construction through actual

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01:43:42.840 --> 01:43:52.710

Bonnie Brady: construction through decommissioning. In Denmark, it is required by law if long-term losses are had, they must compensate each and every fisherman.

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01:43:53.460 --> 01:44:05.700

Bonnie Brady: Talks about the collapse of local fishing and fisheries, when in fact fish stocks are in the best shape they have been in 20 years. A fun fact, the National Marine Fisheries Service status of the stocks in 2019

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01:44:06.690 --> 01:44:14.550

Bonnie Brady: tells us that 93% of 321 fish stocks are not over fished. These are those that are called commercially.

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01:44:15.030 --> 01:44:21.720

Bonnie Brady: 81% of 244 stocks overfishing isn't occurring and 47 fish stocks have been built, rebuilt since 2000.

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01:44:22.590 --> 01:44:36.720

Bonnie Brady: I was told by one of the former speakers today that the best way to fight blind environmentalism that plays upon people's feelings and not facts was to tell the truth, and tell the truth, and tell the truth, so I will try my best to do so today.

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01:44:37.530 --> 01:44:46.800

Bonnie Brady: Another speaker talked about how commercial fishermen and fishing will be protected. Due to the largesse of the developers and the process to date, nothing could be farther from the truth.

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01:44:47.310 --> 01:44:59.970

Bonnie Brady: I've been involved in the process since 2012. In Rhode Island, specific language of the Coastal Resource Management Council in Rhode Island law protects the fishermen from offshore wind forcing negotiation

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01:45:00.420 --> 01:45:08.220

Bonnie Brady: with the developer with the Fishing Advisory Board, and the developer is forced to pay for all costs, including legal representation for fishermen.

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01:45:08.760 --> 01:45:18.120

Bonnie Brady: If they do not do so, they do not receive federal consistency approval. It is the condition of the approval for the offshore wind project. This should be the federal model.

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01:45:18.780 --> 01:45:32.700

Bonnie Brady: We cannot have where depending upon which state and which developer, it's a willy-nilly mess, where people do one for one state, because they have consistency review and for other states they leave us high and dry (think New York).

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01:45:33.420 --> 01:45:39.510

Bonnie Brady: In New York, the developers ran the transmission cable in such a way that it didn't even qualify for intervenor funding.

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01:45:40.200 --> 01:45:49.500

Bonnie Brady: There is no payment to fishermen to remove their gear in areas where surveys are being done while they're being done like they do in Europe so as to prevent gear loss.

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01:45:50.040 --> 01:45:59.790

Bonnie Brady: Gear loss only has a 30-day deadline to submit, and many fishermen on Long Island have already lost gear. Some, when they've submitted their claims, they were denied.

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01:46:00.600 --> 01:46:16.740

Bonnie Brady: There is no long-term fair and equitable compensation to fishermen if grounds become barren as a result of this project, because not every fish species likes hard substrate. As someone said regarding reef areas, not all fish species are reef species.

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01:46:17.520 --> 01:46:30.030

Bonnie Brady: Wide safe transit lanes as RODA has requested, four nautical miles in width must be included as part of the transit required for fishermen who are actively fishing or transiting to ports.

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01:46:30.720 --> 01:46:37.530

Bonnie Brady: The fact that someone that doesn't spend their time off shore would tell another when you're working in the most severe of conditions

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01:46:37.800 --> 01:46:50.280

Bonnie Brady: that we're not going to give you ample wide space to not only come home the most direct path, but it has been dealt with, for the multiple of developers working with, not only this project, but others.

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01:46:50.820 --> 01:47:04.260

Bonnie Brady: In the Rhode Island-Massachusetts wind energy area, they would require New York fishermen to do a 50-nautical-mile jog around the wind energy area because fishermen are afraid to work inside of it for the fear of hitting one of the turbines.

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01:47:06.210 --> 01:47:18.240

Bonnie Brady: I could keep talking forever, but I only have 45 seconds. The reality also that has been requested in the past is a moratorium to make sure that the science is right. Everyone that proclaims "because of the science."

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01:47:18.720 --> 01:47:38.490

Bonnie Brady: We need to get a better handle on the science. National Marine Fisheries has told us they will lose the 70-year-old series fishing survey by the Bigelow. They cannot use the Bigelow to go in there without risking their crew and their lives.

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01:47:39.810 --> 01:47:42.090

Bonnie Brady: I will be submitting full comments later. Thank you very much.

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01:47:43.350 --> 01:47:44.700

Meg Perry, SWCA: And you for those comments.

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01:47:45.990 --> 01:47:47.010

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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01:47:48.600 --> 01:47:50.250

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right, looks like

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01:47:52.350 --> 01:47:53.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: Pamela.

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01:47:54.840 --> 01:47:58.920

Meg Perry, SWCA: You have been able to join us, which is great, so I'm going to invite you to speak.

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01:48:04.350 --> 01:48:06.300

Meg Perry, SWCA: And you may need to unmute

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01:48:06.510 --> 01:48:20.490

Pamela Mahoney: I'm unmuted. I also will be presenting additional comments, but they in my know you're probably the end of this meeting. But we're Wainscott residents and

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01:48:21.360 --> 01:48:33.510

Pamela Mahoney: there, I do want to say that there are so many unaddressed issues. Bonnie spoke to that just now and we've been in the process, involved in this process, since the fall of

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01:48:34.740 --> 01:48:38.400

Pamela Mahoney: 2018. We've gone to all the meetings,

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01:48:40.530 --> 01:48:49.830

Pamela Mahoney: and then some. We've spent so much of our personal time researching this project and other projects and other parts of the country and in Europe.

596

01:48:52.170 --> 01:48:56.430

Pamela Mahoney: We have a lot of unaddressed issues here, this is not a slam-dunk done deal.

597

01:48:57.720 --> 01:49:11.250

Pamela Mahoney: And I don't really care what the proponents say, we have a lot of things we still need to deal with, and one of our, one of my biggest concerns, is the fact that Wainscott residents are not,

598

01:49:12.690 --> 01:49:31.320

Pamela Mahoney: not really having their say, everybody that calls in and everybody that's attended the meeting, for the most part, are coming from other places. They're out island, they're in other states, they're in other towns, other parts of East Hampton, but not Wainscott.

599

01:49:32.490 --> 01:49:47.730

Pamela Mahoney: And we were told at a meeting one day that it was the most elegant route, and I thought, you know, that's really not a compensation for being the right route, and other routes are not being adequately and evenly considered.

600

01:49:49.050 --> 01:49:49.470

Pamela Mahoney: And I

601

01:49:50.700 --> 01:49:51.690

Pamela Mahoney: I just I just

602

01:49:53.700 --> 01:50:12.840

Pamela Mahoney: We want to be heard, we want people to understand that we're not on board with us and, like I said we've been to the meetings it's not like we're sitting on the outside looking in. We've been involved, we have we have water issues. That again is not

603

01:50:14.160 --> 01:50:15.990

Pamela Mahoney: coming to the forefront of all of this.

604

01:50:20.910 --> 01:50:32.340

Pamela Mahoney: I want to see another location thoroughly vetted and we thought that was going to happen and it hasn't happened to say that there are other locations and they've been vetted is not accurate.

605

01:50:33.390 --> 01:50:34.050

Pamela Mahoney: I am.

606

01:50:37.260 --> 01:50:38.340

Pamela Mahoney: Like I said, I'll

607

01:50:40.110 --> 01:50:45.360

Pamela Mahoney: prepare some, some other comments, but as Wainscott residents, we're.

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01:50:46.920 --> 01:50:49.980

Pamela Mahoney: really shocked that they would want to do this.

609

01:50:51.060 --> 01:51:02.370

Pamela Mahoney: And, and we don't really even feel we're getting straight answers on a lot of this, and I, I know what it's being compared to a water main installation.

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01:51:02.880 --> 01:51:12.330

Pamela Mahoney: This is what they tell us, this is like putting water in the street, which of course we've been through, and it's not, it's nothing like putting water on the street and very honestly,

611

01:51:13.170 --> 01:51:20.700

Pamela Mahoney: we don't know what this is going to do to our property values, and I am tracking property values at the moment that's something that isn't being discussed.

612

01:51:22.980 --> 01:51:28.410

Pamela Mahoney: And, and what people are asking me about it, people are asking if we're going to leave.

613

01:51:29.730 --> 01:51:31.290

Pamela Mahoney: Why would we want to stay there?

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01:51:32.580 --> 01:51:32.970

Pamela Mahoney: and

615

01:51:35.250 --> 01:51:36.780

Pamela Mahoney: You know it's, it's

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01:51:38.430 --> 01:51:42.510

Pamela Mahoney: unbelievable and I need to be heard, we need to be respected.

617

01:51:44.910 --> 01:51:53.970

Pamela Mahoney: People have to know how we feel. I'm so tired of people outside of Wainscott telling us that we need to take one for the team, we need to buck up,

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01:51:54.570 --> 01:52:02.400

Pamela Mahoney: grow up, and yet I don't see any of them, offering their neighborhoods or their beaches, for this project. No

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01:52:02.910 --> 01:52:16.590

Pamela Mahoney: one comes back and says look, this is another, this is another beach, why don't you look at that, why don't you look at this other location, nobody helps, they just they just call us NIMBYs and, and why the name calling right now.

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01:52:17.910 --> 01:52:24.660

Pamela Mahoney: And I am speaking from the heart, today. I didn't have anything prepared, but I did want to say

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01:52:25.890 --> 01:52:34.110

Pamela Mahoney: what we feel, and I want to relay what a lot of other people feel and just aren't feeling that they're being heard.

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01:52:37.260 --> 01:52:42.630

Pamela Mahoney: And they can turn off their air conditioning. I don't even have air conditioning.

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01:52:46.920 --> 01:52:48.000

Pamela Mahoney: That's all I have for now.

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01:52:50.190 --> 01:52:50.550

Pamela Mahoney: Thank you.

625

01:52:52.260 --> 01:52:56.880

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you very much for sharing your perspective on this. Really appreciate those comments.

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01:52:59.220 --> 01:53:09.630

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, a Jordan Christensen, you had your hand up and now your hand is back down, so I don't know, do you do you want to jump in here? Yes? Okay.

627

01:53:17.280 --> 01:53:18.300

Jordan Christensen: Hi, can you hear me?

628

01:53:19.440 --> 01:53:33.900

Jordan Christensen: Yes, okay. Great. Actually I'm Adrienne Esposito. Jordan is my co-worker, and I think I must have used her link by accident, so my name is Adrienne Esposito. I'm the executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

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01:53:34.590 --> 01:53:36.450

Meg Perry, SWCA: I'm sorry, can you spell your name for the record?

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01:53:36.720 --> 01:53:42.540

Jordan Christensen: It's A-D-R-I-E-N-N-E E-S-P-O-S-T-O.

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01:53:43.500 --> 01:53:45.690

Jordan Christensen: And the name of the group is Citizens Campaign

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01:53:45.780 --> 01:53:46.740

Jordan Christensen: for the Environment.

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01:53:48.330 --> 01:53:55.920

Jordan Christensen: And thank you for the opportunity to comment and we will be submitting more detailed comments in writing to BOEM. I'd like to address

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01:53:56.670 --> 01:54:00.210

Jordan Christensen: some specific concerns and topics that we heard today.

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01:54:00.540 --> 01:54:10.530

Jordan Christensen: For one is, I think we need to remember that this wind farm is result of a competitive bid process put out by the local electricity company PSE&G

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01:54:10.800 --> 01:54:20.970

Jordan Christensen: because of the increase in electricity demand on the East End. So it's not a wind farm or nothing, it's a wind farm or a fossil fuel plant.

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01:54:21.690 --> 01:54:28.590

Jordan Christensen: We are choosing the wind farm. The second thing is, I think it's to remember is that it's very important

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01:54:29.340 --> 01:54:41.430

Jordan Christensen: for people to understand a climate change, I don't know if some of the speakers do. One of the speakers is very upset about a cable going in their road. I'm upset about the 95,000 homes that would [audio cut out]

639

01:54:42.150 --> 01:54:50.010

Jordan Christensen: Superstorm Sandy. I'm upset about all of us who live by the coast, who are told by FEMA you have to raise your house up five feet.

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01:54:50.610 --> 01:54:59.100

Jordan Christensen: That's pretty inconvenient. Many of us are upset about what's called rainy outside, I'm sorry, sunny-day flooding, where it's a beautiful day, it's a sunny day.

641

01:54:59.490 --> 01:55:09.330

Jordan Christensen: Only our homes and our streets are being flooded because the tides and the winds have a certain reach, a certain threshold, where the sea now overtakes the land.

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01:55:09.810 --> 01:55:19.350

Jordan Christensen: So climate change on Long Island is real. I would be thrilled if the only thing I had to sacrifice was having a cable go in on my road. That would be wonderful.

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01:55:19.680 --> 01:55:29.580

Jordan Christensen: Rather than having people's homes flooded and people's streets torn up and destroyed because of more frequent nor'easters and more frequent hurricanes and sunny-day flooding.

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01:55:30.150 --> 01:55:41.190

Jordan Christensen: I think we need to be very realistic here on Long Island. We are an island, we are at ground zero for climate change impacts, and we are experiencing them right now.

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01:55:42.090 --> 01:55:50.310

Jordan Christensen: And if we have concerns about birds, for instance, then we should address them, you know the red knot.

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01:55:50.730 --> 01:55:57.540

Jordan Christensen: In order to protect that species, we need to protect the horseshoe crabs, not stop, not prevent

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01:55:57.960 --> 01:56:07.620

Jordan Christensen: the answer for climate change from moving forward. If we're concerned about piping plovers, which we are, my organization's worked for 38 years to protect piping plovers.

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01:56:07.920 --> 01:56:18.060

Jordan Christensen: And we do so by protecting the nesting grounds and the breeding grounds and the nursery grounds for that species, so they can nest in breed and then leave in September.

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01:56:19.470 --> 01:56:33.360

Jordan Christensen: You don't protect the bird species by continuing fossil fuels and climate change. You protect bird species and fish species, by fighting climate change. And we're asking BOEM

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01:56:33.960 --> 01:56:46.230

Jordan Christensen: to consider that when you do the final EIS that everything is in comparison. It's not just wind or nothing, its wind power and transitioning to renewables

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01:56:46.590 --> 01:56:58.230

Jordan Christensen: or continuing to be addicted to fossil fuels. And the reason in the first place we're looking at the South Fork Wind Farm and the other wind farms that have been proposed is because

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01:56:58.800 --> 01:57:17.820

Jordan Christensen: there is an urgent and, and, and dangerous situation occurring, and that is that we are experiencing climate change impacts. So, as I said, thank you for the opportunity to comment, we will be submitting more detailed comments directly related to the substance of the DEIS.

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01:57:20.280 --> 01:57:27.390

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great, thank you for those comments. Okay, next we are going to,

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01:57:28.620 --> 01:57:31.050

Meg Perry, SWCA: Will we're hoping to hear from Timothy White.

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01:57:33.900 --> 01:57:34.590

Meg Perry, SWCA: But,

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01:57:38.100 --> 01:57:46.410

Meg Perry, SWCA: I'm not sure if he was able to join us. Timothy if you are, if you have joined by phone.

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01:57:47.430 --> 01:57:50.070

Meg Perry, SWCA: You can use star nine to

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01:57:53.820 --> 01:57:55.890

Meg Perry, SWCA: let us know that you want to talk.

659

01:58:01.650 --> 01:58:02.130

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

660

01:58:03.480 --> 01:58:08.760

Meg Perry, SWCA: Well we'll check back at the end, just in case, but it doesn't sound like Timothy is with us right now.

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01:58:09.840 --> 01:58:10.440

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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01:58:12.180 --> 01:58:15.000

Meg Perry, SWCA: So we have heard from Pamela.

663

01:58:16.170 --> 01:58:17.430

Meg Perry, SWCA: And Adrienne.

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01:58:18.750 --> 01:58:22.620

Meg Perry, SWCA: And I think Julian Jensen is up next.

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01:58:25.560 --> 01:58:26.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: Go ahead Julian.

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01:58:30.900 --> 01:58:32.160

Meg Perry, SWCA: And you may need to unmute.

667

01:58:44.760 --> 01:58:46.950

Meg Perry, SWCA: And we're still not hearing you, you might be up there, we go.

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01:58:52.980 --> 01:58:53.460

Meg Perry, SWCA: Are you there?

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01:58:56.550 --> 01:59:00.690

Meg Perry, SWCA: Click you're unmuted but I'm not hearing you speaking at all, Julian, if you're there.

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01:59:07.980 --> 01:59:14.730

Meg Perry, SWCA: And if you've called in on the phone it's possible we you might need to unmute your phone.

671

01:59:27.630 --> 01:59:36.450

Meg Perry, SWCA: And if, we're still not hearing you even though I see you unmuted, um so it's, you might need to sign out and sign back in

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01:59:38.040 --> 01:59:41.730

Meg Perry, SWCA: or try adjusting your your mic and speakers on your computer.

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01:59:49.830 --> 01:59:58.830

Meg Perry, SWCA: And I think if you click on Zoom there's where you can mute yourself, you can check how your microphone is connected

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02:00:00.900 --> 02:00:05.370

Meg Perry, SWCA: and select your microphone and speaker there, so it might be something to check.

675

02:00:08.280 --> 02:00:17.280

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, and I have, we have had a couple more questions come in via the Q and A, which is great, and have the BOEM team working on answers to those.

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02:00:18.330 --> 02:00:22.560

Meg Perry, SWCA: So, continuing to welcome any other questions that folks would like to, to submit.

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02:00:30.420 --> 02:00:30.840

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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02:00:33.270 --> 02:00:39.270

Meg Perry, SWCA: It looks like we I saw, Julian, I'm going to turn back to you in just a moment in case you're able to figure out your audio situation.

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02:00:42.000 --> 02:00:57.420

Meg Perry, SWCA: But otherwise I'm not seeing other hands up, so just a reminder if you're on the phone and you'd like to submit a comment verbally, you can use star nine to raise your hand and let us know that you'd like to speak. Otherwise you can click the raise hand button in Zoom

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02:00:58.440 --> 02:01:00.390

Meg Perry, SWCA: to let them know that you'd like to get in the queue.

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02:01:03.240 --> 02:01:09.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: But if we don't see any other hands go up here soon, we'll, we'll go ahead and take our break before the Q and A.

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02:01:19.830 --> 02:01:20.370

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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02:01:26.520 --> 02:01:37.320

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, I'm not seeing any other people getting in line to share comment at this time, so what I'm going to suggest is that we go ahead and take our break.

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02:01:38.400 --> 02:01:45.600

Meg Perry, SWCA: Between the comment and the Q and A, we have been going here for close to two hours, so give folks a chance to just step away briefly.

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02:01:47.670 --> 02:01:57.900

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then we'll come back for question and answer, and we'll see if we can work with you Julian to sort out your audio issue and we'll just start off with your comment, when we come back.

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02:01:59.970 --> 02:02:01.350

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then turn it, turn to Q and A.

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02:02:02.490 --> 02:02:03.240

Meg Perry, SWCA: So.

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02:02:07.620 --> 02:02:21.300

Meg Perry, SWCA: So, Julian, if you can remain we'll see if we can give you some instructions about how to fix your audio. For everyone else, I just want to say thank you again so much for your, your attention to this project your participation in this,

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02:02:23.430 --> 02:02:30.180

Meg Perry, SWCA: in this process, and for for taking the time to be part of this meeting, and to share your comments, either.

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02:02:31.200 --> 02:02:35.040

Meg Perry, SWCA: Oh, it looks like Julian hit raise hand by accident so we're okay.

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02:02:38.430 --> 02:02:40.500

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay. Sorry about that.

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02:02:45.390 --> 02:02:51.240

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great, so just thank you again for all the comments that that you all have shared and for those that will come in via writing

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02:02:53.430 --> 02:02:56.670

Meg Perry, SWCA: in the coming days leading up to

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02:02:58.470 --> 02:03:02.070

Meg Perry, SWCA: the end of the public comment period, which just as a reminder

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02:03:03.240 --> 02:03:05.610

Meg Perry, SWCA: ends on February 22.

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02:03:06.660 --> 02:03:09.840

Meg Perry, SWCA: So this, these are the ways that you can share comments.

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02:03:11.520 --> 02:03:12.600

Meg Perry, SWCA: Other than today.

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02:03:14.070 --> 02:03:23.070

Meg Perry, SWCA: And with that I'm going to go ahead and turn to our break, and let's come back at the top of the hour at 3 p.m. Eastern for Q and A.

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02:03:26.310 --> 02:03:39.810

Meg Perry, SWCA: And we'll just encourage you, if you are going to stick around for the question and answer portion, if you could just stop your panelists, if you could just stop your video and mute rather than signing off that will be easiest for

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02:03:41.040 --> 02:03:42.240

Meg Perry, SWCA: coming back after the break.

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02:03:43.620 --> 02:03:48.300

Meg Perry, SWCA: So thanks everyone and we'll see you in just a few minutes for the question and answer portion of the meeting.

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02:12:37.980 --> 02:12:45.840

Meg Perry, SWCA: So thank you all for sticking with us, I hope you had a chance to step away and stretch or get a glass of water or what have you.

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02:12:47.010 --> 02:12:51.090

Meg Perry, SWCA: And we are going to turn now to the question and answer portion of the meeting.

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02:12:53.250 --> 02:12:57.900

Meg Perry, SWCA: And we've seen some good questions coming in through that Q and A feature in Zoom.

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02:13:01.920 --> 02:13:02.760

Meg Perry, SWCA: and

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02:13:04.890 --> 02:13:09.660

Meg Perry, SWCA: So we're going to turn to those here in just a moment. So let me walk you all through

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02:13:10.980 --> 02:13:11.640

Meg Perry, SWCA: that.

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02:13:14.340 --> 02:13:22.890

Meg Perry, SWCA: So, we have, as I've mentioned before, the BOEM staff have been putting together the answers to questions that we've received so far.

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02:13:24.330 --> 02:13:33.900

Meg Perry, SWCA: So we'll walk through those first, and then, if there are follow-up questions or additional clarification questions we'll invite

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02:13:34.920 --> 02:13:44.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: you all who might have those to raise your hand and we can take those questions verbally. But we'll go through the same process where we'll, we'll

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02:13:45.270 --> 02:13:55.620

Meg Perry, SWCA: save those, transcribe those questions, and then ask the BOEM staff to respond in the background. There might be a slight delay as they're working on the answers.

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02:13:56.850 --> 02:14:03.000

Meg Perry, SWCA: They're behind the scenes, so thanks, thanks in advance for your patience as we try to get you the best information possible.

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02:14:04.950 --> 02:14:06.630

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so.

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02:14:08.640 --> 02:14:12.480

Meg Perry, SWCA: I'm going to turn to our BOEM team.

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02:14:13.500 --> 02:14:17.850

Meg Perry, SWCA: Looks like we have several questions with answers ready.

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02:14:19.530 --> 02:14:25.830

Meg Perry, SWCA: So, and these are not going to or not necessarily going to answer them in the order they came in, we're going to print a group them by topic.

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02:14:28.320 --> 02:14:30.510

Meg Perry, SWCA: And if you all are looking at that Q and A.

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02:14:31.830 --> 02:14:34.350

Meg Perry, SWCA: If you click on that Q and A button, you'll see a few that have

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02:14:37.260 --> 02:14:38.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: been answered.

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02:14:40.170 --> 02:14:50.310

Meg Perry, SWCA: So as, as has been mentioned there, that the slides from this meeting were not shared in advance, but the recording will be available following the meeting.

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02:14:55.080 --> 02:14:55.890

Meg Perry, SWCA: and

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02:14:58.890 --> 02:15:13.320

Meg Perry, SWCA: We you saw me, you may have noticed that the automatically generated transcript sometimes make some mistakes, and so we will have a technical editor that goes back through with the recording and correct those before the transcript goes into the record.

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02:15:14.970 --> 02:15:17.520

Meg Perry, SWCA: So just some kind of administrative notes there.

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02:15:18.720 --> 02:15:23.010

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so turn then to the questions that you all have submitted.

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02:15:24.990 --> 02:15:26.370

Meg Perry, SWCA: There was a question

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02:15:29.700 --> 02:15:31.740

Meg Perry, SWCA: from Guy Simmons.

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02:15:33.000 --> 02:15:36.870

Meg Perry, SWCA: So Ursula, I'm going to turn to you, first, for

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02:15:38.340 --> 02:15:43.590

Meg Perry, SWCA: the two answers that you have at the moment.

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02:15:45.960 --> 02:15:50.520

Meg Perry, SWCA: So let's take, let's take question, the question from Michael Hansen,

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02:15:51.840 --> 02:16:05.700

Meg Perry, SWCA: which was that Michael said, "I know that this is the first offshore turbine installation for the State of New York, but how have other offshore structures affected marine life?" So, Ursula, if you could address that please?

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02:16:05.880 --> 02:16:06.540

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Thanks Mike.

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02:16:07.110 --> 02:16:07.650

Meg Perry, SWCA: You can just.

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02:16:08.220 --> 02:16:10.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: Oh yeah, I was gonna say introduce yourself, good.

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02:16:11.070 --> 02:16:15.540

Ursula Howson (BOEM): My name is Ursula Howson, and I am a fish biologist in BOEM's Office

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02:16:15.570 --> 02:16:17.130

Ursula Howson (BOEM): of Renewable Energy Programs.

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02:16:17.400 --> 02:16:22.290

Ursula Howson (BOEM): And answer Michael's question, structures are introduced into the marine environment rapidly

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02:16:23.100 --> 02:16:32.370

Ursula Howson (BOEM): become crusted with marine life. For example, in a BOEM- funded study called RODEO, or the Real Time Opportunity for Development of Environmental Observations,

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02:16:32.640 --> 02:16:39.990

Ursula Howson (BOEM): we examine the Block Island Wind Farm after construction and learn that the foundation structures are covered with blue mussels and other organisms.

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02:16:40.590 --> 02:16:49.320

Ursula Howson (BOEM): This in turn attracts other marine life such as sea stars and crabs, in addition to black sea bass, flounder, and other species are also observed around the turbines.

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02:16:49.770 --> 02:16:55.710

Ursula Howson (BOEM): This is called the artificial reef effect and has been studied in many areas, for their structures, including in Europe,

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02:16:56.280 --> 02:17:09.000

Ursula Howson (BOEM): where there are over 4,000 offshore wind turbines. For more information on that study, the RODEO study that BOEM has funded, please see BOEM.gov/RODEO. That's R-O-D-E-O.

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02:17:14.310 --> 02:17:19.020

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great. Thank you, Ursula, and I'll put that link in the chat as well, so folks can see that.

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02:17:22.170 --> 02:17:37.050

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, and then there was another question for you from Guy Simmons, who asked, "Can you please specify the size of the scour protection rocks ? You stated small?" And I think that was in response in reference to

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02:17:38.520 --> 02:17:41.490

Meg Perry, SWCA: Mary's presentation that mentioned the scour rocks, so.

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02:17:43.200 --> 02:17:53.130

Ursula Howson (BOEM): So in answering Guy's question, scour protection would consist of engineered rock that can be placed at the base of these foundations for the underside undesirable seabed erosion.

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02:17:54.420 --> 02:18:02.310

Ursula Howson (BOEM): That scour protection will consist of engineered rock that would be placed around the base of the monopile in a 225-foot diameter circle.

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02:18:02.880 --> 02:18:13.230

Ursula Howson (BOEM): The specific parameters for the diameter, the volume, and the area of scour protection are depicted in Table 3.1-2

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02:18:13.920 --> 02:18:23.520

Ursula Howson (BOEM): in the construction and operation plan, what we call the COP, which is available on the South Fork virtual meeting website. The monopile pile scour protection

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02:18:24.060 --> 02:18:37.200

Ursula Howson (BOEM): is typically determined based on water conditions, the sizes for CVOW1, which is the only active wind farm in federal waters that rocks used in scour protection range from about 10 to 14 inches.

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02:18:37.830 --> 02:18:54.990

Ursula Howson (BOEM): However, the typical size for scour protection in European wind farms is about 15 to 20 inches. Specifications for the size of the scour rocks for in the South Fork Wind Farm project in particular will be added to the final EIS.

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02:18:56.400 --> 02:19:01.590

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, great and sorry, can you just say one more time where, what the chapter was for that?

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02:19:03.390 --> 02:19:16.800

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Well, it was in Table 3.1-2 of the construction and operations plan, or the COP, and that is on the South Fork virtual meeting page.

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02:19:17.310 --> 02:19:17.640

Thanks.

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02:19:20.160 --> 02:19:25.350

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright, so thank you, Ursula. Thank you for those questions,

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02:19:26.520 --> 02:19:30.780

Meg Perry, SWCA: Let's see, we've got a couple other answers in progress.

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02:19:31.980 --> 02:19:32.640

Meg Perry, SWCA: I'm.

757

02:19:37.560 --> 02:19:38.490

Meg Perry, SWCA: David

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02:19:39.720 --> 02:19:42.960

Meg Perry, SWCA: Bigger, I think I'm going to turn to you next.

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02:19:44.280 --> 02:19:46.530

Meg Perry, SWCA: For question from Michael Hansen.

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02:19:48.390 --> 02:19:49.620

Meg Perry, SWCA: So, David if you're there.

761

02:19:56.520 --> 02:19:58.260

David Bigger, BOEM: Hello, good afternoon, I'm here.

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02:19:58.650 --> 02:20:14.490

Meg Perry, SWCA: Hi, great. Okay, so we had a question from Michael Hansen, who, who said, "I know the Audubon Society supports wind power, but will the turbines be painted black and white to alert birds?" So what can you share response there, please, and, and just introduce yourself, your role.

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02:20:16.080 --> 02:20:29.520

David Bigger, BOEM: Sure, my name is David Bigger. I'm a biologist here at BOEM and I specialize in avian and bat issues, and so the question was about

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02:20:31.710 --> 02:20:37.350

David Bigger, BOEM: whether the turbines will be painted black and white to alert birds . Well, yeah, right now

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02:20:39.270 --> 02:20:51.900

David Bigger, BOEM: that generally traditional wind turbines are painted a pure white color or a light gray system with FAA requirements and

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02:20:53.910 --> 02:21:13.620

David Bigger, BOEM: for offshore, but BOEM is considering the option of painting one curb turbine blade black, this will, this has been shown to reduce impacts to birds in a very recent study. However, there are also other considerations, including the visibility from shore and safety aspects.

767

02:21:15.240 --> 02:21:16.230

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, thank you.

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02:21:19.170 --> 02:21:19.470

David Bigger, BOEM: Good.

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02:21:22.740 --> 02:21:24.270

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right, excellent.

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02:21:27.480 --> 02:21:40.290

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, continue to see a few questions coming in, so that's great, and those are in progress, getting some answers for you there. Let me see what else we have ready to answer.

771

02:21:42.780 --> 02:21:43.740

Meg Perry, SWCA: Mary.

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02:21:46.800 --> 02:21:51.540

Meg Perry, SWCA: It looks like question number five has an answer ready.

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02:21:56.460 --> 02:22:01.230

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so Mary the question was from Michelle Bachman.

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02:22:02.460 --> 02:22:15.630

Meg Perry, SWCA: "The summary tables shown on the slides suggest similar impacts between the three action alternatives. Is there a place in the EIS that, compared to the relative impacts across alternatives? With different number of turbines is.

775

02:22:16.260 --> 02:22:29.550

Meg Perry, SWCA: It seems intuitive that impacts, with different number of turbines, it seems intuitive that impacts might be different." So asking about where to find that comparison of relative impacts across alternatives.

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02:22:30.990 --> 02:22:35.130

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Okay, thank you Meg. And again it's Mary Boatman, and I have my camera on, yes?

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02:22:35.370 --> 02:22:36.210

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Yes, and.

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02:22:38.220 --> 02:22:42.450

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And again I'm the environmental coordinator for the South Fork Wind Farm project.

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02:22:43.350 --> 02:22:53.040

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And yes, we do have a table with detailed comparisons of impacts, and this can be found in Chapter Two, and it does compare between the different alternatives.

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02:22:53.880 --> 02:23:01.980

Mary Boatman (BOEM): The presentation had a very streamlined version of this. There's a lot more detail in that table, so I would recommend that you take a look at that.

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02:23:03.180 --> 02:23:05.880

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, great. Chapter Two of the DEIS.

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02:23:13.230 --> 02:23:15.990

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you, Mary. And thanks for that question.

783

02:23:17.850 --> 02:23:18.660

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right.

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02:23:28.890 --> 02:23:35.010

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay. Arianna, it looks like you have an answer, ready to share.

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02:23:38.640 --> 02:23:43.650

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Yes, Hello everyone, my name is Arianna Baker and I'm the navigation analyst here at BOEM.

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02:23:43.950 --> 02:23:48.480

Meg Perry, SWCA; Arianna Baker (BOEM): And let me just review the question, for – I was just about to go right ahead, go ahead with that, Meg.

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02:23:48.780 --> 02:23:53.760

Meg Perry, SWCA: Yeah, so Michael Hansen asked, "Can fishing boats fish between the turbines?"

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02:23:54.930 --> 02:24:04.350

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Yeah, so there's a couple different ways to take this question. First of all BOEM does not have the authority to restrict any vessel traffic in and around any offshore wind facility.

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02:24:05.610 --> 02:24:16.140

Arianna Baker (BOEM): While in the most recent version of the National Defense Authorization Act, the United States Coast Guard has received the authority to implement a safety zone or a buffer to ensure safety at sea.

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02:24:17.040 --> 02:24:25.710

Arianna Baker (BOEM): This would only likely be enacted during construction or decommissioning activities, and it would be on a case-by-case basis at the judgment of the United States Coast Guard.

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02:24:26.370 --> 02:24:34.470

Arianna Baker (BOEM): So the Coast Guard has stated that they do have no intention on barring fishing vessel traffic and then activities from within the project area.

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02:24:35.430 --> 02:24:43.530

Arianna Baker (BOEM): There's the other side of the question, which is the practicality concern as to whether or not the fishing vessels can practically fish within a wind farm.

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02:24:43.800 --> 02:24:48.600

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Both the navigation safety risk assessment that was submitted as part of the construction operations plan

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02:24:49.020 --> 02:25:01.470

Arianna Baker (BOEM): and the draft environmental impact statement have found that they can fish within the area, and that is really up to the determination of each individual vessel master as to if they will elect to do so.

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02:25:02.010 --> 02:25:09.330

Arianna Baker (BOEM): So for more information, you can take a look at the South Fork Wind Farm navigation safety risk assessment, which is on the South Fork Wind

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02:25:09.690 --> 02:25:23.580

Arianna Baker (BOEM): Farm web page of BOEMs website, or the draft environmental impact statement specifically Table G-1, that is golf-1 in the draft environmental impact statement Appendix G.

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02:25:26.280 --> 02:25:32.250

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, great. Table G-1 in Appendix G has more information on that question. Thank you, Arianna.

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02:25:34.590 --> 02:25:35.670

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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02:25:38.130 --> 02:25:39.630

Meg Perry, SWCA: Let's see here.

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02:25:42.630 --> 02:25:51.150

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright, still have a couple, couple things in progress, but we're getting close to the end here on questions so just a reminder that

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02:25:51.750 --> 02:26:01.260

Meg Perry, SWCA: you can submit questions with that Q and A feature, you can also raise your hand if you, especially if you're on the phone, you can use star nine if you'd like to ask a question.

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02:26:04.530 --> 02:26:05.220

Meg Perry, SWCA: and

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02:26:06.300 --> 02:26:19.650

Meg Perry, SWCA: Just a couple of reminders for everyone so as, as folks have been mentioning there is of course the opportunity to submit these comments in writing. If you submit comments in writing, if you didn't submit them today or in addition to what you shared today

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02:26:21.900 --> 02:26:22.650

Meg Perry, SWCA: and

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02:26:24.420 --> 02:26:32.160

Meg Perry, SWCA: you can also so that's either via, via snail mail or through regulations.gov.

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02:26:34.230 --> 02:26:39.090

Meg Perry, SWCA: And all that information about how to comment is on the website that's been shared as well.

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02:26:41.070 --> 02:26:58.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: And the virtual meeting room website, that link that we also shared in the chat, has some additional background information with relevant documents, as well as posters and presentations of the kind that you might see at a in-person open house if we were able to do that,

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02:27:00.180 --> 02:27:02.820

Meg Perry, SWCA: that background information is available online.

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02:27:05.670 --> 02:27:07.140

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then just

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02:27:08.280 --> 02:27:21.540

Meg Perry, SWCA: additional opportunity would be at the second and third public meetings coming up this Thursday, February 11, and February 16. Those are both starting at 5 p.m.

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02:27:22.440 --> 02:27:33.030

Meg Perry, SWCA: So you didn't have a chance if you didn't comment today or you want to comment again or have a question, those other two meetings coming up or would be another opportunity.

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02:27:35.280 --> 02:27:37.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so I'm going to turn to

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02:27:38.790 --> 02:27:40.890

Meg Perry, SWCA: Jim Bennett for the last

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02:27:42.060 --> 02:27:43.170

Meg Perry, SWCA: question,

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02:27:44.940 --> 02:27:46.380

Meg Perry, SWCA: or answer rather, so

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02:27:47.400 --> 02:27:51.900

Meg Perry, SWCA: Jim, if you want to bring your video up. And the question was from Mark Harrington,

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02:27:52.980 --> 02:28:09.660

Meg Perry, SWCA: who asked, "Can we expect BOEM this year to formalize additional wind energy areas in the New York Bight and other areas off of Long Island and New York, and could lease options take place for those areas this year? What has held up the process?"

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02:28:11.580 --> 02:28:13.860

Meg Perry, SWCA: So, Jim, if you could just reintroduce yourself and then.

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02:28:14.370 --> 02:28:15.570

Jim Bennett (BOEM): This Jim Bennett.

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02:28:16.920 --> 02:28:22.830

Jim Bennett (BOEM): I'm the program manager for BOEM. It's a great question, it's one we're trying to resolve right now.

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02:28:23.880 --> 02:28:33.990

Jim Bennett (BOEM): We do have a process that was talked about earlier today, and we're working with the administration, and the New York Bight is one of the top priorities

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02:28:34.590 --> 02:28:44.610

Jim Bennett (BOEM): for us, and we're going to confirm that it is for the administration. And we are going to need to move forward with the steps that are identifying the process.

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02:28:45.000 --> 02:29:05.970

Jim Bennett (BOEM): I don't consider them a hold up. I consider them the necessary identification and solicitation of proposed areas offshore and solicitation of stakeholder input, so that we can move forward and put out a proposed sale notice to be followed a couple months.

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02:29:06.990 --> 02:29:15.240

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Probably three months or so later by a final sale notice. Whether that can all get done in the time frame, that will have it happen in this calendar year.

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02:29:15.540 --> 02:29:32.910

Jim Bennett (BOEM): I'm not sure yet, but we are, we are indeed working with the administration to focus on exactly that, as well as other areas, such as the, such as the Gulf of Maine and in the mid-Atlantic to move forward with new leases.

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02:29:35.010 --> 02:29:37.410

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you very much for that response, Jim.

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02:29:39.180 --> 02:29:43.770

Meg Perry, SWCA: And we have had a couple other new questions come in, um,

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02:29:44.940 --> 02:29:55.530

Meg Perry, SWCA: from Cori and Adrienne, so we're, we're working on answers to those and we'll share those in just a moment. So if anyone else wants to submit a question or raise your hand to ask a question

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02:29:57.030 --> 02:30:05.700

Meg Perry, SWCA: You are certainly welcome to at this time and then we'll just ask your patience as the BOEM team puts those responses together.

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02:30:15.930 --> 02:30:17.370

Meg Perry, SWCA: And and.

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02:30:18.480 --> 02:30:22.470

Meg Perry, SWCA: While we're waiting I'm just going to show folks the

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02:30:23.610 --> 02:30:31.020

Meg Perry, SWCA: virtual meeting site with that background information, so you all can get a sense of what that looks like if you haven't seen it already.

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02:30:33.150 --> 02:30:35.460

Meg Perry, SWCA: So let me just share that with you all.

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02:30:45.420 --> 02:30:50.100

Meg Perry, SWCA: You should be seeing that website South Fork Wind Farm virtual meetings.

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02:30:52.140 --> 02:30:58.440

Meg Perry, SWCA: It has things like the construction operations plan, scoping report.

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02:31:00.150 --> 02:31:06.930

Meg Perry, SWCA: All of these kind of documents that are part of the process, provide context. Sirens behind me.

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02:31:09.570 --> 02:31:17.430

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then each of these little icons has a different little video that goes with it has some background information.

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02:31:19.890 --> 02:31:20.670

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then.

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02:31:21.960 --> 02:31:28.260

Meg Perry, SWCA: There are publications and posters, similar to what you might expect to see in an in-person open house here on various topics.

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02:31:29.940 --> 02:31:37.110

Meg Perry, SWCA: Describing kind of what's covered in the in the DEIS as well, so that's just another resource that's available to everyone.

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02:31:39.750 --> 02:31:42.450

Meg Perry, SWCA: For your reference coming out of this meeting and I'll put that

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02:31:44.700 --> 02:31:45.390

Meg Perry, SWCA: In

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02:31:46.680 --> 02:31:50.190

Meg Perry, SWCA: The chat just once again for your reference.

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02:31:54.510 --> 02:31:55.380

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, great.

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02:32:15.420 --> 02:32:22.260

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright, just checking in with my team here to see where we stand on questions and answers.

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02:32:25.110 --> 02:32:29.010

Meg Perry, SWCA: You're getting a couple other questions in here so that's great.

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02:32:49.950 --> 02:32:51.180

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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02:33:09.480 --> 02:33:16.080

Meg Perry, SWCA: And just, and we do have a few different questions coming in here so just a reminder that if it's

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02:33:17.280 --> 02:33:24.420

Meg Perry, SWCA: it's helpful if you can send one question at a time, we will figure it out on the back end if you're submitting additional questions.

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02:33:27.030 --> 02:33:37.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: One question at a time in that Q and A is helpful, um, and I do see kind of a procedural question here about the agendas for the two other public meetings

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02:33:39.870 --> 02:33:54.180

Meg Perry, SWCA: and how they will compare to today's meeting, and the answer is that they will be essentially the same. So if you attended today's meeting, there won't be any different information presented. The only difference would be, you know, who shows up and what comments might be shared.

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02:33:55.590 --> 02:33:56.130

Meg Perry, SWCA: So.

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02:33:57.210 --> 02:34:02.220

Meg Perry, SWCA: You wouldn't miss any information from the agencies if you only attend this meeting.

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02:34:03.450 --> 02:34:04.530

Meg Perry, SWCA: The agendas are the same.

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02:34:27.090 --> 02:34:28.020

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

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02:34:29.070 --> 02:34:35.190

Meg Perry, SWCA: All right, we have busy bees here in the background, getting answers together, so thank you all for bearing with us.

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02:34:43.740 --> 02:34:46.080

Meg Perry, SWCA: And I do think, just to clarify.

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02:34:48.120 --> 02:34:50.970

Meg Perry, SWCA: So this is all BOEM responding.

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02:34:53.100 --> 02:34:53.970

Meg Perry, SWCA: And

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02:34:57.300 --> 02:35:07.980

Meg Perry, SWCA: Adrienne, I don't know if that was more of a question or comment that you submitted, but if you could clarify what maybe what you would like, for BOEM to respond to there, how that might be helpful

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02:35:09.150 --> 02:35:10.980

Meg Perry, SWCA: if you want to just submit a follow-up question

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02:35:12.240 --> 02:35:13.050

Meg Perry, SWCA: to clarify.

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02:35:47.700 --> 02:36:00.810

Meg Perry, SWCA: And, and also in reference to the question about agendas for the future meetings, so we will be posting the recording of this meeting, so even if you can't attend other meetings, if you wanted to go back and listen to the presentation again or

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02:36:02.730 --> 02:36:10.380

Meg Perry, SWCA: hear anything that was shared during this meeting, again that recording will be made available on the website as well, so you'll have that for your reference going forward.

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02:36:13.440 --> 02:36:15.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, thanks for that clarification, Adrienne.

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02:36:16.830 --> 02:36:17.700

Meg Perry, SWCA: Seeing some

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02:36:24.870 --> 02:36:27.150

Meg Perry, SWCA: other questions coming in, which is great.

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02:36:29.760 --> 02:36:38.100

Meg Perry, SWCA: And, as always appreciate everyone's patience with the virtual environment, I know it's not as, doesn't flow as naturally, as sitting in a room together but,

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02:36:40.680 --> 02:36:48.060

Meg Perry, SWCA: but glad that we're able to meet in this way, at the very least, so thank you all for bearing with us.

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02:36:50.610 --> 02:36:55.050

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, looks like we do have an answer ready now for

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02:36:57.120 --> 02:36:59.460

Meg Perry, SWCA: To Lane Johnston's questions, so,

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02:37:02.490 --> 02:37:05.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: Ursula, if you're ready there.

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02:37:08.040 --> 02:37:14.760

Meg Perry, SWCA: You're still working on another answer, so maybe I'll just give you another minute, then we can do both at once, okay.

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02:37:15.570 --> 02:37:16.980

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Hang on one minute, let me know when you're ready.

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02:37:57.090 --> 02:37:57.360

Meg Perry, SWCA: Right.

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02:37:59.640 --> 02:38:01.140

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Meg, if you'd like to take that

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02:38:03.600 --> 02:38:04.830

Ursula Howson (BOEM): one from Lane Johnston.

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02:38:05.340 --> 02:38:06.390

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, great yeah.

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02:38:13.200 --> 02:38:13.800

Ursula Howson (BOEM): It's a short one.

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02:38:15.150 --> 02:38:29.190

Meg Perry, SWCA: So just to reiterate, the question was, "Please clarify the key for the complex habitats Figure 3.4.2-1, including if the black marks are indicating a type of habitat,

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02:38:30.750 --> 02:38:37.530

Meg Perry, SWCA: and, additionally, who will make the final determination, if the "potentially complex habitat" is in fact complex." Okay.

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02:38:37.590 --> 02:38:48.930

Ursula Howson (BOEM): So "potentially complex" is considered a subset of complex habitat, that is, we're basing our recommendations, our information off of

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02:38:49.500 --> 02:39:03.120

Ursula Howson (BOEM): NMFS recommendations, and this will be further clarified in the FEIS, yes, we do state in the DEIS that further analysis is being conducted as part of the EFH assessment so this will be further clarified

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02:39:03.870 --> 02:39:26.130

Ursula Howson (BOEM): in the FEIS. Further ,the black marks which I think Lane probably meant are the black dots, are boulder habitat, and I know on that map it's in the legend but it's very small. It's tough to see, but all of those little, little black dots are boulders, part of the glacial moraine in that area.

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02:39:26.640 --> 02:39:27.390

Meg Perry, SWCA: Well, is that this one?

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02:39:28.710 --> 02:39:32.730

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you, OK, so those are the black dots are boulders.

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02:39:32.850 --> 02:39:37.950

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Yeah you can see, if you go down to the legend where it says superficial boulder.

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02:39:39.480 --> 02:39:46.200

Ursula Howson (BOEM): where it has the blues, the dark blue, medium blue, and light blue down bottom.

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02:39:48.150 --> 02:40:02.550

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Yeah, right there, it's a superficial boulder and there's a tiny black dot next to that that that needs to be to the left of where it says superficial boulder, yeah, right there. It's very, very difficult to see, so I think we'll have to change that for the FEIS, oh yes.

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02:40:04.080 --> 02:40:06.540

Meg Perry, SWCA: Very good clarification there. Thank you, Ursula.

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02:40:06.900 --> 02:40:07.770

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Okay, thanks.

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02:40:28.200 --> 02:40:33.090

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, and then it looks like there's one more for you, Ursula, that's ready.

893

02:40:40.050 --> 02:40:40.410

Okay.

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02:40:44.010 --> 02:40:47.550

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so a question from Cori Currier who asked,

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02:40:48.330 --> 02:40:56.970

Meg Perry, SWCA: "What specific studies were completed regarding impact to soft bottom habitat and potential displacement of or negative impacts to soft-bottom species.

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02:40:57.360 --> 02:41:07.560

Meg Perry, SWCA: Please speak to horseshoe crabs, as well as fish. Additionally, the artificial reef effect may have negative impacts to certain species, not just positive impacts as is commonly suggested.

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02:41:08.130 --> 02:41:24.930

Meg Perry, SWCA: Have there been any studies on displacement of fish or decreased population numbers of certain species as a result of shifting ecological conditions, e.g., more mussels and black sea bass, etc.? If not, it seems that the information used to draw conclusions about impacts to fish are inadequate.

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02:41:27.600 --> 02:41:32.250

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Okay, so there are a lot of questions wrapped up into that.

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02:41:33.480 --> 02:41:43.200

Ursula Howson (BOEM): For now, I would say, please refer to the DEIS, in Section 3.4.2, which is the benthic habitat, essential fish habitat, and vertebrates and fin fish section

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02:41:43.590 --> 02:41:58.800

Ursula Howson (BOEM): for an analysis of some of the issues that you mentioned. You could also take a look at several appendices that we have in the construction and operations plan on the South Fork virtual meeting website, including two benthic habitat reports.

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02:41:59.970 --> 02:42:08.490

Ursula Howson (BOEM): There are also several appendices in the DEIS that people may not be aware of. One examines climate change impacts.

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02:42:09.840 --> 02:42:13.140

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Excuse me, cumulative impacts. And there are also,

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02:42:14.700 --> 02:42:32.640

Ursula Howson (BOEM): in all of the analyses, there's also an analysis of climate change as an impact-producing factor, so I encourage you to take a look at those. Also please, we encourage you to, to provide us with comments constructive comments, such as these, to help us

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02:42:33.750 --> 02:42:34.500

Ursula Howson (BOEM): with the

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02:42:35.640 --> 02:42:39.390

Ursula Howson (BOEM): response to the FEIS. Further, just to mention,

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02:42:40.560 --> 02:42:46.710

Ursula Howson (BOEM): we are also funding a study on spawning cod and other fish species in the southern New England

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02:42:47.970 --> 02:42:50.130

Ursula Howson (BOEM): region. For more information

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02:42:52.590 --> 02:42:54.600

Ursula Howson (BOEM): let's see, you can, oops.

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02:42:56.820 --> 02:43:08.070

Ursula Howson (BOEM): You can take a look on our website, in effect, Meg, if you could possibly add that URL, which is down the bottom of that comment.

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02:43:09.690 --> 02:43:21.810

Ursula Howson (BOEM): I would appreciate it. So that study is on spawning cod and other fish species in the southern New England region. It is with the National Marine Fisheries Service University of Massachusetts

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02:43:21.810 --> 02:43:22.560

Meg Perry, SWCA: Dartmouth School

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02:43:22.650 --> 02:43:23.820

Ursula Howson (BOEM): of Marine Science

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02:43:26.040 --> 02:43:35.670

Ursula Howson (BOEM): and Technology, Rutgers University, the Nature Conservancy, and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, as well as commercial recreational fishermen

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02:43:36.180 --> 02:43:48.960

Ursula Howson (BOEM): who were helping out on that. It's a multidisciplinary study using both acoustic telemetry and biological sampling to map the distribution spawning cod, as well as other fish species in the southern New England region of which

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02:43:49.620 --> 02:43:57.060

Ursula Howson (BOEM): South Fork is of course a part of that. We anticipate final results for that project next fall, fall 2022.

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02:43:59.340 --> 02:43:59.520

Okay.

917

02:44:00.600 --> 02:44:05.790

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great, yeah. And I put that link in the chat because you might want to access that directly.

918

02:44:07.440 --> 02:44:08.490

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

919

02:44:18.450 --> 02:44:21.300

Meg Perry, SWCA: Right, so glad to see still some questions coming in.

920

02:44:23.070 --> 02:44:30.120

Meg Perry, SWCA: And we're just working through those, Um let's see here, what else is ready to share.

921

02:45:00.660 --> 02:45:08.760

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so we have two questions pending answers at the moment, so I'm just going to do kind of a last call for questions, so we can get anything

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02:45:09.540 --> 02:45:21.090

Meg Perry, SWCA: that people are still wondering about in progress, and then, once we have answers to those questions we'll will share those and move toward wrapping us up here.

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02:45:22.710 --> 02:45:24.810

Meg Perry, SWCA: Really appreciate everyone's attention today.

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02:45:26.460 --> 02:45:35.430

Meg Perry, SWCA: So if you have a question, raise your hand or type it into the Q and A now, and we'll make sure that we get those answered before we wrap up.

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02:45:38.550 --> 02:45:44.160

Meg Perry, SWCA: And just reminder if you're only on the phone, you can use star nine to raise your hand and, and share your question.

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02:46:44.580 --> 02:46:55.440

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, and then I'm just going to show everyone one other thing, while we're waiting on these last few answers, which is what that regulations.gov website looks like, as you can see how to submit your comment online.

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02:46:58.320 --> 02:47:00.840

Meg Perry, SWCA: So I will show you that here.

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02:47:06.660 --> 02:47:13.500

Meg Perry, SWCA: So this is the landing page when you go to regulations.gov and you'll see this big search bar here at the top.

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02:47:14.790 --> 02:47:22.650

Meg Perry, SWCA: And to find this particular comment process, there's a there's a code, which is BOEM-2020-.

930

02:47:27.390 --> 02:47:40.530

Meg Perry, SWCA: -0066. So you type that into the search and then you will see this particular process pop up here with the due date of February 22, or you can click "comment now."

931

02:47:41.640 --> 02:47:52.500

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then you'll see a field where you can enter your comment and your name to submit your comment online. So that's what that looks like if you haven't used online comment process before.

932

02:47:54.420 --> 02:48:09.210

Meg Perry, SWCA: That's how it works. So I will share the link to that as well as that code in the chat and just encourage anyone who would like to, to submit comments online for this process.

933

02:49:17.070 --> 02:49:17.970

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright.

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02:49:20.310 --> 02:49:25.170

Meg Perry, SWCA: Looks like our answering team might be having some slight technical difficulties.

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02:50:27.150 --> 02:50:35.550

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, it looks like we're, we're still working in the background on these last few questions from Parth Domadiya and

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02:50:40.140 --> 02:50:47.490

Meg Perry, SWCA: James Boyd, so we do have those two questions in the queue. And unfortunately we're having a little bit of a technical issue on the back end.

937

02:50:48.900 --> 02:50:55.350

Meg Perry, SWCA: So we've been, once again, on for close to an hour so.

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02:50:57.030 --> 02:51:05.790

Meg Perry, SWCA: I'm just going to go ahead and encourage folks to take about a five-minute break while we see if you can sort this out and then we'll be back in in just a couple minutes to

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02:51:06.270 --> 02:51:13.080

Meg Perry, SWCA: share those answers. So thanks to you all for, for sticking with us, I know we still have more than 90 people on, which is amazing.

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02:51:14.490 --> 02:51:24.030

Meg Perry, SWCA: So if you take a moment to just step away and stretch your legs and then come back, and we should have those answers to last two questions for you. Thanks for being patient.

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02:51:25.800 --> 02:51:26.790

Meg Perry, SWCA: We'll come back at

942

02:51:27.810 --> 02:52:31.980

3:45.

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02:58:27.630 --> 02:58:39.510

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so I'm just going to wrap things up here with the last couple of questions and answers, so thanks everyone for so many questions and for sticking around for this

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02:58:40.650 --> 02:58:45.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: long virtual meeting. I know that a long time on Zoom can be a

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02:58:47.460 --> 02:58:49.020

Meg Perry, SWCA: special experience.

946

02:58:50.100 --> 02:58:53.310

Meg Perry, SWCA: But we're still here with you and we appreciate you being here as well, so.

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02:58:54.930 --> 02:59:06.270

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you, and I'm going to turn for an answer to a question from James Boyd, and is it Ursula or Mary that's going to be answering this one?

948

02:59:10.800 --> 02:59:12.330

Ursula Howson (BOEM): I believe we decided it was me.

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02:59:13.170 --> 02:59:17.370

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, great. Thanks, so the question from James was,

950

02:59:17.880 --> 02:59:32.520

Meg Perry, SWCA: "Will BOEM be considering a regional approach to fisheries mitigation for potential impacts from wind farm projects to involve the wind industry, states, and effective fishing communities to ensure fair and equitable mitigation where necessary?"

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02:59:33.180 --> 02:59:49.440

Ursula Howson (BOEM): Okay, thanks Meg. Fisheries compensatory mitigation packages are currently negotiated on a state-by-state basis. BOEM would be willing to discuss with affected states a role for BOEM on and developing a standard mitigation approach for fisheries medication.

952

02:59:56.580 --> 02:59:57.210

Meg Perry, SWCA: I think we can.

953

02:59:57.510 --> 02:59:58.200

Ursula Howson (BOEM): move on.

954

02:59:58.470 --> 02:59:59.430

Ursula Howson (BOEM): To the next question.

955

03:00:00.030 --> 03:00:00.930

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, great oh.

956

03:00:03.810 --> 03:00:04.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you Ursula.

957

03:00:08.130 --> 03:00:09.420

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay.

958

03:00:15.510 --> 03:00:24.240

Meg Perry, SWCA: And then, Mary, are you ready with the answer to this next question from Parth Domadiya?

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03:00:26.340 --> 03:00:28.950

Meg Perry, SWCA: Apologies if I'm pronouncing the name wrong.

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03:00:30.120 --> 03:00:32.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, not quite, almost, almost ready.

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03:00:41.280 --> 03:00:43.560

Meg Perry, SWCA: And someone's off mute, I don't know who, that is, but

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03:00:45.510 --> 03:00:50.550

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Sorry, that was that was me. That was Jim. I can answer that question from Parth.

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03:00:52.200 --> 03:00:56.940

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, it looks like we have a question in progress already, So,

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03:01:09.030 --> 03:01:11.070

Meg Perry, SWCA: answer is coming shortly.

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03:01:18.780 --> 03:01:23.940

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay. Looks like Jim, it's over to you for that if you want to go ahead.

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03:01:27.780 --> 03:01:31.680

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Sure, sure. It's a, it's a very good question.

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03:01:32.790 --> 03:01:34.200

Jim Bennett (BOEM): But I think the thing that we ...

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03:01:34.200 --> 03:01:35.070

Meg Perry, SWCA: Oh, I'm sorry.

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03:01:35.280 --> 03:01:37.650

Meg Perry, SWCA: I just want to reiterate the question for those who haven't

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03:01:38.250 --> 03:01:49.920

Meg Perry, SWCA: read. Yeah. So the question was, "Would it not, would not be better to get these feedbacks for communities prior to leasing the grounds to companies? I mean, isn't it too late in the process to get public feedback?"

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03:01:50.550 --> 03:01:57.630

Meg Perry, SWCA: If we know the feedback way early in time and see that it's not a good idea to lease the grounds, then at least it will save a lot of time for everyone."

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03:02:00.390 --> 03:02:07.860

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Yeah, It's, it's a great question, and it certainly is, it is a chronic problem with these processes when,

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03:02:09.060 --> 03:02:14.490

Jim Bennett (BOEM): when participants get involved late in the process. We have made

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03:02:15.510 --> 03:02:26.850

Jim Bennett (BOEM): an effort to put together a process that can run six, eight, or even 10 years to get to fruition on a wind farm and it begins very, very early with

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03:02:27.630 --> 03:02:39.300

Jim Bennett (BOEM): as much interaction as we can with the states and the localities. We start with an intergovernmental state task force,

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03:02:39.780 --> 03:02:49.230

Jim Bennett (BOEM): and that includes municipalities and coastal communities that can participate. And we are, we are soliciting that input, so

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03:02:49.890 --> 03:03:00.120

Jim Bennett (BOEM): early in the process if we can get it, it makes it makes things a lot a lot easier, but it's not too late in the process. It's never really too late in the process

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03:03:00.870 --> 03:03:06.240

Jim Bennett (BOEM): to receive that input and make modifications. And there are several examples.

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03:03:06.870 --> 03:03:16.020

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Cox's Ledge is one example, several landfall examples, where adjustments have been made and modifications areas have been eliminated

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03:03:16.380 --> 03:03:23.310

Jim Bennett (BOEM): as a result of some of that input. So as we move forward in the process, we're at whatever point

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03:03:23.970 --> 03:03:41.430

Jim Bennett (BOEM): the input that's available is welcome and where are our objective, of course, is to try and make sure that all ocean users can successfully coexist, and we can make adjustments as early in the process as possible.

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03:03:44.220 --> 03:04:00.570

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, thank you, Jim. And kind of related to that there was a question about whether about the link to any comments that were shared for the leasing period that I think you might have mentioned in your intro, Jim, so we'll see if we can get that link and share it out, as well.

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03:04:03.150 --> 03:04:04.470

Jim Bennett (BOEM): That would be great Thank you.

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03:04:10.500 --> 03:04:23.400

Meg Perry, SWCA: Right, I think that does it for all of our questions, so just wanting to confirm what that link might be for those who are interested in seeing comments from the leasing period as Jim mentioned there's been.

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03:04:25.380 --> 03:04:30.090

Meg Perry, SWCA: Quite a quite a number of opportunities to gather public input and certainly still

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03:04:31.620 --> 03:04:32.970

Meg Perry, SWCA: important to keep taking

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03:04:34.050 --> 03:04:41.700

Meg Perry, SWCA: public input into account at even at this stage in the process. And especially at this stage in the process as the draft environmental impact statement

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03:04:42.930 --> 03:04:46.920

Meg Perry, SWCA: gets refined. So really appreciate all that input.

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03:04:48.630 --> 03:04:52.620

Meg Perry, SWCA: And I will have that link for you all in just a moment. I'll put it in the chat.

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03:04:54.870 --> 03:05:00.120

Meg Perry, SWCA: And so unless there are any other questions, I will

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03:05:03.570 --> 03:05:09.510

Meg Perry, SWCA: turn it back to Jim just for some concluding remarks, so last call for any questions.

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03:05:13.530 --> 03:05:15.840

Meg Perry, SWCA: And it's not, Jim over to you.

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03:05:19.770 --> 03:05:20.280

Meg Perry, SWCA: Go ahead.

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03:05:21.030 --> 03:05:22.560

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Okay, thanks Meg.

995

03:05:24.600 --> 03:05:24.990

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Hi.

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03:05:26.250 --> 03:05:37.800

Jim Bennett (BOEM): To close out, I just I just want to first off, thanks again everybody for participating. I hope this exchange has made you more well informed on the project and its effects, but

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03:05:38.820 --> 03:05:50.700

Jim Bennett (BOEM): just as importantly, or, more importantly, I hope that you've been provided a good forum to share your thoughts and suggestions on whatever aspects of the projects are of concern to you.

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03:05:52.470 --> 03:06:02.130

Jim Bennett (BOEM): I want to note, as has been explained previously, that all comments will be evaluated with respect to the contents of the draft EIS

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03:06:02.460 --> 03:06:20.040

Jim Bennett (BOEM): and incorporated, or modifications will be made as appropriate for the final EIS. And so again it's, I want to point out that your input is essential and it's necessary to help ensure that

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03:06:20.820 --> 03:06:30.180

Jim Bennett (BOEM): we pursue the best decision-making possible. And I also want to reiterate, as probably is going to be done in one, one minute or so,

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03:06:30.750 --> 03:06:40.620

Jim Bennett (BOEM): that there's multiple opportunities to comment, aside from your oral comments here or in the next two public meetings. You can submit them in writing to us

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03:06:41.730 --> 03:06:44.520

Jim Bennett (BOEM): or on through the regs.com [regulations.gov]

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03:06:46.650 --> 03:06:55.200

Jim Bennett (BOEM): forum portal by February 22. So thank you again for participating, and your input is very useful. Thank you.

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03:06:57.390 --> 03:07:19.680

Meg Perry, SWCA: Great. Thanks, Jim. Alright, so I've just put the link to those leasing process comments in the chat so folks are interested in that you should be able to click that link for that background, and then it looks like we've just got a couple last questions.

1005

03:07:21.210 --> 03:07:21.990

Meg Perry, SWCA: So.

1006

03:07:25.290 --> 03:07:28.560

Meg Perry, SWCA: One is kind of a follow up question to you, Jim.

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03:07:32.670 --> 03:07:36.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: Do you want to review that, or do you want to go ahead and take it now?

1008

03:07:38.490 --> 03:07:41.070

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Sure. I, I can't,

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03:07:43.020 --> 03:07:51.270

Jim Bennett (BOEM): I can't reiterate all of the specifics with regard to Cox's Ledge, but we'll be happy to get an answer back to

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03:07:52.800 --> 03:08:01.800

Jim Bennett (BOEM): Cori Currier on that and the other modifications that occurred to our proposals based on the input we receive.

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03:08:02.820 --> 03:08:07.200

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, yeah. So the question was about specific changes made to plans.

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03:08:08.430 --> 03:08:10.470

Meg Perry, SWCA: With the protection of Cox's Ledge in mind.

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03:08:11.940 --> 03:08:14.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: So I see, thank you from Cori so

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03:08:15.390 --> 03:08:19.230

Meg Perry, SWCA: that's an action items for follow up with Cori to share that those details.

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03:08:22.080 --> 03:08:22.620

Great.

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03:08:23.760 --> 03:08:33.780

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, so I'm just going to turn us back to reminders about public comment process. We've heard some great comments today, which are all on record

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03:08:35.820 --> 03:08:36.990

Meg Perry, SWCA: and

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03:08:40.560 --> 03:08:50.010

Meg Perry, SWCA: the other opportunities for sharing comments are again at the other two public meetings, just like this one coming up later this week and on February 16.

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03:08:52.620 --> 03:08:56.850

Meg Perry, SWCA: Comments can be submitted in writing to the address listed on your screen here

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03:08:58.710 --> 03:09:03.330

Meg Perry, SWCA: or online at regulations.gov of the way I just showed a few minutes ago.

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03:09:06.810 --> 03:09:09.900

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, and then just to confirm.

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03:09:11.550 --> 03:09:17.130

Meg Perry, SWCA: I see there was a question about whether the written comments will be public on the BOEM website, so

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03:09:20.100 --> 03:09:31.170

Meg Perry, SWCA: Mary or someone else from BOEM, if you could let us know what the processes for those comments being made publicly available.

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03:09:31.770 --> 03:09:34.980

Mary Boatman (BOEM): Oh hey, Meg, yes I'm trying to turn my video on, too.

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03:09:36.510 --> 03:09:46.290

Mary Boatman (BOEM): So, of course, anything that you provide with regulations.gov is automatically available to the public once we post it, and we won't post be posting those comments until

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03:09:46.860 --> 03:09:57.630

Mary Boatman (BOEM): after the comment period closes. We also have the transcripts from this and that will be the comments from the public that also will be a part of the record, and those will be posted.

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03:09:58.980 --> 03:10:13.740

Mary Boatman (BOEM): And the Q and A also goes into our file and becomes part of the decision document or administrative record for this. So, and then of course, the recording from this meeting will be available on our website, so everything that's occurred will be made publicly available.

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03:10:15.150 --> 03:10:17.190

Meg Perry, SWCA: Okay, great. Thank you, Mary.

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03:10:19.800 --> 03:10:20.460

Meg Perry, SWCA: Alright.

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03:10:21.660 --> 03:10:26.850

Meg Perry, SWCA: Thank you all so much for your participation, and

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03:10:27.780 --> 03:10:38.340

Meg Perry, SWCA: with that we're going to officially close out the question-and-answer portion of this meeting, and look forward to seeing other comments come in via these other, other avenues between now and February 22.

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03:10:38.910 --> 03:10:46.860

Meg Perry, SWCA: And I hope you all have a good rest of your day. Thank you so much for your time and attention and participation today.