

## **Offshore Wind Industrialization Unavoidable Impacts on New Jersey Coastal Ecosystems and Shore Communities**

(Adapted from [save-the-newjersey-shore.org](http://save-the-newjersey-shore.org) letter to NJ Legislators Oct. 15, 2023)

Atlantic Shore Offshore Wind LLC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement recently released by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management predicts that the approximate 200 industrial Wind Turbines (2x the height of the Washington Monument visible up to 40 miles ) planned to be constructed off the New Jersey Coast will cause potential "**unavoidable**", harm to New Jersey's shore ecosystem, communities, and economy including:

- Irretrievable loss of jobs;
- Marine Mammal and bird mortality
- Major impacts to historic properties;
- Accidental chemical spills;
- Beach closures;
- "Compounded health issues of local environmental justice communities";
- Navigational issues for military or national security vessels;

The following quotes come directly from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning "unavoidable" "adverse impacts" apparently never shared with the New Jersey Legislature before being asked to subsidize the industrialization of the New Jersey Shore with ratepayer and taxpayer dollars.

### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts on Demographics, Employment, and Economics**

- "Loss of employment or income due to disruption to commercial fishing, for-hire recreational fishing, or marine recreation business." p895
- "Hindrances to subsistence fishing due to offshore construction and operation of the offshore wind facility." id.
- "Impacts on environmental justice communities could occur due to loss of income or employment for low-income workers in marine industries; ... income lost during Project O&M would be irretrievable." p899.

### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts on Recreation and Tourism**

- "Viewshed effects from the WTGs altering enjoyment of marine and coastal recreation and tourism activities." p895.
- "Hindrances to some types of recreational fishing, sailing, and boating within the area occupied by WTGs during operation." id.

### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals**

- "Increased risk of injury (TTS or PTS) to individuals due to underwater noise from pile-driving activities during construction." p894
- "Disturbance (behavioral effects) and acoustic masking due to underwater noise from pile driving, vessel traffic, aircraft, geophysical surveys (HRG surveys) and geotechnical drilling surveys, WTG operation, and dredging during construction and operations." p894
- "Increased risk of individual injury and mortality due to vessel strikes during

construction and installation, O&M, and decommissioning.” id.

#### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts on Birds**

- “Displacement and avoidance behavior due to habitat loss or alteration, equipment, noise, and vessel traffic.” p893
- “Individual mortality due to collisions with operating WTGs.” p893.

#### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts on Bats**

- “Displacement and avoidance behavior due to habitat loss/alteration, equipment noise, and vessel traffic.” p893.
- “Individual mortality due to collisions with operating WTGs.” id.

#### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts Risking Accidental releases:**

- “During construction and installation...Near shore accidental releases could cause temporary closure of beaches, which would limit the opportunity for viewer experience of affected seascapes, open ocean, and landscapes.” p873.
- “The Proposed Action could increase accidental releases of fuels/fluid/hazardous materials, trash, and debris during construction and installation, O&M, and decommissioning activities at the export cable landfall sites. Additionally, components of anti-fouling paints and anti-corrosives may leach into surface waters.” p 268.

#### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts on Air Quality**

- “Environmental Justice Communities “Compounded health issues of local environmental justice communities near ports as a result of air quality impacts from engine emissions associated with vessel traffic, construction activities, and equipment operation.” p 89.
- “The Project would generate emissions that may affect air quality in the New Jersey region and nearby coastal waters during construction, O&M, and decommissioning activities. Onshore emissions would occur at the Monmouth and Atlantic Landfall Sites, in the onshore cable corridors, and at the Larrabee and Cardiff Substation POIS.” p 161
- “Air quality in the geographic analysis area may be affected by emissions of criteria pollutants from sources involved in the construction or maintenance of the proposed Project and, potentially, during operations.” id.

#### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts on Navigation**

- “Increased navigational complexity for military or national security vessels operating within the WTA through decreased effectiveness of individual radar systems.” p 895.
- “Changes to aviation and air traffic navigational patterns.” Id.

#### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts on Impact on Cultural Resources & Historic Properties**

- “Changes to the integrity of aboveground historic. Resources or visual disruptions to the historic or aesthetic settings from which these resources derive their significance.” p 894.
- “Therefore, the overall impacts on historic properties from the Proposed action would likely qualify as major because a notable and measurable impact requiring mitigation is anticipated.” p 653.
- “BOEM anticipates that the impacts on cultural resources associated with the Proposed Action and other ongoing and planned activities would be major due to the long-term or permanent and irreversible impacts on archaeological (terrestrial

and marine) resources and ASLFs if they cannot be avoided, and long-term impacts on historic aboveground resources, including the 27 historic properties identified in Appendix I, Table I-6.”

- “Alterations to the ocean, seascape, landscape character units’ character, and effects on viewer experience by the wind farm, vessel traffic, onshore landing sites, onshore export cable routes, onshore substations, converter stations or both, and electrical connections with the power grid.”
- “The presence of structures with the geographic analysis area under the Proposed Action would affect seascape character, open ocean character, landscape character, and viewer experience.” p875.
- “At distances of 12 miles (19.3 kilometer) or closer, the form of the WTG may be the dominant visual element creating the visual contrast regardless of color.” p870

A full copy of the BOEM DEIS can be accessed here <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-offshore-wind-south-draft-environmental-impact>

For more information visit <https://www.save-the-newjersey-shore.org/>