



<https://www.blockislandtimes.com/article/cable-exposed-near-shoreline/52989>

Cable exposed near shoreline

Wed, 08/08/2018

UPDATE: The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council issued a statement today concerning the cable issue at the Town Beach.

Laura Dwyer, a spokesperson for the CRMC, told *The Block Island Times* that, “The CRMC met with representatives from National Grid and Deepwater Wind this morning, and the CRMC is requiring the two companies to work quickly toward both a short-term and long-term solution. During the meeting, Deepwater Wind and National Grid expressed that they are going to send a diver out for a visual confirmation immediately, and obtain a more detailed survey of the area, and are reaching out to their international contacts that might have experience with an exposed cable.”

“We will be meeting with them again in two weeks for their solution for immediate resolution, and again in September for proposals on a more permanent solution to this problem,” noted Dwyer. “The CRMC and other permitting agencies are taking this very seriously, and will be pushing National Grid to implement measures, as soon as possible.”

As has been reported by *The Times*, the sea2shore transmission cable, installed by National Grid as part of the Block Island Wind Farm project, can now be seen about 25 feet from Town Beach at low tide. The cable, which is yellow and black, was getting some attention on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 8. The cable connects Block Island to the mainland.

There are 34,500 volts running through the cable.

“The cable is fully armored and insulated,” said Block Island Power Company President Jeffery Wright. “That doesn’t take away that to stand on top of it is a little unnerving. Be respectful of it.”

Beachgoers were floating and swimming above the cable, which at low tide was about three feet below the water. The exposed section of cable is also about 100 feet in front of an area marked by 12 white buoys, which has been designated a “no anchor” zone, to warn boaters not to drop anchor onto the section where the cable is not buried deep enough. — *Lars Trodson & Cassius Shuman*

gewiz • what is the problem, it's marked, the right folks know and they are working to fix the issue, if you are stupid enough to go there and swim over it or within its boundry's please make sure that on the head stone it is written, they paid no mind and they have no mind now. DON'T GO NEAR ANY POWER LINE EVEN IF YOUR NOT SURE IF ITS A POWER LINE end of story.

non believer • Add a little more to the debacle, and there are still residents who believe the hype that the offshore turbines are providing power to the island - when they kicked things off with that lie we should have known that they were not to be trusted - BTW my electric bill hasn't budged a nickel.

Frank Haggerty • Injuries resulting from damage to live power cables are usually caused by the explosive effects of arcing current and by associated fire or flames. This can occur when the sheath of the cable and the conductor insulation are penetrated by a sharp object, such as the point of a tool, or when the cable is crushed severely enough to cause contact between the sheathing and one or more conductors. This typically causes severe and potentially fatal burns to the hands, face and body. Direct electric shock is also a possibility.

Frank Haggerty • Before starting work it is essential that you have all of the cable records for the location and that these are kept on site at all times while work is proceeding. Make sure that they are up-to-date; that they cover all cable voltages at the location; that you understand how to interpret them; and that they are fully utilised both in advance of commencing digging and throughout the full duration of the work.



An exposed section of the cable is seen here about 3' below the water at low tide.

Survey conducted of exposed cables at Town Beach

By Cassius Shuman 12/13/2018

<https://www.blockislandtimes.com/article/survey-conducted-exposed-cables/53825>

A geophysical survey of the ocean floor at Block Island's Town Beach is being conducted to determine a solution to prevent two of the Block Island Wind Farm's transmission system cables from remaining exposed. The results will be analyzed by National Grid and Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind, and released to the public in the near future. Ørsted purchased Deepwater Wind, which owned the Wind Farm.

"We are working to collect more information on the subsurface conditions in the area of the cables to help us develop plans in the low sediment coverage areas," said Ted Kresse, Director of Strategic Communications for National Grid. "National Grid and Ørsted will analyze the survey results. All of the information will be shared with the appropriate state agencies and the town as our work progresses."



Crews from National Grid and Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind are surveying the cables at Fred Benson Town Beach to study how best to reach a long-term plan to bury the cables to their appropriate length. Photo by Lars Trodson

The geophysical surveys were conducted on National Grid's sea2shore cable and Ørsted's cable via a remotely operated underwater vehicle from the shore out to about 2,500 feet into the water.

A press release issued by Ørsted stated that the "geophysical survey is part of ongoing efforts to characterize this dynamic near-shore environment."

"The survey team is using an ROV with special equipment onboard to map soft and hard materials beneath the seafloor," said Kresse. "The areas around both cables were surveyed." The surveys began on Dec. 8 and will be completed on Dec. 17.

There has been an issue of improper burial depth with National Grid's sea2shore cable since it was installed in June of 2016. The subsea cables are heavily armored and were intended to be buried four to six feet beneath the seabed when installed, but after Grid's technicians encountered hard seabed off Town Beach they were unable to meet the burial depth requirement in that locale.

After performing some analysis, the companies learned that shifting sands atop hard bedrock are the reason for the cables becoming exposed. National Grid's sea2shore cable links Block Island to the mainland, while Ørsted's export cable connects the wind farm to the island and its power grid.

Attempting to address the issue, shortly after installation in June of 2016 National Grid installed a protective plastic sleeve around a portion of its sea2shore cable. In June of 2018, National Grid designated a no anchor zone using a field of buoys beginning about 200 feet offshore where the sea2shore cable was exposed. In August, Ørsted's cable became exposed. Both cables were covered with sediment as a temporary solution.

New Shoreham town officials have insisted that National Grid and Ørsted implement a long-term solution to mitigate cable exposure at the beach. At a Town Council meeting in June, Town Manager Ed Roberge said that, "The cable needs to be relocated. They did not get their designed depth and they need to." He believes the companies need to provide a long-term solution.

"We are committed to providing a long-term solution to the low sediment coverage, and we are working with Ørsted, state agencies, and the town to identify the best path forward," said Kresse.