

re: Submission into Public Record DRI 688 Vineyard Wind Undersea Cable Objections from North American Platform Against Wind Power (NAPAW)

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Difficult times are upon us. The oceans, their creatures, our livelihoods, all beneficence from the oceans, are under attack.

Industrial wind is a chimera, and does not produce meaningful power, if any. World wide, net zero. **0.2%**. Claims that it is clean, free, safe and economical, are completely false.

Industrial wind is likely the biggest scam of the modern age. We cannot think of any other tax grab arrangement that is so completely advantageous to developers. Unfortunately, the public purse and people and wildlife, are the forced "undertakers" to this industry, sadly putting to rest, wearily, their homes, livelihoods, natural surrounds, and yes, their pocketbook health.



We wish to address the question particularly of offshore, USA, and of course, **the cabling... which offers a chance to push back the current aggressive undertaking to advance offshore wind in the US.** Please take good advantage of having a near first whack at this. Consider: Block Island Wind, in fact, employs regularly about 8 persons, while **fishing supports 87,000 jobs in MA.**

New Bedford tops the list of highest-value ports in the US with \$389 million in seafood landed in 2017, yet.... 15 miles from shore...

...this VW project would become the LARGEST OFF-SHORE WIND installation IN THE WORLD!

The cabling is already proving difficult. Block Island's "dynamic" shoreline waters are proving difficult to "manage" and expert engineers have had to lay blocks of cement on highly charged and exposed lengths of cable. **Yet these problems were not brought up at your 1st public hearing!**

Bonnie Brady of the [Long Island Commercial Fishing Association](#) called Deepwater Wind "the not ready for primetime players because of technical problems with the Block Island Wind Farm, such as exposed undersea cables." <https://www.blockislandtimes.com/article/cable-survey-ongoing/54083>

Improper, shallow burying of cables led to subsequent measurement of EMF, assessment of dangers.

Also, please note that this project experienced other problems with mandatory shut downs for repairs. <https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2017/01/20/block-island-wind-farm-power-cable-run-into-snags/>

"...26 generator magnets were damaged after a drill bit was left inside when it was manufactured... **[by GE in France].... Early estimates put [expensive] repair time at 45 days.**

"...a section of National Grid's 20-mile undersea cable **...failed to follow permitting guidelines.** [A] \$110 million infrastructure project, ...the undersea cable was supposed to be buried under the seabed at a range of 4-to-6 feet deep, [but] **the utility... ran into some digging issues...** 'in a short, 80-foot area seaward of Crescent Beach, **un-plowable material was encountered preventing the cable from being buried to the targeted depth,**' said spokesman David D. Graves.

"The Block Island Times reports the reburying process would require the cable to be "de-energized..." which could further disrupt electricity traveling from the Block Island wind farm to the mainland.

**Despite these problems ongoing,
the developer insists there will be no serious impacts to productivity.**

Of utmost worldwide concern, of course, is the **impact to wildlife** in the region, both from the bird-chopping turbines themselves, and from the undersea cabling. While the turbine and cable installation with its pile driving involved... as well as pounding and noise, audible and ILFN from the operating turbines themselves, is known to disrupt whales, porpoises, dolphins, all manner of sea creatures who depend on their supremely acute aural intelligence for survival, still today a huge uncertainty exists on engineering solutions to the various offshore wind challenges related to our precious wildlife.

[The technical report in 2010 advancing the Block Island project](#), indicated that there would be electrical impacts from the underwater transmission cables to within 10 meters: this could potentially harm marine mammals [including the endangered RIGHT WHALES - their habitat identified less than a mile from the proposed VW cable route], birds, fish, and turtles. We respectfully suggest that this report was designed to be pro developer, and not in the best interest of marine animals and wildlife. The radius of harm may well be much wider, and the impacts ultimately will not be known for a very long time.

“While much information on cable issues is closely guarded,” this industry article itself acknowledges that **“one of the biggest problems to affect the industry are issues with subsea cables.** Failures and issues during installation and maintenance of subsea cables have cost companies millions of dollars and have caused many delays in this new and quickly rising industry.

‘...**common problems** include: damage to cable during installation, weather or soil-related damage, cable or joint failure, sediment movement that can lead to cable exposure, damage from third party anchors, cables caught in servicing “Jackups,” and kinked cables.’ “It is very easy to get a kink into the line when preparing to install cables and unkinking is a major exercise requiring special skills.

Google Industry article: **“Damage to Subsea Cables a Huge Risk to Offshore Wind Farms”**

We assure you, any installation of turbines at 15 miles offshore Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket will be **disastrous** for nature and people and will ultimately burden tax payers openly or discretely. It has been consistently demonstrated around the world that **the more wind in the energy portfolio, the higher the fossil fuel usage and the higher the CO2 emissions. Real world data, not modeling: your electric bills will simply skyrocket! Not one conventional generation source can be eliminated.** They need to be available and safely maintained for 100% backup 100% of the time. And **turbines themselves** also draw on electricity: to be heated, cooled, stabilize and turn. **Imagine their cost to manufacture, transport, install, maintain.** Can you hear that sucking sound? Dollars out of your pocket?

Decommissioning? A new report from Europe suggests that blade disposal for one, is massively expensive: blades are to be returned to the manufacturer at end of cycle. In the UK, this means shipping the blades back to Germany! Can you imagine the cost? Can we even imagine this happening? In truth, we cannot, and we KNOW **massive numbers of blades or parts thereof will remain forever as detritus at sea.** Seen a decommissioning report or requirement for Vineyard Wind? **Seen the fields of derelict turbines across CA and the Midwest?**

Please educate your community with these FACTS, and use your judicial power to END this proposed project.

Thank you very much and with sincere best wishes,

Sherri Lange

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*Rendering of an offshore substation
(Deepwater Wind)*