

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PUBLIC MEETING

FACILITATOR:

Meg Perry, SWCA

PRESENTERS:

Jess Stromberg, BOEM

Trevis Olivier, BOEM

Tammy Turley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Thursday, October 6, 2022

Keith Middle School

225 Hathaway Boulevard

New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. PERRY: We will begin our
3 presentation shortly.

4 (Audience Chatter)

5 Good evening. I'm Meg Perry with
6 SWCA Environmental Consultants. And I'll be
7 your facilitator for this evening.

8 I want to say thank you to New Bedford
9 for welcoming us for this Revolution Wind
10 Offshore Wind Project Public Hearing. We're
11 focused on the Draft Environmental Impact
12 Statement for the Project this evening.

13 And in just a moment, you'll hear from
14 the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, who's the
15 Agency hosting this meeting, as well as the
16 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

17 And then, once their presentations
18 conclude, we will move into a period for public
19 comment. We have some folks already signed up
20 to comment, so we will go through those people
21 first.

22 And then anyone else who would like to
23 share a comment with the Agencies is more than
24 welcome to do so. And I'll explain more of how

1 that will work when we get there.

2 If we have any folks from the media
3 here with us this evening, please speak with
4 Lissa here from BOEM. She's happy to answer any
5 questions you might have. And with that, I'm
6 going to turn it to Jess Stromberg with Bureau
7 of Ocean Energy Management for some words of
8 welcome.

9 CHIEF STROMBERG: All right. Thank
10 you, Meg. And good evening, everyone. I want
11 to thank you for joining us today on the
12 ancestral homelands of the Wampanoag, People of
13 the First Light.

14 My name is Jess Stromberg. And I am
15 the Acting Branch Chief for the Environment
16 Branch for Renewable Energy in the Bureau of
17 Ocean Energy Management's Office of Renewable
18 Energy Programs.

19 Welcome to BOEM's fourth Public
20 Hearing to discuss the Draft Environmental
21 Impact Statement for the Revolution Wind
22 Project, which is offshore Rhode Island and
23 Massachusetts. In addition to this in-person
24 Public Meeting, we will be hosting one

1 additional virtual Public Hearing on
2 October 11th.

3 For those of you who aren't familiar
4 with BOEM, we are a Federal Bureau within the
5 Department of the Interior that oversees the
6 development of the energy and mineral resources
7 in the nation's Outer Continental Shelf, or OCS.

8 The OCS extends in most areas from
9 about 3 miles offshore to the full extent of the
10 Exclusive Economic Zone, which is approximately
11 200 miles offshore.

12 BOEM is responsible for the
13 expeditious and orderly development of the
14 energy resources on the OCS, including
15 renewables like offshore wind.

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

21 And after many years, we now have
22 28 active Commercial Leases for offshore wind in
23 the Atlantic. And as we've mentioned, we're
24 here today to discuss the Draft Environmental

1 Impact Statement for the Revolution Wind
2 Project, which is on one of those 28 Leases.

3 Your participation and feedback today
4 are essential to BOEM's renewable energy program
5 and plays a vital role in the environmental
6 analysis of the proposed project in compliance
7 with the National Environmental Policy Act, or
8 NEPA.

9 BOEM would also like to note, on
10 behalf of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that
11 these virtual -- that these public meetings --
12 sorry -- will serve as the public meetings for
13 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 and
14 Section 404 Permit Review.

15 And Tammy Turley, who's the Chief of
16 the Regulatory Division, New England District,
17 Army Corps of Engineers, will be presenting a
18 few slides about their permitting processes
19 after Trevis.

20 So, I want to thank you, again, for
21 all -- all for joining. We do, as Meg
22 mentioned, have some individuals who
23 preregistered to attend and indicated that they
24 would be providing comments. And there will be

1 an opportunity to make comments, after the
2 presentations.

3 And as you noticed, there are also
4 some posters around the room. And we have
5 Members of BOEM's Subject-Matter Experts who are
6 participating in today's meeting and can help
7 provide information, as needed.

8 So, we all look forward to hearing
9 your comments. And now, I will turn it over to
10 Trevis, who will give the first presentation.

11 MR. OLIVIER: Is it there? All right.
12 Thank you, Jess. Hello, everyone. Thank you
13 for being here today.

14 As she said, my name is
15 Trevis Olivier. I'm one of the BOEM
16 Environmental Coordinators assigned to the the
17 Revolution Wind Project. And I will be giving
18 an overview of the Draft EIS, or Draft
19 Environmental Impact Statement, today.

20 So, the first thing I wanted to do was
21 point out some additional resources that we do
22 have available on BOEM's virtual meeting room
23 page for the Revolution Wind Project.

24 You can see the web address to that

1 website is available here at the bottom of this
2 slide. And if you haven't already, we encourage
3 you to go check out the website and see what
4 resources we have available there.

5 So, this EIS is being developed under
6 the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA,
7 which requires Federal Agencies to assess the
8 environmental effects of any major Federal
9 actions that may significantly affect the
10 quality of the human environment.

11 The EIS must also provide an analysis
12 of reasonable Alternatives and the direct,
13 indirect, and cumulative effects of the project.
14 The NEPA process also includes public scoping
15 and a minimum 45-day public comment period on
16 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

17 And the NEPA process collects relevant
18 information for the decisionmaker to make an
19 informed decision on whether to approve, approve
20 with modifications, or to disapprove the
21 Revolution Wind Construction and Operations
22 Plan.

23 So, the Notice of Intent, or NOI, for this
24 project was published back on April 30th of

1 2021, which began a 30-day public comment
2 period. And the comment period was open through
3 June 11th of 2021.

4 And during that period, BOEM also held
5 three virtual scoping meetings, on May 13th,
6 18th, and 20th. And following scoping, BOEM
7 prepared a Scoping Summary Report, which
8 summarizes the comments and the significant
9 issues that were raised during scoping. And
10 that also available on BOEM's project webpage
11 for Revolution Wind.

12 So, the Draft EIS Notice of
13 Availability, or NOA, was published to the
14 Federal Register on September 2nd. We have two
15 virtual Public Hearings scheduled.

16 The first was held on September 29th.
17 And we have a second virtual hearing that will
18 take place on October 11th.

19 BOEM is also holding in-person
20 hearings. The first one was held this past
21 Tuesday on Martha's Vineyard.

22 The second was yesterday in East
23 Greenwich. And the third is being held here
24 today. And the 45-day public comment period on

1 the Draft EIS closes on October 17th of 2022.

2 So, a brief overview of the Revolution
3 Wind Project, it's being proposed on
4 BOEM Lease 0486, which was issued back on
5 October 1st of 2013.

6 The proposed windfarm is located
7 roughly 12 to 14 miles south/southwest of
8 varying points along the Rhode Island and
9 Massachusetts coastlines; about 15 miles east of
10 Block Island; and about 12.1 miles southwest of
11 Martha's Vineyard.

12 And using the Project Design Envelope
13 approach, or a PDE approach, the Construction
14 and Operations Plan proposes a range of
15 parameters which BOEM is analyzing under the
16 proposed action in the Draft EIS.

17 So, offshore, the project proposes up
18 to 100 wind turbine generators, ranging in 8- to
19 12-megawatt capacity each, and spaced at least
20 1 mile apart.

21 Two offshore substations and up to
22 155 miles of inter-array cables connecting the
23 two offshore substations to the turbines; and
24 two export cables, roughly 42 miles long: one

1 from each of those offshore substations that
2 would travel through a shared corridor up
3 through Narragansett Bay and connecting to the
4 onshore components in Quonset Point, Rhode
5 Island.

6 The turbines would have a maximum
7 blade tip height of up to 873 feet, hub height
8 of up to 512 feet, and rotor diameter of up to
9 722 feet. And the offshore substations would be
10 up to 262 feet tall.

11 There are also several types of scour
12 protection also being considered, which include
13 rock placement, mattress protection, sandbags,
14 and stone bags.

15 The Project Design Envelope also
16 conservatively assumes that up to 10 percent of
17 the cables within Federal waters and up to
18 15 percent of cables in State waters could
19 require secondary cable protection, where the
20 maximum burial couldn't be accomplished.

21 So, for the onshore components, the
22 export cables would make landfall within the
23 Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown, Rhode
24 Island. And they would be installed using

1 horizontal directional drilling below the
2 shoreline to minimize surface disturbance.

3 The two underground transmission
4 cables would travel approximately 1 mile from
5 the landfall location up to a new onshore
6 substation and interconnection facility, which
7 would be constructed directly adjacent to the
8 existing Davisville Substation.

9 The project has an estimated
10 operational life of 20 to 35 years, once fully
11 constructed. And at the end of the project's
12 operational life, it would be decommissioned in
13 accordance with a Detailed Project
14 Decommissioning Plan developed in compliance
15 with the applicable laws, Regulations, and best
16 management practices at that time. And that
17 Plan would be subject to BOEM review and
18 approval.

19 All facilities would be removed to a
20 depth of 15 feet below the mudline, unless
21 otherwise authorized by BOEM. And BOEM's
22 implementing Regulations at 30 CFR 585 provide
23 specific financial security requirements for
24 Outer Continental Shelf projects, and requires

1 the Lessee to provide a surety bond or other
2 forms of financial assurance.

3 BOEM also requires Leaseholders to
4 prepare Conceptual Decommissioning Plans when
5 the project is first proposed, and then requires
6 more detailed plans for evaluation at the time
7 the decommissioning is actually being requested.

8 So, BOEM has been in ongoing
9 consultations with federally-recognized
10 Tribal Nations throughout development of the
11 Draft EIS.

12 This slide here presents a summary of
13 some, but not all, of the
14 Government-to-Government consultation and
15 coordination efforts that have taken place
16 to-date, since the NOI was issued for the
17 Draft EIS.

18 And BOEM is using NEPA substitution to
19 fulfill its Section 106 obligations under the
20 National Historic Preservation Act. There are
21 currently 48 Consulting Parties on the Rev Wind
22 Project, under Section 106. And these include
23 Tribal Nations, Federal Agencies, State and
24 Local Governments, as well as non-governmental

1 organizations.

2 And BOEM has conducted three
3 Consulting Party Meetings thus far, to-date, for
4 the project. And we expect to have additional
5 consultation meetings throughout 2022 and
6 early 2023 for this project.

7 To highlight some notable sections of
8 the Draft EIS, Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the main
9 body contain the Purpose and Need, Alternatives,
10 including those that were considered but
11 eliminated from detailed analysis and why, and
12 an assessment of the environmental consequences
13 of each of those Alternatives.

14 The Project Design Envelope parameters
15 and maximum-case scenario are described in
16 detail in Appendix D. The cumulative impact
17 scenario, also referred to as the Planned
18 Activities Scenario in the Draft EIS, is
19 provided in Appendix E.

20 Appendix E also includes the
21 assessment of resources that were determined to
22 have minor or less impacts from the project.
23 Appendix F contains the Lessee's mitigation
24 measures as proposed in the Construction and

1 Operations Plan, as well as other potential
2 mitigation and reporting requirements that BOEM
3 is taking under consideration in the Draft EIS.

4 Appendix J contains the Section 106
5 Finding of Adverse Effect and the Draft
6 Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement. And
7 Appendix K provides additional background on
8 Alternatives' development and BOEM's Alternative
9 screening criteria that were used in developing
10 the Draft EIS.

11 The Draft EIS analyzes the proposed
12 action, which is the project as described in the
13 COP, which we discussed in the previous slides,
14 as well as four other action Alternatives.

15 It also evaluates a no action
16 Alternative, which would be disapproval of the
17 COP, as it was submitted. The next few slides,
18 I'll give a brief overview of the other action
19 Alternatives.

20 Alternative C would exclude the
21 following positions you see here shaded in red;
22 would eliminate those from consideration to
23 reduce impacts to complex benthic habitats that
24 would be vulnerable to permanent and long-term

1 impacts from the project.

2 And BOEM worked with the National
3 Marine Fisheries Service to develop habitat
4 priority areas for benthic habitat. And those
5 priority areas were used to delineate the two
6 layouts you see for the C1 and C2 options here.

7 So, Alternative COVID-19 option
8 minimizes bottom disturbance in large areas of
9 contiguous complex benthic habitat as identified
10 in those priority areas.

11 And though similar to Option C1, C2
12 shifts the exclusion of three turbines positions
13 from the southeastern portion just slightly more
14 north in that red shaded area.

15 And that is intended to reduce
16 development in or adjacent to known Atlantic cod
17 spawning areas. The slight shift of positions
18 for Option C2, however, would result in slightly
19 less contiguous complex benthic habitat being
20 avoided, when compared to Option C1.

21 So, Alternative D aims to reduce
22 space-use conflicts with commercial and fishing
23 vessels within the outer parameters of the
24 proposed project.

1 And as you can see here, there are
2 three different D options. And there's a total
3 of seven different possible combinations of
4 those options that could be selected under
5 Alternative D.

6 The selection of all three of the
7 D options would eliminate a total of 22 turbine
8 locations from consideration. And elimination
9 of D1 and D2 would eliminate 15 turbine
10 positions. Most of those positions were also
11 within the bounds of those habitat priority
12 areas that were used in Alternative C.

13 Under Alternative E, certain turbine
14 positions would be eliminated to reduce visual
15 impacts to culturally important resources on
16 Martha's Vineyard, as well as along the Rhode
17 Island and Massachusetts coastlines.

18 And when viewed from these areas,
19 Option E1 aims to reduce the visual clutter and
20 overall curtain effect from overlapping of
21 turbines, the towers and blades.

22 And Option E2 shifts elimination of
23 some of those positions to the north/northwest
24 side of the project. And that is aimed at

1 reducing the number of turbines that would
2 occupy the sunset viewsheds from the Aquinnah
3 Cliffs Overlook in Martha's Vineyard, as well as
4 other important viewsheds that were identified
5 in that area.

6 Under Alternative F, BOEM could select
7 the implementation of a higher capacity turbine
8 than what was proposed in the Design Envelope of
9 the Construction and Operations Plan.

10 And using a higher capacity turbine
11 could potentially reduce the number of
12 foundations that would be needed to meet the
13 purpose and need of the project. And that would
14 potentially further reduce the impacts, when
15 combining Alternative F with any of those other
16 action Alternatives.

17 So Alternative F provides primarily a
18 qualitative range of impacts and the potential
19 reduction of impacts, when you would apply that
20 Alternative to one of the other action
21 Alternatives. But it does not propose any
22 specific layout.

23 So, an analysis of each Alternative by
24 the following resource categories is found in

1 Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS. And consistent with
2 Section 1502.15 of the Council on Environmental
3 Quality NEPA-implementing Regulations, the
4 Impact-Producing Factors that were either not
5 applicable to the resource category, or were
6 determined to have minor, or negligible, effects
7 were excluded from the main body of the EIS and
8 were retained in Appendix E.

9 As you can see from the example
10 provided here, the EIS uses a four-level
11 classification scheme and the following duration
12 and incremental impact terms to characterize
13 impacts. And impact classifications are defined
14 both for adverse and beneficial impacts,
15 whenever applicable.

16 So, the following resource categories
17 were concluded to experience minor-or-less
18 impacts from the proposed action and, again,
19 were retained in Appendix E of the document.

20 And again, this is to focus the
21 analysis in Chapter 3 on those resource
22 categories that are most likely to experience
23 effects from the proposed project.

24 Environmental Justice, Navigation and

1 Vessel Traffic, Marine Mammals, Benthic Habitat
2 and Invertebrates, Finfish, and Essential Fish
3 Habitat could all experience up to moderate
4 impacts from the proposed action.

5 When evaluated in the context of
6 cumulative activities, these impact levels were
7 the same both with or without the proposed
8 action taking place.

9 And the analysis of these resource
10 areas in Chapter 3 also includes a discussion of
11 potential mitigation measures that could be
12 applied to reduce these potential impacts.

13 Commercial Fisheries and For-Hire
14 Recreational Fishing, Cultural Resources,
15 Scientific Research and Surveys, and Visual
16 Resources were concluded to experience
17 potentially up to major impacts from the
18 proposed project, when combined with cumulative
19 activities.

20 Visual resources, however, would
21 reduce down to moderate overall impacts under
22 the no action Alternative. And again, the
23 Draft EIS includes a discussion of potential
24 mitigation measures that could be applied to

1 reduce these potential effects.

2 So, the proposed action may also
3 result in potential beneficial effects. So, for
4 Air Quality and Environmental Justice, those
5 could potentially experience beneficial impacts
6 through reduced net greenhouse gas emissions in
7 the area of analysis over the long term of the
8 project.

9 Benthic Habitats, Birds, Finfish,
10 Recreational Fishing, Marine Mammals, and Sea
11 Turtles could experience potentially beneficial
12 artificial reef effects.

13 And economics, employment, and coastal
14 infrastructure could see benefits through job
15 creation and supporting designated uses at
16 ports.

17 And in addition, the estimated
18 capacity range for the project is 704 to
19 880 megawatts, which could power more than
20 300,000 homes per year.

21 Each Alternative has been analyzed
22 both alone, and when combined with other
23 reasonably foreseeable planned actions, or the
24 cumulative activities.

1 Chapter 2 provides a summary
2 comparison of the Alternatives in table format.
3 And the slide here, you see an example from
4 Chapter 2 for Visual Resources.

5 And a more detailed narrative
6 comparison of each of the Alternatives is
7 provided in the Conclusion Section for each
8 resource in Chapter 3.

9 So, overall, Alternative C would
10 reduce the extent of impacts to complex benthic
11 habitats when compared to the Proposed Action,
12 or Alternative B, in particular around Cox Ledge
13 and areas of known or higher likelihood to have
14 Atlantic cod spawning.

15 Alternative D would reduce navigation
16 risk and space-use conflicts with fishing and
17 commercial vessels by removing the outermost
18 turbines that would be adjacent to the Buzzard's
19 Bay Traffic Separation Scheme Inbound Lane and
20 removing turbines in areas adjacent or near
21 Cox's Ledge.

22 Alternative E reduces impacts to
23 culturally important resources on and near
24 Martha's Vineyard and likely other National

1 Historic Landmarks in Rhode Island and
2 Massachusetts.

3 And Alternative F could possibly
4 further reduce impacts if it was combined with
5 one of the other action Alternatives, or the
6 proposed action.

7 However, Alternative F, there was no
8 combination with Alternative F that was found to
9 change the overall impact conclusion for any of
10 the action Alternatives.

11 So, as far as next steps, comments
12 received today and during the comment period
13 will be assessed and considered by BOEM and the
14 Cooperating Agencies during preparation of the
15 Final EIS.

16 Necessary changes will be made to the
17 draft in the final EIS. And responses to all
18 comments will be provided, as well, as an
19 Appendix in the Final EIS. And the Final EIS
20 will identify a preferred Alternative.

21 Again, the 45-day comment period on
22 the Draft EIS again ends October 17th. And the
23 next steps in the EIS schedule would be to
24 publish a Final EIS, which is targeted for June

1 of 2023, and then to issue the Record of
2 Decision, which is targeted for July of 2023.

3 So, you can provide comments on the
4 Draft EIS by using regulations.gov, providing
5 verbal or written comments during any of the
6 Public Hearings, or by mailing written comments
7 to the Office of Renewable Energy Programs at
8 the address provided here on the slide. And
9 again, written comments should be postmarked no
10 later than October 17th of 2022.

11 And if you prefer to submit your
12 comments electronically, you can visit
13 regulations.gov at the address you see here, and
14 search for Docket Number BOEM-2022-0045. And
15 click on the Comment button there.

16 And I believe we also have a laptop
17 set up here. If you want to utilize
18 regulations.gov, you can do so here, as well.

19 And just as a reminder, BOEM does not
20 consider anonymous comments. So, please include
21 your name and your address as part of your
22 comment submittal. And all comments are made
23 part of the public record, and will be publicly
24 posted without change.

1 Finally, to be most helpful, comments
2 should be as specific as possible. For example,
3 a useful substantive comment would discuss the
4 accuracy of the information presented in the
5 Draft EIS, or suggest alternate methodologies
6 and reasons why they should be used; provide new
7 information relevant to the analysis.

8 Or identify a different source of
9 credible research, which, if were used, could
10 result in different effects from the project; or
11 provide clarification on information in the
12 Draft EIS, where needed.

13 So this slide here just shows where
14 you could find more information on the project,
15 again showing you where the Revolution Wind
16 Project page is.

17 And I'll see if I can click on it
18 here. We will just go to it. Carry it over
19 without messing this up too bad, let's see.

20 All right, just to pull it up for
21 anyone who may not have already gone to it
22 before. I can kind of show you around.

23 So, again, there's multiple tabs you
24 see here that give you different information on

1 the Revolution Wind Project, including the Lease
2 and Site Assessment Plans, and activities that
3 have been done.

4 The Construction and Operations Plan
5 is available in this tab. We have a tab for
6 visual simulations.

7 And this Environmental Review tab
8 keeps you updated on information about the
9 EIS review, as well as the status of
10 consultation reviews, as well.

11 And then, from here, in the What's
12 New, you can also find the virtual meeting room
13 that was discussed earlier. That's accessible
14 here.

15 Oh, and that does not go to it. But,
16 I guess I don't have internet. But, that link
17 will take you to the virtual meeting room, which
18 has information, including all of the posters
19 that are here today. They are available in that
20 meeting room electronically.

21 It has the information on how to
22 comment and when the comment periods, and all
23 that, as well. It's all available on the
24 website.

1 Now, at least I can get rid of it.

2 All right. So, that concludes the BOEM portion
3 of the presentation. Thank everyone for their
4 time. And I will hand it over to Tammy to
5 present for the Corps.

6 CHIEF TURLEY: Thank you, Trevis.

7 Good evening. My name is Tammy Turley. I'm the
8 Regulatory Division Chief for the U.S. Army
9 Corps of Engineers New England District.

10 And thank you for attending today and
11 participating in this environmental review.
12 Your input is critical to a thorough
13 environmental review and the NEPA process.

14 The mission of the Corps of Engineers'
15 Regulatory Program is to protect our nation's
16 aquatic resources and navigable capacity, while
17 allowing economic development through fair and
18 balanced decisions.

19 The National Environmental Policy Act
20 that you've already heard a lot about this
21 evening is required for proposals that request a
22 Federal authorization from the Corps of
23 Engineers.

24 For this proposal, as you've heard,

1 BOEM is the lead Federal Agency for this
2 NEPA review. And the Corps is a
3 Cooperating Agency participating in
4 environmental review.

5 We intend to utilize this
6 environmental review and adopt BOEM's
7 Environmental Impact Statement to support any
8 future Corps of Engineers' decision.

9 On the next slide, I will introduce
10 the Corps of Engineers' authorities. So, the
11 Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Program is
12 primarily administered under two authorities.

13 Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors
14 Act authorizes activities and structures in
15 navigable waters and the Outer Continental
16 Shelf.

17 And Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
18 regulates the discharge of dredged or fill
19 material into waters of the United States. The
20 diagram shows the limits of Corps of Engineers'
21 authority in tidal and freshwaters.

22 Under Section 10 of the Rivers and
23 Harbors Act, the Corps regulates structures and
24 other work in navigable waters. For this

1 project, the shoreward limit of navigable waters
2 is the mean high waterline of Narragansett Bay.
3 And the seaward limit is 3 nautical miles
4 measured from the baseline of the territorial
5 seas.

6 The proposed work regulated within
7 navigable waters are outlined in red on this
8 figure. And those activities include the two
9 export cables, the dredging and fill for
10 installation of those cables, the horizontal
11 directional drill work and exit pits, and any
12 hard armoring that is determined to be needed
13 for cable protection.

14 Section 10 also regulates structures
15 on the Outer Continental Shelf. For this
16 project, regulated structures associated with
17 the proposed project are outlined in red on the
18 figure.

19 And these structures include the
20 turbines, offshore substations, the associated
21 cables, and any required hard armoring for cable
22 protection.

23 Under Section 404 of the Clean Water
24 Act, the Corps regulates the discharge of

1 dredged or fill material into Waters of the
2 United States.

3 For this project, the shoreward limit
4 of Waters of the United States is the high tide
5 line of Narragansett Bay. And the seaward limit
6 of Waters of the U.S. extends 3 nautical miles
7 as measured from the baseline of the territorial
8 seas.

9 The Applicant has not proposed impacts
10 to non-tidal waters. So, all impacts associated
11 with this project are currently being reviewed
12 as tidal waters.

13 Proposed activities subject to the
14 Clean Water Act Section 404 authority occur
15 within the outlined area in red on the figure.
16 And the proposed 404 discharges are related to
17 the cable installation, and include the
18 backfilling of the trench during cable laying,
19 and the redeposition of dredged material within
20 the two horizontal drill exit pits. Discharges
21 also include the placement of hard armor as
22 needed for cable protection.

23 The Corps published a Public Notice on
24 September 2nd with a 45-day comment period. The

1 Public Notice initiates the public interest
2 review. So, again, we appreciate your input to
3 help us evaluate proposed impacts.

4 And on the next slide, I will speak
5 more specifically to the proposed impacts within
6 each authority. And if you need to access our
7 Public Notice, you can go to the link on the
8 site here and look for Regulatory Permitting
9 Public Notices.

10 So the proposed impacts are listed
11 here for each activity and each authority time.
12 The proposed temporary impacts are primarily
13 related to installation of the windfarm
14 components.

15 And then, the permanent impacts are
16 related to the structures, themselves, and any
17 hard armoring placed over the cables for
18 protection. The figure on the left is the wind
19 turbines, and while the figure on the right
20 depicts the two offshore substations.

21 So the Corps public interest review
22 serves, again, as the initiation of the public
23 interest review. And that includes the
24 Evaluation of the probable impacts on the public

1 interest.

2 The benefits that may reasonably
3 accrue from the proposal must be balanced
4 against the reasonably foreseeable detriments.
5 The decision will reflect national concern for
6 both the protection and utilization of important
7 resources.

8 And the Corps can only issue a Permit
9 if the proposal is found to be not contrary to
10 the public interest. And our public interest
11 review factors are listed on this slide for your
12 information.

13 The 404(b)(1) Guidelines apply to work
14 within the Section 404 jurisdiction, so the
15 first 3 miles of the project measuring from
16 land.

17 So, specific to this project, the
18 export cable route is within the
19 404 jurisdiction, again, in Narragansett Bay, as
20 shown on the figure.

21 And to reach compliance with these
22 Guidelines, the Corps is unable to authorize a
23 proposed discharge if there is a practicable
24 alternative to the proposed discharge that would

1 have less adverse effect on the aquatic
2 ecosystem, so long as such alternative does not
3 have other significant adverse environmental
4 consequences.

5 A practicable alternative is available
6 and capable of being done when considering cost,
7 logistics, and technology. And the Corps must
8 identify the Least Environmentally Damaging
9 Practicable Alternative, and can only authorize
10 this Alternative.

11 And lastly, when making a Permit
12 decision, the Corps must ensure compliance with
13 other Federal Laws, including Section 106 of the
14 National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of
15 the Endangered Species Act, and the
16 Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act. And
17 BOEM is serving in the Lead Federal Agency for
18 consultations for those Acts, as well.

19 The Corps must also ensure that
20 appropriate Tribal consultation has occurred and
21 that we meet our Tribal trust responsibilities.
22 In addition, on a State level, the 401 Water
23 Quality Certification and the Coastal Zone
24 Management Consistency Determination are

1 required prior to the issuance of a Corps
2 Permit.

3 And that includes the Corps of
4 Engineers' overview. If you need, or would
5 like, additional information, you can find some
6 Fact Sheets on the table covered in red to your
7 back there. Thank you.

8 MS. PERRY: All right. Thank you to
9 both our Presenters. And thanks to you all for
10 your attention.

11 We're going to turn now to the
12 listening session. So just a couple of
13 reminders before we get into that, first of all,
14 as Trevis mentioned, you have several options
15 when it comes to submitting comments.

16 You can share a comment with us this
17 evening, verbally. We have Comment Cards in the
18 back, on the square tables, and Comment Boxes
19 for you to drop those in.

20 We have our Court Reporter,
21 Anne-Marie, here who could take a verbal comment
22 from you, when we conclude the public comment
23 session.

24 And we do have a laptop set up in the

1 back, if you'd like to submit your comment on
2 regulations.gov. We can help you with that this
3 evening.

4 You can also, after this meeting,
5 between now and October 17th, mail a comment in
6 hardcopy to the address listed on the screen, or
7 submit it online, so lots of options.

8 We have some people who signed up in
9 advance, or when they came in the door today, to
10 share a comment. So we're going to hear from
11 those people first.

12 And just to make sure we have a chance
13 to hear from everyone, we will keep comments to
14 five minutes. And I'll have a timer up on the
15 screen, so you can keep track.

16 And then, once we hear from the
17 signed-up commenters, we will open it up. And
18 anyone else is welcome to share a comment, as
19 well. You don't have to come with a prepared
20 statement.

21 So, we will start with our list of
22 people who signed up. I'm just going to read
23 through the list, so you can hear where your
24 name falls, and then I'll start walking through

1 it.

2 And we have -- I have two colleagues
3 here, Sue and Christy, who will come around and
4 hold the microphone for you. We do want to make
5 sure that we capture these comments for the
6 record.

7 So, our Court Reporter is taking
8 everything down. And we'd ask that you please
9 state your name and spell it, so that we have
10 that accurately recorded, when you begin your
11 comment.

12 Okay. So the list of people we have
13 signed up -- and apologies in advance if I
14 mispronounce any names. Please correct me.

15 We have Antonio Alvernaz,
16 Joseph Lopes, Priscilla De La Cruz,
17 Amber Hewett, Matt Linnell, Tim Linnell, Gary
18 Yerman, and Blair Bailey.

19 So we're going to go through in that
20 order and then we will open it up to anyone
21 else. So, Antonio Alvernaz, are you here with
22 us this evening?

23 Okay. That was an advanced signup.
24 So he might not have made it. How about

1 Joseph Lopes? Okay. Priscilla De La Cruz?

2 MS. DE LA CRUZ: Hi, my name is
3 Priscilla De La Cruz. And for the record,
4 that's spelled P-R-I-S-C-I-L-L-A. The last
5 name is D-E, space, L-A, space, C-R-U-Z.

6 Thank you for this opportunity to
7 comment. In my professional capacity, I serve
8 as both the Senior Director of Government
9 Affairs at the Audubon Society of Rhode Island,
10 the President of the Environment Council of
11 Rhode Island, and the Co-Chair of Climate Jobs
12 for Rhode Island.

13 My testimony will come primarily on
14 behalf of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.
15 So quickly I'll just note that the Environment
16 Council of Rhode Island is a coalition of
17 environmental organizations and individuals
18 that represent well-over 56,000 Rhode Islanders.

19 And Climate Jobs Rhode Island is a
20 partnership between Labor and Union Groups
21 under the umbrella of AFL-CIO. And jointly
22 we're working on address transition to a green
23 economy.

24 So as I mentioned, I appreciate this

1 opportunity to comment. And I also appreciate
2 the timely release of the DEIS for Revolution
3 Wind, as it is a critical component of keeping
4 our States and the region on track to meet our
5 climate decarbonization goals.

6 In particular, aligning with the
7 Biden-Harris Administration's ambitious goals
8 and the Justice 40 Initiative, this is truly a
9 major milestone in the overall permitting
10 process.

11 So, keeping in mind that my testimony
12 comes on behalf of the Audubon Society of Rhode
13 Island and our work is focused in Rhode Island,
14 I will speak to how critical we think this
15 project is to meeting the Act on Climate Goals.

16 More specific and technical comments
17 on the DEIS will be provided with our
18 Partner Coalitions. But I would like to
19 emphasize that, within the six Alternative
20 proposals presented today, there is one that we
21 would like to urge BOEM not to consider, which
22 is no action or denial of this projection,
23 because that would harm our State's efforts to
24 address climate change, increase our reliance on

1 fossil fuels, and decrease the environmental
2 benefits that would be realized by this project.

3 We recognize the urgency of the
4 climate crisis and the recent IPCC Reports are
5 telling us that the biggest threat posed to
6 birds, wildlife, people, and all living things
7 is climate change. So that's where we want to
8 focus our energy and the type of Policies that
9 we advocate for.

10 In Rhode Island, we've made our
11 commitment very clear to 100-percent renewable
12 electricity by 2033, additional offshore wind
13 procurement beyond Revolution Wind of up to
14 1,000 megawatts, and Labor Standards and
15 renewable energy projects.

16 And keeping in mind the 2021 Act on
17 Climate Goals, we want to really ensure that our
18 Electricity Sector is moving in the direction
19 towards a clean energy economy, because we're
20 going to rely on that Sector to decarbonize the
21 other Sectors, including Transportation and the
22 Building Sector.

23 I want to go ahead and also reference
24 the Block Island Offshore Wind Project, because,

1 when we're thinking about mitigating the impacts
2 to our natural resources, or avoiding them, I
3 have whole confidence that, with ongoing
4 engagements such as this, education and
5 outreach, and with thorough planning to avoid
6 environmental impacts that include research and
7 monitoring of wildlife and habitat, that BOEM,
8 Ørsted, and Eversource can truly succeed in
9 making this a project we're proud of.

10 In Rhode Island, the first offshore
11 wind project is an example. The University of
12 Rhode Island Surveys characterizing bird use
13 offshore Rhode Island conducted under the Ocean
14 SAMP Project, is something that we can
15 reference. And it ensure that the Block Island
16 Windfarm Project did not include the areas most
17 critical for marine birds.

18 So, lastly, in conclusion, when
19 issuing the Final EIS, we would be looking to
20 underscore that we see fundamental responsible
21 devel (phonetic) -- what we foresee as being
22 important for fundamentally building a project
23 that's responsible is maximizing economic
24 benefits through prioritizing the use of

1 domestic content, and ensuring the creation of
2 high-quality Union jobs that are equitable.

3 And this is very important for
4 Environment Justice Communities that are
5 overburdened by pollution and should have a seat
6 at the table and access to these career
7 opportunities.

8 Second, the importance of stringent
9 protection of wildlife and habitat through every
10 stage of a project development and operation.
11 And third, as mentioned earlier, robust
12 engagement of the community and Expert
13 Stakeholders.

14 So, in conclusion, Rhode Island sees
15 the Revolution Project as essential for meeting
16 our carbon emission reduction goals. And we
17 urge you to move forward with the published
18 schedule for Revolution Wind and keep this
19 project on track to make it a reality. Thank
20 you very much.

21 MS. PERRY: Thank you. And next up,
22 we have Amber Hewett right there.

23 MS. HEWETT: You can move on. We
24 didn't even claim that. All right. Hi,

1 everyone.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to
3 comment this evening. My name is Amber Hewett.
4 Hewett is H-E-W-E-T-T. And I am the Offshore
5 Wind Energy Program Director with the National
6 Wildlife Federation.

7 So the National Wildlife Federation
8 has long advocated for the responsible
9 development of offshore wind. We're celebrating
10 about 10 years of offshore wind advocacy. And
11 our work started right here in the northeast
12 region.

13 So our advocacy is national, though I
14 call Massachusetts home. So I'm always proud to
15 see us leading the way from the northeast
16 region, though it's a very long time coming.

17 I will say that the -- and we didn't
18 plan this at all. But I'm picking up my
19 comments right where Priscilla left off on the
20 definition of responsible development, and that
21 is something that we continue to evolve as a
22 community of Advocates who are concerned around
23 the existential threat of the climate crisis and
24 the need to make really difficult decisions

1 about the kinds of infrastructure that we will
2 build, knowing that they will certainly have
3 impacts on wildlife and habitat, and
4 communities.

5 And so, our definition of responsible
6 development certainly entails avoiding,
7 minimizing, mitigating, and monitoring impacts
8 to wildlife, as well as robust Stakeholder
9 engagement and the maximizing of local economic
10 benefits, and high labor standards.

11 So while I'm going to talk to you
12 primarily about wildlife impacts right now, I
13 just wanted to underscore that our definition of
14 responsible sweeps far beyond that.

15 So, what we see in Revolution Wind and
16 in the Draft EIS is really an -- is the
17 potential to meet the high bar that we set to
18 support a project.

19 We've been weighing in at every stage
20 of this area of the ocean's consideration for
21 offshore wind development. And we're thrilled
22 to be here today at this critical milestone, and
23 so close to, hopefully, a successful and
24 positive Record of Decision.

1 We recognize that building at least
2 704 megawatts here in this area is critical to
3 meeting both State and Federal clean energy
4 goals.

5 And I want to underscore that we do
6 want to see full buildout at a scale able to
7 meet the commitments in all three PPAs attached
8 to this Project Proposal.

9 We will be submitting detailed
10 written, technical comments. So I'm just going
11 to very briefly summarize what we're grappling
12 with, in relation to the specific Alternatives
13 that we just heard about.

14 So, we are strongly in favor of the
15 considerations and concerns that were addressed
16 in Alternatives C and E, though I recognize
17 that, when you look at those both on a map
18 together, they don't necessarily leave enough
19 area for full buildout of the amount of
20 generation needed in this area.

21 So, want to be very clear that not
22 being able to build a full 704 megawatts we
23 would consider an unacceptable outcome. And
24 yet, we have really -- we're really thrilled

1 with the work that was done to develop
2 Alternatives C and E.

3 So what we're just encouraging is that
4 we hope there's an outcome that both uplifts the
5 concerns that were considered there perhaps with
6 a combination -- some form of a combination of
7 the two, perhaps also with Alternative F, if
8 that can be helpful, or perhaps maybe not full
9 application of either one of the areas.

10 But, we do hope to see an out pin that
11 can address our concerns that are intended to be
12 addressed in -- or effectively addressed in each
13 of those Alternatives, but that leaves enough
14 area on the map to meet the full commitments in
15 the Project Power Purchase Agreements.

16 So, thank you so much. Appreciate
17 your work, and I'm really glad to be doing this
18 in-person again.

19 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Matt Linnell
20 is next.

21 MR. LINNELL: My name's Matt Linnell,
22 L-I-N-N-E-L-L. I own the fishing vessel, Fleet
23 King and Fleet Queen.

24 I have been a Commercial Fisher my

1 entire life. For generations, we have depended
2 on the very waters for our livelihood where
3 Ørsted Revolution Wind will be constructed.

4 I'm here to add my support for the
5 project's DEIS and to urge you to expedite its
6 full approval. Like everyone who fishes, or
7 transits, through these Lease areas, we are
8 extremely concerned about offshore wind
9 development.

10 It just didn't seem like a very good
11 idea. We were all very concerned that closing
12 down these fishing grounds could crush our
13 business.

14 We also heard that these offshore
15 green companies hailing from across the Atlantic
16 didn't have any real interest in in our industry
17 or working with us. The information that we
18 were receiving was extremely concerning.

19 Commercial fishing has grown far more
20 challenging due to consolidation, quotas, and
21 over regulations. It has become extremely
22 difficult to make a living as a
23 Commercial Fisherman.

24 So my family and a group of Fishermen

1 dug in to try to answer the questions for
2 ourselves. Is offshore wind the final nail in
3 our coffin, or can it be a new opportunity?

4 Everyone is entitled to their own
5 opinions and I am offering ours. We found that
6 some of the information being put out there was
7 just incorrect.

8 The most important issue was that
9 these windfarms in the U.S. will not be closed
10 to fishing. And the turbines will be spaced to
11 allow safe fishing and safe passage. They are
12 spaced 1 nautical mile apart, leaving plenty of
13 area to set gear and transit.

14 The windfarms also provide a habitat
15 for sea life. The fish like to congregate
16 around them. We've found that many other things
17 have proven to be less alarming than they
18 sounded in the press.

19 About 18 months ago, we qualified to
20 become Vessel Partners with Sea Services. And
21 with their supported funding, we upgraded our
22 two vessels' health and safety platforms, and
23 that resulted in much needed additional work.

24 We have since scouted for about

1 180 days in the northeast and mid-Atlantic. I
2 am very proud to say that there was zero gear
3 conflicts.

4 And through Sea Service, we have
5 opportunity to work up close with Ørsted and a
6 few other Offshore Wind Developers. And this
7 has allowed us to build trust and to realize
8 that there is a sincerity to their vision
9 working together.

10 Ørsted has shown us that they very
11 much wanted to work with Fishermen, actively
12 seek out and hire Fishermen, because of their
13 knowledge of the area.

14 Our family believes the future of
15 these two industries in that combination lies in
16 the difference between struggling generation of
17 fishing and a diverse, thriving family business.
18 Therefore, I offer my complete and enthusiastic
19 support.

20 MS. PERRY: Thank you. And
21 Tim Linnell is next.

22 MR. TIM LINNELL: Hi, my name's
23 Tim Linnell, L-I-N-N-E-L-L. I'm the Co-Captain
24 of the Fleet King and Fleet Queen.

1 I have been a Commercial Fisherman for
2 35 years. I am here tonight to support the
3 Revolution Wind DIIS.

4 Offshore wind is coming and we are
5 making it work for us. At Sea Services Vessel
6 Partners, we upgraded our two vessels health and
7 safety platforms.

8 We have scouted for our fixed gear for
9 six months in around 90,000 miles of ocean ahead
10 of our large research vessels in the northeast
11 and the mid-Atlantic. I am proud to say that
12 there were zero resulting gear entanglements.

13 With the fishing regulations
14 displacing many Fishermen, we need these
15 opportunity to supplement shrinking fishing
16 income. Thanks.

17 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Next up is
18 Gary Yerman.

19 MR. YERMAN: Good evening. My name's
20 Gary Yerman. I want to thank BOEM for the
21 opportunity to speak here this evening, and
22 thank Ørsted for working with the Fishermen, for
23 providing this platform to speak out.

24 So, my name's Gary Yerman,

1 Y-E-R-M-A-N. And I've been a
2 Commercial Fisherman for 50 years.

3 My son and I are the owners of New
4 London Seafood Distributors, a New London,
5 Connecticut-based unloading facility. We have
6 owned the business since 1989.

7 It is homebase for a dozen commercial
8 fishing vessels, both large and small, operating
9 inshore in Long Island Sound, and offshore up to
10 100 miles.

11 We are vital to their operations
12 providing fuel, ice, arranging shipping of their
13 annual 6 million to 8 million pounds of seafood
14 to various markets in New York, Massachusetts,
15 Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

16 I write on behalf of both New London
17 Seafood Distributors and as a Co-Founder of Sea
18 Services North America, a multistate consortium
19 of active Fishermen seeking to help build
20 U.S. offshore windfarms.

21 I write in full support of
22 Ørsted's/Eversource's Revolution Wind Project.
23 While offshore wind's development presents
24 uncertainty to Fishermen, it is just

1 uncertainty.

2 There is no doubt that uncertainty can
3 be frightening. And while the concerns raised
4 by others was important, we have to be willing
5 to deal with the facts rather than fear-based
6 narratives.

7 We have done a great deal of
8 investigation and research, and found that each
9 of the concerns raised have been raised in wind
10 projects around the world with virtually no
11 correlation between early concerns and actual
12 commercial impact where fishing grounds remained
13 open.

14 Moreover, here, in the U.S., we are
15 calling on global data in industry best
16 practices to find solutions that will address
17 the need for green energy, fishing concerns and
18 fears of what is being labeled as "unknown".

19 As Commercial Fishermen, local
20 Businessmen, and concerned citizens, we are
21 first concerned about our community and
22 profitability.

23 Other Fishermen decided to pursue
24 dollars in the form of disruption payments. But

1 we have found another way.

2 We have decided to pursue a
3 sustainable and scalable way to participate in
4 the development to be constructively at the
5 table.

6 So once we achieved a level of comfort
7 with the Ørsted Team, we began to look for ways
8 for our vessels, along with others, to work the
9 waters for the offshore wind industry.

10 We have spent time and energy with the
11 Ørsted's Revolution Wind Team. And we can say
12 that they are the very best in the offshore
13 industry.

14 Their investment in a project means a
15 great deal for several New England fishing
16 communities. And we are already seeing the
17 economic impact in New London.

18 We want to see Revolution Wind move
19 forward rapidly. We have worked for nearly four
20 years with Ørsted's New England Team. And they
21 have been straightforward, accessible, and as
22 open as we think they can be.

23 We understand the concerns of some of
24 our Fishing Colleagues. But given the level of

1 commitment to investment, education, job
2 creation, reduction of fossil fuels, we have
3 seen the -- excuse me -- we have seen the
4 benefits and know that coexistence is a good
5 thing for the greater good.

6 Two years ago, two Associates and I
7 took a trip to Kilkeel, Northern Ireland, to
8 meet with a group of Fishermen organized into an
9 efficient cooperative that provides scout and
10 safety vessels when they are not fishing.

11 We learned firsthand how the windfarms
12 have impacted them and how they, and the
13 community, have profited by them. We shared our
14 concerns, discussed how they have worked
15 together for positive income -- outcome -- I'm
16 sorry.

17 The results we saw were more than
18 encouraging. And we decided to put in the time
19 and effort to duplicate their model. That model
20 has become Sea Services North America, LLC.

21 We recognize Ørsted's commitments to
22 Fishermen as being the first to offer a
23 substantial Commercial Contract that includes
24 local Fishermen to provide scout and safety

1 vessels on the Revolution Wind Project.

2 We completed thousands of miles of
3 scouting with no issues. And with that success,
4 it is providing further opportunities to
5 Commercial Fishermen and scout vessels.

6 That effort was rewarded with
7 Contracts that will supplement Fishermen's
8 revenue that is capped by regulations and
9 quotas.

10 That new revenue source comes at a
11 cost. Learning technology, upgrading health,
12 safety, environmental standards, and actually
13 doing the work is required.

14 The opportunities are very real. And
15 with Ørsted's commitment, this is not a zero-sum
16 game. It is a win-win.

17 We strongly urge you to move forward
18 with Revolution Wind Project, forward with all
19 the proper appropriate speed. Thank you,
20 Gary Yerman.

21 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Okay.
22 Blair Bailey?

23 MR. BAILEY: Good evening. My name's
24 Blair Bailey, B-A-I-L-E-Y, and Blair, B-L-A-I-R.

1 I'm the General Counsel for the New Bedford Port
2 Authority.

3 I had a couple practical comments and
4 then one moving forward in the future. The
5 first two practical ones are to ask that the
6 Corps and BOEM both take into account the Radar
7 Study that was done that says that there may be
8 issues with older radar equipment and
9 interaction with the arrays.

10 And moving forward, at least pursue
11 some sort of mechanism where Fishermen can
12 benefit from upgrading their equipment, either
13 the Developers or somebody putting forward some
14 money to fund that, because it is an issue and
15 it will be an issue.

16 The second thing is the inter-array
17 cabling. I know that there was a comment that
18 the 1 nautical mile limit enables the movement
19 of vessels and fishing.

20 I would say that if you overlay the
21 inter-array cabling on that, it becomes more of
22 an issue. So, to the degree possible, we
23 suggest the Developers be required to make
24 inter-array cabling consistent among all of the

1 arrays, so that there are corridors where it's
2 easy to do a dredge or a trawl, or anything
3 else, so that there isn't cable conflict,
4 because, if you look at the inter-array cabling
5 on this, there are a couple instances where
6 you'll see it's not very consistent, and then
7 it's sort of problematic for one, if you're
8 doing any kind of length in trawl, or any sort
9 of fishing line on the bottom.

10 My main comment would be the future.
11 As was pointed out by two commenters,
12 uncertainty sort of rules the day here.

13 We don't know where we will be from a
14 fishing standpoint, from a stock standpoint five
15 years from now, 10 years from now. It's
16 uncertain.

17 So it's not to suggest that this
18 shouldn't be build. But what I would suggest is
19 that BOEM commit to follow-up, either in the EIR
20 or in the COP, to say that, five years from now,
21 a Developer needs to, as I said, put their money
22 where their mouth was.

23 They've said they won't have an impact
24 on fishing. Fine; understood. And that means

1 somebody needs to take that into account in the
2 EIR.

3 What we're saying is the burden
4 shouldn't be five years from now on the
5 Fishermen to come back and say, you did have an
6 impact.

7 The burden should be on the Developer
8 five years from now to take some studies, go to
9 NOAA, find the stats, and come back to BOEM and
10 say, look, we aren't having an impact, because
11 it's not fair to take their word for it now and
12 then require Fisherman five years from now,
13 10 years from now, to be the ones to come
14 forward and say, you actually did have an impact
15 on us.

16 So if you're going to take the
17 Developer's word for it now, what we're
18 suggesting is there needs to be a built-in
19 review period at some point in the future
20 consistently, so that you're monitoring that and
21 not just taking their word for it.

22 MS. PERRY: Thank you. All right.
23 That was our full list of people who signed up
24 in advance.

1 We're now going to open it up to
2 anyone else who might like to share a comment.
3 There's one right behind you, Christy. And
4 then, we will come here to the middle.

5 MR. HARAN: John Haran, Sector Manager
6 of the Sector 13. We talked about impacts here
7 tonight.

8 My name is H-A-R-A-N. I hear the word
9 "impact". The placement of the five turbines in
10 Rhode Island, the Fishermen in Sector 13 now
11 fish 13 miles further out to sea because of
12 that, verified by their BMS box.

13 Also, the five turbines have now
14 attracted invasive species. We have to protect
15 the environment that's there now.

16 I'm always amazed that the
17 Environmentalists don't really speak up to the
18 environment as it is today and what it will be
19 in the future.

20 And we're very concerned about the
21 decommissioning. We don't think there's ever,
22 ever going to be enough money in that. And we
23 do believe that they're going to default at the
24 end of the decommissioning.

1 Also, you talk about social justice.

2 Where is the social justice for all the rare
3 metals that have to be mined for this?

4 I think we have to take that in
5 consideration going forward. Thank you.

6 MS. PERRY: Thank you. All right. I
7 think we had one just here.

8 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you for the
9 opportunity to speak in support for offshore
10 wind and BOEM. Oh, I was going to get to that.
11 And participating in investigation to how this
12 will affect me and my family.

13 My name is James Kennedy,
14 K-E-N-N-E-D-Y. And I'm a lifelong Fisherman.
15 My background is mainly in the lobster industry
16 working the areas in and around these windfarms
17 are going to be built.

18 Five years ago, I had a heart attack,
19 which sidelined me from the careers of fishing
20 in the northeast. This was a huge change for me
21 personally, financially. I went to work ashore
22 for a seafood company cutting fish.

23 This last year, I approached
24 Scott Yerman, the owner of the fishing vessel,

1 New Horizon. I have known and worked with the
2 Yerman family for years at the dock in New
3 London, Connecticut.

4 I had heard they were involved in
5 offshore wind. We discussed the duties I would
6 participate in and go back to sea aboard the New
7 Horizon.

8 The hours of rest, wheelhouse duties,
9 Crew drills, training fit comfortably. They
10 made arrangements for me to make -- to take the
11 SPCW training [indiscernible].

12 I joined the Crew for this year's
13 scout duties working with a survey ship. My
14 fishing experience and being able to communicate
15 with fishing vessels working in these Lease
16 areas made for successful profile of the seas
17 and with zero gear interactions on our watch.

18 I am very proud to be back making a
19 living on the ocean and to be working together
20 with my fellow Fishermen to make this entire
21 project a success.

22 Fishermen are extremely independent by
23 nature. I can't argue with that. I'm one,
24 myself.

1 I also know that we need a new source
2 of energy. Will Fishermen be impacted? Yes.
3 Will it put them out of business? No. Good
4 Fishermen always find a way.

5 I've seen Ørsted working with
6 Fishermen firsthand. And I appreciate that BOEM
7 is here looking for answers. Thank you for the
8 opportunity to speak.

9 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Anyone else?
10 Right here.

11 MR. LOFSTAD: Hi. My name's
12 Rick Lofstad. It's L-O-F-S-T-A-D. My family's
13 been in the fishing business three generations,
14 at one time.

15 We presently have in our family six
16 fishing boats in New York State. We produce
17 about 1 million, 1.5 million pounds a year of
18 our own fish. But back then, we used to
19 produce, in the '90s, '80s, about one-sixth of
20 New York State's fish.

21 Presently, I do farmer's markets in
22 New York State. We have about 4200 customers
23 all week, selling 1 pound at a time.

24 And our customers are looking for

1 environmentally produced good seafood. I am in
2 favor and many of my customers are in favor of a
3 windfarm project such as this.

4 But, as a Fisherman of three
5 generations, I think there's a better way to
6 catch a fish. And with your managing the sea,
7 there's never been a better time to -- let's put
8 it this way.

9 The old-fashioned fights and fish
10 traps, put them in the sea, if you're already
11 putting a hole in the sea. Keep in
12 consideration of a better way to catch a mouse.
13 And in this case, I think the windfarm and your
14 Leases did that.

15 I am concerned about safety at sea.
16 There's -- putting hundreds poles standing in
17 the middle of March, when we have problems with
18 Crewmembers who can't take a watch, is going to
19 be a problem.

20 And I've thought of an idea like that
21 lights that come on in a garage as you walk by
22 it. I think something that requires that, and
23 I'm also asking that a better way of these fish
24 getting us Permits to allow us to catch fish in

1 a different way within that area to prove that
2 there's no effect on the sea.

3 If you put one right next to a pole
4 and another couple hundred -- another 5 to
5 10 miles down the way, you would actually see,
6 if it's the same method. You'd be able to prove
7 if it had an effect or not.

8 And that's just -- like this man here
9 was saying, this proof is in the putting, then.
10 So if you permit us to do two different ways in
11 the close and the farther way, without troll
12 gear, between pots or traps, and that's my idea.

13 But I fully support this operation. I
14 look forward to working with the windfarm
15 industry. Thanks.

16 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Other
17 comments? Well, if not, thank you. Much
18 appreciation to all of you, those who commented
19 and those who are here to listen and ask
20 questions.

21 We will -- I believe we have this
22 space for another -- well, we have it until
23 8:30, if we need it. So, we can go back to open
24 house.

1 And if there are other questions you
2 have, I know these folks are happy to answer.
3 And so, I'll turn it back to Jess for closing
4 remarks.

5 CHIEF STROMBERG: Thank you. I want
6 to thank you, all, for participating in today's
7 Public Hearing for the Revolution Wind Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement.

9 We really appreciate spending this
10 time together. And I want to thank you for the
11 many thoughtful comments that you submitted.

12 All of the comments that were received
13 today and as well as all the comments that are
14 received during the comment period will be
15 assessed and considered by BOEM during
16 preparation of the Final Environmental Impact
17 Statement.

18 So I hope this has been a good forum
19 for you to share your comments on aspects of the
20 project that are of concern to you, and that you
21 have found the answers to your questions around
22 the room to be both useful and responsive during
23 the open house portion.

24 Your input is essential to ensure that

1 the best informed decision will be made for the
2 proposed project. And as Meg mentioned, we will
3 be in the room after these remarks to answer any
4 additional questions that you might have.

5 So, thank you, again, for
6 participating in today's public meeting. And
7 with that, we will return to open house to
8 answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, the Public Information Meeting
10 concluded at 7:15 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

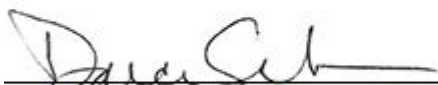
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH

I, Darcy Schramn, a Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the foregoing Public Information Meeting was taken under my direction October 6, 2022. The said testimony was taken audiographically by Anne-Marie Maillet and then transcribed under my direction. To the best of my knowledge, the within transcript is a complete, true and accurate record of said Meeting.

I am not connected by blood or marriage with any of the said parties, nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter in controversy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and Notary Seal this 19th day of October, 2022.



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

