

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Public Review of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)
Vineyard Wind I Offshore Wind Energy Project (Project)

Information and Talking Points for Advocates of Offshore Wind Energy/the Project

Relevant Background and Context:

In May 2018, Vineyard Wind was selected by Massachusetts to develop enough offshore wind to power 400,000 homes (800 megawatts) south of Martha's Vineyard and 15 miles off the nearest mainland shore. Because this project will be built in federal waters (more than 3 miles from shore), it needs to be permitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management within the U.S. Department of the Interior. Last August, BOEM announced that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement they prepared needed to be expanded to include cumulative impacts of projects planned for development in the north Atlantic. This Supplemental EIS was published on June 12, and a public comment period will run until July 27, including [five virtual hearings](#).

Full text of the SEIS is found [here](#). A graphic depicting the various Alternatives analyzed are [here](#).

The virtual public hearings on the Project will be held on:

Friday, June 26, 5PM***

Tuesday, June 30, 1PM*** *****Note, earlier hearings
are the highest priority**

Thursday, July 2, 5PM.

Tuesday, July 7, 1PM

Thursday, July 9, 5PM

In order to appear and speak on behalf of the Project you should register in advance. Online registration takes only a minute and can be found [here](#). That link also has complete information and graphic posters explaining critical components of the Project that were evaluated in the SEIS.

Suggested Talking Points: Please feel free to select from the suggestions listed below and personalize as appropriate for your organization (we've added the captions to make it easier for you to locate points you wish to use).

- **Commendations:** We commend BOEM and the other federal and state agencies and entities that have worked to develop a structure that brought together stakeholders from all corners to the table. We commend the offshore industry for committing to shared use, and we hope that regulators and the secretary will endorse that remarkable collaboration. We commend the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island for their extensive work to survey, monitor and minimize impacts to natural resources, fish, birds, and other sealife, which is captured in this SEIS. We commend stakeholders for arriving at robust agreements to protect endangered species, including the North Atlantic Right Whale. We commend communities in southern New England for turning the page on a once contentious issue, especially in our region that has brought these communities into the process and resulted in significant input and community benefit.
- **Climate Change:** We acknowledge the United Nations [statement](#) that climate change is the defining crisis of our time, and no corner of the globe is immune from the devastating consequences of climate change. But at the same time, while science tells us that climate change is irrefutable, it also tells us that it is not too late to stem the tide if we can rapidly reduce fossil fuel emissions.

- **Offshore wind potential:** We note the statement in the SEIS that “The proposed Project and other future offshore wind projects will in fact probably lead to reduced emissions from fossil fuel power-generating facilities and benefit air quality.” It states that in the absence of offshore wind development, “additional, more polluting, fossil fuel energy facilities would come or be kept on-line to meet future power demand, fired by natural gas, oil, or coal.”
- **Offshore wind potential:** The untapped offshore wind resource along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard is one of the most powerful in the world and is within reach of densely populated areas where energy demands are high and new resource options are few. The offshore wind industry could create 83,000 jobs and deliver \$25 billion in annual economic input by 2030.
- **Support for Offshore Wind Energy:** We support the continued development and growth of Offshore Wind in the eastern US. Offshore wind energy is critical for meeting clean energy goals in New England, and the emission reductions necessary to stop the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, holding over 50% of the potential clean energy resource in the region. But we build this resource responsibly, to transition our grid to locally sourced clean energy.
- **Specific Support:** We support the East-West One Nautical Mile Wind Turbine Spacing without transit lanes (Alternative D2). This Alternative would require that the wind turbine generators are oriented in an east-west direction and have a minimum spacing of 1 nautical mile between them. This could reduce conflicts with existing ocean uses, such as commercial fishing and marine navigation. We believe that this Alternative allows for continued co-existence between a new industry and existing marine users, such as the commercial fishing industry, while protecting the marine environment and setting a path forward. Requiring additional transit lanes, deemed unnecessary by the US Coast Guard, would result in Project delay and damage to the offshore wind industry.
- **Specific Support:** We support the Covell’s Beach Landfall Alternative (Alternative B). This Alternative would limit the cable landfall to only Covell’s Beach. We believe that doing this could reduce impacts on environmental and socioeconomic resources, particularly impacts on Lewis Bay.
- **North Atlantic Right Whale Protections:** We support Vineyard Wind’s [landmark agreement](#) with the National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Conservation Law Foundation to protect the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale during project construction and operation.
- **Wildlife:** Vineyard Wind’s project is precedent-setting for responsible development. As technology advances, the ability to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to wildlife and the environment will only grow stronger. The climate crisis and ensuing health crisis demand that we stand up these projects as fast as their responsible development will allow, and we believe it’s time to move forward.
- **Bottom Line 1:** The SEIS clearly demonstrates that offshore wind energy can be developed in a manner that protects wildlife and habitat every step of the way, and that projects such as Vineyard Wind’s should advance as quickly as responsible development will allow. We believe that the SEIS provides sufficient information in support of the development of the offshore wind industry and the much-needed clean renewable energy resource it will provide, including the Vineyard Wind Project.
- **Bottom Line 2:** We urge BOEM to complete this review in a timely fashion, provide a pathway for this Project to move forward recognizing the immense refinement and

compromise, and avoid the draconian measures that will further delay and jeopardize our ability to get clean energy into the grid.