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N.J. Coalition Forms to Fight Largest Offshore Wind Turbine Project in U.S.

Alliance of individuals, towns, and local groups from across the state are asking for review of massive offshore turbine installation following cost analysis, blade malfunction

October 2, 2024

LONG BEACH TOWNSHIP, NJ -- A coalition of New Jersey towns, individuals, and organizations are joining together to oppose New Jersey's fast-tracked massive wind turbine installation off the Jersey Shore coast, the largest, most dense, and closest of its kind in the nation.

The Jersey Strong Coastal Coalition is a not-for-profit alliance representing the broader statewide support for smart clean energy solutions that will not do harm to the state economy or destroy the natural environment. The coalition has been formed in response to an outpouring of concern from across the state and to seek State action before construction begins.

More than 50 mayors and governing bodies from Bergen to Hunterdon, Sussex to Cape May counties, have passed resolutions asking for a review of the projects before moving forward, including all of the Jersey Shore municipalities. The concern is that these major projects violate New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Coastal Zone Management rules.

State leadership is pushing forward with the large-scale turbine installation, with 300 offshore turbines to be erected along the Ocean and Atlantic county coasts by Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC, a joint venture partnership between Shell Oil and Électricité de France.

The coalition called for the State to pause all offshore wind projects pending review of environmental hazards, technological feasibility, and the various avoidable harms these projects are expected to have on the state and local economies.

Given the malfunction of a turbine blade in Nantucket this summer and the recent news regarding a request from one N.J. offshore wind company to pause its project while awaiting functional blade technology, the coalition is asking the State to reconsider rushing forward with these projects.

“Today, the Jersey Strong Coastal Coalition calls for a moratorium on these landscape-altering wind projects until the State is prepared to address the concerns of our members and the residents affected across the state. Economically, environmentally, and otherwise, we have many unanswered questions,” **the coalition said in a joint statement.** “We, as a state, need to come to the defense of our coast. Even one company involved in New Jersey’s coastal industrialization has asked for a pause, and we agree.”

These wind turbines stand over 1,000 feet in height (nearly the size of the Empire State Building) and as wide as a city block beginning 8.4 miles off of the coast of Ocean and Atlantic counties. Similar projects along the eastern seaboard are more than 35 miles off the coast.

An economic analysis of the Atlantic Shores project predicts yearly losses of \$668 million in tourism for the LBI region of Ocean County alone and \$47.6 million in lost tax revenue across the state annually. In official filings with the state and federal governments, Atlantic Shores submitted a photo simulation of the project as seen from the coast (*see below*) which has caused concern regarding the potential blow it could deliver the state tourism industry.

“Our coastal community forms the backbone of our great state, not only as an economic engine but as a pristine treasure that we all hold dear. We are willing to make a sacrifice for smart energy independence, but they haven’t been upfront about the cost,” said **Mayor Joseph Mancini of Long Beach Township.** “We could end up with blade parts washing up on the beach, gallons of mechanical fluids in our ocean, and increased energy costs across the state. Why would we put our state treasure and our local communities at risk?”

The Atlantic Shores project received approval from DEP in January 2024 for the plan to build 200 wind turbines. Concurrently, they are piggybacking to get DEP and federal government approvals for another 100-turbine farm, as part of the State’s full plan to industrialize the New Jersey coastline with over 2,000 turbines in total. An economic analysis has shown a full buildout would cause an increase in energy cost for ratepayers up to 55% across the state.

“This is a wind project with major negative impacts that will dramatically increase the cost of electricity paid by everyone in New Jersey,” said **Mayor Vince Sera of Brigantine.** “It poses a threat to our ocean environment, our local economies, and our home values, yet the State is charging forward. We need to stand up and say something.”

The shore municipalities submitted a letter to DEP in June 2023 detailing the project’s negative impacts, as well as a supplemental letter in October 2023, but the agency made no adjustments to the fast-tracked project.

“These impacts are inconsistent with DEP’s Coastal Zone Management rules for the reasons detailed in the LBI Municipalities’ initial submission, and DEP should decline to issue the consistency certification as a result,” the October letter stated. “DEP itself appears to have conceded there will be adverse impacts, and these impacts mean the Atlantic Shores’ project cannot be found consistent with DEP’s coastal zone management regulations.”

Pashman Stein Walder Hayden P.C., a prominent New Jersey-based law firm, has been fighting legal battles on behalf of the shore municipalities, comprised of Beach Haven, Long Beach Township, Ship Bottom, Surf City, Harvey Cedars, Barnegat Light, Brigantine, and Ventnor City.

“These towns and the families they represent deserve an open, honest, and transparent government process,” added **Frank Huttie III, partner at Pashman Stein Walder Hayden**. “They are stakeholders and as such they deserve facts and information before we start driving piles into the seafloor.”



Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC submitted this photo simulation of the offshore turbines in official filings with the state and federal government.

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The Jersey Strong Coalition is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization focused on the impact of wind projects on New Jersey's state ecology and economy, specifically tourism, fishing, and hospitality. We encourage smart energy solutions that do not cause irreversible harm to the environment. For more information, visit JerseyStrong.org.