



Town of East Hampton

300 Pantigo Place – Suites 105 & 107
East Hampton, New York 11937-2684

July 16, 2018

To: Town Board

From: Kimberly Shaw, Natural Resources Director
Marguerite Wolffsohn, Planning Director

Re: South Fork Wind Farm Public Hearing Comments

A public hearing was held May 17, 2018 for the proposed grant of access and utility easement for the South Fork Wind Farm. Forty nine people spoke at the hearing and 107 letters and emails were received before the close of the hearing on May 31, 2018.

Many people offered comments against or in support of the project as a whole. We note that the Town Board can only decide whether to grant an access and utility easement beneath the public beach and parking lot at the end of Beach Lane in Wainscott and along Town roads. Town comments and concerns regarding the whole project will be offered as part of the process offered by Article VII of the Public Service Law.

The following is a summary (*italics*) of the concerns voiced regarding the aspects of the project that are within the town's purview and a response to those comments from the Town's Planning and Natural Resources Departments.:

- *The cable is not safe in the area where it passes under the beach. The beach is a dynamic barrier beach and not a rocky bottom like the beach at Block Island. It could be exposed in a storm and people could be harmed.*
 - The cable will travel under the beach at a depth of at least 30 feet below the beach surface, which is approximately 10 feet into the glacial headlands to a point approximately 2000 feet offshore. Horizontal directional drilling is a well proven process that allows drilling deep under the beach without ever disturbing its surface. The installation depth is engineered to account for erosion. . Further, the submarine cable is wrapped in steal armoring and would not present a danger to humans or marine life even if exposed.

- *The cable will hum.*
 - Deepwater Wind's export cable will be buried at all points along the onshore route and will not emit sound.

- *The cable easement allows for the installation of cable to accommodate a 400mw wind farm.*
 - The plan before the Board for review includes only the proposed 90-96 MW AC transmission.

- *The cable will commercialize our beaches with transmission lines and ruin them with oil and tar. It will disrupt fish habitat and require support ships & helicopters.*
 - Once installed, the only visible evidence of the cable's existence will be a set of standard manhole covers within the road ROW. As noted above, the cable will be within the sediments below the beach to a point approximately 2000 feet offshore. There will be no oil or tar on the beach during this process. At all points along the transmission route the cable will be buried and out of sight.

- *Are BMP's being implemented for drilling and laying the cable?*
 - Yes. . Horizontal directional drilling is a well proven process that allows drilling deep under the beach without ever disturbing its surface.

- *How will the installation of the cofferdam be coordinated with the opening of Georgica Pond to avoid impact to the migratory baitfish?*
 - The cofferdam will be a gravity cell structure which will be placed of the sea floor using ballast weight approximately 2000 feet offshore. The purpose of the dam is to confine any disturbance to a small work area. Furthermore Deepwater Wind proposes construction to occur during seasons that migrating species would be least disturbed.

- *How will bentonite and other fine particles be contained to avoid smothering benthic invertebrates, aquatic plants, fish & their eggs?*
 - The cable will be installed below the sea floor using the horizontal directional drilling process. Thus no fine particles will be suspended by this process. A cofferdam will be used at the connection site to contain any disturbance. An underwater boom and curtain should also be installed prior to cofferdam installation to further ensure no disturbance to underwater life.

- *Magnetic fields generated by the cables may impair the orientation of fish & marine animals.*
 - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for overseeing energy development and the potential impact of EMF from the transmission lines on marine life is a part of the project's environmental review. However, we note at this time that the depth of installation

between the shore and the cofferdam connection should help to reduce EMF impacts.

- *Work in areas beyond Beach Lane will not have the same sound protection. Drilling there can occur 24/7 at 90db levels.*
 - The proposal includes compliance with the noise regulations of the Town Code.
- *Are additional transmission poles required?*
 - No. Deepwater Wind's export cable will be buried at all points along the route, and thus will not require additional transmission poles.
- *The poles are only being buried in an exclusive neighborhood. Where will it be above ground?*
 - The existing utility lines will be buried on Beach Lane and Wainscott Main Street between Wainscott Hollow Road and Sayer's Path. Deepwater Wind's export cable will be buried at all points along the route.
- *Where is the traffic management plan?*
 - The attached slides illustrate the work area on Beach Lane.
- *The new infrastructure will negatively impact businesses and property values.*
 - The new infrastructure will be virtually indistinguishable from the existing infrastructure. Upon completion the only visible evidence of the cable's existence will be a set of standard manhole covers within the road ROW.
- *Construction in early fall (September) could impact nearby farm stand business. Also working weekends and/or night and into the summer.*
 - Any ground disturbing construction activity in the Road Easement outside of the period between Tuesday following Labor Day and ending on or before the Friday before Memorial Day will require the written approval of the Town. The Town Board should make every effort to coordinate such activity to least impact the farm stand business.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the proposed construction at the Cove Hollow Road substation site. We defer to the Town Attorney regarding the Town's ability to review this construction through the Site Plan review process or any other means.

Some people offered comments regarding the Town's overall energy plans.

- *Conservation and alternate energy sources such as land-sited windmills, private battery storage and solar could achieve the same results with less impact.*
 - See page 5. The South Fork Wind Farm was selected by PSEG Long Island in a competitive, technology-neutral RFP for new sources of power on the south fork. PSEG received 21 proposals and selected the South Fork Wind Farm, together two other projects, because that portfolio represented the least-cost way to meet the need for new sources of power.
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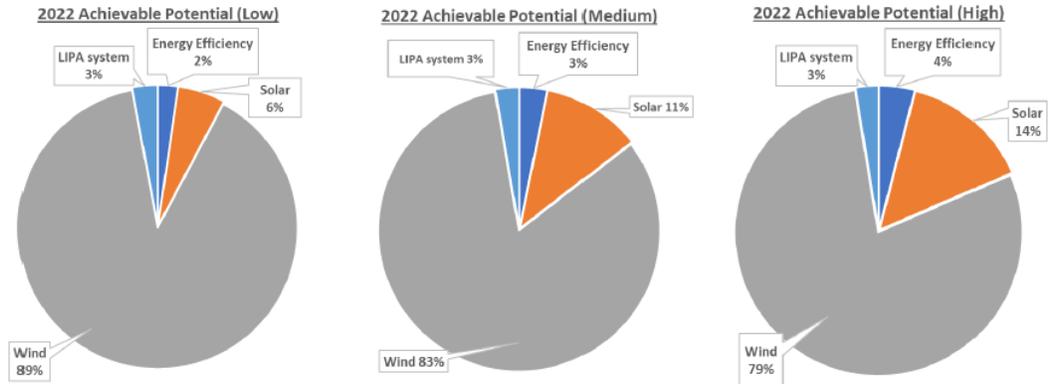
- *Other actions such as net-metering and tax credits for solar, etc. can also contribute to a reduction in demand.*
 - Yes net metering can contribute to a reduction in demand. Net metering allows consumers who generate some or all of their own electricity to use that electricity anytime, instead of when it is generated.
- *This doesn't fall under the NYSEERDA master plan and is an outlier with limited oversight.*
 - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted extensive environmental review of the proposed DWW lease site and prepared the necessary NEPA review. BOEM's authority to award leases for renewable energy projects is regulated by the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act. In order to determine if there was an interest in developing Wind Power, BOEM issued a [Call for Information and Nominations for Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the OCS Offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts](#) in the Federal Register in August 2011. Eight companies expressed interest in developing a wind farm in the area. In 2011 BOEM issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EA for "Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Characterization Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Offshore Rhode Island and Massachusetts". The EA considered the environmental impacts of issuing renewable energy leases. In 2013 BOEM auctioned the area as two leases and awarded to Deep Water Wind. For more detailed information see <https://www.boem.gov/Commercial-Wind-Lease-Rhode-Island-and-Massachusetts/>

NYSEERDA spearheaded the development of the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan, a comprehensive roadmap that encourages the development of offshore wind in a manner that is sensitive to environmental, maritime, economic, and social issues while addressing market barriers and aiming to lower costs.

- *The proposed NYSEERDA wind farms south of us can supply Long Island with significantly more energy.*
 - The South Fork Wind Farm was designed to address a specific power supply need on the south fork, by a certain date.
 - NYSEERDA is encouraging the development of offshore wind.

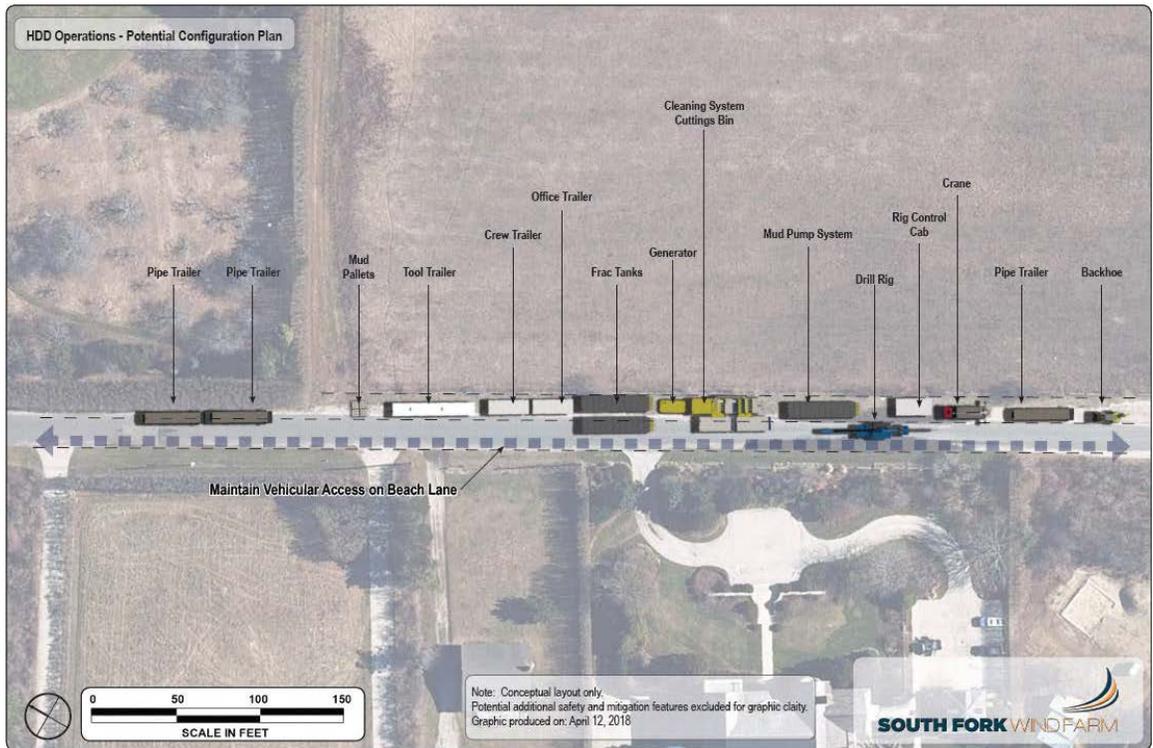
In conclusion, the Town Board should consider the above and all of the information received by the applicant and the public and decide whether the requested easement should be granted and the proposed community benefits package accepted.

Town of East Hampton - Estimated Achievable Potential - Renewable Energy & Efficiency (5 Years)
 3 Scenarios (Low/Medium/High) – Percentage of Annual Electricity Consumption

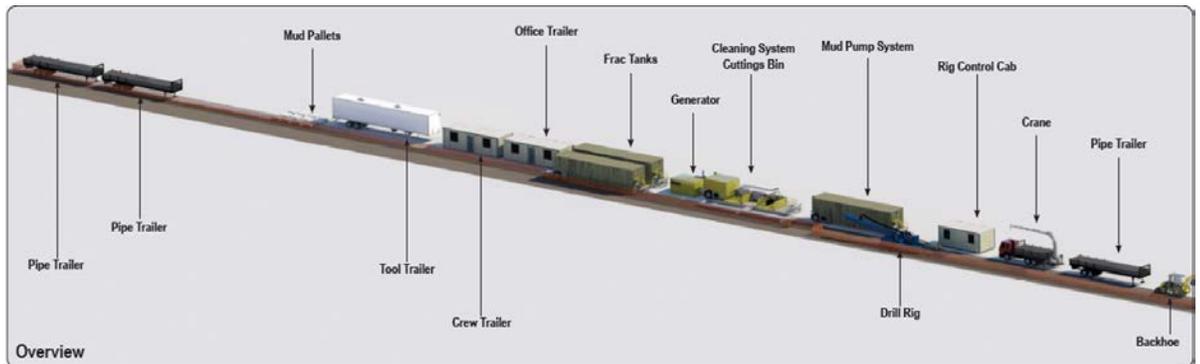


- Area assessed is East Hampton township, including East Hampton Village and East Hampton portion of Sag Harbor; (all customers)
- Solar includes rooftop, ground mount, parking lots, community solar, and utility scale solar farms. Solar rooftop achievable potential based on technical potential data from Google Project Sunroof Data-Explorer, using East Hampton solar installation history 2012 – 2016 as baseline for future deployment in Low Scenario. Medium Scenario uses 3x past deployment; High Scenario 4.8x deployment. Past deployment data from NY Solar Map. Other solar capacity based on proposals received through RFP and other surveys. Total cleared land area needed for non-roof solar is 178 acres in High, 113 in Medium, 54 in Low Scenarios.
- Energy efficiency assessments based on anticipated retrofits of 366 dwellings/year (High), 275 (Medium), 183 (Low), with avg. electric savings of 20%. Similar assumptions for commercial and institutional buildings. New construction assuming 323 new dwellings/year (High Scenario) H.E.R.S. code compliant, 56% reduced electric consumption compared to conventional building. Data for number of buildings from 2017 EH Town Assessment Roll.
- Wind power potential includes 90 MW offshore wind at 46% capacity factor, and 2.2 MW of land based wind power.
- LIPA system figure is expected percentage of renewable energy used island-wide in LIPA service territory.

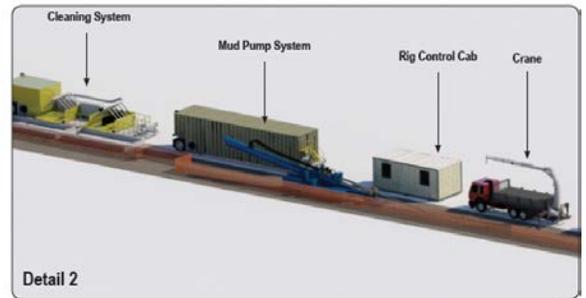
Analysis performed by Gordian Raacke, Renewable Energy Long Island. Preliminary data - work in progress. April 2018.



This is the example provided to illustrate how the equipment could fit within the road ROW and allow for vehicles to pass.



Potential HDD Operations Layout



Note: Conceptual layout only.
Potential additional safety and mitigation features excluded for graphic clarity.
Graphic produced on: April 12, 2016

