

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Lisa Quattrocki Knight <lisa@green-oceans.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Lisa Quattrocki Knight
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing both as an individual and on behalf of Green Oceans to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". We oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. Green Oceans is a 501(c)3 nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to preserving the health of the ocean and the biodiversity it supports.

We have taken a difficult stance against offshore wind and have been subject to much-unwarranted criticism, largely waged by organizations and scientists that have conflicts of interest. We hope you will consider these objections with an open mind, understanding that we have never accepted any outside funding and are all 100% volunteers. Our love of nature and our connection to the ocean brings us together.

Here is a brief outline of our objections:

1. The benefits of offshore wind projects have never been proven. The companies never claim they will decrease CO2 or wean us off fossil fuels. Even BOEM, the US agency tasked with permitting the projects admits, "Overall, it is anticipated that there would be **no collective impact** on global warming as a result of offshore wind projects, including the proposed action..."(Vineyard Wind FEIS, Vol 2, p. A-66). Without proven benefits we should not accept any harms, especially unknown harms.
2. South Coast misleads the public about potential benefits. On the website, it states, "that has the potential to generate over 2,400 megawatts (MW) of low-cost clean energy, or enough to

power over one million homes.” The wording is misleading. They never say they will power this number of homes. Because, the power will be generated mostly during the winter, at night, when people are not using electricity, we will not use the power they generate, although consumers will still have to pay for it. Moreover, because the wind is intermittent, and can actually decrease to zero, we will still need to have enough traditional power plants to generate 100% of our electricity needs. These traditional power plants will need to provide electricity to compensate for lags in the wind. The “on-demand” intermittency will force them to operate inefficiently, using more fossil fuels to generate less electricity. The Washington Post discusses this conundrum here

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/08/11/turns-out-wind-and-solar-have-a-secret-friend-natural-gas/ \[washingtonpost.com\]](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/08/11/turns-out-wind-and-solar-have-a-secret-friend-natural-gas/ [washingtonpost.com])).

3. The risk of resuspending toxins laden in the seabed from generations of industry waste and having this accumulate in the food web could potentially contaminate our food supplies and harm the fishing, oyster, and shell fish industries.
4. The company has not tested the sediment adequately. They have never even tested for the “forever” chemicals, or PFOAs.
- 5.
6. EMFs do cause harm to both developing marine life and to humans. EMFs cannot be shielded with concrete (or anything) and the levels are much higher than other sources of EMFs. A Scottish study demonstrated that the levels of EMFs associated with offshore wind export cables can cause congenital deformities that could lead to “population level” impacts. (*Harsanyi et al., Journal of marine science and engineering, 2022, Vol.10, 5*). Population-level impact is a euphemism for extinction.
7. Humans can also suffer from high levels of EMFs, and implantable medical devices can malfunction when exposed. The company claims that humans should not worry, but the cables buried just 6 feet below the ground, will eventually travel through residential areas. Some reports state that acceptable levels of EMF exposure is as little as 0.005-3 mGauss, ([https://flir.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2545/~/extech---acceptable-emf-levels \[flir.custhelp.com\]](https://flir.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2545/~/extech---acceptable-emf-levels [flir.custhelp.com])). The DEIS lists that the EMFs from the export cables will range from 85 to 1859 mGauss. This level is several orders of magnitude higher than anything deemed acceptable that we could find (DEIS, 3.5.6-47), with the onshore portion emitting 403 mGauss (DEIS 3.6.5-6). Insulin pumps, cardiac pacemakers, cerebral shunts are all sensitive to EMFs. Any malfunction of these devices can be life-threatening.

Please make the companies demonstrate efficacy as well as understand the harmful impacts before they are allowed to move any further in the permitting process.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Quattrocki Knight, M.D., Ph.D.
617-803-5058
lisa@green-oceans.org

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Beth McBreen <bmcgreen1@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 4:01 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

We are writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8;!KKphUJtCzQ!JuVFmeih7TQeRhdXe1BkBTpm9f66etfRjaAyxP_PrX1-Y9TzXSPjOIE0ZmhTwHuWOv7k8TXdhDQ8bFunNeroRg\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8;!KKphUJtCzQ!JuVFmeih7TQeRhdXe1BkBTpm9f66etfRjaAyxP_PrX1-Y9TzXSPjOIE0ZmhTwHuWOv7k8TXdhDQ8bFunNeroRg$[tinyurl[.]com]) & [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj;!KKphUJtCzQ!JuVFmeih7TQeRhdXe1BkBTpm9f66etfRjaAyxP_PrX1-Y9TzXSPjOIE0ZmhTwHuWOv7k8TXdhDQ8bFvalub0yg\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj;!KKphUJtCzQ!JuVFmeih7TQeRhdXe1BkBTpm9f66etfRjaAyxP_PrX1-Y9TzXSPjOIE0ZmhTwHuWOv7k8TXdhDQ8bFvalub0yg$[tinyurl[.]com])
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!KKphUJtCzQ!JuVFmeih7TQeRhdXe1BkBTpm9f66etfRjaAyxP_PrX1-Y9TzXSPjOIE0ZmhTwHuWOv7k8TXdhDQ8bFveVt61Lw\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!KKphUJtCzQ!JuVFmeih7TQeRhdXe1BkBTpm9f66etfRjaAyxP_PrX1-Y9TzXSPjOIE0ZmhTwHuWOv7k8TXdhDQ8bFveVt61Lw$[tinyurl[.]com])

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

We believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

On a personal note, we live directly on the Sakonnet in Portsmouth and are lucky enough to witness the beauty that is the ecosystem in this area every day. The Sakonnet is a state treasure and it is a travesty that Rhode Island’s own Department of Environmental management is so willing to use it for industrial purposes. Shame on all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth and Michael McBreen
143 Heidi Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871
Mcbreenbeth@gmail.com

*Presentation link:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share link ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!JuVFmeih7TQeRhdXe1BkBTpm9f66etfRjaAyxP_PrX1-Y9TzXSPjOIE0ZmhTwHuWOv7k8TXdhDQ8bFsViG4q6A\\$\[drive\[.\]google\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link;!!KKphUJtCzQ!JuVFmeih7TQeRhdXe1BkBTpm9f66etfRjaAyxP_PrX1-Y9TzXSPjOIE0ZmhTwHuWOv7k8TXdhDQ8bFsViG4q6A$[drive[.]google[.]com])

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: BARBARA DURKIN <Bjdurk@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 3:59 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast Wind

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March 7, 2024

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Please accept and review my comments offered in response to SouthCoast Wind "dredging".

Neither Mayflower Wind, nor SouthCoast Wind, have been properly vetted.

"Ocean Winds" is ("EDP" + "ENGIE") "OS" "EDPR" as a JV with "SHELL NEW ENERGIES US LLC was registered on Mar 06, 2023 as a llc type company located at 150 N. DAIRY ASHFORD, HOUSTON, TX, 77079, UNITED STATES"

SouthCoast Wind has Chinese Partners.

Who is SouthCoast Wind?

By Reuters

April 3, 2023

"A new set of surveys is now underway at the Mayflower Wind site offshore Massachusetts, where a joint venture of Shell New Energies US and EDPR Offshore North America plans to build an 804 MW offshore wind farm."

[\[offshorewind.biz\]](https://www.offshorewind.biz)

<https://www.offshorewind.biz/2021/07/20/subsea-surveys-underway-at-804-mw-wind-farm-site-offshore-massachusetts/> [\[offshorewind.biz\]](https://www.offshorewind.biz)

EDPR

"EDP Renewables previously announced that it and developer ENGIE would combine to form a new venture called Ocean Winds and on Monday announced the launch of the North American arm of that company, OW North America, which takes the place of EDPR North America as 50% owner of Mayflower Wind."

"Energias de Portugal SA (EDP)"

"It is owned by China Three Gorges, OPPIDUM, [BlackRock \[globaldata.com\]](https://globaldata.com) Inc, CNIC, Mubadala and others."

[\[power-technology.com\]](https://www.power-technology.com)

<https://www.power-technology.com/marketdata/fratel-portugal/?cf-view> [\[power-technology.com\]](https://www.power-technology.com)

SouthCoast Wind owner "Ocean Winds" is ENGIE & EDP, with China Three Gorges, CTG, EDP's main shareholder, & US Blacklisted 2020.

econews.pt/2020/09/21/edp...

Please Take Note!

'Wind energy: Ocean Winds sets sail to conquer the West'

[\[engie.com\]](https://www.engie.com)

<https://www.engie.com/en/ocean-winds-wind-energy> [\[engie.com\]](https://www.engie.com)

Subsea OSW Cables Fail

'Subsea cable failures pose global threat to offshore wind'

9/22/23

<https://www.energylivenews.com/2023/09/22/subsea-cable-failures-pose-global-threat-to-offshore-wind/>

[\[energylivenews.com\]](https://www.energylivenews.com)

'New Code of Practice Aims to Slash Subsea Cable Failures'

CABLES

10/26/23

"The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) has issued a new Code of Practice"

[\[offshorewind.biz\]](https://www.offshorewind.biz)

<https://www.offshorewind.biz/2023/10/26/new-code-of-practice-aims-to-slash-subsea-cable-failures/>

[\[offshorewind.biz\]](https://www.offshorewind.biz)

'International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA),'

"IMCA Code of practice for offshore cable laying in the renewable energy industry"

<https://www.imca-int.com/product/imca-code-of-practice-for-offshore-cable-laying-in-the-renewable-energy-industry/>

[\[imca-int.com\]](https://www.imca-int.com)

'Inter-array cable issue to leave €403 million mark on Ørsted'

[\[offshore-energy.biz\]](https://www.offshore-energy.biz)

<https://www.offshore-energy.biz/inter-array-cable-issue-to-leave-e403-million-mark-on-orsted/> [\[offshore-energy.biz\]](https://www.offshore-energy.biz)

"Damaged cables represent the No. 1 insurance claim of offshore wind developments, he said.

Cables cost about \$1 million per kilometer, or a little more than a half-mile. It can take 40 to 60 days to repair a cable.

The average cost to repair an inter-array cable, which links individual wind turbines to a substation at sea, ranges between \$1.8 million and \$12 million.

Repairing an export cable that transmits electricity from a sea-based substation to the shore can cost an average of \$10-\$30 million, Smith said."

[\[coastalreview.org\]](https://www.coastalreview.org)

<https://www.coastalreview.org/2023/06/nc-joins-pact-to-cover-offshore-wind-related-fisheries-losses/> [\[coastalreview.org\]](https://www.coastalreview.org)

Prysmian connects Vineyard Wind 1 to US grid'

<https://www.offshore-energy.biz/prysmian-connects-vineyard-wind-1-to-us-grid/> [\[offshore-energy.biz\]](https://www.offshore-energy.biz)

At present, there are,

1500 workers at seven Prysmian cable manufacturing plants in China rolling out OSW subsea cable.

Prysmian:

'Strengthening the China's grip, Prysmian Group'

"The strengthening of Prysmian in China comes at the time when the Chinese Government is pushing for the "One Belt, One Road" policy, the project stemmed from hundreds of years of commercial trading between China and Middle East and the Western countries."

<https://www.prysmiangroup.com/en/insight/people-and-life/china> [prysmiangroup.com]

Cable Failure should be anticipated and avoided to protect rate and taxpayers in urgent need of your advocacy.

Transmission is a socialized cost. But, ratepayers are also on the hook for failed cables, due in large part to utility "constraint" and "curtailment" payments, detailed later in this comment.

Prysmian's \$1.9bn subsea cable from Scotland to Wales, the Western Link, was intended to reduce constraint payments in Scotland. It failed, like DeepWater Wind's cable failed, leaving taxpayers on the hook for grants and subsidies, and ratepayers on the hook for cable failure.

'Italy's Prysmian under fire over UK interconnector failure'

By Energy Reporters
1/16/20 Transmission

<https://www.energy-reporters.com/transmission/italys-prysmian-under-fire-over-uk-interconnector-failure/> [energy-reporters.com]

Prysmian built,

'Western Link failure leaves energy users facing £36m bill'

5/19

"Consumers in England and Wales may have to pay millions of pounds in compensation to Scottish wind farms after a £1.1 billion underwater cable failed for a second time..."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/energy-users-face-36m-bill-for-failed-cable-6f7v0mfz6> [thetimes.co.uk]

'Ratepayers on hook for portion of Block Island wind farm cable mess'

Clip-

"National Grid, which owns the high-voltage power line from Block Island to Narragansett, expects to pay \$30 million for its share of the reconstruction, which will require horizontal directional drilling. The state's primary electric utility will recover the expense through an undetermined surcharge on ratepayers' bills."

https://www.thewesterlysun.com/news/westerly/ratepayers-on-hook-for-portion-of-block-island-wind-farm-cable-mess/article_d2642b4a-0bf6-11eb-8460-fb374c7929b6.html [thewesterlysun.com]

Trenching work for Hornsea 3's onshore cable link, which campaigners claim has caused displacement of silt in heavy rain. Photo: Mike Page/www.mike-page.co.uk [mike-page.co.uk]

'Fury over 'ecological disaster' at \$10bn Orsted offshore wind project'

“Academic 'broken' by claimed silt displacement from Hornsea 3 cabling works to English river”

31 October 2023 UPDATED 1 November 2023

By [Andrew Lee \[rechargenews.com\]](#)

“Orsted has been accused of contributing to an “ecological disaster” with the onshore works for its largest offshore wind project underway globally, the £8bn (\$9.8bn) Hornsea 3 off eastern England.

Furious local campaigners claim silt displaced by heavy rain in October from cabling work underway for the 2.9GW North Sea wind farm has “destroyed” the nearby River Glaven, clogging the 17km waterway and damaging natural habitats including those of rare crayfish species.”

“Carl Sayer, a professor of geography at University College London, was among those accusing Orsted and its contractors of failing to prepare for the extreme rainfall and resulting runoff that they say has devastated the local waterway, causing damage that will take decades to repair and “cancelling out” 20 years of conservation efforts.”

[\[rechargenews.com\]](#)

<https://www.rechargenews.com/wind/fury-over-ecological-disaster-at-10bn-orsted-offshore-wind-project/2-1-1545230>

[\[rechargenews.com\]](#)

Thank You,

Barbara Durkin
North Falmouth, MA
Cell: 508 887-2445

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kevin Hyman <kevinhyman17@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please Reject SouthCoast Wind Cable In Sakonnet River

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Dear Ron,

I am writing in my opposition to southcoast winds proposal to run the wind turbines cable through the Sakonnet river.

The cable installation will have a negative impact on my families well being. We live in Middletown very close to the Sakonnet river.

Please reject SouthCoast Wind proposal.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hyman
162 Peckham Ave
Middletown RI 02842

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Andrew Roussinos <aroussinos@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 3:52 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast Wind - REJECT please

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Greetings Ron,

I email you today hoping the residents of Rhode Island can impact the decision surrounding the Southcoast Wind project. Will the residents have an impact and make their case against this project and the government machine mandating it? I hope our efforts will be considered and an alternative solution considered.

My position is simple, the ecological impact of a project this size would be monumental and there is no certainty of its success. Personally, I would like to see the funds for this project properly allocated to improve the access to solar panels on public buildings, build solar farms over existing parking lots, incentivize property owners to install them on their dwellings, and consider possible nuclear power options instead. This project will cost billions of dollars and its intentions are just. However, there has to be a more effective use of the funds to improve existing infrastructure like i mentioned above.

Also, considering projects like these have been proposed for the waters surrounding Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard but ultimately were shot down by the residents of those areas, why is Rhode Island forced to be impacted by this similar project?

Perhaps I am too pragmatic and considerate of the ecological impact and the direct impact on Rhode Island's residents who will receive minimal benefit.

Hopefully my voice counts.
Andrew Roussinos
Portsmouth, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Alexandra Sassi <alexandrajsassi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 3:51 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: REJECT Southcoast Wind's Dredge Application Request

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Hello Ron,

As a concerned RI resident that lives right on the Sakonnet River, I am urging and begging you to please reject Southcoast Wind's application to dredge the Sakonnet River. Who will be accountable when the inevitable harmful effects take place on the ocean, it's inhabitants, and the people that live on the River? The toxic waste? The EMFs that will be sure to cause terminal illness to those young and old? Please choose to be on the right side of history. Our oceans and our health should not be the sacrifice we make in order to provide OTHERS with power.

Thank you,
Alexandra Sassi

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Charlotte DuHamel <cnduhamel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 3:49 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Comment on the dredging of the Sakonnet River

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Hello,

I am riding as a homeowner who lives along the Sakonnet river and asking you to stop the construction of the Cabling project in Portsmouth. Proper baseline studies in real life scenarios in different locations, different depths, different times of the year were not undertaken. These projects only benefit foreign fossil fuel, and Wind companies who have no interest in being superheroes for the American people. In your line of work, you probably understand the damage that she oil has done to places like the Nigro Delta. We should not be doing anything that will enable their project to go forward. The sediment of the psychic river is composed of years and years of settling From drainage from the fall river area and we know how polluted that was. All of these ecosystems are connected and you cannot affect one without the other. If you actually ask the people that will be immediately affected. They will not support this. I also think it is not ethical to rubberstamp such projects just because there is a financial gain for the state. Thank you.

Charlotte DuHamel
(609) 462-1338

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Brian Odell <bodell@catalystb2b.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 3:45 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging

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Mr. Gagnon,

I'm writing to express my objections to the dredging that is expected to take place to satisfy the need for offshore wind projects. In my opinion, not enough work has been done to investigate the negative consequences of this activity. The science IS NOT settled! Please do not allow this to proceed!

Brian Odell
152 Salisbury Avenue
North Kingstown, RI

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jody Stone <thestoneseg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 2:24 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: OPPOSE DREDGING

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I have done a deep historical dive into what is being proposed for in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth.

Per SAMPS own 2010 research, which was for small baby wind mills close to Block Island, researchers wrote..

"In addition to the acoustic measurements, electric and magnetic ambient fields were measured at the candidate sites and at other sites associated with electric power transmission underwater. The fields have the potential to affect animals such as turtles, marine mammals, birds and fish within 30 feet of the underwater power transmission cables."

To date there is NO data available on what the monster size cables you will allow would emit. What was 30 feet in all directions for BI could now be 100 - creating mass dead zones up and down our prestige coast line .The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

This is a career ending decision that will have repercussions felt for general to come. What have we done!?

I urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC".

Jody Stone

1 of 37

12.

**Acoustic Noise and Electromag
Support of the Rhode Island C**

**James H. Miller, Gopu R. Potty, Kathl
David Casagrande, Lisa A. Miller, Jeffrey Nys**

Executive Summary

The goal of our study was to assess the environmental impact of an offshore wind farm consisting of 8 turbines in an area south of Block Island, Rhode Island. In this study, we considered the underwater acoustic noise generated by the various phases of the life cycle of a wind farm from site surveys, construction, operation, and decommissioning. In particular, the equipment can cause slightly elevated levels of noise in the area adjacent to the turbines both in the atmosphere and in the ocean. To understand the acoustic impact of the offshore wind farm on the surrounding area, a measurement program for the existing ambient noise field was undertaken. The major sources of underwater noise have been found to be shipping, wind-generated waves and bubbles, rain and marine animals. The modeling suggests that the operation of the 8 turbine wind farm would have little impact on marine life. The construction of the wind farm involves driving piles and noise from this operation would have a significant effect on any nearby animals. We recommend that the construction be done after the spring migration of right whales past Block Island. A larger farm being planned for an area east of Block Island was shown to increase the underwater noise levels inside the larger farm. One of recommendations from this study was to encourage the developer to design the support structures that would lower the underwater noise levels. Airborne noise was measured and we conclude that no turbine noise will be detectable on Block Island. In addition to the acoustic measurements, electric and magnetic ambient fields were measured at the candidate sites and at other sites associated with electric power transmission underwater. The fields have the potential to affect animals such as turtles, marine mammals, birds and fish within 30 feet of the underwater power transmission cables.

Executive Summary

The goal of our study was to assess the environmental impact of an offshore wind farm consisting of 8 turbines in an area south of Block Island, Rhode Island. In this study, we considered the underwater acoustic noise generated by the various phases of the life cycle of a wind farm from site surveys, construction, operation, and decommissioning. In particular, the equipment can cause slightly elevated levels of noise in the area adjacent to the turbines both in the atmosphere and in the ocean. To understand the acoustic impact of the offshore wind farm on the surrounding area, a measurement program for the existing ambient noise field was undertaken. The major sources of underwater noise have been found to be shipping, wind-generated waves and bubbles, rain and marine animals. The modeling suggests that the operation of the 8 turbine wind farm would have little impact on marine life. The construction of the wind farm involves driving piles and noise from this operation would have a significant effect on any nearby animals. We recommend that the construction be done after the spring migration of right whales past Block Island. A larger farm being planned for an area east of Block Island was shown to increase the underwater noise levels inside the larger farm. One of recommendations from this study was to encourage the developer to design the support structures that would lower the underwater noise levels. Airborne noise was measured and we conclude that no turbine noise will be detectable on Block Island. In addition to the acoustic measurements, electric and magnetic ambient fields were measured at the candidate sites and at other sites associated with electric power transmission underwater. The fields have the potential to affect animals such as turtles, marine mammals, birds and fish within 30 feet of the underwater power transmission cables.

“Dredging” in U.S. waters is reserved to qualified U.S.-flag vessels.

“Dredging” generally means “excavation” which in turn CBP defines to mean “hollow out” or “to remove soil by digging, scooping out or other means.” Sep 12, 2022

Title 46, United States Code
Appendix, § 292 (46 U.S.C. App. § 292, the coastwise dredging statute), provides that with one exception not herein applicable, vessels may dredge in the navigable waters of the United States only if they meet the requirements of 46 U.S.C. App.

§ 883 (i.e., built in and documented under the laws of the United States and owned by persons who are citizens of the United States (i.e., a coastwise-qualified vessel)).

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Ward Detwiler <ward.detwiler@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 2:26 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so **the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. **The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation.** Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.**
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so

if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed**.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Ward Detwiler
Jamestown, RI

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link
[\[drive.google.com\]](#)

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Ward Detwiler
ward.detwiler@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Maria Shevlin <mcshevlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 2:31 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even **a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs** and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

- • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.**

This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Shevlin

Jamestown, RI 02835

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link
[drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Donna Hauck <dnahauck@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 2:44 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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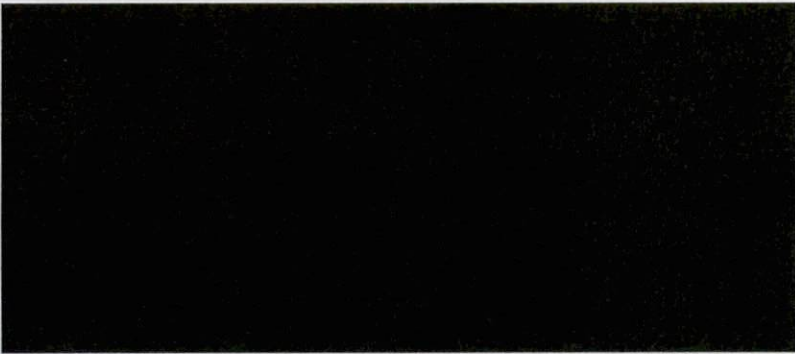
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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & [Lobsters deformed and unable to swim 'because of wind farm cables'](#) [tinyurl.com]



Lobsters deformed and unable to swim 'because of wind farm cables'

Chay Quinn

Electric magnetic fields created by the cables which transport energy from offshore wind farms make lobster larv...

- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, “Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution). While I may be from NJ, we share a critical marine environment along the coastline and the choices you make impact far beyond the shores of Rhode Island.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Hauck
Westfield NJ

*Presentation link: [Portsmouth_OWE_MASTERslides.pdf](#) [drive.google.com]



Portsmouth_OWE_MASTERslides.pdf

[drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Devin Waldron <drwaldron95@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street,
Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Hope this note finds you well today. I am writing to share my concern of and to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution.)

Respectfully,
Devin Waldron
(201) 602-7417
drwaldron95@gmail.com

*Presentation link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link
[\[drive.google.com\]](https://drive.google.com)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kristie Labonte <rklabonte@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC"

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat, fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable and the people creating the problem will be long gone and laying cable in some other part of the world.

We the voters and residents who will be impacted have clearly expressed strong opposition to this proposal. Yet each time the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields.

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] &
<http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up

just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully,
Kristie Labonte

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Patricia Lidstone <patricia02871@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 4:14 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast Wind

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Dear Ron,

I have been a homeowner in Common Fence Point (CFP) in Portsmouth since 1969.

I am against this whole idea of going up Anthony Road and putting a cable underwater from our beach waterfront. To tear up roadwork, some of the Montaup Country Club, the beaches in Island Park and CFP, and who knows what else to get a 2% benefit is something I hope will not happen. Massachusetts turned the project down, and THEY WILL REAP 98% OF THE BENEFITS, so let's start with a DENIAL OF THE DREDGING PERMIT.

How about doing the job in the Quonset area where other work has taken place?

The \$23 million over that long period of time does not make it any more attractive. Money talks and nonsense walks. Let Mass. put it in their backyard.

Please don't let it happen. Deny the Dredging Permit. Thank you.

Patricia A. Lidstone
40 Warcam Way
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Marie Sheffield <bridge2belong@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please honor my rejection...

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth, for the following reasons:

— **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.**

Years of industrial heavy metals and toxic pollutants have settled deep into the seabed from the jewelry, chemical, and textile industries and the U.S. Navy. (*1) Cables will be laid using a jetplow or jet sled burial tool, using high-pressure water jets to blast into the sediment to create a 3 to 13 ft. deep trench, digging up heavy metals and pollutants that are toxic to aquatic organisms even in minuscule amounts. This may damage or even permanently destroy critical marine habitats and aquaculture. The process of dredging can cause resuspension of contaminants in the sediment in the seabed accumulated from over a century of dumping industrial toxic waste causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans. Not to mention the effects on shore, including all creatures that live on and near, and / or enjoy these bodies of water, our nearby beaches and coastal areas.

— **The effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life are unknown.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried, like on Block Island, electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & [Lobsters deformed and unable to swim 'because of wind farm cables](#) [tinyurl.com]. Regular monitoring is crucial yet not a part of the permitting process. There has not been a basic marine life inventory of the river (tidal strait) for future comparison.

— **Cables must be regularly monitored and maintained to avoid repeated disruption to the seabed.** Installation of subsea cable must NOT be considered a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a **single cable failure can be enormous: a cable repair can take on average two months, and often exceeds \$12.5 million** in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

— **When the permit request was submitted there was NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Permitting should not be on a timetable dictated by the developer, risking in this case, that irreparable damage will have been done when it is unknown if this project will even come to fruition.

In sum, RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols as shown below:

—RI DEM explicitly stated, “Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.”

—Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, R.I. on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet (*2).**

Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” While the RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, in the meantime, if this permit is granted and dredging performed, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. This testing was incomplete in 2022, and **still has not been completed.**

Lastly, we believe DEM’s approving **this permit would violate the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.** This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law” protection of the natural environment” of Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt Hope Bay eco-systems and fishery from the proposed cable alone should prohibit DEM approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Sheffield
255 Indian Avenue
Middletown, RI 02842

Susan and Kevin Keogh

March 7, 2024

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of
Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Steet
Providence, RI 02908
Attn : Ronald Gagnon

Dear Mr Gagnon,

We are writing in regards to the pending Dredge Permit application DP-23-198;WQC 23-044 from SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC. We have owned our property Portsmouth at the address noted above since 2008 and are located across the lane from the Sakonnet River in an area called Black Point Farm. While not directly abutting the river, we are in close proximity to the area of the proposed dredging.

After reviewing publicly available information including brief discussions with informed neighbors, we strongly urge the RIDEM to pause any further consideration of the applicant's permits at this time.

We have both been raised as boaters since an early age and are very much aware of the need to maintain the river bottom. But, it appears there are more questions than answers at this juncture. We have additional concerns about the proposed Enbridge project to replace the cross Sakonnet gas pipeline and the coordination efforts with the South Coast Energy project.

There is no question that the future will be embracing wind power, but it must be approached in a careful and most importantly, environmentally friendly effort with coordination throughout the Northeast area.

Thank you in advance for considering our concerns. We hope that the permit request will be held until many more questions are answered.

Sincerely,

Susan and Kevin Keogh

732 BLACK POINT LANE PORTSMOUTH RI 02871

KEOGHCREW@GMAIL.COM

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Susan Keogh <keoghcrew@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Letter of concern re RI DEM permit request File Number DP-23-198; WQC 23-044
Attachments: March 7 2024 Letter to RIDEM Re South Coast Wind Keogh.docx

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Dear Mr. Gagnon

Please see the attached letter from my husband, Kevin, and myself.

Sincerely,

Susan Keogh

--

Susan Keogh
732 Black Point Lane
Portsmouth, RI 02871
Cell: 203-912-1665
Landline: 401-847-9863

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Beverly Muessel <bjmuessel@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:47 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast Wind- Sakonnet River

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Dear Mr Gagnon,
I am pleading with to you to oppose the SouthCoast Wind
Sakonnet River dredge/cable laying permitting! Please,
please, please do not let this happen to Rhode island.
This project is going to destroy our waters, wildlife and
way of life forever. Stop it right now!!! Please! Do the
right thing!
Very sincerely,
Beverly Muessel
Oldport Marine Services
Newport, RI
(**~~~

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Douglas Beimler <debeimler@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:33 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- **Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant

uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Beimler

575 Tuckerman Ave

Middletown RI 02842

*Presentation link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link
[\[drive.google.com\]](#)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Donna Gricus <dwgricus@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:16 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast Wind Energy's Permit

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Dear Rob Gagnon and DEM.RI:

DEM is now considering a serious decision to enrich a company, a decision which can change the Atlantic Ocean forever as we know it and love it.

As you know, people within expanding corporations will say anything to enrich themselves. That means, to be safe, those within an intelligent government agency that targets protecting sea life as well as humans...must be brave enough to say "no".

We are writing herein to the Department of Environmental Management to ask that you reject South Coast Wind Energy's permit to dredge the Sakonnet River & Mount Hope Bay. We ask DEM to refuse to enable South Coast Wind to install, operate, and maintain two underwater, high voltage power cables.

Please understand that the death of whales and other sea life has intentionally been ignored to promote the construction of ocean wind turbines..... ignored just to make money. The Block Island press has written many articles about whales and other sea life that has washed up on Block Island's beaches from the ocean wind turbines. Contact them to read. Whales bodies also have appeared near Little Compton, where a vibrating gas line from Massachusetts crosses the Sakonnet River to Old Mill Lane in Portsmouth. Whales, seals, & other sea creatures remain sensitive to noise and vibrations within their ocean home.

I was reading the London National Grid website in October 2020 before the company left Rhode Island. National Grid told investors about how much money they were making in the state of Rhode Island. National Grid said the state government under then Gina Raimondo, had promised the utility company that they and their partners could do any Green Energy project they desired, and there would be zero oversight and no regulation.

I was so surprised to read this, especially on a London website. My husband and I had voted for Governor Gina Raimondo. But no oversight? No regulation??! So out of curiosity, I went on Point Judith Capital's website cause I'd read Gina had started that investment firm before entering politics. That site was commenting about their investment in the Block Island Wind Farm. And they had hired a Wind turbine technician. He was getting Regional Power Grids turned up everywhere and was going to do it here. The higher power grid could double the money investors would make from passive wind energy. The Regional Power Grid had historically been on its very lowest & safer level of power. After the New England Regional Power Grid was raised, my Middletown electrician said equipment was exploding everywhere... and fires were started. Even in homes. My electrician added with a whisper, "But it's all kept hush hush."

So Mr. Gagnon....when is the New England Regional Power Grid going to be turned down. With the higher grid power, everything plugged into, is constantly for 24 hours a day going at a high power, some with vibrations. Maybe that caused the major fire on Block Island.

So the government's goal is to enrich Point Judith Capital's investors? How does this constantly moving equipment help the environment? Is the South Coast Wind Energy Permit all about helping Investors, rather than protecting the environment?

We hope to depend on DEM.

Best Regards,
Donna Welk Cameron Gricus

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Bryan Haggerty <bdhaggerty@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:56 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
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Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com]& <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even **a single cable failure can be**

enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

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- ● Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- ● Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed**.

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution**. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan D Haggerty

36 Patten Dr Little Compton RI

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link
[drive.google.com]

~~~~~  
Bryan D Haggerty  
617-314-4449  
~~~~~


March 3, 2024

MAR - 7 2024

424 Vanderbilt Lane
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Permit Application Center

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Subject: Support for Southcoast Dredging Application in the Sakonnet River,
Portsmouth, RI

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

We are writing to express our strong support for the application submitted by Southcoast Wind for the installation of cables in the Sakonnet River. *We live on the Sakonnet* and are a geologist and engineer by career, respectively. As concerned citizens who value environmental sustainability and the development of renewable energy sources, we believe that this project aligns with RI's goals of promoting clean energy and reducing our carbon footprint.

The Sakonnet River is a valuable natural resource, and any activity in this area must be carefully planned and executed to minimize potential impacts on the environment. We have reviewed Southcoast Wind's proposal and believe that their approach to cable installation through dredging demonstrates a commitment to environmental responsibility. From our careers in the oil and gas industry, we have seen such dredging that has been done safely and efficiently for many decades in equally environmental sensitive areas.

We understand that some concerns exist regarding the potential impact of dredging activities on marine habitats and water quality in the Sakonnet River. However, we are confident that Southcoast Wind has taken the necessary precautions to mitigate these impacts through comprehensive environmental assessments and adherence to regulatory guidelines. Most of the concerns raised by those opposed are not based on science and expert opinions but are hysterical beliefs.

In conclusion, we urge the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to support Southcoast Wind's application for cable installation in the Sakonnet River. Thank you for considering our input on this matter. If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Joe Studlick



Mary Studlick

THE STUDLICKS

424 VANDERBILT LANE/ SEABERRY FARM
PORTSMOUTH RI 02871

PROVIDENCE RI 028

4 MAR 2024 PM 4 L



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

02908-576799



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Gary Mataronas <lobster2@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 1:02 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River Cable
Attachments: Sakonnet cable.pdf; Sak River Resolution.pdf

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Good afternoon Ron,

I believe we met when Little Compton was asking DEM to help with the funding for the new launching ramp at Sakonnet Point.

I have attached a resolution from the LC Town Council against laying any electric cables up the Sakonnet River. Since the electricity will be serving Massachusetts and none will be going to Rhode Island we believe the cables should be run up route 88 in Westport, MA.

I have also included questions and concerns that have not been answered by Southcoast Windfarm that will adversely affect the Sakonnet River, recreational boaters, and commercial fishermen.

Thank you,
Gary Mataronas
lobster2@cox.net
401-573-0942

I am on the LC Town Council and a commercial fisherman that moors his boat at Sakonnet harbor. I have been asked to supply comments/questions about the Mayflower Wind cable running up the Sakonnet River. I also represented the fishermen when CRMC was contemplating the placement and impacts of the five Block Island wind turbines.

We have many fishing boats that sail out of Sakonnet. How will these be impacted while laying the cable?

We, the fishermen, are very concerned about electromagnet currents given off by the cables. All fish, and especially crustaceans, are very sensitive to any form of electrical current. They will disperse from any area that generates electrical currents. Will the cables give off electrical currents that will disperse our sea life?

The Sakonnet River, all the way up to and including Mount Hope Bay, has immense amounts of quahog beds that are a major source of income to our quahog fishermen. How will the dredging for the cable affect these beds? Previously there were a few boats that would dredge quahogs with a dredge that went six inches to a foot into the sea floor. How will these interact with the cables?

We also have many conch pots, fish pots, lobster pots, and gill nets fishing in the Sakonnet River from March through November. We are very concerned this fishing gear will be damaged during laying of the cables. We also want to make sure our sea life is not dispersed from the area and create a dead zone.

There are several dragger fishermen that tow nets behind them on the sea floor. How will these react with the laying of the cables and after the cables are placed.

When the Sakonnet River is being dredged for the cables, we anticipate there will be massive mud plumes created. When lobsters, crabs, and fish ingest the mud from these plumes it blocks their gills and they die. We do not want a massive die-off of our sea life in and around the Sakonnet River.

We have a great contingent of recreational boaters at Sakonnet Harbor that most likely will be effected when the cable is being laid. Many of these boaters are recreational fishermen that contribute greatly to the Town and we don't want them negatively impacted by the laying of the cable or any current coming from the cable. How will this be mitigated?

As most people know Sakonnet Point is a stopover port for boats coming from other ports and then heading to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. It is also a stopping point for boats when there is thick fog. How will these boats be effected.

There are two pipelines that run across the Sakonnet River in the seabed. One is a gas pipeline, and the other is a water pipeline from the Watson Reservoir. How does MW plan on securing and getting past them?

Obviously there will be an aesthetic depletion from all the Little Compton, Middletown, Tiverton, and Fall River shorelines while the cables are being laid in the Sakonnet River Also, many restaurants and beaches will be negatively impacted while the cables are being laid.

Respectfully,
Gary Mataronas
lobster2@cox.net



**Town of Little Compton
Town Hall
P.O. Box 226
Little Compton, RI 02837**

WHEREAS: The Town of Little Compton is bordered on its long western shore entirely by the Sakonnet River, and

WHEREAS: The Sakonnet River is home to a wide variety of fin fish and shellfish, with virtually no industrial development on its shoreline, and

WHEREAS: The entirety of the river is used year-round for commercial and recreational fishing, as well as recreational boating, and

WHEREAS: The installation in the river of high power electrical transmission cables from off-shore wind turbines would subject its ecosystems to unpredictable risks and damage, and

WHEREAS: The intended destination of the cables and beneficiary of the revenues their electricity produces is a power plant in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS: An alternative overland path with few attendant drawbacks has not been sufficiently explored.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Little Compton Town Council supports the exploration of a cable path alongside State Route 88 in Westport, Massachusetts, which would carry none of the attendant risks of the current plan, and traverses an area relatively free of private residences or businesses.

Voted this 9th day of February, 2023 by the Little Compton Town Council.

Robert L. Mushen, Town Council President

Attest:

Carol A Wordell, Town Clerk

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Chad Loeb <rcloebjsr@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 12:53 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC".

The installation, operation and maintenance of these proposed cables under the Sakonnet River will cause irreversible harm to the environment and associated benthic species, and is in direct contravention of DEM's responsibilities to protect the environment under the Public Trust Doctrine of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Loeb Jr.
101 Indian Avenue
Middletown, RI 02842

Rcloebjsr@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: tbammo@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 12:50 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: debra157browne@gmail.com
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy

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SUBJECT LINE:

Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging
Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Tel: 401-537-4013

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<https://urldefense.com/v3/ http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J9fH39->

[WCZnNUZNTnOc6nFghRf75McBv5zPwM-49y Nb4vtE0TXkCkj1IU8fqs-6haW6EvmDKRbJqlrguA\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/ http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J9fH39-) &

<https://urldefense.com/v3/ http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J9fH39->

[WCZnNUZNTnOc6nFghRf75McBv5zPwM-49y Nb4vtE0TXkCkj1IU8fqs-6haW6EvmDKRaeGDoVoA\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/ http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J9fH39-)

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<https://urldefense.com/v3/ http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J9fH39->

[WCZnNUZNTnOc6nFghRf75McBv5zPwM-49y Nb4vtE0TXkCkj1IU8fqs-6haW6EvmDKRZc6mixJA\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/ http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J9fH39-)

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I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas J. McCarthy
40 Lions Drive
West Warwick, RI 02893
508-243-5421
tbammo@yahoo.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: BETH ETHIER <oldfarmhouse131@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 12:33 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River

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Absolutely no cables please and thank you you know why
Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Katie Eagan <eagan.katie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 12:30 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Livermore, Julia (DEM)
Subject: Public comment: SouthCoast dredge permit
Attachments: Comment on Southcoast.docx

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Attached is my comment on the proposed dredge permit for Southcoast. These comments are related to marine fisheries and habitat impacts. Feel free to forward to anyone at CRMC that you deem appropriate.

Thank you,
Katie Eagan

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am the owner and operator of the 35-foot commercial fishing vessel Shellback my home port is Potters Cove on Prudence. I am a second-generation lifelong year-round commercial fisherman on Narragansett Bay concentrating my efforts in the east passage and Mount Hope Bay. Throughout the year I trap whelks and fish and dive for quahogs.

I am currently serving on the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council. I am the chair of Shellfish Advisory Panel and the Portsmouth Harbor Commission. I was a panelist and contributor to the Narragansett Bay SAMP.

After the host community agreement meeting in Portsmouth, I was approached by a Southcoast employee. He wanted to connect after the cable has been installed to study and monitor the impacts it has on fisheries. Knowing there could be impacts on various species throughout the bay I ask the state to consider not permitting this project until baseline data has been collected and potential impacts have been identified. As with fisheries management, a precautionary approach should be taken with any consideration of construction to avoid changes that are not potentially reversible.

As you know, Mount Hope Bay is a vital spawning area for channeled whelk one of the last remaining lucrative fisheries in the upper bay. My business relies on a productive and healthy ecosystem and 50% of my traps are set in north of the Mt Hope bridge to the Massachusetts state line. Southcoast plans to plow a trench across the bay over two years during the spawning season. The effects will be felt for years because not only will the juveniles not survive the spawning stock mortality will be catastrophic.

One example of this change is the recent Quonset expansion to accommodate for submarine construction. The surrounding areas that have been historically fished and now considered a dead zone by harvesters.

Channeled whelk is not the only fishery dependent on an undisrupted substrate. There is a vibrant fall mantis shrimp fishery that is sustaining our inshore otter trawl fleet. They command the highest price of any harvested species in the state of Rhode Island. They live most of their life in tunnels under seafloor until the early fall months and fishermen can harvest them.

During the height of the season there are over 30 commercial boats fishing Mt. Hope Bay employing a variety of gear types for 24 hours a day. They are all working with one another to avoid conflict. This cable will upend this cooperation.

The effects of climate change is the number one problem facing the commercial fishing industry. We are perpetually adapting to warming water and species reaction to it. If there is anyone that wants to slow this trend it's the commercial fishing fleet at large. But jet plowing a trench through spawning areas and potentially disrupting migratory patterns will not help us reach this goal.

Thank you,

Katie Eagan

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Cathleen Hickey <hickey1@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 12:26 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast Wind Dredging Permit-Please say NO

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I live near the Sakonnet River in Portsmouth. My family and I swim, fish, paddle board and kayak on the Sakonnet. Please do not provide SouthCoast Wind with a dredging permit. Please protect the delicate environmental/ecological balance that is so important for sustaining the activities that my family and I enjoy. Please protect our quality of life in Portsmouth.

I understand the need to find energy solutions and the pressure you may feel to support that effort. With a width of between .3 miles (northern end) and 2 miles, our Sakonnet is a relatively small body of water. Effects of dredging, the cable installation and the cables themselves will be very apparent for those living near and frequenting the Sakonnet River. You have the power to say no, please don't allow this to happen. There are valid reasons other areas have successfully refused to allow SouthCoast to develop wind farms in their areas. No amount of money inducement is worth wrecking what we have. There are alternative routes for laying cable for wind farms that may be more costly for SouthCoast Wind that would have less of an affect on coastal areas and their inhabitants.

In addition to concerns about disturbing sediment, microbial burden, toxicity, and introducing fill to protect cables, I also have concerns about electromagnetic fields as a result of the electricity that the cables will carry and their effect on this ecosystem (and us while we use it and those who live nearby!).

The recent whales beached in the Narragansett area are a concern-was the causative agent affected by their nearby wind farm? Could the wind farm have influenced the proliferation of a particular organism? reduced the whales resistance to infection ?, affect their navigation ability? etc..

Please do NOT provide SouthCoast Wind with a dredging permit.

Thank you,
Cathleen Hickey
340 Windstone Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: sabehan@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:59 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast Wind

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Dear Mr Gagnon,

I am writing you to voice my very strong opposition to the South Coast Wind project. That they plan to dredge, then place a high voltage electrical cable up the Sakonnet River is complete madness and unacceptable . There are many many other reasons (too numerous to list in this email; I'm sure you know what they are) to oppose this plan. Most residents don't know of this plan and I'm certain if they did, the vast majority would oppose. It is not surprising to me that this project hasn't been discussed much in the media...It's almost as if the wind companies want to hide information from the public. Please do the right thing and oppose this, Mr Gagnon.

Many thanks,
Susan Behan
82 Connection St
Newport RI 02840
401-965-4848

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Debbie Amarant <debbie.amarant@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:58 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC - please reject!

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

The voters and residents who will be impacted clearly have expressed strong opposition to this proposal time and time again and yet the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Amarant

1

Environmental Management

MAR - 7 2024

Permit Application Center

Hi Ronald

Unfortunately my Printer broke and I could not attend the hearing in Portsmouth. I believe the dumbest question is the one never asked.

1. The cable that is proposed to go down the Sakonnet River and Portsmouth close to my home raises my concern. Southcoast say that for every 5 wind turbines 68 MWs will be generated enough to service 30,000 homes. I am concerned about health issues caused by Electromagnetic Force (EMF) studies show the EMF poses cancer hazards to children and adults living close to EMF.

②

Plus other medical issues, Has the EMF risk been considered? I think risk should be measured before granting permission. Further could the Block Island Turbine Cable generating EMF cause marine life issues and cause the death of 2 whales in South Kingstown and Charlestown.

2. The main natural gas line and water pipe from Tiverton are under the Sakonnet River. The gas line is close to my house on Cottontail Drive. I have seen and spoke with construction repair crews who stated to me the pipe is deteriorating and they have to fix and band aid repairs.

3

They say a new 12 inch pipe
is going to be laid down,
in near future. How is the
dredging risk for these pipes
being addressed?

Thank you in advance for
addressing these issues.

Best

Michael J. Turvill
212 Cotton Tail Drive
Portsmouth RI 02871

Tel 401-8319-0618

Email mjgtur@comcast.com

P.S. I have an injured hand
plus I don't have your email
address to send the research
as my printer is down today

Media Capital Solutions, LLC

212 Cottontail Drive

Suite 2

Portsmouth, RI 02871

PROVIDENCE RI 028

5 MAR 2024 PM 5



ATTN Ronald Gaynon P.E.
Rhode Island Department Environment
Management
215 Promenade Street
Providence RI

02908-571815



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Doreen Ciancaglini <docdoreen@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8;!!KKphUJtCzQ!KvkJ8fjz0KY3LcP3lcifdoP1jGQdUUEsmN2Sku_QdiENiwS9rjoOOZ8O-l22d3YfHm7B-h5qnTNrui_1pVyFLw\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8;!!KKphUJtCzQ!KvkJ8fjz0KY3LcP3lcifdoP1jGQdUUEsmN2Sku_QdiENiwS9rjoOOZ8O-l22d3YfHm7B-h5qnTNrui_1pVyFLw$[tinyurl[.]com]) & [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj;!!KKphUJtCzQ!KvkJ8fjz0KY3LcP3lcifdoP1jGQdUUEsmN2Sku_QdiENiwS9rjoOOZ8O-l22d3YfHm7B-h5qnTNrui8aWMPq-w\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj;!!KKphUJtCzQ!KvkJ8fjz0KY3LcP3lcifdoP1jGQdUUEsmN2Sku_QdiENiwS9rjoOOZ8O-l22d3YfHm7B-h5qnTNrui8aWMPq-w$[tinyurl[.]com])
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!!KKphUJtCzQ!KvkJ8fjz0KY3LcP3lcifdoP1jGQdUUEsmN2Sku_QdiENiwS9rjoOOZ8O-l22d3YfHm7B-h5qnTNrui-T4oVmsQ\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!!KKphUJtCzQ!KvkJ8fjz0KY3LcP3lcifdoP1jGQdUUEsmN2Sku_QdiENiwS9rjoOOZ8O-l22d3YfHm7B-h5qnTNrui-T4oVmsQ$[tinyurl[.]com])

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
DoreenCiancaglini MD
NorthProvidence
docdoreen@cox.net

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Susan Ondrick <sue_ondrick@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:35 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
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- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

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Sincerely,
Susan Ondrick
5 Cross Street, Newport, Rhode Island
sue_ondrick@hotmail.com

*Presentation link:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share link ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!Pt-xejtcyyfmiWGSyH7ro6bcCNJKEKV9fYMwftyC4qyelPHPI7a20XDHey-a2VY17Ek3anPS-xxedflh1gDol0lvDQ\\$\[drive\[.\]google\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link;!!KKphUJtCzQ!Pt-xejtcyyfmiWGSyH7ro6bcCNJKEKV9fYMwftyC4qyelPHPI7a20XDHey-a2VY17Ek3anPS-xxedflh1gDol0lvDQ$[drive[.]google[.]com])

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Nancy <Vhoward17@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:22 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM); Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
Subject: DENY. Dredging Sakonnet River

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Dear Mr. Gagnon and Ms. Audette,

I live in Portsmouth and oppose SouthCoast dredging the Sakonnet River.

Several residents received a .pdf copy of Southcoast's information about dredging the Sakonnet River.

Please note the report is dated March 2023.

During the public meeting, a DEM employees said that RIDEM has not YET received the actual information about chemicals found in any of the core samples. He further stated that although RIDEM may not be receiving this particular information, a decision would still be made.

Why would Southcoast bring forward any information that would potentially cause the RIDEM to refuse the proposal?

Why would SouthCoast bother to reveal potentially dangerous chemicals that would harm the Sakonnet River and surrounding communities?

How can residents living here trust this decision if RIDEM does not have all the critical information to make the decision?

It seems like Rhode Island and Aquidneck Island are taking all the risk, since this particular project only benefits Massachusetts and SouthCoast investors.

Please deny this application to support the quality of life for residents of Portsmouth, Tiverton, Middletown, Little Compton and Newport who live here and enjoy the Sakonnet River.

Respectfully, Nancy Howard

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Roy, 26Lola-Mae <royl26@portsmouthschoolsri.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:08 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

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RI DEM,

My name is Lola Roy and I was born & raised in Portsmouth RI. I am a full time student in my sophomore year at Portsmouth High School.

After graduation I plan to attend Eckerd College where I intend to study marine biology. I have been following the news regarding the proposed plan to dredge the Sakonett River and I have many concerns.

This project will have many negative effects on marine life and I ask that you please refrain from moving forward with this plan. Although I have not received my degree in marine biology yet, I have spent countless hours studying many aspects of oceanography and marine life. This project will have devastating effects on our waterways and marine life. On behalf of myself and my peers at Portsmouth High School, we ask that you please AVOID DREDGING and find a safer alternative.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lola Roy
Portsmouth RI

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Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: laina pedro <lainapedro@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 7:45 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Proposed Dredging Project

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Mr. Ron Gagnon,

My name is Laina Pedro and I am a resident of Portsmouth RI. I am very grateful to say I was born and raised on Aquidneck Island. I have a deep love and appreciation for our bays and have many special memories of going clamming and sailing with my family.

I am very upset about the plans to dredge the Sakonnet river. My home is located on the land between the Sakonnet River and the Mount Hope Bridge. My family, friends, and neighbors will be greatly impacted by this project. However, my MAIN concern is surrounding the many negative impacts the dredging will have on marine life & environment in addition to the harmful EMF radiation.

On behalf of myself and my neighbors, we beg that you please refrain from this dredging project.

Thank you for your time & compassion with this subject.

Laina Pedro
36 Davey Lane
Portsmouth, RI
02871
(401) 6626400

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[mail.onelink.me\]](mailto:lainapedro@yahoo.com)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Matthew Fenster <mfence9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 11:50 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet river dredging

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Mr. Gagnon,

My name is Matt Fenster and my wife and two sons live at 90 Robin Rd in Portsmouth. For the last 13 years, the Sakonnet river has been at the forefront of our daily lives. We have spent countless days on the river enjoying the beaches, boating and fishing. It is more than a body of water to us but a spiritual and calming place in our lives. The river is our solise in times of good and chaos. If you have ever spent anytime there or put your feet in the water , you would understand what a truly special place it is. In the deepest parts, the river is only 30 feet deep. It's a soft river bed that is very sensitive to any disruption. The dredging would create chaos not only for the habitat in the water but for those that live along it. I am begging you to not approve this permit. It will have long lasting negative implications on our watershed and to those that live, work and play in the river.

Kind regards,
Matt Fenster

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jude RH <judyryderhayes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 9:23 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: NO to Dredging the Sakonnet River

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Please vote to keep the Sakonnet River free from this dredging. I agree with Barbara Chapman as she stated I... "When the pogies go up the river with the stripers following them along, recreational fishermen cast their lines along the Sakonnet River. The fluke lie at the bottom and go up the river to spawn. What impact will this dredging have on the recreational fisherfolk, plus the swimmers, boaters, kayakers, sailors and all the people who have homes on both sides of the river or in the Portsmouth neighborhoods where the cable cuts underground to connect to Mount Hope Bay? And let's not forget the sea life!

We can only imagine what has been dumped into Narragansett Bay over the last 100 years by the jewelry, chemical and textile industries and the Navy. Heavy metal poisons have sunk to the ocean floor and should remain there. With this dredging, high pressure water plows will blast the sediment, spewing up pollutants toxic to aquatic life, damaging or destroying critical marine habitats including our beloved shellfish beds.

Electromagnetic fields (EMF's) emanating from buried cables are known to impact sea life, disrupting migration patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. SouthCoast's own Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) states that EMF's will be detected if buried less than 10 feet deep. Yet they plan to bury the cables at depths ranging from 3.2 to 13 feet. In addition, cables heat up the seabed and surrounding water. Their DEIS says further studies need to be completed to accurately assess long-term impacts of the heat on surrounding ecosystems. Waves are powerful. Cables are going to rock and roll unless buried at 10 feet or more. What will the movement of the cables do to the seabed and to the marine life that make their homes nearby? So much uncertainty.

Cables require constant maintenance. Repairs will cause seabed disruption. Subsea cables make up just 10 percent of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm but account for 75-80 percent of wind energy insurance claims. Cables contain Pipe-Type Cable Transmission Fluid (PTC) which wreaks havoc on the environment when leaked. There is no plan to contain or mitigate this hazard.

To learn more, check out our Green Oceans website. We are a 501(c)(3) group of concerned RI-based volunteers with no connection to the fossil fuel industry. Info displayed on our website is based on peer-reviewed scientific studies and the Environmental Impact Statements of the projects themselves. We're doctors, lawyers, engineers, realtors, artists, businesspeople, teachers, pilots, fisherfolk, gardeners, surfers and sailors who've banded together because our local elected officials, universities and conservation groups, many of whom have received massive grants and political donations from wind energy players, have rubber-stamped these projects without asking intelligent questions about whether they will in fact halt climate change and whether they will destroy our RI way of life.

Barbara Chapman, Green-Oceans Trustee"

Sincerely,
Judy Hayes
6 County St

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Katharine Barnum <kitbarnum@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:51 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnett River

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I am very opposed to the wind turbines in the ocean and the problems of their installation on marine life. These will hang around in the ocean when they are obsolete marring the seascape. I am also opposed to the dredging of the river to lay the cables. Litter the land with these machines but do not pollute the ocean with these machines.

Katharine Barnum

Sent from my iPad

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: David Brunetti <davidabrunetti1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:00 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Comments RE: Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC
Attachments: Portsmouth RIDEM Hearing_Offshore Wind Dredging Permit_comments to be submitted by March 4.24.docx

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Below (and attached) are my comments in regard to the Portsmouth, RI Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC for the Offshore Wind Project .

We desperately need a massive transition to clean and renewable energy. The approval of the dredging permit is part of the necessary permitting process to get us there.

We need to keep in mind what the local, national, and global impacts will be on people and all life on earth if we don't press forward with projects like this.

As long as this project is in compliance with Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Rules and Regulations for Dredging and the Management of Dredge Materials, and State Water Quality Regulations, then I see no reason why this proposal shouldn't be approved.

I can understand and appreciate the concern about the potential impacts to local fish and shellfish and other aquatic populations from such a project, and I hope that such impacts are kept to a minimum or, better yet, reduced to none, but then I think about the devastating impacts to the world's coral reefs, the oceans nurseries which are being wiped out due to oceanic warming from global warming induced climate change.

The loss of habitat for high elevation animals like pika and others that have no place to go as their habitat is constantly shrinking due to global warming.

The current massively expansive and devastating drought on much of the African continent that is having huge negative impacts on its people and wildlife; the east African drought – worst in 40 years – killing crops and cattle across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, along with severe hunger for over 10 million people, over 4.4 million people in need of water, and over 15 million people in need of aid.

The displacement of millions of people all over the world each year due to failed crops and failed economies due to record and prolonged droughts.

The massive flooding in many parts of the world – Bangladesh, Pakistan, Libya, etc. – the catastrophic wildfires in Australia which lead to the deaths of over 1 BILLION native animals and over 25 million acres burned.

The California megadrought – the worst drought in over 1,200 years in the Western U.S. Record-shattering temperatures in California, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho, with 46 million people in these states under excessive heat warnings.

The Colorado River basin being destabilized due to climate change, with Lake Powell being down by 150 feet, impacting 40 million people.

Over six years in a row of drought in Central America, causing failure of most crops and 3.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance for survival.

Deadly flash floods in Kentucky, with rainfall totals over 600% of normal, after a period of drought.

The "thousand-year flood" in Yellowstone National Park, causing extensive damage.

The recent series of atmospheric river events in California causing massive flooding. Even the recent local flooding events in RI is cause for concern.

I could go on and on with such events impacting people and wildlife all over the world due to global warming induced climate change.

As I stated above, we desperately need a massive transition to clean and renewable energy. The approval of the dredging permit is part of the necessary permitting process to get us there.

Therefore, I urge you to approve the dredging permit for this purpose.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to provide you with my comments.

Sincerely,

David A. Brunetti
935 Sherman Farm Road
Harrisville, RI 02830

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: topsuey@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 7:57 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Stop the Southcoast Winds Project

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Dear Ron,

This letter is to express grave concern about Rhode Island giving permission to the Southcoast Winds company to dredge our beautiful waterways for the benefit of wind turbines in Massachusetts. I am deeply saddened that this would even be a consideration with no respect for the environmental wildlife, for our recreational and tourist industry, and for all the people who swim in the beautiful waterways. This is going to release toxins, change the ph of the water and be a hazard for all of us who call this area our home and will get absolutely no benefit from this project. The repercussions of your decision will cause hardships for our very fragile ecosystem that needs to be allowed to exist in a natural balance for years to come. Our waterways is Rhode Islands most precious resource.

Be a hero to the people and say no to a permit that will cause harm to our beautiful environment. Thank you Ron for standing with our natural resources and preserving what Rhode Islanders value most.

Susan Buettner

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: copyscope@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 7:22 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Stop the CABLES!!!

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Dear Ron:

I have been studying the effects of Southcoast Winds laying high voltage cables by dredging and burying them in the Sakonnet River. Is the plan to destroy our entire area and its natural environment? One that depends upon water and an established environmental hierarchy that the entire region depends upon being consistent, safe, undisturbed, and promoting the health of wildlife, the people who call this area home and the very integrity of the water itself.

What a horrible, CORRUPT idea. We do not exist to enrich corporate coffers with wind turbines that are not needed. and especially not needed when it requires such a high price of displacement of the river bottom, and all the fish, shellfish, birds, and people.

Anybody backing, supporting, and expediting this project should be thoroughly investigated as this is a criminal activity from every standpoint.

Stop the project here just as it was stopped in New Jersey.

Jay Buettner
11 Willow Street
Apt. #5
Newport, RI 02840

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Holly Mclear <hollymclear@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 7:19 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Southcoast Wind iN RI Waters

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Hi

I am writing to let you know that if this is the answer to clean air at what expense to the waters, sea life, and beauty to the few who live in this small state. This is a huge project with no recourse to correct if it goes badly. There is a probability of severe consequences for pollution and changing of ocean creatures and their habitat over a time period could be detrimental and the decision makers should be held accountable for this.

Urging you to continue research or send this company packing with their carnival sales of technology.

Thank you.

Holly McLearn
17 Poplar St
Newport RI 02840

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: bcpc@cox.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 6:42 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject South Coast, wind, energy, LLC permit for dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the dredge application request of South Coast Wind LLC I oppose their intent to dredge install and operate, two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling each approximately 20.4 miles long in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth, the impact to our marine habitat, and fishing, and Aqua culture industries will be irreparable.

Respectfully,

Donald Dugan Jr
841 Green Hill Beach Rd.
South Kingstown, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Maeve Heaney <maeve.m.heaney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 5:31 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to the dredging of Sakonnet River

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Good evening,

I write to request the opposition to a permit requested by Southcoast Wind to dredge and lay electric cables in Sakonnet River. As a Portsmouth resident, daughter of a Rhode Island commercial fisherman, and lifelong enthusiast of our local waters, I have deep concerns of the effects the dredging and electrical currents would have on our local ecosystems. Thank you for your time and representation of this matter.

Sincerely,
Maeve Brumec.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Mike Jarbeau <mjarbeau@savebay.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 5:22 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Comments re: SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC, DP-23-198; WQC 23-044
Attachments: STB.SouthCoast Dredge Permit.WQC 2024.pdf

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Ron,

Attached are Save The Bay's comments on SouthCoast Wind Energy's application for a State of Rhode Island Dredge Permit and Water Quality Certification. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important process.

Mike Jarbeau

Narragansett Baykeeper, Save The Bay

(401) 272-3540 ext. 116

[narrabaykeeper \[instagram.com\]](#) | [@narrabaykeeper \[twitter.com\]](#)



[\[savebay.org\]](#)



[\[instagram.com\]](#)



[\[twitter.com\]](#)

| [SAVEBAY.ORG \[savebay.org\]](#)



THE BAY CENTER
100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, RI. 02905
phone: 401-272-3540

SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE
8 Broad Street
Westerly, RI. 02891
phone: 401-315-2709

HAMILTON FAMILY AQUARIUM
23 America's Cup Ave, First Floor
Newport, RI. 02840
phone: 401-324-6020

March 6, 2024

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Re: SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC, RIDEM File Number: DP-23-198, WQC 23-044

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on SouthCoast Wind's application for a State of Rhode Island Dredge Permit and Water Quality Certification. Save The Bay supports the responsible development of offshore wind. We believe the permitting, construction, and operation of all renewable energy projects should carefully consider all pertinent environmental factors and mitigate impacts to the maximum extent practicable, regardless of cost to the developer. We urge the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), and all permitting authorities, to carefully consider the best available science and require best management practices when issuing these important permits. Our specific comments are provided below.

Purpose and Need. In 2023, SouthCoast wind terminated its power purchase agreements related to this project. Based on this termination, the Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board and Coastal Resources Management Council have paused State permitting for SouthCoast. Given the current lack of a customer for SouthCoast's proposed wind farm, Save The Bay questions whether it is prudent for DEM to move forward with the Dredge Permit and Water Quality Certification at this time. When State permitting occurs in a piecemeal fashion without the whole project scope available for review, effective public participation and input is hindered.

Sediment Testing. Save The Bay is concerned by the lack of sediment testing data, particularly in Mount Hope Bay and in the vicinity of the proposed horizontal directional drilling (HDD) pits. This concern is based on the significant past industrial discharges along the Taunton River and in Mount Hope Bay. Studies, and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's most recent *State of Narragansett Bay and its Watershed* report have identified elevated levels of heavy metals and other contaminants based on historic uses and discharges. Targeted sediment testing should be required prior to dredging if there is no recent data available on contaminant levels immediately in and around the HDD pits and export cable route.

Cable Burial. As Rhode Island has learned from the Block Island Wind Farm, cable burial depth is critical to the successful operation of the project. The applicant states that "anticipated cable burial depth range is 3.2 to 13.1 ft with a target cable burial depth of 6.0 feet" (Application § 2.3.1). Save The Bay urges DEM to carefully review all areas where the applicant claims that target burial depth may not be met. Proper seabed preparation and cable burial reduces future risks to marine species and other users of Narragansett Bay. With

regard to seabed preparation, the applicant should prioritize use of a boulder grab over a boulder plow to limit impacts to benthic and other habitats. Increased cost should not be considered as the reason to use more invasive methods. Given the confidential nature of SouthCoast's Cable Burial Risk Assessment, which the DEM has access to, the public must rely on DEM's expert analysis in this area.

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF). The applicant states that "currently available scientific evidence does not provide support for concluding there would be population-level harm to marine species from EMFs associated with HVDC submarine transmission" (Application § 3.3.2.5). Save The Bay shares this view based on reviews of relevant scientific literature. However, studies also show that EMF levels and associated effects on marine species may be reduced, if not eliminated completely, by achieving target burial depth. Careful cable routing and burial depth must be prioritized over other factors such as cost in order to mitigate impacts, including avoidance of Essential Fish Habitat and other sensitive habitats where possible.

Save The Bay urges the Department of Environmental Management to exercise its authority under the federal Clean Water Act and other applicable statutes to protect the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay by requiring the applicant to avoid and minimize all potential impacts from dredging and placing cables and, where necessary, mitigate impacts.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MJ' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Jarbeau
Narragansett Baykeeper
mjarbeau@savebay.org

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: CJ Stankewich <cjfuture@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,
I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC".

Having considered this application:

I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a **single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs** and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."

- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.**

- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.** This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

sincerely,
Charles Stankewich, PhD
8 Quicksand Pond Road
Little Compton, RI 02837

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jeff Frederick <swohammer@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Pat Frederick
Subject: Opposition to Dredging of Sakonnet River

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Mr. Gagnon,

My name is Jeff Frederick and I am a resident of Middletown, RI. My wife, Patricia, and I are sending you this e-mail opposing Southcoast Wind's proposal to dredge the Sakonnet River bed to lay high voltage cables. We have lived all over the United States and abroad throughout our married lives, and we deliberately chose to live out the rest of our lives here in Middletown.

The proposed project by Southcoast will very likely disrupt and destroy sea life in the area as well as disrupt our community's recreational use of the local waterways. Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) emanating from buried cables are known to impact sea life, disrupting migration patterns, feeding, and spawning behaviors. SouthCoast's own Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) states that EMFs will be detected if buried less than 10 feet deep, yet they plan to bury the cables at depths ranging from 3.2 to 13 feet. In addition, cables heat the seabed and surrounding water. Their DEIS indicates further studies must be completed to accurately assess long-term impacts of the heat on surrounding ecosystems. The responsibility to complete this assessment and mitigate any and all negative impacts lies with Southcoast Wind.

Please, Mr. Gagnon, perform your due diligence as a public servant and deny Southcoast's request. They have given you ample justification to deny their request by their own admission. For the sake of your constituents, hold Southcoast responsible to thoroughly assess and mitigate all of the environmental impacts associated with their proposal.

Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Jeff and Patricia Frederick
32 Willow Avenue
Middletown, RI
703-268-0933

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: diana Ouellette <diana.ouellette@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:25 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: The destruction of our waterways by east coast wind

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Mr Gagnon,

I am writing to you to express my sincere concern regarding the dredging of the Sakonnet River. This is not clean energy when you disrupt an ecosystem. Never mind the windmills that require plants that use oil, coal and other resources to produce I was unable to attend the meeting on the proposed agreement between the town and South-coast wind. I am very strongly against this proposal and hope you feel the same way. I know this is all about money, however there are other ways to keep our town and its resources safe from companies that hope to gain from our uniqueness. The compensation proposed will not be enough to offset the damage to our town, River or community. Never mind the issue of who will take care of these lines when they fail, the company fails and the wind farm fails. There are other ways to be green without disruption of our very fragile water ways of which RI will get the least amount of benefit but yet the most impact. Falmouth didn't want it and the won but yet RI is considering Seriously??? Ten years from now, no one will care and we will be left with the mess. Please keep our River safe. Please don't make a decision that will be detrimental to our future!

Sincerely,

Diana Ouellette
137 Musselbed Shoal Rd
Portsmouth, RI
401-965-0487

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Laura Coggeshall <lkcogg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging

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Dear Sir

I am writing to you today as a resident of Rhode Island living on Aquidneck Island to tell you that I oppose dredging of the Sakonnet River area or any area for the wind mills project. Not only does it disrupt the habitat and destroy the wild life living in the area but it will cause a hazardous condition for anyone who plans on using the water way. I believe large corporations push their products on the consumer this being one of them and the corporations benefit the most and create harm and destruction without a care for anything but their profit.

Thank you for listening and representing the people of our state.

Best regards

Laura Kay Coggeshall

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[mail.onelink.me\]](#)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kristen Fagan <kristen@2-hs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:05 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: High Voltage Cable - A message from Aquidneck Island

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Hello Ron,

Along with my family and neighbors that have lived on Aquidneck Island for generations I am writing to say that we are adamantly against the running of high voltage electrical cables through our land, rivers and oceans.

Our ocean is our most prized resource - do what is right and stop this!

Thank you.

--

Kristen Fagan

Charmer of Design and Finder of Things

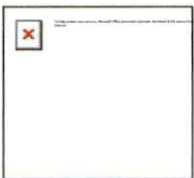
T 401 324 9697

C 401 742 1253

E kristen@2-hs.com

226 Broadway Suite #1

Newport, RI 02840



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: SusanMcColough <susanmccolough@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to Southcoast dredging application

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Dear Ron -

I respectfully write to urge RI DEM to reject the application from Southcoast Wind LLC for dredging in the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay.

Admittedly I have not followed this issue closely until recently, but after learning a few details from neighbors, I share their concerns and feel a duty to speak out. My understanding is there is considerable uncertainty regarding the viability of this particular wind farm project; therefore, allowing dredging and cable placement to commence hoping for contracts and approvals that may never come to fruition seems to me an irresponsible path forward.

Consistent with the RI DEM mission, the longer term environmental implications of dredging and laying massive underwater high voltage power export cables, which are almost certain to be substantial and irreversible to our local marine habitats and aquaculture, should weigh more heavily than the shorter term theoretical benefits, which are unpredictable at best and potentially zero. At the very least, might approval of Southcoast's application be delayed until a more fully informed decision could be made, ideally to include impacts from the multiple other proposed contiguous wind projects in total rather than individually by project?

Thank you.

Susan McColough
Middletown, RI 02842
SusanMcColough@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Michael Smutok <sawdogdesigns@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind farm.

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I am writing to oppose the dredging of the Sakonnet River. Please stop southcoast wind. Put solar panels on all ri
government buildings first

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Leonor Silva <holisticlee4u@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:21 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: No to South Coast Wind

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Apparently South Coast doesn't understand our citizens concerns or terms in keeping us Farm Wind Free!!

We Do Not want your wind farm in our waters!

We care about our wildlife, we respect our Ecosystem as well as have a clear cut understanding of the horrific side effects from these "PinWheels!"

The greater good for our environment is NOT WIND POWER!

PLEASE PUT A STOP to this before it's TOO LATE!

When will the citizens of this state or country be LISTENED TO!!

Our families have resided in Common Fence Point since the 1940's.

With Sincere Concern,

Leonor C Silva

Leonor "Lee" Silva RN, BCMT

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Deborah Vine-Smith <deborahvinesmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:57 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Fwd: Sakonnet River Public Comment

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Colonial Ave.
Cumberland, R.I.
Deborah Vine-Smith

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Deborah Vine-Smith <deborahvinesmith@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 12:30 PM
Subject: Sakonnet River Public Comment
To: <Gagnon@dem.ri.gov>

Mr. Ron Gagnon:

I have since (the year 2017) been trying to learn about the impacts of Offshore Wind Turbines with doing my own research like:

[National Grid Pauses Effort to Rebury Block Island Wind Farm Cable - ecoRI News \[ecori.org\]](#) & [EMF Info Sheet revNov 2023.pdf \(boem.gov\) \[boem.gov\]](#) , [Preliminary environmental assessment of metal-contaminated sediment dredging in an Urban River, New Jersey, USA - ScienceDirect \[sciencedirect.com\]](#) and [Potential for Enhancement and Mitigation.pdf \(pnnl.gov\) \[tethys.pnnl.gov\]](#).

Meanwhile might this human safety concern [Protecting the Nation from Electromagnetic Pulse \(senate.gov\) \[rpc.senate.gov\]](#) relate to [Electromagnetic-Fields-Offshore-Wind-Facilities.pdf \(boem.gov\) \[boem.gov\]](#), [How undersea cables may affect marine life \(bbc.com\) \[bbc.com\]](#), and also impact [Clues to how birds migrate using Earth's magnetic field \(bbc.com\) \[bbc.com\]](#)?

I have watched webinars like <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILkHA1AG01M> [youtube.com] too.

Having said all this, I respectfully wish to convey my thoughts regarding Southcoast Wind's project involving the Sakonnet River. Having read the Newport This Week, February 29,2024 Letter to the Editor by Green-OCeans Trustee, Newport, mentioning again concerns about the depth of the Electromagnetic cables and having read previously in ecoRI News of a cable resurfacing on top of my own research regarding marine animals' attraction to and not knowing the potential EMF' induced electric field's strong current Amperes/amps, I cannot condone the river and oceans

becoming a noise polluted underwater riverbed/seascape that also involves the possibility of disturbing toxins lying on the floor bed.

No permit!

Please recall too that Rhode Island has over 70 impaired waterways. Meanwhile wouldn't it be nice if Southcoast Wind could allot funds to the preservation/restoration of our waters like Little Creek, etc.? **Are they bonded?** Do you know that Wind Turbines last the same length of time as Solar Farms? 20-30 years.

Side note: Toxins greatly harm filter feeders that live in fish nurseries. Hard clam eggs and larvae are sensitive to mercury and cadmium.. They bioaccumulate toxins such as Copper too. Information I found, when writing a paper back in the year 2012 on "The Mutual Relationship of Eelgrass and Clams and the Effects of Brown Tide around Long Island" And right now, much is being said about developing RI's Aquaculture like growing Kelp and oysters. RWU & JWU each are hosting upcoming events on this very subject.

FYI: Back in the year 2017, I wrote to Andrew R. Solow, Senior Scientist Marine Policy Center, Director MPC, rfarrow@whoi.edu, jcarlson@savebay.org, info@biconservancy.org, Mr. Christopher Parkins, Principle Marine Biologist at RIDEM Marine Fisheries Division and Liaison, and I believe BOEM. Today, I sent out another email to various nonprofits like RISAA, etc. mentioning the prospect of the Sakonnet River possibly of being dredged. I like to engage others to protect Mother Earth and her wildlife. One should practice "Two Eye Seeing" [KUOW - Two-Eyed Seeing as a way to decolonize western science \[kuow.org\]/](http://kuow.org/) [PDF "Two-eyed seeing" supports wildlife health \(researchgate.net\)](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318111117) [\[researchgate.net\]](https://www.researchgate.net) before doing them harm.

Deborah Vine-Smith

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Thomas Doran <tomdoran@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:38 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: re: Dredging of Sakonnet River System

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

As a lifelong Rhode Islander, a education professional in the field of, and holder of degrees in the field of natural / renewable resources, and one that has witnessed firsthand what Narragansett Bay, Mount Hope Bay and the Sakonnet River looked like over fifty years ago and the transformation that these valued resources have undergone in large part due to the protection, stewardship, infrastructure (sewage treatment public & residential), legislation and education on the importance of these resources to our state and region. I am certainly asking that you and the representatives at the DEM either outright reject the application to dredge this resource OR at the very least table the application / issue until ALL data and necessary information can be gathered before anything happens. To think that a company which has had to go through a rebranding process, has been rejected in the state where it originates on multiple items and is proposing a project that will predominately / primarily serve as a benefit to the residents of Massachusetts (electricity generated / used, jobs, etc) is even being considered at all is for lack of a better term - ridiculous. This company and project will compromise the integrity of Rhode Island's bay and river system which is a frightening prospect, not to mention if approved would be a failure / derelict of duty at the state level to not serve the best interest of our residents and would serve only the interest of this company and / or activist groups. I am endorsing and forwarding the following statement / letter that individuals in my community have written with regards to the "potential" dredging of the Sakonnet River, as it certainly summarizes the flaws of and concerns associated with this project, it is hoped that common sense ultimately prevails when it comes to preserving the decades of restoration work that has been done on our bay, river and estuary systems.

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat, fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable and the people creating the problem will be long gone and laying cable in some other part of the world.

We the voters and residents who will be impacted have clearly expressed strong opposition to this proposal. Yet each time the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants

from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, “Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully,

Thomas P. Doran
Resident - Portsmouth RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: karen gleason <karengleason9653@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:24 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: PLEASE REJECT SOUTHCOAST WIND ENERGY, LLC PERMIT FOR DREDGING

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Ron Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: Ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon;

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC. I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long,

In the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth RI. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN PLACE...**Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **CHEMICAL TESTING HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED TO IDENTIFY TOXINS IN THE SEDIMENT...**The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to the filter feeders, spawning fish as well as commercial fishing and recreational fishing. Also the aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted- from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects fo the EMF emanating from two 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island and cost the taxpayers 30 million to rebury), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected by and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvari> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm but accounts for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be **enormous: repairs take an average of two months** often exceed **12.5 million in costs and lost power generation.** Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad8792>

RI DEM MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO ITS OWN STATEMENTS AND PROTOCOLS:

- **DEM has explicitly stated, “ Our mission , put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.”**
- **Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and UMASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force(EMF) on the various species of sea live in the Sakonnet.”**
- **Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning. “ The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late and literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.**

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay ecosystems and fisheries commercial and recreational from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully Submitted;
Karen Gleason
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Gail DeSisto <fitt4me@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:05 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject S.C. Wind Energy permit for dredging

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Mr Gagnon,

I am strongly opposed to the South Coast Winds proposal to dredge and install cables, in the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay. Too many factors are unknown and I would not want to take this chance.

Portsmouth has been my home for forty five years and I choose to protect our fragile environment.

Please reject the permit for dredging, it is in this towns best interest,

Best regards,
Gail M. DeSisto
71 Berkley(formerly 3 RI Blvd.)
Portsmouth, RI 02871
fitt4me@aol.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Barby MacGowan <barby.macgowan@mediapronewport.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SOUTHCOAST WIND ENERGY problem

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

We have a problem with the dredging in Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay by SouthCoast Wind when their investors have evidently turned their backs on the project. Why would it go forward without a power purchase agreement being in place? Why is it going forward when tests for toxins and voltage from electrical cables have not been completed? Our waters are precious. I am on the river or the Bay almost every day in the summer – we can't afford to mess this up. Wait...and make sure it's the right thing and will be properly funded and won't destroy our fragile ecosystem.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara and William MacGowan
76 Center Ave.
Middletown, RI 02842

Barby MacGowan
Media Pro International
41 Memorial Boulevard | Newport, RI 02840 USA
Office: +1 401-849-0220 | Mobile: +1 401-225-0249 | skype: barbymacgowan | [twitter \[twitter.com\]](#) | [facebook \[facebook.com\]](#)
[MediaProNewport.com \[mediapronewport.com\]](#)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Michele Simos <msimos@rcn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:22 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Plea to reject Permit for Dredging by SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC

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Report Suspicious

Mr. Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Gagnon:

We strongly oppose "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC" re: installing and operating two underwater power export cables and ancillary cabling in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth.

Our key concerns include- but are not limited to- the following:

1. **Chemical testing to identify toxins in the sediment is incomplete.** Dredging may lead to re-releasing contaminants from historic waste dumping, posing risks to filter feeders, spawning fish and the fishing and aquaculture industries. The entire marine ecosystem, including vegetation, plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and humans, could be negatively impacted.
2. **Unknown Effects of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF):** The short- and long-term damage of EMFs is unknown. Considering the level of EMFs from 345,000 high-voltage subsea electrical cables – the first of its kind which has not yet been studied – puts communities and marine life at risk. Data on EMFs on human health as reported by the NIH Laboratory of Medicine:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6025786/> [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov]

Secondly, incorrectly burying and maintaining cables may disrupt migration, feeding, and spawning patterns. Why would we want to endanger our essential and thriving fishing industry." According to the RI Food Policy Council: **"Rhode Island's seafood and commercial fishing industry is made up of more than 400 businesses that employ over 3,000 people and generate over half a billion dollars in gross sales annually for the state.** This combined impact shapes the character of this region we so fondly call the Ocean State. "

3. **High Maintenance Costs and Risks:** Subsea cables to be monitored and maintained regularly. Who will pay for this expense? And, what about cable failures? Given the high failure rate and costs, the potential financial burden on the offshore wind industry must be considered.

We believe this approval is premature. Permitting should happen in the correct sequence, and the state should manage that process carefully.

We have enough problems with the prospect of rising seas in our state which will also require funding. Plus, we must consider our reliance on the hospitality industry. Visitors come to our island for its beauty, recreational

activities, relaxation and seafood. As you are aware, people come from all over the world to visit our shores, attend our music festivals, dine, etc.

We must be responsible stewards of our land and protectors of our amazing water resources, animals, sea life and people.

As I understand it, your mission is to protect the environment. Rejecting this dredge application supports your mission; passing it does not. We know your agency will do the right thing.

Respectfully,
Michele Simos

Michele Simos
Aquidneck Island Homeowner
p. 781-844-4916

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Carol Mello <captaincarolmello@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 12:52 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: PLEASE REJECT SOUTHCOAST WIND ENERGY, LLC PERMIT FOR DREDGING

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PLEASE RON....PLEASE...I URGE YOU TO REJECT THIS PERMIT FOR DREDGING OUR PRISTINE SAKONNET RIVER AND MOUNT HOPE BAY!!!
THIS WILL IMPACT OUR MARINE SPECIES, COD AND SUMMER FLOUNDER SPAWNING AREAS, RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHING AREAS. THE IMPACTS WILL BE PERMANENT AND MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO BE UNDONE! JET PLOWING IS A VERY VIOLENT WAY TO DREDGE AN AREA AND COVERS A VERY WIDE AREA...THIS IS NOT AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DECISION...PLEASE DON'T DO IT!!! FISHERMAN COME FROM CONNECTICUT, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY AND MASSACHUSETTS TO FISH IN OUR PRISTINE WATERS, THIS BRINGS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO OUR RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL FISHING ECONOMY AS WELL. THE DAMAGE MIGHT BE IRREPARABLE.

Ron Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: Ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

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patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected by and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <Http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvari> [tinyurl.com]

- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition**. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm but accounts for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be **enormous: repairs take an average of two months** often exceed **12.5 million in costs and lost power generation**. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad8792>

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- **Failing to provide crucial information from independent** fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning. “ The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late and literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

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Respectfully Submitted;

Captain Carol Mello
Capt. F/V Carol’s Girl
158 Massasoit Ave.
Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871
Captaincarolmello@gmail.com
Cell: 401.835.1901

GOD BLESS ...

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Leila Ray <leilaray@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 12:45 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Questions to be Answered regarding SouthCoast Dredging Permit

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

As a resident of Newport RI I have previously submitted my opposition to SouthCoast Wind's application to dredge the Sakonnet to install the two transmission cables. I have included below several questions (sorted by category) that I hope can be answered and taken into consideration when reviewing this extremely impactful permit request. To be clear, **I am against the dredging in the Sakonnet River & Mt. Hope Bay proposed by SouthCoast Wind.**

CABLE MAINTENANCE:

Question 1:

On December 23, 2023 Eversource alerted the Dover MA Police department of a release of an unknown volume of Pipe-Type Cable (PTC) Transmission Fluid on the south side of the bridge crossing the Charles River in Dover, MA. Absorbent boom was deployed in the Charles River on upstream and downstream sides of the bridge to contain potential impacts from the release to surface water, and to recover emulsified PTC fluid that may accumulate behind the boom.

Will PTC fluid or any other type of liquids be contained in the cables?

IF YES:

- 1a. What happens if they leak or malfunction?
- 1b. How are you able to identify any leakage and how quickly?
- 1c. How would you contain it, and what other mitigation measures would you employ?

Question 2: Where are these cables manufactured?

Question 3: How often do the cables need to be maintained?

- 3a. What is Southcoast's plan and procedures for addressing cable failure in the Sakonnet River?
- 3b. Who pays for cable repairs?
- 3c. Will the associated expenses be passed on to ratepayers?

Decision Making Process:

Question 4: Why is DEM considering this dredging proposal/request while the RI public energy siting board has refused to consider it since Southcoast does not even have a power purchase agreement in place? Even worse, why would DEM grant permission to do dredging and its inevitable environmental damage without any guarantee that the wind farm will ever be built? We run the risk that Southcoast starts dredging in hopes of getting contracts or RIPESB approvals that may never come. Then we are left with a damaged ecosystem for no reason at all."

Question 5: Who is making the decision if this happens or doesn't happen?

Question 6: I understand the comment period closes March 7th, what is the decision-making process and timeline after March 7?

Question 7: Has the Application for the Dredging permit from SouthCoast been made public? If not, why not?

Question 8: If only available to read at the office, and copies not released for comment, why not? Have citizens actually made appointments review? IF so, how many?

Question 9: The cabling to Quonset for Revolution Wind was approved by the DEM is this going to be the same? Is this a foregone conclusion b/c you already think its fine to run the cable to Quonset for Revolution? Just a check the box?

Question 10: Will comments and questions (and hopefully answers) recieved by March 7th be made public?

Energy coming to RI:

Question 11: What is the current state of the consortium and the PPA agreement or estimated pricing? Has the RFP been released? Have agreements been made or discussions between the participating states?

Effects of Dredging up the Sakonnet:

Question 12: As we know montaup is not allowing cable through the golf course what are the onshore route options now?

Question 13: Onshore route variant 4 goes through a residential area, and onshore route variant 3 goes through Land Trust area. Will people be compensated if there are resulting health impacts.

Question 14: How deep will they be onshore and how close do the cables get to Residential properties?

Question 15: Have core samples from the proposed cable route been taken? If so, have the results been published? If samples have not been taken, WHY is approval for dredging even being discussed at this juncture? We already know bay and river sediments are contaminated with chemicals and heavy metals going back to the 1800s.

Question 16: What are the contamination levels along the proposed dredging/cable laying route?

Question 17: What dredging and cable laying methods will be employed to minimize the resuspension of these contaminants? What assurances can you give us, the public, that marine life and, ultimately, human life will not be negatively impacted by resuspended contaminants during the dredging and cable installation processes?

Question 18: What is your proposed timing of the cable laying process, from beginning to end? Will you commit to NOT working during spawning season for various marine species who spawn and hatch in Mount Hope Bay and the Sakonnet?

Question 19: What types of machinery does SouthCoast plan to use for preparation of the seabed and for the installment of the cables? How wide and deep will trenching need to be at various points along the cable corridor? Do you anticipate going over areas in the river or bay that cannot be trenched out, but where cabling will need to be laid on top of the seabed?

Question 20: These are high voltage *Direct Current* cables. We understand that—to minimize the intensity of the electromagnetic fields they generate—their directional installation toward Magnetic North must be considered. Could you please explain this phenomenon and, as the electricity will indeed be flowing south to north, explain what relevance this might have on how the SouthCoast cable route will be configured?

Question 21: Will the dredging and laying of the cables have a positive or a negative effect on Class SA 1 of the pristine waters of the Sakonnet River?

Question 22: How long will Island Park beach be unavailable for use and will DEM be overseeing this construction site as well as the area where the cable is to be installed into the Bay?

Question 23: What effects will two 345,000 voltage DC cables trenched into the Sakonnet River and the Mt. Hope Bay has various marine species?

Question 24: What are the positive and negative effects on the population of folks who frequently use Island Park beach?

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. The decision to grant or deny this permit will have implications for our state for decades to come. Again, thank you.

Sincerely, Leila Ray

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Deborah Vine-Smith <deborahvinesmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 12:33 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Fwd: Sakonnet River Public Comment

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From: Deborah Vine-Smith <deborahvinesmith@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 12:30 PM
Subject: Sakonnet River Public Comment
To: <Gagnon@dem.ri.gov>

Mr. Ron Gagnon:

I have since (the year 2017) been trying to learn about the impacts of Offshore Wind Turbines with doing my own research like:

[National Grid Pauses Effort to Rebury Block Island Wind Farm Cable - ecoRI News \[ecori.org\]](#) & [EMF Info Sheet revNov 2023.pdf \(boem.gov\) \[boem.gov\]](#) , [Preliminary environmental assessment of metal-contaminated sediment dredging in an Urban River, New Jersey, USA - ScienceDirect \[sciencedirect.com\]](#) and [Potential for Enhancement and Mitigation.pdf \(pnnl.gov\) \[tethys.pnnl.gov\]](#).

Meanwhile might this human safety concern [Protecting the Nation from Electromagnetic Pulse \(senate.gov\) \[rpc.senate.gov\]](#) relate to [Electromagnetic-Fields-Offshore-Wind-Facilities.pdf \(boem.gov\) \[boem.gov\]](#), [How undersea cables may affect marine life \(bbc.com\) \[bbc.com\]](#), and also impact [Clues to how birds migrate using Earth's magnetic field \(bbc.com\) \[bbc.com\]](#)?

I have watched webinars like <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILkHA1AG01M> [youtube.com] too.

Having said all this, I respectfully wish to convey my thoughts regarding Southcoast Wind's project involving the Sakonnet River. Having read the Newport This Week, February 29,2024 Letter to the Editor by Green-OCeans Trustee, Newport, mentioning again concerns about the depth of the Electromagnetic cables and having read previously in ecoRI News of a cable resurfacing on top of my own research regarding marine animals' attraction to and not knowing the potential EMF' induced electric field's strong current Amperes/amps, I cannot condone the river and oceans becoming a noise polluted underwater riverbed/seascape that also involves the possibility of disturbing toxins lying on the floor bed.

No permit!

Please recall too that Rhode Island has over 70 impaired waterways. Meanwhile wouldn't it be nice if Southcoast Wind could allot funds to the preservation/restoration of our waters like Little Creek, etc.? **Are they bonded?** Do you know that Wind Turbines last the same length of time as Solar Farms? 20-30 years.

Side note: Toxins greatly harm filter feeders that live in fish nurseries. Hard clam eggs and larvae are sensitive to mercury and cadmium.. They bioaccumulate toxins such as Copper too. Information I found, when writing a paper back in the year 2012 on "The Mutual Relationship of Eelgrass and Clams and the Effects of Brown Tide around Long Island" And right now, much is being said about developing RI's Aquaculture like growing Kelp and oysters. RWU & JWU each are hosting upcoming events on this very subject.

FYI: Back in the year 2017, I wrote to Andrew R. Solow, Senior Scientist Marine Policy Center, Director MPC, rfarrow@whoi.edu, jcarlson@savebay.org, info@biconservancy.org, Mr. Christopher Parkins, Principle Marine Biologist at RIDEM Marine Fisheries Division and Liaison, and I believe BOEM. Today, I sent out another email to various nonprofits like RISAA, etc. mentioning the prospect of the Sakonnet River possibly of being dredged. I like to engage others to protect Mother Earth and her wildlife. One should practice "Two Eye Seeing" [KUOW - Two-Eyed Seeing as a way to decolonize western science \[kuow.org\]/ \(PDF\) "Two-eyed seeing" supports wildlife health \(researchgate.net\) \[researchgate.net\]](#) before doing them harm.

Deborah Vine-Smith

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Leila Ray <leilaray@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 12:31 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate "two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done at the pace dictated by the developers.

Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment and the effects of **upheaval** and resuspension of contaminants from centuries of toxic waste, and the resulting disruption of filter feeders, spawning fish and the resulting fishing and aquaculture industries. The whole food chain will be impacted - From vegetation to plankton, to shellfish, to fish, to birds, and to humans.

Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried, like on Block Island, Electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

Cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore

wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even **a single cable failure can be enormous, takes an average of two months to repair, and often exceeds \$12.5 million** in costs and lost power generation. Visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution**. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the ecosystem risk to the Sakonnet River ecosystem and fishery from the proposed cable should prohibit approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

RI DEM mission states: Our mission put simply is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family. (*1)

RI DEM must be accountable to its own observations as stated at a public presentation in Portsmouth, Rhode Island on November 17, 2022, where **experts from RI DEM and the U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet (*2)**. This lack of information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." While the RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, any negative effects on existing populations could not be "undone". This testing was incomplete in 2022, and **still has not been completed**.

(2) Presentation link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [drive.google.com]

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Ray
24 John Street
Newport, RI 02840

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Rhonda Gilbert <rgskitchen@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River Dredging by SouthCoast Wind

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Dear Mr. Gagnon:

We are writing today to express our opposition to the SouthCoast Wind project, which includes dredging of the Sakonnet in Island Park. We are full time residents of Island Park. Our reasons are as follows:

1. We have attended calls organized by SouthCoast Wind, and have attended Town Hall meetings where they were in attendance. As a scientist who worked in both the academic and corporate biotech worlds for decades, I recognized the use of assurances without data to back those assurances up. We are not convinced that there would not be significant damage to the ecosystem, are concerned about dredging up buried toxins, and worry about EMFs from the cables.
2. The reason this is on the table is that this project was rejected by other towns, notably in Massachusetts. While there is promised financial benefit to the Town of Portsmouth spread over 20 years, it is not significant in the scheme of things.

We are not opposed to the development of alternative energies, and in fact think it is necessary. However, our opinion is that this project is not well thought out and is being pushed through solely for monetary reasons. We would reconsider our opinion should we be presented with solid data proving the safety of this project.

Please let us know if any additional feedback would be helpful. You might have received more messages, but we were initially given an incorrect e-mail address.

Sincerely,
Jeff Rose and Rhonda Gilbert

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Sandra Craig <mmesandracruz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:21 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Re: Comment Submission: Opposition to: SouthCoast Wind LLC Permit Application for Offshore Wind Energy Cables and Dredging in Sakonnet River & Mt Hope Bay

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Dear Mr Gagnon,

Please consider this message an addition to my earlier email of Feb 27, 2024 (see below):

On February 27, 2024, I sent an email urging you to deny SouthCoast Wind's application for a permit to dredge the Sakonnet River to lay underwater power export cables and associated communications cables.

Since then, additional information has come to my attention that sparks further comment.

The process of loading off shore cable onto vessels can take several days- 10 days to two weeks. If the vessels are fueled by diesel fuel, their diesel fueled engines will operate 24 hours a day over that period, spewing noxious, harmful and polluting fumes, and putting CO2 into the atmosphere. The wind developer should not be permitted to allow this to happen.

Will the ships that SouthCoast plans to use to dredge and lay underwater power export cable in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay be powered by diesel fuel?

Considering how polluting and harmful to human health diesel fumes are, will SouthCoast be required to use electric powered vessels, or to **retrofit** any vessels that are powered by diesel fuel, when dredging and laying underwater power export cable in the Sakonnet River, Mt Hope Bay or in off shore open ocean waters?

The fumes from diesel fuel are noxious and deleterious to the health of anyone who breaths them. Plus burning diesel fuel spews CO2 into the atmosphere.

I urge you to deny SouthCoast's application if SouthCoast will use diesel fuel to power its ships, vessels and any machinery in conducting any aspect of the project.

These are among the many issues that need to be resolved, questions that need to be asked / answered before a permit is granted, particularly, since there is no PPA***. What if this wind farm project never comes to fruition? The damage to the environment and all who live in it will be irreversible.

I urge you to follow the letter and spirit of the DEM's stated mission: "to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Craig
Indian Ave, Middletown R.I.

March 6, 2024

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT of this email, as well as confirming if submission of my comment by email is acceptable for the purpose of bringing my objections, as a member of the community, to the attention of the DEM in this matter.

On Feb 27, 2024, at 17:10, Sandra Craig <mmesandracruz@gmail.com> wrote:

Attention: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,
ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

I am writing to urge you to deny the "Dredge Application of SouthCoast Wind". I am extremely concerned about their desire to install and operate "two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth.

My home is located on the Sakonnet River. I am concerned myriad creatures that live in or near the Sakonnet will be subjected to toxic material, including forever chemicals, when over 100 yrs of industrial pollution accumulated in the sediment will be disturbed by dredging in order to lay over 20 miles of subsea transmission cable.

The Sakonnet is teeming with life: my daughter and I once "baby sat" a young dolphin that was separated from its mother while swimming in front of my home; we literally "talked" with the dolphin for over two hours until the Coast Guard arrived to shepherd the creature to safe harbor.

I am concerned about the impact of this particular dredging and the subsequent operation of the cables-- not only on the Sakonnet, but also on Third Beach, Peabody Beach, Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, and beyond. Thousands of people flock to Aquidneck Island's many beaches. Hundreds of recreational fishermen use shore access points all along the Sakonnet—for example, many regulars use Taggart's Ferry Lane, which borders my property, all year long to access the shore to fish. In addition to my own family members, countless swimmers, kayakers, paddle boaters, windsurfers also use Taggart's Ferry lane to access the rocky shore in summer, including entire families that swim, fish and collect (to eat) shellfish that attach themselves to the rocks.

I reference (link below) an EcoRI article* that graphically describes the long history of industrial pollution in Narragansett Bay. "Heavy metals, such as lead, silver and cadmium, are toxic to aquatic organisms even in minuscule amounts. High levels of toxic metals from historic inputs still lie buried in deeper sediments." The article further notes that these legacy metal and other toxic deposits, " have been collecting there for centuries and can be stirred up by severe storms or dredging. "

The food supply chain-- from the the smallest to the largest, any creature "breathing" or ingesting the toxic material resuspended and dispersed in the water will be affected: from the shell fish to all sorts of fish that inhabit these waters, to myriad seabirds and sea and land mammals (otters, raccoons, voles, rabbits, foxes, etc.), including humans - adults and children- who eat them—all will be affected by the introduction of toxic chemicals in the entire length of the Sakonnet and Mount Hope Bay. Have you

determined what will be the impact on the health of all these creatures? Will these proposed actions by SouthCoast, contaminating water in an area essential to fishing, be in violation of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq.) and Seafood Safety Regulations (21 C.F.R. § 123)?

My house is perched on the edge of the Sakonnet, so, unfortunately I know only too well the intensity of storm surges and what ocean waves can do in the Sakonnet. Will the cable be buried to at least a depth of 10 or more feet below the sea bed? If not, how deep? Have tests been done to determine the optimal "safe" and "secure" depth, given the ever increasing intensity of storm surges. Have tests been done to determine if "possibly" covering cable with fill (as a so called secondary cable protection) will withstand the action of waves charging and pounding upriver in hurricanes? The Sakonnet in front of my house and elsewhere is only around 20 feet deep. What exactly is the plan to secure the cables so there will be no movement and consequent further disturbance of the sea bed and to any sea creatures that might make new homes near the cable's path?

That of course assumes the sea creatures will not be disturbed by the EMF's these high frequency transmission lines will emit. Are there plans to determine the effect of EMF's?

Crabs, clams, scallops, sand dollars, starfish, worms, insects and microorganisms all rely on the sand beneath the rocky beaches or in tidal zones. Various rays, skates and sharks feed over sand bottoms in between rocks. Some use electrical sensing capabilities to find animals hidden in sand between and beneath the rocky sea bottom to eat. Do you know if they will be impeded in their search by the electrical charge emitted due to the massive amount of electricity passing through the cable, and as well by the heat?

Will there be continued monitoring of EMF's during the life of the cables' operation? This is an area of ongoing research and study: it is premature to assume there will be no long term deleterious effects, as we simply don't yet know conclusively which and how or to what extent various sea creatures, and humans, are impacted by EMF's from high frequency transmission cable.

Worryingly, with respect to maintenance, there is research aplenty about the "usually unmentioned" need for cable repairs. Plus, will there be chemicals in these cables that are considered toxic and would thus require a special process (super fund type) for clean up if/ when they leak? How do you clean up a toxic leak in the sea? Subsea cable repairs account for 85% of insurance claims. ** Repairs will presumably require more digging and disturbing of the sea bed. Cable failures will disrupt transmission to the already fragile grid and cause huge cost increases: will these costs be passed on to ratepayers?

Aquidneck Island already suffers numerous beach closures due to pollution in Narragansett Bay. How many more beach closures will this dredging necessitate? Will people become ill from the chemicals disburshed in the water from dredging? Are there plans to mitigate the pollution, for example, creating oyster reefs such as is part of the Rhode Island Oyster Restoration Initiative? ****

These are among the many questions that need to be asked / answered before a permit is granted, particularly, since there is no PPA***. What if this wind farm project never comes to fruition? The damage to the environment and all who live in it will be irreversible.

I urge you to follow the letter and spirit of the DEM's stated mission: "to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Craig
Indian Ave, Middletown R.I.

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT of this email, as well as confirming if submission of my comment by

email is acceptable for the purpose of bringing my objections, as a member of the community, to the attention of the DEM in this matter.

Footnotes:

* Rhode Island's Pollution Problems Long in the Making - ecoRI News

** <https://www.energylivenews.com/2023/09/22/subsea-cable-failures-pose-global-threat-to-offshore-wind/> [energylivenews.com]

*** DPU approves termination of SouthCoast wind contract

**** <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/2024-NRCS-RI-Oyster-Initiative-Brochure.pdf> [nrcs.usda.gov]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Lawrence Silvia <watchesetc@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 7:02 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Stop cable from Sakonnet River

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Dear Sirs,

Bringing a cable with that much voltage is going to have a major effect on the small waterway.

Sakonnet river is a pristine breeding ground and will have a major disruption. The cable will go too far in a narrow waterway.

Thank you,

Lawrence Silvia
24 Old Mill Lane
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Katie Hamilton Gewirz <kgewirz@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 6:40 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Katrina Hamilton Gewirz
Subject: March 7 deadline for Comment SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Please add to prior comment my most recent concern about the dredging in the Sakonnet.

This concern is about the air quality associate with any construction vessel for off shore wind - intros case, dredging and cable laying vessels. The following article and law suit exemplify I am not alone in my concerns.

As one who lost her mother to esophageal cancer (I was 18, she 49) I have dedicated my life to fitness and health. I do not drink or smoke. I have run 102 marathons and countless halves. I was a running coach to help others. I was an Achilles volunteer to support visually impaired runners. Air quality is paramount to my life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

The air in the immediate location where I live on the Sakonnet will debatably be directly effected by the use of various fuels - example: Diesel - used in any dredging effort.

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THE DREDGING APPLICATION.

What fuel will be used? How much? For how long? At what hours? What if the air quality in the vicinity is negatively impacted? Will there be noise from the vessels?

All of this plus the comments voiced at the 2/22/24 hearing and my follow up on 2/24/24.

Most Sincerely, Katie Hamilton Gewirz

https://fallriverreporter.com/somerset-residents-file-last-minute-appeal-to-prysmian-air-quality-permit-issued-by-mass-dep/#google_vignette [fallriverreporter.com]

Somerset residents file last minute appeal to Prysmian Air Quality Permit issued by Mass DEP

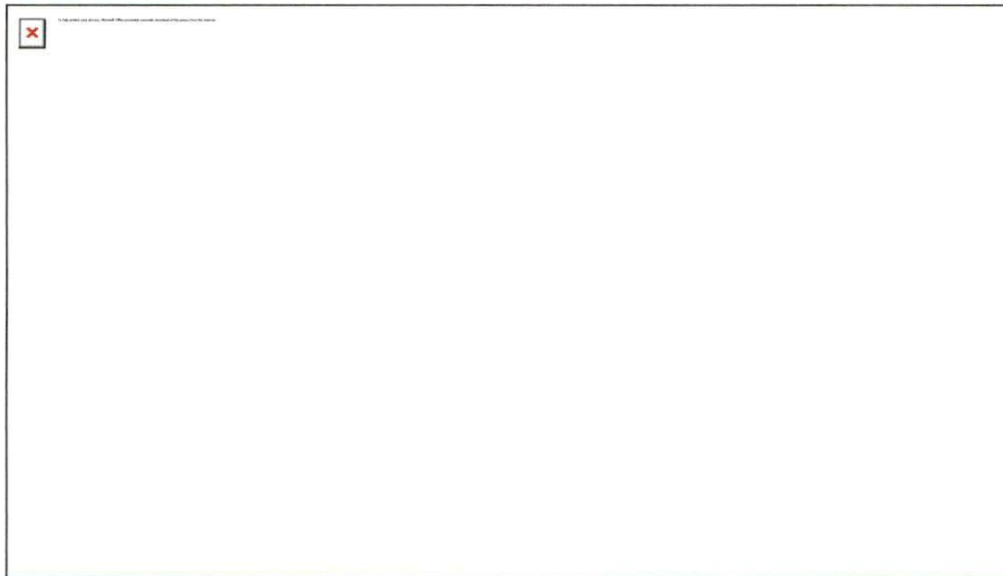
By

[Jess Machado \[fallriverreporter.com\]](#) [\[fallriverreporter.com\]](#)

February 27, 2024

A group of 12 Somerset residents filed a last minute appeal with the Department of Environmental Protection on the Air Quality Permit that was issued to The Prysmian Group, the company that plans to build a wind cable manufacturing plant at the site of the old Brayton Point Power Plant.

Brayton Point resident and local attorney Patrick McDonald informed followers of the Facebook group “Save Our Bay Brayton Point” that the group filed the appeal, citing concerns they had over the permit. McDonald said the appeal was delivered to parties overnight and that he will see everyone “at the hearings.”



The appeal comes after the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection approved the request for a permit earlier this month.



The filing is the latest chapter in a years long story surrounding the development of the former power plant site. Commercial Development Company, who owns the property, first leased a portion of the land to a scrap metal company who was found to be in violation of town bylaws when it was trucking in scrap metal through the surrounding residential neighborhood and loading it on to diesel powered ships, causing residents grief with both noise and health issues. CDC was fined over 3 million dollars in fines for continuing operations after being issued a cease and desist by the town. After not paying the fines, the town of Somerset has sued the company and was in [court last month to be formally charged in the criminal matter. \[fallriverreporter.com\]](#) Both parties are due back in court next week for a pre-trial hearing.

In regards to the latest filing, Patrick McDonald issued the following statement:

“We hope that Prysmian hears our concerns and comes to the table with the neighbors. We were here first and no neighborhood should be treated differently from others. We have always said we welcome responsible development of Brayton Point and that also includes the construction phase.”

Somerset residents have been vocal in their efforts to ensure that whoever occupies the property prioritizes safety and health of nearby residents. Last fall, residents and a member of the [Zoning Board of Appeals got into a heated argument \[facebook.com\]](#) over the ZBA’s approval of Prysmian’s business permit. Residents wanted no ships in the area that ran on diesel power and instead, wanted all ships to be powered by electricity attached to the shore. Residents said this provision would ensure limited noise and health risks. The ZBA originally approved the business permit with the shore to ship provision but went back on their decision a few weeks later at another meeting.

It is unclear at this time if the latest filings will delay the start of construction of the new facility.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Lucy W. <lmwarburg21@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:17 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Please reject this permitting application. The high-voltage electrical cables, transmitting 345,000 volts, require dredging the Sakonnet River for their installation - a process which would disrupt the legacy sediment of the riverbed. This installation will stir-up heavy metals and pollutants, harming aquatic organisms and damaging marine habitats and aquaculture. The pollutants would also negatively affect swimmers and beach-goers. Additionally, the electromagnetic frequencies from the subsea electrical cables is known to negatively affect marine life.

Please keep our waterways beautiful, and reject this permit. Thank you for reading this request.

Yours Sincerely,

Lucy Warburg

80 Adams Drive, Portsmouth RI 02871

lmwarburg21@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: kesson <kesson@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:00 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Comment to RIDEM cable landfall in Portsmouth
Attachments: 2024_03_05_RIDEM_Comment_Period_Southcoast_Dredging_Permit_Hearing.pdf

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Ron

As I say in the beginning of my comments I was at the meeting in Portsmouth on Feb 22, 2024.

Please also include these comment in the comment period ending March 7th. I am.alos going to USPS mail RIDEM a hard copy mailed on March 6th from Portsmouth.

Paul Kesson
3241 East Main Road
Portsmouth RI 02871

Feb.22, 2024

Comment Period for Southcoast Wind Energy LCC

I went to the meeting on Feb. 22, 2024 at the Portsmouth High School made notes and asked questions of RIDEM about the dredging of the Sakonet River, the horizontal boring and safety of residents of Portsmouth as this project landfall's a quantity of 6 cables carrying 375,000 Volts Direct Current capable of 880 megawatts (MegaWatts) capacity of stated power **on a public beach.**

I Goggled "**RIDEM RESPONCIBILITIES**" and got this back from the search

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is committed to preserving the quality of Rhode Island's Environment, maintaining the health and safety of it residents, and protecting the natural systems upon which life depends. Jan23 2024

My biggest concern while attending the meeting is the landfall of an Industrial Power Service on a public beach, where every day people are on the beach. What is more frightening is that beach is full of families and friends every weekend from Easter to Columbus Day weather dependent of course. To consider a 375,000 Volt D.C. with 880 megawatt power source is on this climate changing beach in a residential neighborhood screams tragedy waiting to happen as access can not be controlled.

This first time landing of 375,000 VDC/880 MegaWatt on a public beach it does not enrich life in any Portsmouth resident life only endangers residents, this needs to have landfall on a Industrial Property with limited access and is action against RIDEM's Mission Statement adopted less than a year ago, please do not do this to a Town of 17,000 residents.

I am told Horizontal boring is the answer on the Orsted Website Titled "Bringing Wind Power Ashore". On that Website it tells me horizontal boring supports boring from a half a mile to 1 mile off shore, which brings me to have to enlighten RIDEM the landscape of the proposed area, it in a flood plan. While RIDEM will want to blow this off as all landfalls are in the flood plan it has to be as its as close to the water as it can be. No, one had to stand on the ground in the residential neighborhood where 880 MegaWatt power source comes ashore, just look North East and one will see a reclaimed landfill where soil has been piled twelve feet above existing grade in hopes to not be considered in a flood plane and the ability to build a structure. I want RIDEM to understand while you are standing on Boyds Lane you are seeing that pile as high as existing homes at the gutter. This whole install all the way to RT24 never achieves an elevation to rise above the flood plan, at that point you are heading back to sea level and an outfall to Narragansett Bay and a tidal area. During the 1938 and the 1954 hurricane sea water from Sakonett River, the storm surge made it on to Montalk Country Club fairways. Since then hurricanes have come ashore and because of the RT24 improvement to the highway system have stopped any storm surge on the South side of RT 24.

I know you believe this description of this approval seems easy, this is not the place to bring an Industrial Power Source as shore at no point are the cables going to be out of a flood plan. So to be able to transition from "Wet Cable", (underwater waterblocked cable), it is a risk to human life for the whole route of unlimited public access.

Lets go back to Island Park and the beachhead and proposed landfall of the South Coast Wind installation. RIDEM has imposed MS4 requirements on all developers everywhere in the State of Rhode Island as well as the Town of Portsmouth.

WHAT ARE THE RIDEM MS4 REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON SOUTH COAST WIND LCC ?

They should have the same MS4 requirements imposed on South Coast Wind LCC, just like and other contractor permitting in a hazardous material are a.

WHAT ARE THE MS4 REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON SOUTH COAST WIND LCC?

HOW ARE THEY GOING TO CONTAIN ALL THE MATERIAL AT THE BEACH AS WELL AS THE CABLES IN THE WATER?

WHAT DEMANDS HAVE RIDEM MADE ON SOUTH COAST WIND LCC TO INSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF RESIDENTS IN ISLAND PARK AND ALONG THE ONSHORE PROPOSED CABLE PATH?

There has been contamination from 100 years before the Clean Water Act buried buy years of silting in of good material which has allowed the river to be Classified as Class II waters. Water/silt curtain are better than nothing, but do not come close to requirements described in MS4 documents.

DURING WATER JETTING BURING THE CABLES HOW IS THAT MATERIAL GOING TO BE CONTAINED?

WHAT SYSTEM OF MONITORING IS RIDEM GOING TO REQUIRE TO INSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC?

But the hazard does not end the installation of cables, there is a very high voltage power source just 6 feet from residents with voltages **two time greater than any other R.I Energy's grid voltage**. I Googled looking for "Power System Landfalls on public beaches and did not get a response, I was not surprised. I could not find locations of any major power grids on Aquidneck Island, that is great as it has limited access.

WHAT EXPERTICE DOES RIDEM HAVE INTERNAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL HARZARD OF A POINT SOURCE FAILURE TO KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE?

A failure in any area transitioning from the river of a DC Power System of 375,000 VDC and a 880 MegaWatt Source a Plasma Explosion Fire will ignite and be substained until all energy from the source as well as the input on land at Brayton Point (which is not curcuit breakers as it is an input) and the capacitance of the cable is dispated. There is no zero crossover as is common with AC systems that helps extinguish the plasma fire.

WHAT SAFETY ZONE IS RIDEM GOING TO IMPOSE ON SOUTH COAST WIND LCC TO KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE?

HOW MUCH PUBLIC BEACH IS THIS SAFETY AREA GOING TO CONSUME TAKING AWAY QUALITY OF LIFE FROM RESIDENTS?

All Rhode Island Energy Grid corridors are privately owned and access is a Right of way over privately owned land. I could not find major energy corridor in the State of Rhode Island that uses a public beach, it is time for RIDEM to find another landfall for South Coast Wind LCC in the name of Public Safety.

As I stated I was not standing there for myself I was standing there for families of children that were not there at the meeting. This area where these cables are to make landfall has been under RIDEM oversight for 20 or more years because of pollution. That pollution is in bottom of the riverbed but more than that there is a old dump across the street that is 50 years old. When anything could be thrown into a landfill, oil, batteries, antifreeze and after a capping of the Landfill where a impervious barrier was not installed and the arsenic far above levels for residential areas, so those chemicals are in the water column.

I stated that years of pollution have been buried in the sediment in the riverbed and is kinda capped by sand and other material that has allowed the Sakonett River to become Class I and Class II waters. The water quality has improved greatly over the last 10 years, swimming is allowed there today, but shell fishing is still not, a restriction by RIDEM for health and safety of residents of Portsmouth and others that use the beach. RIDEM forced a septic replacement plan for Portsmouth to raise water quality in Portsmouth Park.

RIDEM has not done test boring on a grids along the proposed path of the cables to know the contamination neither has South Coast Wind. This is critical to know to understand the potential risk of burying these cables. My concerns that if there is no assessment very hazardous material will end out on the beach during tidal changes. Others stated heavier storms this last year could put these material on the beach, on the sidewalks and even in residents yards due to storm surge flooding.

WHAT IS RIDEM GOING TO DO TO KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE BECAUSE ALL THE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL WILL BE DISTRUBED WHEN THESE CABLES ARE BURIED?

IS RIDEM GOING TO REQUIRE THE COMPANY BURYING THE CABLES TO COLLECT THE DISTRUBED MATERIAL (BASED ON MS4 REQUIREMENTS) TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO WATER QUALITY OF THE SAKONETT RIVER?

IF THE DISTURBED MATERIAL ISN'T COLLECTED AND ALLOWED TO SETTLE BACK TO THE BOTTOM, WILL RIDEM REQUIRE CLEAN FILL TO BE DEPOSITED OVER CABLE BURYING AREA?

I brought up concerns from the proposed horizontal boring and the risk it proposes to water quality as well as quality of life. This boring will require a discharge of water from jetting and it also needs to be contained, removed and disposed of in deep offshore waters out of tidal currents that would allow it to come back to the river.

IS RIDEM GOING TO DO TEST BORING ON A GRID TO DETERMINE ANY AND ALL MATERIAL AS IT TRANSITIONS FROM THE POINT OF LANDFALL TO THE ACCESS PIT ON BOYD LANE?

The reason for the boring to understand what contaminants have leached from the Landfill at 12"/per day sideways on it's way to the river. This point was learned from RIDEM engineering firm Lombardo Eng. during the studies done in 2012 by the State that required the Septic Replacement Program forced by RIDEM for health and safety. This testing would also determine if any elevated Arsenic deposited on the landfill has migrated off the property posing additional risks of health and safety to residents and beachgoers.

I then GOGGLED RIDEM mission statement and this was returned from the search:

RIDEM Stratic Plan FY2024-2026

I have included this document as Appendix A

In the middle of that document I find a Mission Statement.

“Our mission; to protect, restore, manage and promote Rhode Island's environment and natural resources to preserve and improve our quality of life.”

This mission statement does not completely address RIDEM's responsibilities, *in that it does not articulate the Departments requirement to keeping “the health and safety people of the residents?”*

**“The Strategic Plan:
is designed to outline a clear direction for us to achieve our mission as we continue to grow, innovate, and improve as a department.”**

This Strategic Plan is silent to any policy or actions the Department would use to carry out RIDEM'S mission to keep “ the health and safety of the residents.”

I would like to restate my request at the beginning of this document

This first time landing of 375,000 VDC/880 MegaWatt on a public beach, it does not enrich life in any Portsmouth resident life and against RIDEM's Mission Statement adopted less than a year ago, please do not do this to a Town of 17,000 residents.

Off the top of my head this project makes no sense, when one looks at Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration

Paul Kesson
3241 East Main Road
Portsmouth RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Margaret Warburg <unityparish@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 9:48 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Please reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC." The work involved in the installation of the two power cables under twenty miles of the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay risks irreparably damaging the precious ecosystems of these bodies of water. The process of dredging could disturb legacy sediment and release toxic chemicals. The Electro-Magnetic Frequencies emanating from the high-voltage cables pose damage to marine life. These risks do not align with the mission of the RI DEM "to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."

Please uphold the essential mission of your office and reject this permit application.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Warburg
80 Adams Drive,
Portsmouth, RI 02871
unityparish@outlook.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: rgallison@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 9:02 PM
To: Gray, Terry (DEM)
Cc: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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50 King Philip Avenue

Bristol RI 02809
March 5, 2004

Terrance Gray
Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence RI 02908

RE: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Dear Director Gray:

I am writing to you in opposition to the Dredge Application request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC. I have lived on Mt. Hope Bay for forty two-(42) years and have personally witnessed the positive effects of prohibiting the disturbance of the ecosystem of these waters. The current proposal would result in catastrophic water quality of Mt. Hope Bay.

As one of the stance opponents to the former Brayton Point Power Plant, as well as Hess LNG's proposal to construct an LNG terminal in Fall River, Massachusetts, which would have brought LNG tankers into Narragansett Bay and Mount Hope Bay, I must oppose SouthCoast Wind, LLC's proposal to dredge, install and operate two-(2) underwater power export cables.

When the Brayton Point Power Plant was operational, we opposed to that facilities' continuing discharged of super-heated water, as well the discharge of flumes of toxic chemicals into the air we would breathe. It was a member of the Department of Environment Management's staff that actually studied the discharge of the super-heated water and proved, without a doubt, that the Brayton Point Power Plant was responsible for the fish being killed in Mt. Hope Bay. As a result, we were successful in closing that plant.

For eight-(8) years several organizations banded together to oppose Hess LNG's proposal to construct an LNG terminal in the Taunton River. Again, with the assistance of many elected officials in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts, as well as organizations and agencies, including your Department, which helped us defeat that proposal.

Currently, I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River along Portsmouth and Tiverton as well as Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth, Bristol, and Warren. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

I bring your attention to the fact that there is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

Additionally, Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

AT this time there are unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables have on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Additionally, as reported by fishermen, who make their living on the waters, have witnessed the relocation of Cod Fish further out of their normal habitat areas. Please see: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvari> [tinyurl.com]

It would be necessary for subsea cables to be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous. Repairs take an average of two-(2) months and often exceed 12.5 million dollars in cost and lost power generation. Please see: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet. However, those of us living upon Mt. Hope Bay, as well as those living along the Sakonnet River, know all too well what the negative results would be from the disruption of these sea beds.

Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I further believe that this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope

Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Raymond E. Gallison, Jr.

Sincerely,

rgallison@cox.net

cc: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: valerie dugan <valeriebdugan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 8:23 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject South Coast, wind, energy, LLC permit for dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the dredge application request of South Coast Wind LLC I oppose their intent to dredge install and operate, two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling each approximately 20.4 miles long in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth, the impact to our marine habitat, and fishing, and Aqua culture industries will be irreparable.

Respectfully,

Valerie Dugan
841 Green Hill Beach Rd.
South Kingstown, RI

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jason Humm <jason.humm@citisoft.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 6:42 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Southcoast Wind Dredge Application Request

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat, fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable and the people creating the problem will be long gone and laying cable in some other part of the world.

The voters and residents who will be impacted have clearly expressed strong opposition to this proposal. Yet each time voters voice their concern at meetings the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [url.avanan.click] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [url.avanan.click]
4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications

of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Thanks and Regards,
Jason

Jason Humm | Director | Citisoft, Inc. | Jason.humm@citisoft.com | Mobile +1 401 474 7530

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Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jillian Stang <jillianpstang@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 5:27 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Southcoast Wind Dredging of Sakonnet River

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Hello,

My husband and I live in Portsmouth, RI and heard about the Sakonnet River dragging project. We both adamantly oppose this project due to the posed threat to our environment. Please do not let this project move forward.

Jillian & Alex Stang

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: nclparliamentarianbeachside@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 5:10 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind cables

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Please reject the Southcoast Wind proposal. Cables up the Sakonnet and Narragansett Bay will destroy our fragile ecosystem, disrupt our beautiful community and cause hardship to many residents.

Kim Thoman
Sent from my iPhone

Wilusz, James (DEM)

From: CJ Stankewich <cjfuture@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:43 PM
To: Wilusz, James (DEM)
Subject: FW: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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as Mr. Gagon is out of office today:

From: CJ Stankewich [mailto:cjfuture@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2024 4:42 PM
To: 'Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov'
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC".

Having considered this application:

I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications

of even a **single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs** and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.

- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's**

Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

sincerely,
Charles Stankewich, PhD
8 Quicksand Pond Road
Little Compton, RI 02837

Wilusz, James (DEM)

From: Jude RH <judyryderhayes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 9:42 PM
To: Wilusz, James (DEM)
Subject: Fwd: NO to Dredging the Sakonnet River

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From: Jude RH <judyryderhayes@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2024, 9:23 PM
Subject: NO to Dredging the Sakonnet River
To: Ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov <Ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov>

Please vote to keep the Sakonnet River free from this dredging. I agree with Barbara Chapman as she stated I...
"When the pogies go up the river with the stripers following them along, recreational fishermen cast their lines along the Sakonnet River. The fluke lie at the bottom and go up the river to spawn. What impact will this dredging have on the recreational fisherfolk, plus the swimmers, boaters, kayakers, sailors and all the people who have homes on both sides of the river or in the Portsmouth neighborhoods where the cable cuts underground to connect to Mount Hope Bay? And let's not forget the sea life!

We can only imagine what has been dumped into Narragansett Bay over the last 100 years by the jewelry, chemical and textile industries and the Navy. Heavy metal poisons have sunk to the ocean floor and should remain there. With this dredging, high pressure water plows will blast the sediment, spewing up pollutants toxic to aquatic life, damaging or destroying critical marine habitats including our beloved shellfish beds.

Electromagnetic fields (EMF's) emanating from buried cables are known to impact sea life, disrupting migration patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. SouthCoast's own Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) states that EMF's will be detected if buried less than 10 feet deep. Yet they plan to bury the cables at depths ranging from 3.2 to 13 feet. In addition, cables heat up the seabed and surrounding water. Their DEIS says further studies need to be completed to accurately assess long-term impacts of the heat on surrounding ecosystems. Waves are powerful. Cables are going to rock and roll unless buried at 10 feet or more. What will the movement of the cables do to the seabed and to the marine life that make their homes nearby? So much uncertainty.

Cables require constant maintenance. Repairs will cause seabed disruption. Subsea cables make up just 10 percent of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm but account for 75-80 percent of wind energy insurance claims. Cables contain Pipe-Type Cable Transmission Fluid (PTC) which wreaks havoc on the environment when leaked. There is no plan to contain or mitigate this hazard.

To learn more, check out our Green Oceans website. We are a 501(c)(3) group of concerned RI-based volunteers with no connection to the fossil fuel industry. Info displayed on our website is based on peer-reviewed scientific studies and the Environmental Impact Statements of the projects themselves. We're doctors, lawyers, engineers, realtors, artists, businesspeople, teachers, pilots, fisherfolk, gardeners, surfers and sailors who've banded together because our local elected officials, universities and conservation groups, many of whom have received massive grants and political

donations from wind energy players, have rubber-stamped these projects without asking intelligent questions about whether they will in fact halt climate change and whether they will destroy our RI way of life.

Barbara Chapman, Green-Oceans Trustee"

Sincerely,
Judy Hayes
6 County St
Newport, RI
02840

Wilusz, James (DEM)

From: Carol Mello <captaincarolmello@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:08 PM
To: Wilusz, James (DEM)
Subject: PLEASE REJECT SOUTHCOAST WIND ENERGY, LLC PERMIT FOR DREDGING

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Good Afternoon James; just received a message that Ron would be out of the office so I was just resending this letter to you...thank you for your time!

PLEASE ...PLEASE...I URGE YOU TO REJECT THIS PERMIT FOR DREDGING OUR PRISTINE SAKONNET RIVER AND MOUNT HOPE BAY!!! THIS WILL IMPACT OUR MARINE SPECIES, COD AND SUMMER FLOUNDER SPAWNING AREAS, RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHING AREAS. THE IMPACTS WILL BE PERMANENT AND MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO BE UNDONE! JET PLOWING IS A VERY VIOLENT WAY TO DREDGE AN AREA AND COVERS A VERY WIDE AREA...THIS IS NOT AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DECISION...PLEASE DON'T DO IT!!! FISHERMAN COME FROM CONNECTICUT, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY AND MASSACHUSETTS TO FISH IN OUR PRISTINE WATERS, THIS BRINGS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO OUR RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL FISHING ECONOMY AS WELL. THE DAMAGE MIGHT BE IRREPARABLE.

Ron Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: Ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon;

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind,LLC. I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, In the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth RI. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN PLACE...**Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should no be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition . Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

- **CHEMICAL TESTING HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED TO IDENTIFY TOXINS IN THE SEDIMENT...**The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumpin of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to the filter feeders, spaquing fish as well as commercial fishing and recreational fishing. Also the aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted- from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects fo the EMF emanating from two 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island and cost the taxpayers 30 million to rebury), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spaquing behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected by and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & [Http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvari](http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvari) [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained , so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** **Subsea cables** make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm but accounts for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be **enormous: repairs take an average of two months often exceed 12.5 million in costs and lost power generation.** Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad8792>

RI DEM MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO ITS OWN STATEMENTS AND PROTOCOLS:

- **DEM has explicitly stated, “ Our mission , put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.”**
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and UMASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force(EMF) on the various species of sea live in the Sakonnet.”**
- **Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning. “** The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late and literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay ecosystems and fisheries commercial and recreational from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully Submitted;

Captain Carol Mello
 Capt. F/V Carol’s Girl
 158 Massasoit Ave.
 Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871
 Captaincarolmello@gmail.com
 Cell: 401.835.1901

GOD BLESS ...

God Bless   
Carol

Capt. Carol L Mello
Captain F/V Carol's Girl
Captaincarolmello@gmail.com
Cell: 401.835.1901
Portsmouth RI, 02871

God Bless   

Carol

Capt. Carol L Mello
Captain F/V Carol's Girl
Captaincarolmello@gmail.com
Cell: 401.835.1901
Portsmouth RI, 02871

Wilusz, James (DEM)

From: Deborah Vine-Smith <deborahvinesmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 12:35 PM
To: Wilusz, James (DEM)
Subject: Fwd: Sakonnet River Public Comment

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From: Deborah Vine-Smith <deborahvinesmith@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 12:30 PM
Subject: Sakonnet River Public Comment
To: <Gagnon@dem.ri.gov>

Mr. Ron Gagnon:

I have since (the year 2017) been trying to learn about the impacts of Offshore Wind Turbines with doing my own research like:

[National Grid Pauses Effort to Rebury Block Island Wind Farm Cable - ecoRI News \[ecori.org\] & EMF Info Sheet revNov 2023.pdf \(boem.gov\) \[boem.gov\]](#), [Preliminary environmental assessment of metal-contaminated sediment dredging in an Urban River, New Jersey, USA - ScienceDirect \[sciencedirect.com\]](#) and [Potential for Enhancement and Mitigation.pdf \(pnnl.gov\) \[tethys.pnnl.gov\]](#).

Meanwhile might this human safety concern [Protecting the Nation from Electromagnetic Pulse \(senate.gov\) \[rpc.senate.gov\]](#) relate to [Electromagnetic-Fields-Offshore-Wind-Facilities.pdf \(boem.gov\) \[boem.gov\]](#), [How undersea cables may affect marine life \(bbc.com\) \[bbc.com\]](#), and also impact [Clues to how birds migrate using Earth's magnetic field \(bbc.com\) \[bbc.com\]](#)?

I have watched webinars like <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILkHA1AG01M> [youtube.com] too.

Having said all this, I respectfully wish to convey my thoughts regarding Southcoast Wind's project involving the Sakonnet River. Having read the Newport This Week, February 29,2024 Letter to the Editor by Green-OCeans Trustee, Newport, mentioning again concerns about the depth of the Electromagnetic cables and having read previously in ecoRInews of a cable resurfacing on top of my own research regarding marine animals' attraction to and not knowing the potential EMF' induced electric field's strong current Amperes/amps, I cannot condone the river and oceans becoming a noise polluted underwater riverbed/seascape that also involves the possibility of disturbing toxins lying on the floor bed.

No permit!

Please recall too that Rhode Island has over 70 impaired waterways. Meanwhile wouldn't it be nice if Southcoast Wind could allot funds to the preservation/restoration of our waters like Little Creek, etc.? **Are they bonded?** Do you know that Wind Turbines last the same length of time as Solar Farms? 20-30 years.

Side note: Toxins greatly harm filter feeders that live in fish nurseries. Hard clam eggs and larvae are sensitive to mercury and cadmium.. They bioaccumulate toxins such as Copper too. Information I found, when writing a paper back in the year 2012 on "The Mutual Relationship of Eelgrass and Clams and the Effects of Brown Tide around Long Island" And right now, much is being said about developing RI's Aquaculture like growing Kelp and oysters. RWU & JWU each are hosting upcoming events on this very subject.

FYI: Back in the year 2017, I wrote to Andrew R. Solow, Senior Scientist Marine Policy Center, Director MPC, rfarrow@whoi.edu, jcarlson@savebay.org, info@biconservancy.org, Mr. Christopher Parkins, Principle Marine Biologist at RIDEM Marine Fisheries Division and Liaison, and I believe BOEM. Today, I sent out another email to various nonprofits like RISAA, etc. mentioning the prospect of the Sakonnet River possibly of being dredged. I like to engage others to protect Mother Earth and her wildlife. One should practice "Two Eye Seeing" [KUOW - Two-Eyed Seeing as a way to decolonize western science \[kuow.org\]/ \(PDF\) "Two-eyed seeing" supports wildlife health \(researchgate.net\)](https://kuow.org/) [\[researchgate.net\]](https://researchgate.net) before doing them harm.

Deborah Vine-Smith

Feb.22, 2024

Comment Period for Southcoast Wind Energy LCC

I went to the meeting on Feb. 22, 2024 at the Portsmouth High School made notes and asked questions of RIDEM about the dredging of the Sakonet River, the horizontal boring and safety of residents of Portsmouth as this project landfall's a quantity of 6 cables carrying 375,000 Volts Direct Current capable of 880 megawatts (MegaWatts) capacity of stated power **on a public beach.**

I Goggled "**RIDEM RESPONCIBILITIES**" and got this back from the search

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is committed to preserving the quality of Rhode Island's Environment, maintaining the health and safety of it residents, and protecting the natural systems upon which life depends. Jan23 2024

My biggest concern while attending the meeting is the landfall of an Industrial Power Service on a public beach, where every day people are on the beach. What is more frightening is that beach is full of families and friends every weekend from Easter to Columbus Day weather dependent of course. To consider a 375,000 Volt D.C. with 880 megawatt power source is on this climate changing beach in a residential neighborhood screams tragedy waiting to happen as access can not be controlled.

This first time landing of 375,000 VDC/880 MegaWatt on a public beach it does not enrich life in any Portsmouth resident life only endangers residents, this needs to have landfall on a Industrial Property with limited access and is action against RIDEM's Mission Statement adopted less than a year ago, please do not do this to a Town of 17,000 residents.

I am told Horizontal boring is the answer on the Orsted Website Titled "Bringing Wind Power Ashore". On that Website it tells me horizontal boring supports boring from a half a mile to 1 mile off shore, which brings me to have to enlighten RIDEM the landscape of the proposed area, it in a flood plan. While RIDEM will want to blow this off as all landfalls are in the flood plan it has to be as its as close to the water as it can be. No, one had to stand on the ground in the residential neighborhood where 880 MegaWatt power source comes ashore, just look North East and one will see a reclaimed landfill where soil has been piled twelve feet above existing grade in hopes to not be considered in a flood plane and the ability to build a structure. I want RIDEM to understand while you are standing on Boyds Lane you are seeing that pile as high as existing homes at the gutter. This whole install all the way to RT24 never achieves an elevation to rise above the flood plan, at that point you are heading back to sea level and an outfall to Narragansett Bay and a tidal area. During the 1938 and the 1954 hurricane sea water from Sakonett River, the storm surge made it on to Montalk Country Club fairways. Since then hurricanes have come ashore and because of the RT24 improvement to the highway system have stopped any storm surge on the South side of RT 24.

I know you believe this description of this approval seems easy, this is not the place to bring an Industrial Power Source as shore at no point are the cables going to be out of a flood plan. So to be able to transition from "Wet Cable", (underwater waterblocked cable), it is a risk to human life for the whole route of unlimited public access.

Lets go back to Island Park and the beachhead and proposed landfall of the South Coast Wind installation. RIDEM has imposed MS4 requirements on all developers everywhere in the State of Rhode Island as well as the Town of Portsmouth.

WHAT ARE THE RIDEM MS4 REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON SOUTH COAST WIND LCC ?

They should have the same MS4 requirements imposed on South Coast Wind LCC, just like and other contractor permitting in a hazardous material are a.

WHAT ARE THE MS4 REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON SOUTH COAST WIND LCC?

HOW ARE THEY GOING TO CONTAIN ALL THE MATERIAL AT THE BEACH AS WELL AS THE CABLES IN THE WATER?

WHAT DEMANDS HAVE RIDEM MADE ON SOUTH COAST WIND LCC TO INSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF RESIDENTS IN ISLAND PARK AND ALONG THE ONSHORE PROPOSED CABLE PATH?

There has been contamination from 100 years before the Clean Water Act buried buy years of silting in of good material which has allowed the river to be Classified as Class II waters. Water/silt curtain are better than nothing, but do not come close to requirements described in MS4 documents.

DURING WATER JETTING BURING THE CABLES HOW IS THAT MATERIAL GOING TO BE CONTAINED?

WHAT SYSTEM OF MONITORING IS RIDEM GOING TO REQUIRE TO INSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC?

But the hazard does not end the installation of cables, there is a very high voltage power source just 6 feet from residents with voltages **two time greater than any other R.I Energy's grid voltage**. I Googled looking for "Power System Landfalls on public beaches and did not get a response, I was not surprised. I could not find locations of any major power grids on Aquidneck Island, that is great as it has limited access.

WHAT EXPERTICE DOES RIDEM HAVE INTERNAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL HARZARD OF A POINT SOURCE FAILURE TO KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE?

A failure in any area transitioning from the river of a DC Power System of 375,000 VDC and a 880 MegaWatt Source a Plasma Explosion Fire will ignite and be substained until all energy from the source as well as the input on land at Brayton Point (which is not curcuit breakers as it is an input) and the capacitance of the cable is dispat. There is no zero crossover as is common with AC systems that helps extinguish the plasma fire.

WHAT SAFETY ZONE IS RIDEM GOING TO IMPOSE ON SOUTH COAST WIND LCC TO KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE?

HOW MUCH PUBLIC BEACH IS THIS SAFETY AREA GOING TO CONSUME TAKING AWAY QUALITY OF LIFE FROM RESIDENTS?

All Rhode Island Energy Grid corridors are privately owned and access is a Right of way over privately owned land. I could not find major energy corridor in the State of Rhode Island that uses a public beach, it is time for RIDEM to find another landfall for South Coast Wind LCC in the name of Public Safety.

As I stated I was not standing there for myself I was standing there for families of children that were not there at the meeting. This area where these cables are to make landfall has been under RIDEM oversight for 20 or more years because of pollution. That pollution is in bottom of the riverbed but more than that there is a old dump across the street that is 50 years old. When anything could be thrown into a landfill, oil, batteries, antifreeze and after a capping of the Landfill where a impervious barrier was not installed and the arsenic far above levels for residential areas, so those chemicals are in the water column.

I stated that years of pollution have been buried in the sediment in the riverbed and is kinda capped by sand and other material that has allowed the Sakonett River to become Class I and Class II waters. The water quality has improved greatly over the last 10 years, swimming is allowed there today, but shell fishing is still not, a restriction by RIDEM for health and safety of residents of Portsmouth and others that use the beach. RIDEM forced a septic replacement plan for Portsmouth to raise water quality in Portsmouth Park.

RIDEM has not done test boring on a grids along the proposed path of the cables to know the contamination neither has South Coast Wind. This is critical to know to understand the potential risk of burying these cables. My concerns that if there is no assessment very hazardous material will end out on the beach during tidal changes. Others stated heavier storms this last year could put these material on the beach, on the sidewalks and even in residents yards due to storm surge flooding.

WHAT IS RIDEM GOING TO DO TO KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE BECAUSE ALL THE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL WILL BE DISTRUBED WHEN THESE CABLES ARE BURIED?

IS RIDEM GOING TO REQUIRE THE COMPANY BURYING THE CABLES TO COLLECT THE DISTRUBED MATERIAL (BASED ON MS4 REQUIREMENTS) TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO WATER QUALITY OF THE SAKONETT RIVER?

IF THE DISTURBED MATERIAL ISN'T COLLECTED AND ALLOWED TO SETTLE BACK TO THE BOTTOM, WILL RIDEM REQUIRE CLEAN FILL TO BE DEPOSTED OVER CABLE BURYING AREA?

I brought up concerns from the proposed horizontal boring and the risk it proposes to water quality as well as quality of life. This boring will require a discharge of water from jetting and it also needs to be contained, removed and disposed of in deep offshore waters out of tidal currents that would allow it to come back to the river.

IS RIDEM GOING TO DO TEST BORING ON A GRID TO DETERMINE ANY AND ALL MATERIAL AS IT TRANSITIONS FROM THE POINT OF LANDFALL TO THE ACCESS PIT ON BOYD LANE?

The reason for the boring to understand what contaminants have leached from the Landfill at 12"/per day sideways on it's way to the river. This point was learned from RIDEM engineering firm Lombardo Eng. during the studies done in 2012 by the State that required the Septic Replacement Program forced by RIDEM for health and safety. This testing would also determine if any elevated Arsenic deposited on the landfill has migrated off the property posing additional risks of health and safety to residents and beachgoers.

I then GOGGLED RIDEM mission statement and this was returned from the search:

RIDEM Stratic Plan FY2024-2026

I have included this document as Appendix A

In the middle of that document I find a Mission Statement.

“Our mission; to protect, restore, manage and promote Rhode Island's environment and natural resources to preserve and improve our quality of life.”

This mission statement does not completely address RIDEM's responsibilities, *in that it does not articulate the Departments requirement to keeping “the health and safety people of the residents?”*

**“The Strategic Plan:
is designed to outline a clear direction for us to achieve our mission as we continue to grow, innovate, and improve as a department.”**

This Strategic Plan is silent to any policy or actions the Department would use to carry out RIDEM'S mission to keep “ the health and safety of the residents.”

I would like to restate my request at the beginning of this document

This first time landing of 375,000 VDC/880 MegaWatt on a public beach, it does not enrich life in any Portsmouth resident life and against RIDEM's Mission Statement adopted less than a year ago, please do not do this to a Town of 17,000 residents.

Off the top of my head this project makes no sense, when one looks at Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration

Paul Kesson
3241 East Main Road
Portsmouth RI 02871

Audette, Kimberly (DEM)

From: Jessica L <jtlancaster27@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 6:22 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM); Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast Wind application

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Jessica Kielbasa, I am a homeowner in Island Park. I oppose dredging the Sakonnet River to support SouthCoast Wind project. This project solely benefits Massachusetts and Shell Oil.

The quality of life for residents surrounding the River will be negatively impacted but the River is the habitat for multiple species of wildlife, shellfish etc that will be also negatively impacted. How about the impact it will have on the various types of fishermen that make a living on the River? This project will impact all, to varying degrees some being catastrophically, during and after the process of dredging with a high pressure water pump to dig a trench 6-12 feet deep the length of the Sakonnet River.

Please deny SouthCoast Winds application.

Sincerely,
Jessica Kielbasa
Portsmouth, RI

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: rameffert@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:49 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: rameffert@cox.net
Subject: Dredging of the Sakonet

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Ron

I believe you are a resident of Middletown and understand the concern of the throughout the Sakonet on the impact of the dredging of both the River and the Bay. It seems to me that this should have been thought when they applied for the offshore wind fields. What they did not have an outlet for the wind production very strange. This cannot not be allowed>

Thanks for listening.

Rick and Cate Meffert
Middletown RI 02842

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Elizabeth Lamar <eblamar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:44 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: please OPPOSE dredging of Sakonnet river

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Please oppose it. Thank you.

--

Elizabeth Lamar

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Julie Savage <juliesavage@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:24 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Oppose Dredging

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Please vote down a permit dredge in our bay. It would be environmental disaster.
Julie Savage
4 Wimbledon Cir.
Portsmouth, RI 02871
Sent from my iPad

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Marylousully <marylousully@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:16 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast Wind - Oppose the Permit!!!

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KEEP IT W

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Laurel Howe <crowndesigns@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:08 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: crowndesigns@gmail.com
Subject: PLEASE SAVE OUR WATERS

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I am writing to ask you, to BEG you, to PLEASE DENY SOUTHCOAST WIND, deny the permits, deny the dredging and SAVE THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM!! This will be a disaster of epic proportions that will harm not only marine life and related industries but will devastate fisheries, livelihoods and humans, including CHILDREN!

Please sir, not on your watch! As a RI resident, taxpayer, mother and human, I beg you to protect us from this disastrous event that will have historic ramifications for generations to come. Please, please, protect our waters, our children and their grandchildren. Whales are already dying.

Do not let this happen.

Thank you.

Laurel Howe
CrownDesigns@gmail.com
Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jessica Hagen <jessica@jessicahagen.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: OPPOSE

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Dear Mr.Gagnon,

As a Middletown resident, I oppose the permit allowing the laying of cable going up the Sakonnet River by SouthCoast Wind.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica Hagen

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jocelyn Sherman <JocelynSherman@Cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 12:18 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject Southcoast Wind Energy Dredging Permit

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Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Office of Customer & Technical Assistance

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

March 5, 2024

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the "Dredge Application of SouthCoast Wind LLC" and urge you to reject this application. RI DEM's mission is to protect, restore and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, work and raise a family. Please do not approve this application.

This application is premature in the fact there is No Power Purchase Agreement in place, and neither should permitting be done on a timetable dictated by commercial developers!

Dredging the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay will negatively disrupt the seabed and the contaminants therein from a hundred years of industrial toxic waste. Rhode Island's vital fishing industry will be displaced, damaging vegetation, plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals and humans. Think of the jobs lost and families affected, knowing this will be long term.

The EMF's emanating from the 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables will also negatively affect the marine life. Studies have shown that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] or <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvari> [tinyurl.com] to learn more.

These cables will need regular monitoring and maintenance, so the disruption of the sea bed is not a one and done issue. A single cable failure can be enormous in insurance claims, time and costs! Plus the lack of power generation.

During the November 17, 2022 public meeting experts from RI DEM and U. Mass Dartmouth said "they were unsure of the potential negative effects of EMF's on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet River. Surely studies need to be completed and crucial information from independent fishery experts received, to assure adequate resource planning is done. Your mission is to protect the environment, be it water, land or air.

I understand this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution, which requires "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment". Significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay's ecosystems and fishing industry from the proposed cables, warrant prohibiting approval.

I urge you to reject SouthCoast Wind LLC's dredging application on the grounds of major environmental concerns. Thank you,

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Sherman

83 Indian Avenue, Middletown, RI

JocelynSherman@cox.net

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kate Raposa <kraposa2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:55 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition of Southcoast Wind dredging of Sakonet River

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Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to express my opposition and concern with the planned dredging and laying of high-voltage cables in the Sakonnet River. As a Rhode Island resident, I am concerned about the impact to the local wildlife, the environment, and the many residents who enjoy time out on the water every summer. I urge you to consider these negative factors.

Very Respectfully,
Kate Raposa

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Lynn Goodwin <lgoodwin28@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:15 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to Southeast Wind's Dredging

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Greetings Ron,

I am writing to you to oppose the permit for Southcoast Wind's dredging of Sakonnet River. My primary concern is in regards to the effect this could have on marine life.

I have already witnessed first hand the negative effects of these wind farms on marine mammals.

Thank you for your time,
Lynn Goodwin

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Lisa Dickmann <Imdickmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 10:19 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Southcoast Wind's Dredging Application

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

My husband and I were unable to attend the February 22nd hearing here to comment on Southcoast's dredging application.

As long term (26 year) residents and recreational boaters, we oppose the dredging of the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay in Portsmouth.

Because Southcoast Wind is a Massachusetts project, any risk of negative environmental impact or resident inconvenience should be bourn by the residents of Massachusetts. Requiring the residents of Portsmouth to shoulder the infrastructure burden of another state's project is inherently unfair and unreasonable.

Please reject Southcoast Wind's application to dredge our local waters for the benefit of the residents of Massachusetts.

Thank you,

Lisa & John Dickmann
79 Richard Dr.
Portsmouth, RI 02871
401.451.6407
Imdickmann@gmail.com

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:mailto:Imdickmann@gmail.com) for Windows

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Robin Chisholm <chisholm318@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 9:27 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject South Wind Energy LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:
- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging

performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters.

The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Chisholm
Little Compton Resident

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Bob Wilson <bobw2654@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 9:52 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Terri Cortvriend; Abby Brown; Tom Grieb; cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov; sheldon_whitehouse@whitehouse.senate.gov
Subject: SouthCoast Wind Dredge Permit File Number DP-23-198; WQC 23-044
Attachments: March 5 2024 Letter to RIDEM Re South Coast Wind.pdf

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Mr Gagnon, my comments regarding the pending SouthCoast Wind Dredge Permit are enclosed. Please acknowledge receipt. Thank you in advance for considering the enclosed and I look forward to discussing my concerns with your office at your convenience.

Bob Wilson
bobw2654@gmail.com
650 678 7359

Bob Wilson

735 Back Point Lane
Portsmouth, RI 02871
bobw2654@gmail.com

By Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

RE: RIDEM File Number DP-23-198; WQC 23-044

March 5, 2024

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr Gagnon,

I am writing in regards to the pending Dredge Permit application referred to in the above RIDEM file number from SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC. I own waterfront property in Portsmouth at the address noted above and abut the area of the proposed dredging.

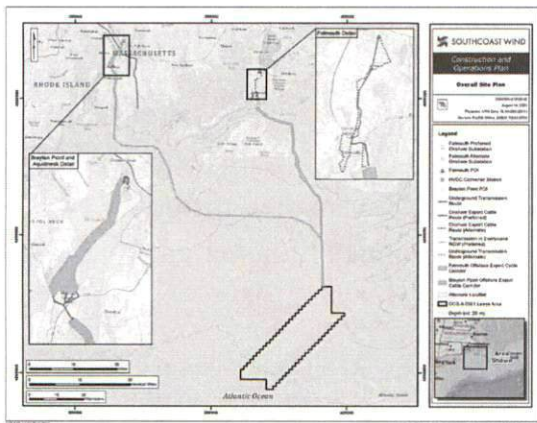
After reviewing the applicants' website materials and other public information, I strongly urge the RIDEM to pause any further consideration of the applicant's permits at this time.

There are serious deficiencies in the materials I have reviewed. I also have many unanswered questions about this project and other proposed Wind Turbine projects currently being proposed nearby. I hope you share my concerns. I will summarize a few of the deficiencies I have found and some of my concerns below. I am available to discuss these with your office at a time and place you deem appropriate.

Per their website, SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC is a joint venture that is owned 50% by a subsidiary of Shell Oil and 50% by others. The joint venture recently changed its name from Mayflower Wind. To streamline this letter I will refer collectively to the joint venture and owners simply as "Shell".

First, is this project funded and moving forward with the current owners? I raise this as Shell announced it paid \$60 million to terminate its contract with regional utilities regarding sales of the wind generated power stating costs had increased and contract pricing agreements made the project non-viable. Another large wind project was canceled recently in New Jersey the owners stating many of the same pricing and cost issues. I suggest that as Shell has paused their project, this permit review should also be paused. Rhode Island is a wonderful state, but the state and your department have real resource limitations. Further consideration of the Shell Dredge Permit at this time is premature and may rob other worthy projects of RIDEM resources needed to bring their needed improvements to Rhode Island.

Is Shell committed to this project? Is it funded? Are they willing to post bonds to ensure completion once construction starts? Partially completed infrastructure would pose massive risks to the region. Given the financial concerns Shell themselves have raised, resolution of the viability and funding of the project should take priority over further consideration of the Shell Dredge Permit. Are Shell pushing for this important permit to enhance the project value prior to a sale? We should know who we are dealing with before moving forward, with security in place assuring projects will be completed.

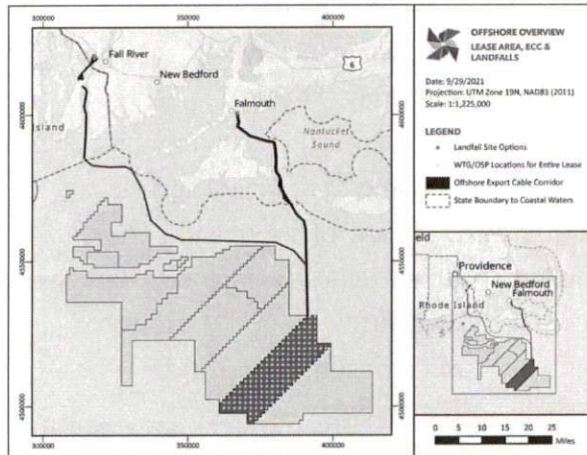


Shell states that 14 other alternatives were evaluated prior to selecting the Aquidneck Island Sakonnet Cable Corridor. These alternatives are not identified in their materials except for Falmouth MA. There is no analysis that shows why a Rhode Island route was their preferred choice. Indeed, a far shorter path through Falmouth MA is analyzed in their materials and is contemplated for cable two at a later time. Why is Rhode Island being

asked to bear the initial risks and burdens of this project and why were none of the other paths evaluated except Falmouth disclosed? What criteria were used in this critical decision. It is alarming this information is completely missing from any publicly available materials.

Also, as this project benefits power consumers in MA, why was a Rhode Island cable corridor chosen over Falmouth MA? This is suspicious and requires full disclosure and review.

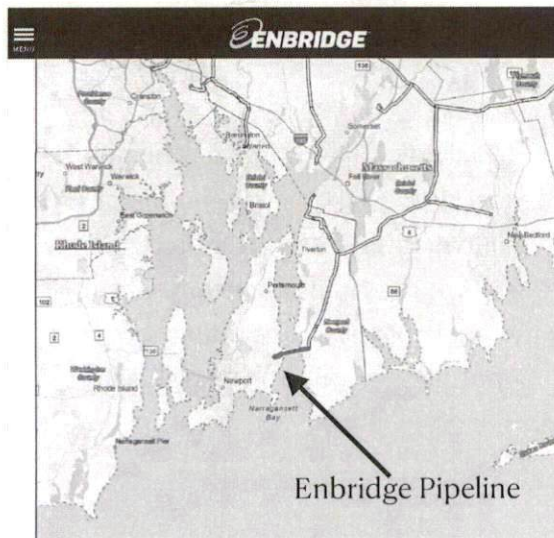
The Falmouth MA route seems a far shorter route to land than the Rhode Island route. Why inflict so much environmental risk on our oceans and Rhode Island when a far shorter path is available directly to MA residents? (See Shell's map from their website inserted above.)



Per Shell's materials, there are many other leases for off-shore wind farms. Their graphic shows the other wind farm leases located near RI. Do we know how many will be developed in the coming years? Do we know if others will request cable corridors in Rhode Island? It seems making a decision for Shell's benefit now will impact other projects. Don't we need a more regional analysis and solution to minimize detrimental

environmental impacts? Choosing Shell's plan prematurely may significantly and adversely impact RI residents as other projects may be focused on meeting RI clean energy needs.

Not shown on Shell maps or discussed in their materials in the natural gas pipeline that runs across the Sakonnet from Little Compton to Portsmouth. Shell's 325,000 volt cable will run directly across the pipeline. Recently, the pipeline's owner Enbridge



has filed documents with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC Docket No. CP24-49-000) requesting permission to replace this pipeline in late 2024. They do not intend to remove the old pipeline. It is unclear what if any precautions Shell planned to minimize any risk by passing their extremely high voltage cables over the existing gas pipeline. Is this an oversight, reckless or something else? How does the new pipeline impact the laying high voltage cables? It is incredible to me that Shell appears silent on these issues. Will the RIDEM review the proposed gas

pipeline replacement and its impact on dredging? Will Enbridge also be dredging the Sakonnet to install the new gas pipeline? Is it safe to leave the old gas pipeline in place if there are high voltage cables running on top? Enbridge's map of the proposed pipeline is shown above.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management website for this project has an Appendix E which includes 12 pages of "incomplete and unavailable information" related to the study. That is a massive red flag regarding the environmental conclusions it reaches. It appears much more work is needed to complete the DEIS, including issues affecting both aquatic life and electro magnetic radiation on humans. It is curious that with so many offshore wind projects in Europe, no information from long existing European projects was included in the analysis. I also suggest before the Dredge Permit receive further consideration that the Environmental Impact Statement be completed and officially issued and not be used in draft form by the RIDEM to reach conclusions.

There is no study of electro magnetic radiation for the cables running in the Sakonnet. Shell states it is not needed as they are shielded. Shell presents no further analysis of why the shielding is adequate or a detailed spec of the cable and shielding. All of the electro magnetic information and studies are for cables above ground. I am not satisfied this issue has been properly vetted. Apparently RI does not have a regulation for this type of radiation. That does not excuse Shell and, and with respect, the RIDEM, from analyzing and addressing this health concern.

As a lifelong sailor and boater, I appreciate how critical it is for dredging projects to be carefully reviewed. I do not see any analysis yet on what pollutants are found on the bottom of the Sakonnet. Have core samples been taken from the Sakonnet seabed? Were dredging spoils from past dredging projects analyzed for potential biohazards? We swim, fish and boat frequently in the Sakonnet. Can Shell and the RIDEM assure us that these activities will be safe in the future post dredging?

There are two dredging methods mentioned by Shell. How will they impact the depth of the existing channel and egress across the channel? How will existing anchorages on the Sakonnet be impacted? I have experienced underwater "hills" after dredging that made navigation unsafe. This could make our anchorage and others unusable if not corrected. The channel impacts are important, but so is the surrounding waterways and beaches. What is the process for assuring they will still be usable as they are today?

Shell claims cables laid on the Sakonnet will be buried six feet. Is this adequate given severe tidal activities especially during storms? We have major rock formations on the Sakonnet. Will cables lie above them in the Sakonnet? Will removal of rocks be required?

We need a cooperative and coordinated approach to reviewing Wind Power projects. I believe Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut as well as the US Government need to form a joint task force to make this happen. Wind power may be vital to our future, but only if executed well. We need a joint regional approach to vetting wind power projects. Individual agencies are being overwhelmed by the scope and magnitude of the issues these important projects present.

I appreciate in advance your consideration of my concerns. I look forward to you pausing consideration of the Dredge Permit until my concerns are resolved. I am interested in working with you to work on the foregoing should you move forward with your review.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Wilson

CC: Portsmouth Harbor Commission, CRMC, Terri Cortvriend, Sheldon Whitehouse

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Carter Mario <CMario@cartermario.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 7:38 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast Wind

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To whom it may concern,
I live in Newport, Ri and vehemently oppose any permit SouthCoast Wind applies for as it relates to their wind farm project.
Sincerely,
Carter Mario

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Zachary St. <zachary19905@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 6:49 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Osw

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How you can support any of this is mind blowing ! Do the correct thing and send this to Mass where the power will benefit and does nothing to help rhode island but raise rates. Send the cables over land as a Ri commerical fishermen i oppose this dredge permit.

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Brenda Sabbag <blsabbag@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 6:50 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Southeast wind and sakonnet river

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Mr. Gagnon.

I respectfully implore you not to approve dredging and cables in the Sakonnet River. The River is a precious resource for our fish and wildlife, and a recreational mecca for residents of Portsmouth, Middletown, Tiverton and Little Compton. There are so many unknowns, but disturbing the river bed, adding high voltage cables and maintaining them can only destroy the delicate balance that nature has created, as it is the major pathway for spawning.

Barbara Chapman, a Green Ocean Trustee, said it perfectly in her letter to the editor in Newport Buzz and many other publications.

The DEM has done so much good to protect our natural resources. Please fight hard to protect this one.

Sincerely,
Brenda L. Sabbag
31 Crestview Dr.
Portsmouth, RI

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Margo Sullivan <margoannsullivan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 6:44 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging Sakonnet

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March 4, 2024

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to state my opposition to the plan to dredge the Sakonnet River.

I am concerned about the wind energy plans because I doubt anything the company does will actually result in a benefit to Rhode Island.

I also question whether the citizens are being indemnified sufficiently in the event of problems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margo A. Sullivan
Newport, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Maureen Goldfarb <maur1000@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 6:27 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: REJECT SOUTHCOAST WIND ENERGY, LLC PERMIT FOR DREDGING

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Dear Mr. Gagnon:

I am writing to you to strongly urge you to reject the "dredge application request of SouthCoast wind LLC. " I oppose their intent to dredge, install ,and ,operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling ,each approximately 20.4 miles long in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

THERE IS CURRENTLY NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN PLACE. approving the cable installation is premature.

CHEMICAL TESTING HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED TO IDENTIFY THE TOXINS IN THE SEDIMENT. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter, feeders, spawning fish, as well as the fishing industries that depend on that depend on them.

UNKNOWN EFFECTS OF THE EMF EMANATING FROM 345,000 HIGH VOLTAGE SUBSEA ELECTRICAL CABLES ON MARINE LIFE.

SOME CABLES MUST BE REGULARLY MONITORED AND MAINTAINED SO THE DISRUPTION TO THE SEA BED IS NOT A ONE AND DONE PROPOSITION.

RI DEM MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO ITS OWN STATEMENT AND PROTOCOLS:" our mission put simply is to protect, restore and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live visit and raise a family."

Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, Rhode Island on November 17, 2022 experts from RI DEM AND UMASS DARTMOUTH SAID THEY WERE UNSURE OF THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCE ON THE VARIOUS SPECIES OF SEA LIFE IN THE SAKONNET.

FAILING TO PROVIDE CRUCIAL INFORMATION FROM INDEPENDENT FISHERY EXPERTS, FALLS SHORT OF ADEQUATE RESOURCE PLANNING, THE TESTING STUDIES WERE INCOMPLETE IN 2022 AND STILL HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED.

I BELIEVE THIS PERMIT VIOLATE THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE IN RHODE ISLAND CONSTITUTION. This doctrine requires by all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the RISK of the Sakonnet River and Mt Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed Cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Goldfarb

521 Indian Ave
Middletown Ri. 02842
Maur1000@aol.com
Sent from my iPad

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Ellen Nichols <theel@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 3:02 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Ellen Nichols
Subject: Oppose the Permit

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Hi Ron, I am opposing SouthCoast Wind and any other company to dredge and lay electrical cables in the Sakonnet River and elsewhere in RI and Mass. There are to many ramifications and environmental impacts to our marine life.

Thank you for your attention, Ellen Nichols
Sent By Phone
Ellen Nichols
401.864.0372

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Ellen Nichols <theel@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 2:40 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Oppose the Permit

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Hi Ron, I strongly oppose allowing SouthCoast Wind or anyone else for that matter to dredge and lay voltage electrical cables in the Sakonnet River and elsewhere in the states of RI and Mass. There are many ramifications to our marine life and to many environmental unknowns which are not worth the risk.

Thanks your for your attention to this matter, Ellen Nichols
Sent By Phone
Ellen Nichols
401.864.0372

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Thomas Kits Van Heyningen <tek38@georgetown.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:30 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast dredging in sakonnet river

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Hi Ron - writing to voice my concern about the environmental impacts of the south coast development and the rushed nature of the approvals/permit for this offshore project and all the associated environmental issues it will cause to citizens of Rhode Island and the health of our ocean ecosystems. I am strongly opposed to this development and feel it will be a political liability to have been involved with what will surely be a very locally unpopular decision

Regards,
Tom

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Peter Reynolds <peterreynolds167@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 11:05 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River Dredging

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Mr Gagnon,

This operation should be a great concern for the marine habitat for Sakonnet River and Narragansett Bay , Because of history of Mount Hope with the many year of the textile industry and sewage plant and several other industries using the Bay as a dump site. The dredging operation would reintroduce all the heavy metal and chemicals in our waters with only Benefit is to allow Massachusetts the benefit of a small amount of electricity and Rhode Island will end up with a Huge impact on the Marine Environment in Sakonnet and Narragansett Bay. Is the DEM doing the impact studies on sediment and water quality from Mount Hope Bay? Where is NOAA Marine fisheries research on impacts to porgies and Striped Bass fisheries? It seems like most of the Environmental groups have grown silent. There numbers for dredge quantities is under estimated and they plan to back fill with existing material which mean if it is polluted it will be introduced twice into water column. This project should be treated as a Hazardous waste dredging project if approved not an open water project. This is a Massachusetts Power Project it should Stay in Massachusetts. Rhode Island DEM should protect Rhode Island water ways. Stop the Destruction of Sakonnet River.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Braden Massey <braden.massey512@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 10:46 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8;!!KKphUJtCzQ!PiVZoKM5hvkQlq3jXNEp4PDIH1T5ug9fMLoQl2HEoQnguczroS2l7ZbHgNStMBMHyajuOxGG9AHnLLXJnAo4MbOCtFh_9u0\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8;!!KKphUJtCzQ!PiVZoKM5hvkQlq3jXNEp4PDIH1T5ug9fMLoQl2HEoQnguczroS2l7ZbHgNStMBMHyajuOxGG9AHnLLXJnAo4MbOCtFh_9u0$[tinyurl[.]com]) & [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj;!!KKphUJtCzQ!PiVZoKM5hvkQlq3jXNEp4PDIH1T5ug9fMLoQl2HEoQnguczroS2l7ZbHgNStMBMHyajuOxGG9AHnLLXJnAo4MbOCu3A_xi4\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj;!!KKphUJtCzQ!PiVZoKM5hvkQlq3jXNEp4PDIH1T5ug9fMLoQl2HEoQnguczroS2l7ZbHgNStMBMHyajuOxGG9AHnLLXJnAo4MbOCu3A_xi4$[tinyurl[.]com])
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!!KKphUJtCzQ!PiVZoKM5hvkQlq3jXNEp4PDIH1T5ug9fMLoQl2HEoQnguczroS2l7ZbHgNStMBMHyajuOxGG9AHnLLXJnAo4MbOCn-HiJ6c\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!!KKphUJtCzQ!PiVZoKM5hvkQlq3jXNEp4PDIH1T5ug9fMLoQl2HEoQnguczroS2l7ZbHgNStMBMHyajuOxGG9AHnLLXJnAo4MbOCn-HiJ6c$[tinyurl[.]com])

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects

on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted, YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS YOUR EMAIL

*Presentation link:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!PiVZoKM5hvkQlq3jXNEp4PDIH1T5ug9fMLoQI2HEoQnguczroS2I7ZbHgNStMBMHajuOxGG9AHnLLXJnAo4MbOCxliZic\\$\[drive\[.\]google\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link;!!KKphUJtCzQ!PiVZoKM5hvkQlq3jXNEp4PDIH1T5ug9fMLoQI2HEoQnguczroS2I7ZbHgNStMBMHajuOxGG9AHnLLXJnAo4MbOCxliZic$[drive[.]google[.]com])

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Camille Guerin <cguerin@mpsri.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 10:26 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Permit in the Sakonnet

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Hello

I am writing to express my concern with the approval of the permit to install high voltage electrical cables that may disrupt the Sakonnet.

Thank you,
Camille Guerin
Middletown, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: pj reynolds <pjrtalleyho@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 9:51 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: No to dredging the Sakonnet!!!

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Dear sir, I have lived on Aquidneck Island my entire life.

I see the wildlife devastation happening all around us. There is a cost no matter what angle you look at this. I am all for better energy options but this is not one!

CALL TO ACTION TO STRONGLY OPPOSE SOUTHCOAST WIND'S DREDGING OF SAKONNET RIVER AND LAYING HIGH-VOLTAGE CABLES!

Opposed strongly- Save our Ocean, do the right thing.

Pamela Reynolds
Lifelong resident of Aquidneck Island

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: L A <leon.amarant@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 9:44 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to you this evening to express my opposition to the dredging of the Sakonnet River by South Coast Wind for the installation of their power transmission cables. I am a long time resident of Middletown RI and I respectfully ask that you stand with me and other like me in not approving South Coast Wind's request. Our coastal ecosystem is very fragile and this dredging will undoubtedly have severely negative impacts on marine wildlife and also Aquidneck Island and surrounding areas.

Thank You

Leon Amarant
60 Island Drive
Middletown, RI 02842

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: marc adams <belugaboards@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 9:11 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please dont allow Sakonnet River cables

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Hi Mr Gagnon,

I am a Portsmouth resident and have swam and fished in the Sakonnet River for many years. I have taught my 3 kids to spot birds and bait and catch stripers, fluke, scup, and tautog.

I am a physician and have been educated how to read and review scientific literature. From what I have read the risk to the environment of dredging to run cables outweighs the benefits of wind power production.

I ask you for both personal and scientific reasons to please help stop the wind farms from running cables up the Sakonnet River.

Thank you for your time.

Marc Adams

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Bob Schulte <bob.a.schulte@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 8:44 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Bob Schulte
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon, I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and UMASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires, by “all means necessary and proper by law, to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert & Anne Schulte
52 Fox Run
Centerville, MA 02632

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Judith <jelevinson@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 8:30 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: offshore wind development 2.27.24 comments

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Hello Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to you about offshore wind development on the east coast.

This technology is detrimental to all sea mammals trying to communicate and fish due to corruption at the top of Americas's boards of economic development and green washing that has taken hold and is controlling the lives of all aquatic dwellers and the whole east coast fishing industry. Those soon to be wind turbine farms will be destroying all sea coastlines by heating them up and destroying the under sea water currents with their EMF radiation and microwaves, sonar blasting for pipeline construction, etc., all for a measly payload of electricity, I believe. This tech is also detrimental to the Security of the USA! Don't look up, the balloons are coming!

You have a choice, develop or destroy, you can't have it both ways? You will set the sea on fire with these wind turbines planted like spinning trestles of death, wiping out birds, fish stocks and large sea going fish. These wind turbines use the most polluting 19th century analog to digital technology that is currently outdated, as you already know. This will become our future EXXON ecological disaster by destroying and polluting our pristine oceans with a fuel that never breaks down.

Not only that, WT technology wrecks the US ability to detect foreign ships from just coming in and parking in a NYC bay in front of the Statue of Liberty - because they weren't detected. Oh, what hydrogen bomb? They'll gain access and shoot up NYC with a hypersonic missile carrying a hydrogen bomb. Hey, we couldn't see it on our radar because the frequency of the wind turbines masked it.

This is no way to run a nation. By allowing this tech to destroy everything in it's path.

Don't do this dastardly deed by one man who could stop it, please. Don't allow this bad outdated tech to dictate because the Koch Brothers back foreign business. What are you going to do? Best think before pressing that Yes button, or you will kill all of us as collateral damage. Who needs fish or a fish industry when Bitcoin needs a nuclear power plant to keeps its ledgers legible? We don't need wind turbines that will fall over in the next hurricane spilling their pollution spoiling the coastlines as they are rolling up the east coast, do we? Really?

These are my doomsday predictions and are my personal points of view after researching this outdated technology, and probably yours as well? At least, I hope you'll concur, we'll see?

Thank you for listening, and hope you will stand up for people and fish and the environment not Standard Oil?

Regards,
Judith

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Michael Marston <marstonma1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 8:15 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind Farm Cables Opposition

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Dear Mr. Gagnon:

Please do not approve the dredging and laying of power cables in the Sakonnet River for the offshore wind farms. I live in Portsmouth, RI and am opposed to this action based on what it will do to our waterway and the impact it will have on numerous industries (e.g. shellfishery, lobsters, fishing, etc) in the name of "green energy."

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mike

Mike Marston
31 Prospect Ln
Portsmouth RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Tiffany Smith <twong801@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 6:46 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: I oppose the South Coast Wind's dredging of Sakonnet River!

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I oppose the South Coast Wind application to RI DEM to dredge and lay high-voltage electrical cables (345,000 volts) up the Sakonnet River, underground through Portsmouth, continuing through Mount Hope Bay to a grid connection at Brayton Point, MA.

This project would be a disaster for wildlife and residents in the areas affected. My family just moved to Portsmouth, and my 4 children spend their summers playing on the coast and swimming in the waters of Sakonnet River. The dredging process would be extremely disruptive to the quaint and calm that attracted us to the area. Not only would it majorly disrupt the nature of the river, the enormous voltage that would eventually be transmitted through these cables would greatly damage and affect the quality of the water and nature's playground for my kids as well as all the other kids who enjoy their summers on the coast.

Please for the sake of all the residents that would be affected, the tourism with boating and other water activities that draw people to Rhode Island, and finally the wildlife that lives in these affected waters, do not approve this intrusive, damaging, dredging proposal.

Tiffany Smith
Resident of Portsmouth, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Gus A <gusa2027@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 8:10 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging of Sakonnet river

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Good evening Mr.Gagnon,

My name is Gus, I am fourteen years old and live in Portsmouth; five minutes down the road from the Sakonnet River. I have been going into and using the Sakonnet River for as long as I can remember. When I was five years old me and my dad would launch our tiny zodiac into the river to go fishing, oftentimes not bringing home anything but providing some of the best memories from when I was a kid. Now, many years and a few boats later, almost every weekend in the summer and fall my dad and I still launch our boat into the river, whether we are fishing, tubing, wake surfing, or cruising around. But now in these last few months I have heard that SouthCoast Wind is seeking approval of a permit from you to dredge the Sakonnet River, destroying all the natural fishing spots in the dredgers path, while also causing a ripple effect to the rest of the local marine wildlife. Mr.Gagnon, I and every other resident of Portsmouth, Middletown, Newport, and Little Compton who enjoys the beautiful Sakonnet needs you to reject the permit and not give SouthCoast Wind permission to destroy one of the things most important to the communities of the towns listed above. I ask you on behalf of the fourty-five thousand seven hundred and eleven residents of these towns to please reject the permit. Thank you for your time, I hope you have a wonderful night.

Gus Adams

Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

March 3, 2024

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental
Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street,
Providence, RI 02908 E
email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon:

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

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- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
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- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind

industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924>

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

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Respectfully submitted,



William M. Keogh
p.o. box 477
Jamestown, RI 02835

*Presentation link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: wmmkeogh@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 7:54 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Eind Energy, LC Permit for Dredging
Attachments: 2024-03-03 19.50.56.pdf

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Bill Keogh

201 286 0667

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: info 1856countrystore.com <info@1856countrystore.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 7:52 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
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performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joanne O'Connor

Centerville, MA

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [drive.google.com]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#) [aka.ms]

Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

March 3, 2024

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental
Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street,
Providence, RI 02908 E
email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov Tel: 401-537-4013

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Respectfully submitted,

Andrea S. Keogh
p.o. box 477
Jamestown, RI 02835

*Presentation link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Andrea Keogh <andreaskeogh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 7:31 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Letter against South Wind Project
Attachments: ASK anti windmill project letter (2).docx

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--
Andrea S. Keogh Art & Design
PO Box 267
Newport, RI 02840
(401) 340-9977
akeoghartanddesign.com
[\[akeoghartanddesign.com\]](mailto:akeoghartanddesign.com)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Eddie <pine2651@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 7:02 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind Farms

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Be very careful work with the cape.
Ed Richards

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Sarah Atchley <sarah.atchley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 6:39 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging the Sakonnet

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I support dredging the Sakonnet River for the purpose of laying cable for offshore wind farms. Like many of us who live on its shores, I am protective of the river, but know we need to find alternatives to fossil fuels. The poor Sakonnet has been much more polluted by overfertilized runoff and illegal construction debris than careful dredging will do.

Sincerely,
Sarah Atchley
701 Black Point Lane
Portsmouth

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Betsy Green <greenb38@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Stop this!

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Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Nick Del Greco <nick.delgreco@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Support For The Windmill Project

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Since nobody is in any rush to curtail their use of electricity and the population continues to grow electricity demand will continue to increase. Therefore additional sources of electricity will be required and windmills located far off shore where there is a constant supply of wind makes more sense than the alternatives.

Running cables up the river is a one time operation just as the gas line and water lines that cross the river were. Once in place, and if done correctly, the river bottom returns to its present state. On the other hand we allow trawlers to continue to scrape the river bed and lobster traps to be pulled along the bottom day after day stirring up whatever happens to be there.

The river is not pristine, pollutants enter the water with each heavy rain, trash continues to find its way into the water and we can't overlook the massive amounts of fertilized soil that erodes regularly. Just take a walk along the water's edge to Sandy Point. To me this represents a much greater problem than running a DC cable line up the river.

Nick Del Greco
Black Point Lane
Portsmouth

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Joseph Lombardi <jdlombardi10@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast Wind Operation Concerns-Joe Lombardi

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Dear Ron & RI DEM,

My name is Joseph Lombardi and I am writing about my tremendous concern with the SouthCoast Wind Operation. I am not someone who would normally do such a thing, but I feel this is a critical moment in our states history with relation to the negative consequences of offshore wind development.

I'd like to start by stating I have been recreational offshore fishing for over 20 years off the coast of Rhode Island, as my family and I spend our summer running to the New England canyons 2x a week. As a result, I have gained a great understanding of the marine ecosystem, specifically where the offshore wind sites have somehow gotten the approval to be erected (Coxes Ledge & The Dump).

Until the day I die, I will never forget our first offshore trip in June 2023, where we first laid our eyes on the mass scale of industrialization that is occurring on Coxes ledge via the SouthCoast Wind Operation. Ultimately Coxes ledge is a historic area known for its rich marine life that congregates on it, and generally it is well documented that whales, tuna and other marine mammals congregate on the area with its ability to hold baitfish like sand eels. With that being said, I'm certain RI DEM has the same knowledge that I do about the area, therefore it is troubling to understand the rational as to why these project was approved and designated for that area in the first place. The fact that there was no long term environmental study regarding industrial scale construction and sonar sounding of the area and the impact that it will have on marine life, is also incredibly troubling and almost seems to be ignored intentionally in order to allow for the project to occur. As sad as it is to see Coxes Ledge ruined by this Construction, a huge amount of northeast coastline will have the same fate unless something is done.

Furthermore, with the number of whale casualties that have occurred in the last calendar year in New England, as well as the Tri State area, I think it is obscene to not at a minimum consider the fact that the construction sites located directly where whale life congregates as well as the high powered sonars are having a detrimental effect on these animals. Ultimately, this issue of whale casualties is something that cannot be denied, and I would go as far as saying is being blatantly ignored in order to ensure these offshore wind sites are constructed. I would very much recommend you view the documentary by Michael Shellenberger, "Thrown to the Wind" which does a tremendous job at highlighting specially what is going on during the sounding and construction and what we believe is happening to these whales. It also highlights the level of corruption regarding the relationship Orsted and other Big wind Companies have with Environmental Organizations. Ultimately, via social media, it is clear the public community and specifically those of us who frequent the waters around the construction sites fail to believe these autopsy report findings. For instance, the whale that recently washed ashore in Pt. Judith just last week, was allegedly found to have degenerative brain issues, according to the Mystic Aquarium. Moreover, Mystic Aquarium accepted a \$1.25 Million dollar bribe from offshore wind, so how the hell can you tell me they're being truthful. The level of corruption is obscene and these large scale donations, or as I'd prefer to call them "bribes" can be traced to a huge number of marine organizations in New England.

Ultimately, I ask your organization to do the right the thing and take a stand against offshore wind. As someone who has serious knowledge about our offshore landscape, I could sit here for hours and discuss the implications of what this Offshore Wind Industrialization will have on Rhode Island. For instance, did anyone consider that now this massive development is clearly visible from shore ruining the view from our beaches and coastal towns. Who will want to come to ocean state as a tourist, if the view of our oceans are Wind Developments. In addition, we are placing these steel turbines in the most harsh environment possible, being the ocean. As stated previously, we travel by Block Island at a minimum twice a week in the summer on our way to the Canyons. Ultimately, it is very common for a minimum of 3-5 of the windmills behind Block Island to not be functioning correctly as a result of salt corrosion and malfunction. That is a 60% rate of malfunctioning turbines, and in order counteract this corrosion, oil is used as a lubricant, which spews from the turbines and discharges into the ocean. It's undeniable, and we see these windmills constantly in a malfunctioned state. To think we are destroying the view of our coastline and these marine sanctuaries, just for 40% of these turbines to function properly, to produce energy three to five times more than traditional kilowatts, just to send it mostly to New York and not even Rhode Island is INSANE!

Lastly, I cannot fathom that you are going to allow this company to come into our waters and dredge the Sakonnet river to put high voltage cable down is sickening. You are allowing a major threat to our way of life as Rhode Islanders. We have one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world, that is in the process of being ruined, in order to produce energy that will never make sense financially. I believe green energy has a place, but offshore wind has no place in Rhode Island and the Northeast. We are harming marine life without a doubt, as well as harming the beauty of what makes our state so special. I don't understand how we got to the point as a society where we think polluting rich and storied marine wildlife grounds with steel wind turbines is the answer to our carbon emissions problem. Its just another form of pollution, in the name of green energy. Please save our state from this grave mistake.

Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joe Lombardi III

28 Stacy St. Barrington, RI. 02806

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: robertamauch <robertamauch@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 5:57 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

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Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Elizabeth Mauch
80 Greenwood Ave
Hyannis, MA 02601
Robertamauch@comcast.net

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: alexander <averaskouski@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 5:37 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Systematic Killing of the echo systems of Rhode Island

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Dear Sir Ron Gannon,

I am a RI citizen deeply concerned and opposed to the dredging of Sakkonet River to support wind industrialization of coastal waters.

I'm a recreational fisherman and spearfisher and it's breaking my heart to see how much damage is already done to the ecosystem of Rhode Island with the whole Windfarm project

Please respect my concerns and opposition and do not allow this environmental harm to occur.

Thank you.

Sincerely Alexander Veras

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Susan <sipple1@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 5:34 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Scott Sipple
Subject: Please reject this project!!!! It's not even going to supply MA power! You are rushing it through too quickly!!!

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Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

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Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sipple
459 Wianno Ave
Osterville, MA
02655

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Rosemarie Drop <rdrop827@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 5:02 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Offshore Wind Turbine Project

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Dear Mr. Gagnon:

I am writing in regards to the offshore wind turbines in Rhode Island which I deem to be a waste of time and money not to mention a potential loss of life for both humans and our ocean life.

Recently, two whales have died in areas that have not seen these cetaceans in such a state in so many years but is now occurring too often.

From all that we know about these failed wind projects, why do we continue to keep pushing them, never mind funding them? Haven't we learned from the Block Island debacle?

Haven't you heard?: Numerous studies reveal...(not in order of urgency or importance). In plain speak...

~Interference in US defense acknowledged by the Pentagon & locator radar for boat passenger safety/search & rescue.

~Gallons of diesel leaking, effecting ocean life/water quality dangers.

~Death of plankton, and sustainable foodstuff for ocean life, whale survival.

~Dangers of cables to fishermen/possibility of electrocution.

~Maintenance & repair is extremely costly to the taxpayer.

~Scrambles whale, shark, seal, etc. sonar and is causing untold numbers of beaching.

~the complete destruction of our fishing industry in RI, which sustains many families, not just corporations. And our economy.

~Our scenic coastline, an industrial blight and likewise will effect tourism and taxpayer coastline views in unmeasured ways. A concern of brides booking here, planning for her future wedding. It's honestly the talk around town.

~So far cost analysis has shown overall return on investment/years of effective measure yields more expenses/cost to repair, maintain & replace more costs than benefits.

I thank you and appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Rosemarie Drop
Rhode Island resident

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: George Schepppler <georgeschepppler@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 4:44 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.** This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

George Scheppler

54 Rendezvous Lane

Barnstable, MA 02630

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Swift, Shawna <sswift_0102@email.ric.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 4:43 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please oppose permit for dredging in Sokonnet River

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Hello Mr Gagnon,

My name is Shawna and I am a resident in the East Bay of RI. I am writing to ask that you deny the permit to South Coast Wind, which is requesting to dredge in the Sokonnet River and install high voltage cable.

This poses a threat to the environment, not only through the dredging process that can kick up waste within the ocean floors, but also potentially through EMFs which are emitted from these cables.

This project also poses additional hazards, as the cables are maintained and if they were to leak cable transmission fluid.

I ask that the DEM please look into potential impacts of this project, both now and in the future, and not take chances with our environment.

I strongly oppose this project and ask that the DEM do the same.

Thank you for your consideration,
Shawna Swift
(East Providence, RI)

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Alexander DeMolles <abdemolles@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 4:37 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging permit

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> Mr. Gagnon,

>

> As a resident of Jamestown and avid outdoorsman and steward of our natural resources, I beg you to considering not issuing a dredging permit for the offshore wind farm, for anywhere in Rhode Island waters. I support green energy, but in areas that have little impact on our resources. I fear we have just one chance to get this right. Again, I beg you to consider against it.

>

> Respectfully,

> Alex DeMolles

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Barbara A Milotte <milotteb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject Southcoast Wind Energy LLC Permit For Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

I cannot understand how RIDEM and CRMC would allow a foreign company to dredge our waters. The risk to the health of our waters and fishing industry should be the number one priority for this state. The potential damage from this dredging cannot be ignored. This dredging request needs to be addressed and rejected.

Sincerely,
Barbara A Milotte
801 Seapowet Ave
Tiverton RI 02878
401-297-8200

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: CRAIG TAMASH <craigt8@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 3:48 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast winfcEnergy

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8;!!KKphUJtCzQ!MPQCupNdvq4b2Y5IHQh5hW2UiBebpq8AlvK0Dh7SVxSf9JMs_tlekYpZ4xZUrr9D1JrkYveZ0S4VNFGkQ\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8;!!KKphUJtCzQ!MPQCupNdvq4b2Y5IHQh5hW2UiBebpq8AlvK0Dh7SVxSf9JMs_tlekYpZ4xZUrr9D1JrkYveZ0S4VNFGkQ$[tinyurl[.]com]) & [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj;!!KKphUJtCzQ!MPQCupNdvq4b2Y5IHQh5hW2UiBebpq8AlvK0Dh7SVxSf9JMs_tlekYpZ4xZUrr9D1JrkYveZ0QGyFR--w\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj;!!KKphUJtCzQ!MPQCupNdvq4b2Y5IHQh5hW2UiBebpq8AlvK0Dh7SVxSf9JMs_tlekYpZ4xZUrr9D1JrkYveZ0QGyFR--w$[tinyurl[.]com])
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!!KKphUJtCzQ!MPQCupNdvq4b2Y5IHQh5hW2UiBebpq8AlvK0Dh7SVxSf9JMs_tlekYpZ4xZUrr9D1JrkYveZ0QOwkl6Pg\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!!KKphUJtCzQ!MPQCupNdvq4b2Y5IHQh5hW2UiBebpq8AlvK0Dh7SVxSf9JMs_tlekYpZ4xZUrr9D1JrkYveZ0QOwkl6Pg$[tinyurl[.]com])

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

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Respectfully submitted,

Craig Tamash

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: ptre@ieee.org <paultrec@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 3:45 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging of sakonnet river is okay with me

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I find the concerns raised with the power cable plan for the sakonnet river to be without merit. I regularly fish and swim in the Sakonnet river and I find no issue with the dredging plans.

Regards,

Paul Treciokas

7 Wilson Rd, Middletown, RI 02842

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Will Kammerer <kammerer.will@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging Sakonett River

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My name is Will and I am a resident of Newport, RI and a life long Rhode Islander. I am also a surfer, fisher, and enjoy the ocean as much as I can. These wind farms are a disgrace to our state and it is sad to see the destruction of our natural beauty. I am writing this to oppose the dredging of the river. Enough is enough, please stand up for the little guy on this issue. Our waters are hurting enough please do something to stop this attack on our ocean.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Celeste Urban <celestekane@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 3:30 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River

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Hello Mr. Gagnon,
I'm writing to express my concern about Cape wind dredging up the Sakonnet River in order to install cables. My hope is that you will oppose this proposal.
Sincerely,
Celeste Kane
62 Brown Terrace
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Alexandra Quick <draquick@maephysio.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 3:23 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to Permit for SouthCoast Wind in Sakonnet River

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Mr. Gagnon,

I am a resident of Portsmouth whose children regularly swim in the Sakonnet River and I am asking that you DENY SouthCoast Wind's application to dredge and lay high-voltage electrical cables through the river bed due to the **known and unknown risks to the health of our ecosystem and families.**

Thank you,

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Alexandra Replogle <aereplogle@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 3:22 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to Permit for SouthCoast Wind in Sakonnet River

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Mr. Gagnon,

I am a resident of Portsmouth whose children regularly swim in the Sakonnet River and I am asking that you DENY SouthCoast Wind's application to dredge and lay high-voltage electrical cables through the river bed due to the **known and unknown risks to the health of our ecosystem and families.**

Thank you kindly,
Alexandra Quick

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Joseph Doyle <doylejoseph33@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 3:14 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Do not allow high voltage electrical cables in the sakonnet river

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Please do not allow southcoast wind to lay cables in any Rhode Island waters. They say wind is green energy. How green can it be if you destroy a costal ecosystem in the process?

Joseph P. Doyle

Moran Towing Corporation
Professional Mariner
Real Estate Investor
doylejoseph33@gmail.com
(508) 843-2121

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: alydahlin@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: No SouthCoast Wind dredging in the Sakonnet

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Dear DEM,

SouthCoast Wind is trying to save themselves millions of dollars by bringing their high-voltage electrical cables up the Sakonnet with little regard to the catastrophic damage and disruption to the fragile marine life of Rhode Island. Between Aquidneck Island and Tiverton/Little Compton are numerous natural mussel beds and fishing areas because of the fresh tide flow and rich grounds. Their poor planning of locating the electrical grid connection in Brayton Point, MA is no reason why Rhode Islanders should suffer the consequences.

Rhode Island proudly calls itself the Ocean State and failure to protect the water resources is not only irresponsible but hypocritical when just considering short term financial gain by a few parties.

Please oppose this permit. It's not worth the loss of miles of habitat.

Sincerely,
Amy Dahlin
Portsmouth, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Will Carlin <wcarlin22@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 2:20 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SAVE OUR OCEAN STATE

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Ron,

If you know what is best for our oceans you will not allow South Coast Wind's to destroy our beautiful ocean state. DO NOT ALLOW THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF OUR OCEANS. The blood of the whales and wildlife will be on your hands. Shame on you for even contemplating such a disastrous project.

--

Will Carlin

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Christine Sullivan <chsulli@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 2:15 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: I oppose

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Permit to dredge sakonnet as a local resident.

26 admiral Kalbfus road
Newport, RI 02840

Christine Hope Sullivan e/s (by electronic signature)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Herb Wagner <HWagner@finepointcap.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 2:03 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth, for the following reasons:

This project will occur right outside Third Beach in Middletown, RI where many families regularly swim and fish. We also live on the coast of Middletown next to the beach, and are concerned about the environmental impact of the dredging. It appears no study has been done on the environmental impact of this project, further concerning us.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss our opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Wagner
49 Indian Ave.
Middletown, RI.
Herbwagner@gmail.com
617-943-816

This message and any files transmitted with it are confidential and/or privileged and are intended only for the person to whom this message is addressed. If you receive this message in error, please notify me immediately and destroy this message (and any copies) without further distribution. Thank you.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Richard Fairgrieve <richardfg888@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 1:05 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Sir,

I object to the application by South Coast Wind for dredging the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay and I strongly urge you to reject it. There are numerous reasons to deny this but by far the most compelling is the fact that there has not been enough testing of the sediment for toxic waste. Laying the cable is very invasive with dredging up to 12 feet below the river bed. Given the industrial history of the area from the mills in Fall River, the jewelry and other factories in RI, the dumping at Sachuest Point and waste from the U.S. Navy it is highly possible that disturbing this sediment will cause an irreversible environmental catastrophe.

There are beaches all along the proposed dredging area. I particularly enjoy both swimming and fishing from 3rd Beach in Middletown. Adequate environmental testing of this sediment is needed before this and other beaches are permanently ruined.

Sincerely,

Richard Fairgrieve

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: tjcarson@cox.net
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J4VBIR3LmH8FAJy MRGVJ fL26xacJLTcGes45hn7wt2yKI6GIE3f9HgT3Y3woTGrCiif4TPCzJ8H3maGdEn\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J4VBIR3LmH8FAJy MRGVJ fL26xacJLTcGes45hn7wt2yKI6GIE3f9HgT3Y3woTGrCiif4TPCzJ8H3maGdEn$[tinyurl[.]com]) & [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J4VBIR3LmH8FAJy MRGVJ fL26xacJLTcGes45hn7wt2yKI6GIE3f9HgT3Y3woTGrCiif4TPCzJ8Hx1qxQ-2\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J4VBIR3LmH8FAJy MRGVJ fL26xacJLTcGes45hn7wt2yKI6GIE3f9HgT3Y3woTGrCiif4TPCzJ8Hx1qxQ-2$[tinyurl[.]com])

Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J4VBIR3LmH8FAJy MRGVJ fL26xacJLTcGes45hn7wt2yKI6GIE3f9HgT3Y3woTGrCiif4TPCzJ8HzYV7V-W\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J4VBIR3LmH8FAJy MRGVJ fL26xacJLTcGes45hn7wt2yKI6GIE3f9HgT3Y3woTGrCiif4TPCzJ8HzYV7V-W$[tinyurl[.]com])

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet.

Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for RI waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Tom & Joan Carson
6 South Shore Rd
P.O. Box 1023
Little Compton, RI 02837
tjcarson@cox.net

Sent from my iPad Air 4

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Joan Shamshoian <joan_shamshoian@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 9:11 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to Wind Farm

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What seems good conceptually is not always good in practice.

The wind farm proposition is not well thought out and brings with it far more disadvantages to the Sakonnet now and for generations to follow than any potential and unlikely advantages to the human population now or later.

Please do not vote for this bill that promises destruction by negatively impacting the ecosystems of the Sakonnet Bay. The tangible and looming destruction caused by building a wind farm surely is not worth the very uncertain and "potential" gains that are envisioned only by those with an unthought out agenda and tunnel vision.

At what cost wind energy?... the detriment of the balance of nature! This must not happen, EVER.

Isn't wind energy wonderful and an answer to our energy woes? NO, not if what exists must be sacrificed for it!

Please consider the existential evidence, rather being misled by unproven claims of potential benefits before approving this bill. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Joan Shamshoian

Little Compton

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Buck Sherman <BuckSherman@Cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 9:09 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

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- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

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- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet.

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Respectfully submitted,

Albert Sherman
83 Indian Avenue
Middletown, Rhode Island

BuckSherman@cox.net

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Brenda Lees <blees0402@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 4:46 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind projects

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

From all that we know about these failed wind projects, why do we continue to keep pushing them, never mind funding them? Haven't we learned from the Block Island debacle?

Haven't you heard?: Numerous studies reveal... (not in order of urgency or importance). In plain speak...

- ~Interference in US defense acknowledged by the Pentagon & locator radar for boat passenger safety/search & rescue.
- ~Gallons of diesel leaking, effecting ocean life/water quality dangers.
- ~Death of plankton, and sustainable foodstuff for ocean life, whale survival.
- ~Dangers of cables to fishermen/possibility of electrocution.
- ~Maintenance & repair is extremely costly to the taxpayer.
- ~Scrambles whale, shark, seal, etc. sonar and is causing untold numbers of beaching.
- ~the complete destruction of our fishing industry in RI, which sustains many families, not just corporations. And our economy.
- ~Our scenic coastline, an industrial blight and likewise will effect tourism and taxpayer coastline views in unmeasured ways. A concern of brides booking here, planning for her future wedding. It's honestly the talk around town.
- ~So far cost analysis has shown overall return on investment/years of effective measure yields more expenses/cost to repair, maintain & replace more costs than benefits.

Thank you for listening!

Warm Regards,
Brenda Lees
Johnston, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: John Carter <johnnyc4933@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 5:55 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon, I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:
- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the

Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

John Carter

*Presentation link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link)
[\[drive.google.com\]](https://drive.google.com)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Susan DeLeo <susandeleori@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 2:36 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy Dredge Permit

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Report Suspicious

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently *NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT* in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans. Please See: <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [[tinyurl.com](http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj)]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

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I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution.

This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeLeo
100 Nepaug Rd
Narragansett, RI 02882

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link)]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Melanson Glenn <gmelanson@vatvalve.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 12:05 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please Reject South Coast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to you to ask that you to reject South Coast Wind, LLC application to dredge the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay. Both of these areas and Cox Ledge are vital to our fishing industry. New England is known around the world for it's seafood. How can we allow foreign companies to come in and destroy our oceans and rivers? I am a grandfather and I don't want to leave a toxic mess for my grandchildren to cleanup. I agree we need to look for better cleaner energy solutions to slow down global warming but installing massive Turbines and destroying our natural resources to put money in foreign companies is not the answer. Do you honestly think these foreign companies have our best interests in mind. This is all about money. They will come in make their money up front and then disappear. The US tax payers will be required to fund the maintenance and decommissioning of the turbines. We will also be responsible for cleaning up the toxic mess that is stirred up by dredging the Sakonnet River and Mt Hope Bay. These companies would not even consider doing this project if it weren't for tax incentives. When the government needs to pay foreign companies to do a project it can't be the best decision for US citizens. RI DEM is supposed to protect, restore and promote our environment. You should not be approving a project that threatens our waters. Please vote no on South Coast Wind, LLC application to dredge the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay. Please protect our waters for my grandchildren and everyone in New England.

Best Regards,

Glenn Melanson

801 Seapowet Ave.
Tiverton, RI 02878

Mobile: +1 508 212 9005

This message, its content and any file transmitted with it is for the use of the named person(s) only. It is confidential and may contain non-public, proprietary or legally privileged information. No protection of confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission errors. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender; you must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print, or copy any part of a message received in error. There are risks in communicating by e-mail, such as data corruption, delay, interception, unauthorized amendment and implanting viruses or other malicious software, and we do not accept any liability for such risks. Please read our [disclaimer \[vatvalve.com\]](#) for further information.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Alexandra Lepore <alepore1971@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 12:02 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Your meeting on wind farms
Attachments: Screenshot_20240302_120012_Instagram.jpg

This Message Is From an External Sender

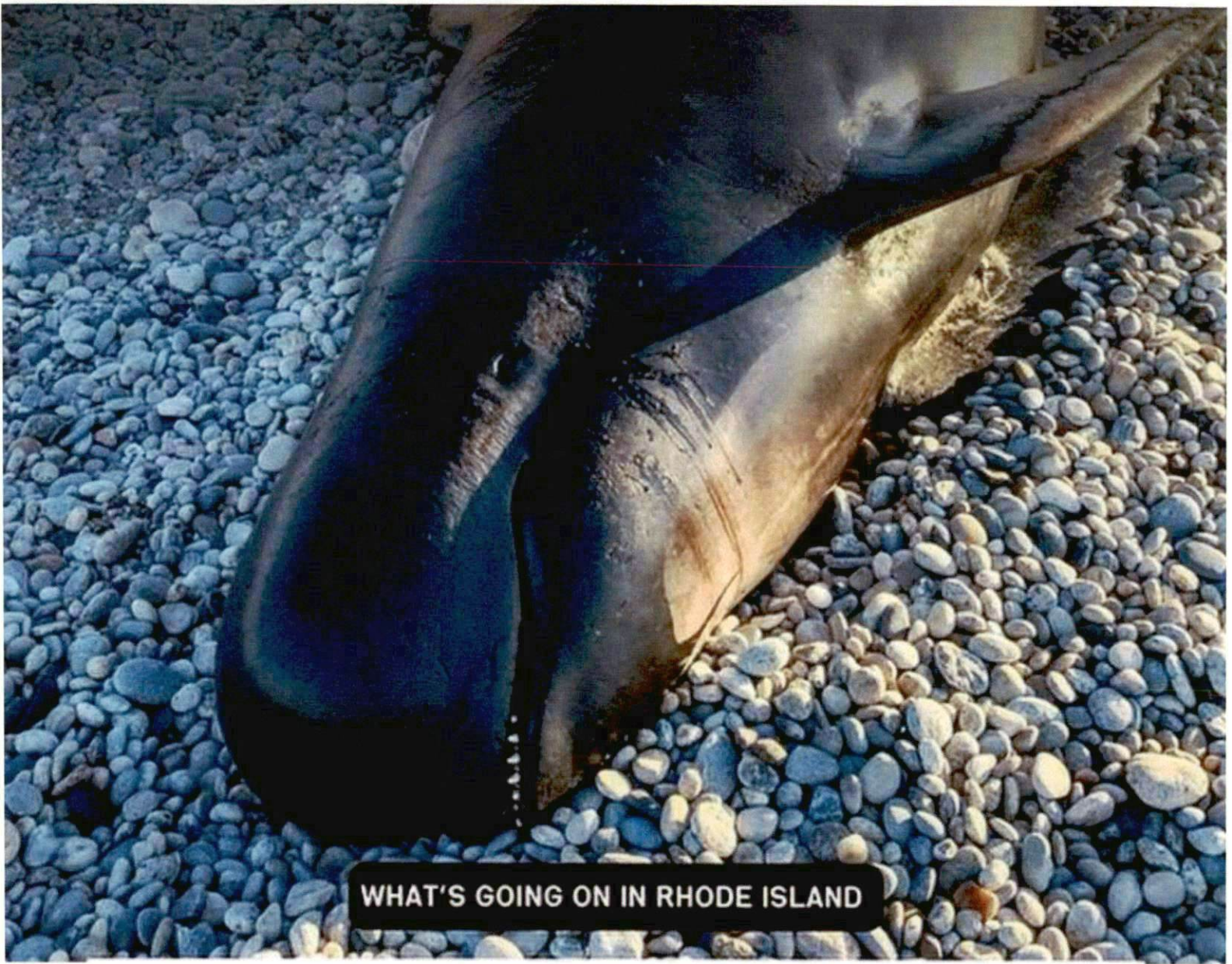
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Protect our wild life.
Stop the nonsense

Kind Regards,

Alexandra Lepore



WHAT'S GOING ON IN RHODE ISLAND



Liked by miss_viola_f and 4,040 others

whatsgoingoninrhodeisland A second whale has died in

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Tom Ricci <tcricci220@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 10:53 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind farm

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I'm sure you're a good guy who just wants a job to pay the bills and that's great, and you're going to do what McKee tells you on this wind farm to keep your job, but don't you have a conscience? And doesn't that conscience tell you that it will hurt the environment more than it will help? Please use your conscience and vote to deny the permits for this thing and history will show you as a great person. Thanks.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Marybeth Petroski <marybethpetroski@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: OSW 3/2/24

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Ron, I am writing to you on behalf of Our Country, our Ocean and Our National Security. Words alone cannot fully express the horror and sadness that We the people of the Eastern Seaboard are experiencing with this invasion being thrust upon us. As I am sure you are aware in just one day last week two more whales, one a baby washed up in RI. This lends to a total of over eighty dead whales over the last 15 months. Eighty. Not to mention the dozens of dead dolphins with again two more in NJ just last week. This does not account for the decimation of our horseshoe crabs and sea turtles. The destruction and decimation these projects will bring with them to our generational fisherman and families is unfathomable. The crippling factors to our tourism and plummeting property values are not even a consideration. This farce has to be stopped. There is nothing good about these projects. They only work with rate payer subsidies..our own money being used to destroy us. Price per kilowatt hour will double if not triple and the likelihood of a good Nor' easter debilitating them and us holding the repair bill are just a few of the reasons this should never be allowed. Not to mention they just don't work. Please do the right thing and stop this madness before it is too late. Thank you. MaryBeth Feeney.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jill Kramer <jkramer115@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 7:20 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind Projects

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Please do NOT go forward with this plan. I live on the coast of NJ and we've seen too many sea animals wash up on our beaches. All of these whales, dolphins, and seals appear to have been disoriented by the ocean floor mapping and disruption to their food sources. As a boater, my family and I enjoy our trips to New England each year. Part of the reason is the tranquil nature of the ocean and all of its natural beauty. Please don't add this huge eyesore to the seascape.

Sincerely,
Jill Kramer
New Jersey

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Marisa N <nardomarisa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:14 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields.
Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com]& <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even **a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs** and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- • RI DEM has explicitly stated, “Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.**

This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Marisa Nardo, nardomarisa@yahoo.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: BRIAN CAM <briancam2470@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:23 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance Attention: Ronald Gagnon,

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Report Suspicious

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance Attention: Ronald Gagnon, P.E. 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 Comments may mailed to above or emailed by March 7, 4 PM to: Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov Questions? Call: 401-537-4013

Brian Campbell BSEE, Glendale RI Comments Related to:

Southcoast Wind Facts: SouthCoast Wind is developing one of 9 proposed Offshore Wind projects: • 149 positions to install wind turbines & offshore substation platforms • 30 miles south of Martha's Vineyard 20 miles south of Nantucket. Brian Campbell USN Vet & BSEE UML Retired is AGAINST \$\$\$Expensive Offshore Wind promoted by CORRUPT NE Politicians that WILL only Increase the COST of Electricity WITH little or NO EMISSION REDUCTION! ++ Bonus, Decrease Grid Reliability. NEW ENGLAND NEEDS NUCLEAR EGEN 2024! Shutting down Reliable Nuclear only proves Emission reductions is NOT the Goal. Rewarding CORRUPT POLITICIANS and the GREEDY GREEN PROFITS is the goal!

Things to Consider:

Cables must be regularly maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous, takes an average of two months to repair, and often exceeds \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation.² Visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

The buried high voltage electrical cable (345,000 volts) would extend northwest from the lease area, through federal and Rhode Island state waters, up the Sakonnet River, with an intermediate underground crossing in Portsmouth. The cable then continues through Mount Hope Bay and ends with a grid connection at Brayton Point in Somerset, MA. Years of industrial heavy metals and toxic pollutants have settled deep into the seabed from the jewelry, chemical, and textile industries and the U.S. Navy. Cables will be laid using a jetplow or jet sled burial tool, using high-pressure water jets to blast into the sediment to create a 3 to 13 ft. deep trench, digging up heavy metals and pollutants that are toxic to aquatic organisms even in minuscule amounts and may damage or even permanently destroy critical marine habitats and aquaculture.

The CEO of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator John Bear, joined the swelling chorus of forewarners last week with MISO's recent Reliability Imperative report.

"We have to face some hard realities," Bear wrote. "Studies conducted by MISO and other entities indicate it is possible to reliably operate an electric system that has far fewer conventional power plants and far more zero-carbon resources than we have today. However, the transition that is underway to get to a decarbonized end state is posing material, adverse challenges to electric reliability." [emphasis his] Bear's words echo the North American Electric Reliability Corp.'s report from last year that cited the energy transition as the number one threat to reliability on the grid.

2021-05-04 Alex KuffnerThe Providence Journal

PROVIDENCE – National Grid, encountering unforeseen problems, has suspended work on Block Island to replace part of an underwater cable that delivers electricity from the nation's first offshore wind farm to the mainland power grid. It's

unclear how the difficulties will affect the \$31-million cost of the replacement project and whether **Rhode Island electric ratepayers will be on the hook if there's an increase.**

The surcharge that National Grid customers already pay for the cable has been the source of recent controversy. **The chairman of the state Public Utilities Commission has excoriated the company for a fee that he has described as wildly inflated and unjustified.** National Grid is in the midst of determining a new rate structure.

Destroying working infrastructure and \$oaking the Citizen (Illegals Mater, Citizen DON'T) is the GOAL? How about Fixing Washington Bridge and the reduced lane I95 295 FIRST!

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Carl <lafongcarl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 7:49 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- • There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

- • Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

- • Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields.

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

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- • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

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Respectfully submitted,
Carl van Warmerdam
Barrington, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: annesalas@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 5:46 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC Permit for Dredging

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Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Tel: 401-537-4013

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Respectfully submitted,

Anne Salas

145 Mockingbird Lane

Marstons Mills, MA

annesalas@comcast.net

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Andrea Breyer <abreyerri@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 5:15 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging Ronald Gagnon, P.E. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!P0Q81gQMFh56f0_y-xiKGCGIN1boU0jMokrxza8A4gQfSj8B7QjsnUW34wt1qhEdFvLM12qdHr6Ci8JG19KYRQ\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!P0Q81gQMFh56f0_y-xiKGCGIN1boU0jMokrxza8A4gQfSj8B7QjsnUW34wt1qhEdFvLM12qdHr6Ci8JG19KYRQ$[tinyurl[.]com]) & [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!P0Q81gQMFh56f0_y-xiKGCGIN1boU0jMokrxza8A4gQfSj8B7QjsnUW34wt1qhEdFvLM12qdHr6Ci8JZfqISqA\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!P0Q81gQMFh56f0_y-xiKGCGIN1boU0jMokrxza8A4gQfSj8B7QjsnUW34wt1qhEdFvLM12qdHr6Ci8JZfqISqA$[tinyurl[.]com])

Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!P0Q81gQMFh56f0_y-xiKGCGIN1boU0jMokrxza8A4gQfSj8B7QjsnUW34wt1qhEdFvLM12qdHr6Ci8Lkd4QeOQ\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!P0Q81gQMFh56f0_y-xiKGCGIN1boU0jMokrxza8A4gQfSj8B7QjsnUW34wt1qhEdFvLM12qdHr6Ci8Lkd4QeOQ$[tinyurl[.]com])

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea & Bill Breyer
(401) 924-0569

*Presentation link:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share link ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!P0Q81gQMFh56f0_y-xiKGCIN1boU0jMOkrxza8A4gQfSj8B7QjsnUW34wt1qhEdFvLM12qdHr6Ci8IbplIGRw\\$\[drive\[.\]google\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link;!!KKphUJtCzQ!P0Q81gQMFh56f0_y-xiKGCIN1boU0jMOkrxza8A4gQfSj8B7QjsnUW34wt1qhEdFvLM12qdHr6Ci8IbplIGRw$[drive[.]google[.]com])

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Linda Adams <lgadams22@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 3:54 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:
- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine is required by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Adams
Rhode Island Ave, Newport RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Frank Crowley <fcrow08701@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 3:27 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon,

P.E. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street,
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable. • There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone. • Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans. • Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com] • Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols: • RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family. • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*. • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Crowley
fcrow08701@aol.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Lorrie Burns <ltburns008@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Say No to Sakonnet River Dredging!

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Dear Ron-

Please do not agree to dredge the Sakonnet River! More research needs to be done on the detrimental aspects of this entire project. As a longtime member of Save the Bay and other environmental organizations I am all for the environment and this entire project seems to be everything but that!

Lorrie Burns

25 Cottontail Drive

Portsmouth RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: brittany arnone <brittanyjarnone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:19 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to Southcoast Dredging of Sakonnet River

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

We are RI citizens, very concerned and opposed to the dredging of Sakonnet River to support wind industrialization of coastal waters. Environmental factors such as toxins and electromagnetic fields in the environment have been scientifically proven to affect human cellular activity and cause disease such as cancer. Please do not allow this environmental (and thus, human) harm to occur and do not allow this dredging to take place.

Best,
Brittany & Benjamin White
38 Beach Road
Bristol RI 02809

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: John Chappell <jechappell1992@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:17 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River Cable

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Dear Ron,

I am a Rhode Island citizen who has been on these waters as much as anyone in my lifetime as an avid fisherman, and has seen these turbines and crews come into our waters up close and personal. These massive turbines have already and will destroy our native waters. What is being done is a tragedy and will be a never ending issue from my generation to the next. I am highly against these companies coming in to use our water and water ways to dredge a River that has been slowly recovering from past issues, only to run a power cable into my home town. Please consider this and think of the pros and cons, as much research as I have been able to go over, I am finding it hard to find the pros for us Rhode Islanders, let alone the wild life and damage that this will cause, and already has caused.

I have fished the canyons, Coxes Ledge, the Dump, everywhere, and seeing these massive turbines, the massive boats pile driving our ocean bottoms, the pollution they are producing, is heart wrenching, let alone the harm that is being done to the wildlife, some to which consider these waters breeding grounds and sanctuaries. The beautiful state we call home, will soon have an asterisk next to it that said it used to be beautiful and pristine until the government rolled over for a quick buck and was taken advantage of.

Do not do this, please, we beg you. Rhode Island is not the only place being affected, but maybe we can make one positive out of this by being defiant and not allowing the cable to run down the Sakonnet.

Sincerely,

John Chappell

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jonathan Goodnow <jonathan@ecastpro.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:12 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South coast wind cable placement

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Dear Sir,

I am a RI citizen deeply concerned and opposed to the dredging of Sakonnet River to support wind industrialization of coastal waters. Please respect my concerns and opposition and do not allow this environmental harm to occur. Thank you.

Sincerely
Jonathan Goodnow

Little Compton, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Peggy Price <plprice26@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 8:59 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging Our River

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I emphatically oppose to SouthCoast Wind destroying our river and sea life within. Please don't destroy our oceans and rivers for the sake of electricity. We all know there are better ways than to kill our natural resources.
Signed, A Concerned Resident of Portsmouth

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: MB Murphy <marybethmurphy68@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 8:49 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: OPPOSING SOUTHCOAST WIND'S DREDGING OF SAKONNET RIVER AND LAYING HIGH-VOLTAGE CABLES

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Mr. Gagnon,

Please decline the application for the dredging of Sakonnet River. This will destroy and damage so much of the Sakonnet River and its surroundings. Never mind that it is going to destroy land in Portsmouth. I don't see any benefits here except for those that would be making a profit off of this.

Please do the right thing and protect the environment and lives that will be affected by this today and for the future generations.

Sincerely,

MaryBeth Murphy
Aquidneck Island lifer

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Patrick Gaudreau <pgrink33@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:02 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind farm

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Dear Ron,

Hope this email finds you well. I am writing you to express my complete disgust with RI DEM, NOAA, and our RI government as a whole. You are FAILING us. I work in power generation for a living, so please spare me any response you have to how this is positively affecting our power grid, because we both know that is simply not true. I am also a licensed USCG captain, I have been on the water in RI for 32 years, my grand pa ran one of the local ferries and I literally grew up on the ocean. The industrialization that is currently taking place in our waters needs to end NOW. Why are we ruining one of the greatest fisheries in the north east to provide power for New York? Are their waters not good enough? do they know something you clearly don't? I'm sick of watching whales wash ashore every other day. I was working on the BI Ferry when the wind farm out there was Being built, I saw the destruction first hand, i also saw three separate dead whales in a short period of time wash up on the island Around the island. Coincidence? I'm not that stupid Ron, neither are you if you hold the current position you do. I suggest you take a long hard look at yourself in the mirror tonight and decide what kind of man you want to be. Do you want to be a coward and fold over to these ridiculous green energy policies, or do you want to be a man and stand up for what's right. Make the right choice, a lot of peoples lively hoods are on the line here and man I would hate to be on the wrong side of thousands of pist off fisherman.

Best regards,
Patrick

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Sofia Sinclair <sofia.a.sinclair@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:06 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Sofia Sinclair
Subject: Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC - please reject!

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

The voters and residents who will be impacted clearly have expressed strong opposition to this proposal time and time again and yet the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Sofia A. Sinclair

(sent from my mobile phone, please embrace the typos)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Robb Roach <Robb@thechemco.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: I oppose dredging the Sakonnet for Southeast wind

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I oppose the dredging of Sakonnet River for Southcoast winds electric cable.

I believe that the local environmental impact from the dredging and operation of this his voltage cable far outweigh any benefit of decarbonization for the world. The Ac/Dc conversion alone at the southcoast site will raise water temperatures and kill precious egg and plankton that will be the future of our fish, crustaceans, etc.

I encourage you to be brave and stand up to the push from our federal government to make RI a testing ground for a unproven source of renewable energy. The local impact to Rhode Islanders should be the first and primary consideration before ever allowing such an harmful project.

Thank you,
Robb Roach
64 Green Lane
Jamestown, RI 02835

Robb Roach
Robb@thechemco.com
Direct: (401) 864-3111



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Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Elizabeth Lamar <eblamar@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:01 AM
To: Lamar, Howard
Cc: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Re: Sakonnet River Dredging and Cable deployment

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Please do what you can to prevent this disruption and damage to Rhode Island, its waters and its citizenry.

Elizabeth Lamar

7 Amazon Drive Portsmouth, RI

On Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 9:53 AM Lamar, Howard <HLamar@bassberry.com> wrote:

As a Home owner at Black Point, in Portsmouth RI and on the Sakonnet River, I am NOT IN FAVOR of the proposal to dredge and lay cable for the benefit of SouthCoast Wind. No information (to my knowledge) has been fully shared to the citizenry regarding the environmental implications and the deemed value to SouthCoast Wind or need to the broader community. Furthermore, I am concerned regarding the voltage and implications associated with the cable deployment. The State should mandate a full and balance discussion and disclosure before any approvals are provided.

 [bassberry.com]

Howard Lamar

Member

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800 • Nashville, TN 37201

(615)-742-6209 phone • (615)-742-2709 fax

HLamar@bassberry.com • www.bassberry.com [bassberry.com]

--
Elizabeth Lamar

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Caroline Richards <caroline@hoganri.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind farm - cable druding in Sakonnet

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Dear Sir,

I greatly oppose this action in Portsmouth and across our state. I can share that I have many clients moving out of Newport and deciding not to buy here because of the wind farms. Beyond the real estate impact, do the research, this is bad for the environment on many levels.

DO not allow this.

Sincerely,
Caroline Richards



Caroline Richards

Realtor Associate
+1 617.699.9774
129 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
hoganRI.com [hoganassociatesre.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: William James Doyle <wjdoyle21@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:56 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Cables Opposition

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To the Editor:

SouthCoast Wind has applied to RI DEM to dredge and lay high-voltage electrical cables (345,000 volts) up the Sakonnet River, underground through Portsmouth, continuing through Mount Hope Bay to a grid connection at Brayton Point, MA. Green Oceans is urging readers to email DEM (Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov) by March 7th to oppose the permit.

When the pogies go up the river with the stripers following them along, recreational fishermen cast their lines along the Sakonnet River. The fluke lie at the bottom and go up the river to spawn. What impact will this dredging have on the recreational fisherfolk, plus the swimmers, boaters, kayakers, sailors, and all the people who have homes on both sides of the river or in the Portsmouth neighborhoods where the cable cuts underground to connect to Mount Hope Bay? And let's not forget the sea life!

We can only imagine what has been dumped into Narragansett Bay over the last 100 years by the jewelry, chemical, and textile industries and the Navy. Heavy metal poisons have sunk to the ocean floor and should remain there. With this dredging, high-pressure water plows will blast the sediment, spewing up pollutants toxic to aquatic life, damaging or destroying critical marine habitats, including our beloved shellfish beds.

Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) emanating from buried cables are known to impact sea life, disrupting migration patterns, feeding, and spawning behaviors. SouthCoast's own Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) states that EMFs will be detected if buried less than 10 feet deep. Yet they plan to bury the cables at depths ranging from 3.2 to 13 feet. In addition, cables heat up the seabed and surrounding water. Their DEIS says further studies need to be completed to accurately assess long-term impacts of the heat on surrounding ecosystems. Waves are powerful. Cables are going to rock and roll unless buried at 10 feet or more. What will the movement of the cables do to the seabed and to the marine life that make their homes nearby? So much uncertainty!

Cables require constant maintenance. Repairs will cause seabed disruption. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm but account for 75-80% of wind energy insurance claims. Cables contain Pipe-Type Cable Transmission Fluid (PTC) which wreaks havoc on the environment when leaked. There is no plan to contain or mitigate this hazard.

To learn more, check out our [Green Oceans \[green-oceans.org\]](https://green-oceans.org) website. We are a 501(c)(3) group of concerned RI-based volunteers with no connection to the fossil fuel industry. Info displayed on our website is based on peer-reviewed scientific studies and the Environmental Impact Statements of the projects themselves. We're doctors, lawyers, engineers, realtors, artists, businesspeople, teachers, pilots, fisherfolk, gardeners, surfers, and sailors who've banded together because our local elected officials, universities, and conservation groups, many of whom have received massive grants and political donations from wind energy players, have rubber-stamped these projects without asking intelligent questions about whether they will, in fact, halt climate change and whether they will destroy our way of RI way of life.

Yours sincerely,

James Doyle
Newport, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Lamar, Howard <HLamar@bassberry.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: eblamar@gmail.com
Subject: Sakonnet River Dredging and Cable deployment

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As a Home owner at Black Point, in Portsmouth RI and on the Sakonnet River, I am NOT IN FAVOR of the proposal to dredge and lay cable for the benefit of SouthCoast Wind. No information (to my knowledge) has been fully shared to the citizenry regarding the environmental implications and the deemed value to SouthCoast Wind or need to the broader community. Furthermore, I am concerned regarding the voltage and implications associated with the cable deployment. The State should mandate a full and balance discussion and disclosure before any approvals are provided.



Howard Lamar

Member

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800 • Nashville, TN 37201

(615)-742-6209 phone • (615)-742-2709 fax

HLamar@bassberry.com • www.bassberry.com [bassberry.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Dotsie Bohan <dotsiebohan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:44 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to South Coast Wind

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Dear Representative Gagnon,

I strongly oppose the dredging of the Sakonnet River by South Coast Wind. Actually, I oppose all of the windmill projects. The more I have read, the less "green" this energy is, and that doesn't include the damage to our ocean and sea life.

Please consider thoughtfully.

Sincerely,
Dotsie Bohan
137 Coggeshall Ave Newport

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Robert Bauer <robertwbauer11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:42 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

I have lived on Aquidneck Island my whole life and enjoy fishing and diving in the areas that the dredging will occur. As the environmental agency of the state how can you approve a project that will absolutely alter these environments for years to come. Letting big money from these wind companies sway your decision is a disgrace to the RIDEM and to all of the Rhode Island residents this will affect. I really hope you are listening to our voices. If you read this email please respond.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:
- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."

- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bauer
24 1/2 Keeher Ave, Newport, RI,
robertwbauer11@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Barbara Chapman <bchapman@raynthorpe.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast Wind Dredging Permit

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Dear Ron,

I am commenting in opposition to SouthCoast Wind's application for a permit to dredge and lay electrical cables in the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay. Their Environmental Impact Statement reveals too many unknowns and adverse impacts on our marine life. Also I object to the developer filing for this permit before they have received permission for the RI Public Utility Board. The developer and the politicians seem to be running the process. Thank you though for holding the public hearing and not hiding this application from the public.

Best,

Barbara Chapman,

205 Ocean Avenue , Newport, RI

bchapman@raynthorpe.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kathy Barek <kmbarek9@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:23 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast Wind

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I oppose the permit requested by South Coast Wind to put cables in the Sakonnet River in Portsmouth. This will cause too much damage. Portsmouth residents do not want or need this.
Kathleen Barek
Portsmouth, RI

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Clayton Dickison <claytonsd12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:11 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: OPPOSING SOUTHCOAST WIND

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Hi Ron,

From the bottom of my heart, please do not let these greedy and corrupt corporations pillage our land. This is our home, and I hope to raise generations of my family here as has been done in the past. I have been a Portsmouth resident for the majority of my life, and I can't imagine the extent of damage that the dredging would create. However, this is your job - please be mindful of the permanent destruction from these windmills.

I urge you to consider the recent bridge debacle in Providence - these contractors had an agreement to maintain the bridge as part of constructing it in the first place. Look who is responsible for the bill now! People make mistakes, but our community cannot handle anymore.

Best Regards,

Clayton Dickison
Newport, RI
(401) 473-9776



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Pam Aguiar <pamk007@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 7:42 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please do not pass dredging of the bay for wind farm cables

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Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Brooke Humm <hummpack7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 7:39 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging in the Sakonnet River

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat, fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable and the people creating the problem will be long gone and laying cable in some other part of the world.

We the voters and residents who will be impacted have clearly expressed strong opposition to this proposal. Yet each time the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully,

Brooke Humm

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Everett Mills <ebm8954@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 6:34 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

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Industrial waste from the Fall River 40s 50s in sediment though out Mt Hope Bay and Sakonnet River will be dug up and suspended in the water column and broadcast all over Narragansett Bay. I wont eat anything fishy from the Bay.

Everett Mills

Commercial Fishermen

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Andrea Culipher <aculipher@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 6:33 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Say no to SouthCoast Wind

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I am writing you this email with great concern for the wildlife in our river as well as the daily routines for the people . This project will destroy habitats as well as the ecosystem of our river. I've lived in Portsmouth over 50 years the rivers and bay were under attack by pollution before 70's. We have worked hard to make the water clean again!The water ways are cleaner and thriving. We are still seeing plants come back like sea heather and eel grass. I fear many fish and plant life will be destroyed if SouthCoast Wind project comes to fruition. Let's not forget the pollution on the bottom of the river. Not to mention all water hobbyists will greatly be impacted by the construction . SouthCoast's permit to me is an egregious oxymoron for our community and the environment. When one hand wants to do good for the community is actually creating a new problem.

Sincerely,
Andrea Culipher

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Copy of Nancy's <nomorton@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 6:23 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging the Sakonnet River

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Hello,

I just read a letter to the editor in Newport This Week regarding the dredging of the Sakonnet and am flabbergasted at the number of issues that seemingly have not been addressed before allowing this dredging to occur. I hope that DEM will take a step back and get some answers before approving the permit. This is too big and too important not to pump the brakes before it is too late.

Thanks for your consideration,

Nancy and Phil Morton, Newport, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: rosetenenbaum69@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Oppose permit for southcoast wind

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Hello

I wanted to express my opposition to the permit for southcoast wind to dredge and lay cables up the sakonnet river for all the common sense reasons not to

Thank you

Rosemarie Silva Tenenbaum

Homeowner

20 Crestview Drive

Portsmouth RI 02871

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: scardone@cox.net
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:10 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River dredging application

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Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to strongly urge DEM to approve SouthCoast Wind's dredging application for the Sakonnet River.

As we fight the devastating effects of climate change, the benefits of sustainable energy projects like this one easily outweigh any potential drawbacks. There is no perfect solution to the challenges we face, but I believe this project is an important step in the right direction and we must act now.

As a retired public relations professional, I know first-hand that when billion-dollar oil, gas and coal corporations see a technology, like wind power, that will disrupt their profit stream, they will spend millions of dollars to fight it. This includes creating and financially supporting sham "activist groups" that spread lies and misinformation. I urge DEM, a group founded on science, to ignore their baseless arguments, and those from members of the public who swallow these false claims. Please follow the facts and the science and approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Steve Cardone
37 Dove Street
Portsmouth RI 02871
401-864-1714

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Christine Cavanaugh <christinebounds@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 6:35 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Against Sakonnet River Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat, fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable and the people creating the problem will be long gone and laying cable in some other part of the world.

The voters and residents who will be impacted have clearly expressed strong opposition to this proposal. Yet each time voters voice their concern at meetings the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Thank you for your consideration to the many residents who oppose this project.
Christine Cavanaugh
39 Bayside Ave
Portsmouth, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Dean Sinclair <deansinclair2681@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 2:41 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

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I oppose the dredging and laying of transmission lines in the sakonnet river.i have lived on the water in Portsmouth my entire life,mainly in island Park,and love my river.allowing this endeavour to take place will be detrimental to our pristine river please consider the consequences and negative effects from this.the residents of portsmouth need our beloved sakonnet river to stay the way it is.we don't need the 22 million dollar payoff money over the next 20-30 years!!

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Shannon Korzeniowski <skorzcen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:37 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of South Coast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There **is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place**. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment**. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life**. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields.
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition**. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even **a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs** and lost power generation.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible

for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.** This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Korzeniowski
42 Rim Rock Court
Tiverton, RI 02878
skorzcen@yahoo.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Stephen Jeanne Grimes <sngvin@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:15 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: From Portsmouth resident

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat, fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable and the people creating the problem will be long gone and laying cable in some other part of the world.

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1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields.

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for

75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

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2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully,
Jeanne Grimes
41 Lambie Circle
Portsmouth, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Rich Legan <rlegan23@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:27 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River Cable

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Mr. Ron Gagnon,

My name is Richard Legan and I am a Portsmouth resident. I am a supporter of green and renewable energy development and I work for a local solar company.

I am writing to voice my opposition and concerns over the purposed plans by Southcoast Wind to run their cables through the Sakonnet River. I am extremely worried of the immediate and long term consequences that will befall the marine life and the health of those who swim, fish and play in this local river. Especially since there has been strong evidence brought forward supporting these consequences.

I have a four year old son and a ten month old daughter. Sandy Point, Third Beach and Second Beach is where my son learned to swim, fish and respect and love the ocean. It is where my daughter will do the same. There are other alternatives that allow Southcoast Wind to build their wind farm without sacrificing our local rivers and oceans. You have the authority and power to help bring us into a cleaner future.

Thank you,
Richard Legan

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Matthew Huff <matthewhuff@kw.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:15 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Save Sakonnet

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I spear fish and kayak in those waters frequently and I own property nearby and would appreciate it if you would oppose their permit.

Respectfully,

Matthew Huff
Keller Williams Realty
401-527-0667
Realtor®



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Christina Legan <surforevercj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:09 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River cable

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Greetings,

My name is Christina Legan and I am a resident of Portsmouth on beautiful Aquidneck Island. I am writing to you to voice my concern regarding the proposed SouthCoast Wind cable to run through the Sakonnet River. There is strong evidence that the negative impacts of such a project are severe and irreversible. I fear for both the marine life and human life that will be affected. I grew up swimming at 2nd and 3rd beach and I now take my two young children to swim there also. If this cable project goes through, I will no longer be able to safely share those special places with my children and their children. Not to mention the aquatic life that will be devastated. As a lover of the ocean and the earth I understand the need for more sustainable energy. However, we must pursue this in a responsible way, and be mindful to not cause more damage in our haste. You are in a position of authority and I appeal to you to make a decision that upholds the value of all life. Please, reject the application to dredge the Sakonnet River, there are other options.

Thank you

Christina Legan

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Albert Fanning <fanman5050@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:02 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River Dredging

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As lifetime residents of the island we are strongly opposed to the dredging and installation of power cables in our beautiful waters. The residents of Portsmouth are the people that cherish and love our environment. Please don't ruin our quality of life and tarnish our beautiful environment. The people/entities that want this are only doing it in the name of greed with no consideration for the people that truly care about our oceans.

Thank-you,
Albert Fanning
401-480-8344

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[mail.onelink.me\]](#)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: david gray <dgrayflh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 8:00 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SouthCoast dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat, fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable and the people creating the problem will be long gone and laying cable in some other part of the world.

We the voters and residents who will be impacted have clearly expressed strong opposition to this proposal. Yet each time the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully,

Sent from my iPhone [Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[mail.onelink.me\]](#)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Thea Credle <thea.credle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 8:38 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposing the dredging of the Sakonnet River

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To whom it may concern,
I am deeply concerned and writing to oppose the dredging of the River and the installation of sea cables. Please hear our voices and concerns

Sincerely, Thea Credle
459 Wapping Rd
Portsmouth RI.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Shea, John E <john.shea@nemoves.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 3:41 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging Sakonnet

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This dredging project will destroyed the environment and fishers in the surrounding area and will have a devastating impact on the next generation ! Please stop this Madness !
John Shea
Wire Fraud is Real. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions. Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Eileen Melley <eileen.melley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 2:41 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Oppose Permit to install electrical cables along Sakonnet River

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Please be advised that I adamantly oppose the installation of high voltage cables along Sakonnet River. This will negatively impact our beautiful state. Please let me know if you need additional information from me.

Best regards,
Eileen Melley
Wakefield RI
Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Addison Caproni <addison.caproni@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 2:38 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Veto the Permit

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Good day,

I am writing to you as a Portsmouth resident strongly opposing the dredging and installation of high-voltage electrical cables through our waters and our land. Thank you for your time.

--

CaproniCoaching

Addison Caproni | Founder

(401)-239-6409

www.capronicoaching.com [capronicoaching.com]

As a partner battling postpartum depression, overwhelming emotions inhibit you from being there for your family. This is not your life, and I am here to navigate you with personalized coaching on a journey to a compelling future filled with love, confidence, and gratitude for your family.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: JAMES BALDWIN <jjjbaldwin@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 2:29 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Re: Wind Farm in RI

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> On Mar 1, 2024, at 9:46 AM, JAMES BALDWIN <jjjbaldwin@aol.com> wrote:

>

> Ron,

> Need to reject this application.

> Dead whale in Pt Judith Pond !

> When is enough, enough?

> James

>

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/656739e403b0d903ed9eefa7/t/65d73d3b259fe052fac9824c/1708604732879/Flyer*for*DEM*SouthCoast*Cabling*Hearing*2.22.24.pdf ;KysrKysr!!KKphUJtCzQ!OoEGG2G4yUqHmOs2fQmU2VPbBI-](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://static1.squarespace.com/static/656739e403b0d903ed9eefa7/t/65d73d3b259fe052fac9824c/1708604732879/Flyer*for*DEM*SouthCoast*Cabling*Hearing*2.22.24.pdf;KysrKysr!!KKphUJtCzQ!OoEGG2G4yUqHmOs2fQmU2VPbBI-RgWGGvInTy0mmKMID5XIWebpbeaqij4HJtanZ5x7BFJxG5n8quFpYFuHQzQ$[static1[.]squarespace[.]com])

[RgWGGvInTy0mmKMID5XIWebpbeaqij4HJtanZ5x7BFJxG5n8quFpYFuHQzQ\\$\[static1\[.\]squarespace\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://static1.squarespace.com/static/656739e403b0d903ed9eefa7/t/65d73d3b259fe052fac9824c/1708604732879/Flyer*for*DEM*SouthCoast*Cabling*Hearing*2.22.24.pdf;KysrKysr!!KKphUJtCzQ!OoEGG2G4yUqHmOs2fQmU2VPbBI-RgWGGvInTy0mmKMID5XIWebpbeaqij4HJtanZ5x7BFJxG5n8quFpYFuHQzQ$[static1[.]squarespace[.]com])

>

>

> <Flyer+for+DEM+SouthCoast+Cabling+Hearing+2.22.24.pdf>

>

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Victoria Vermette <victoriacabral1968@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 2:18 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: No cables in the Sakonnet!

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Hi Ron

How are you? Cables in the Sakonnet?? No, no, no! How could this possibly be a good, healthy, safe thing to do? Please keep these waters clean and cable-free. High voltage + water = trouble.

Thank you,
Victoria Cabral

Victoria Vermette (Cabral)
President, Vermette Recruiting, Inc.
Specializing in accounting, finance & analytics recruiting
617-549-0917

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Leeza Amarant <Leeza@theseabreezeinn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I strongly oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

The voters and residents who will be impacted clearly have expressed strong opposition to this proposal time and time again and yet the proposal continues to move forward. This is an abdication of elected officials' duty to represent the voters and the best interests of our seaside community.

1. There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
2. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause re-suspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
3. Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
4. Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

1. RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
2. Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
3. Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

--

Warm Regards,

Leeza Amarant

Sea Breeze Inn
147 Aquidneck Ave
Middletown, RI 02842
Phone: (401)849-1211
Fax: (401)846-8335
www.theseabreezeinn.com [theseabreezeinn.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jack Condon <jackbcondon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:27 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Oppose the Sakonnet River Permit

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Hi Ron,

I oppose the permit for SouthCoast Wind to dredge the Sakonnet River. I hope you do too.

Jack Condon

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kristen Vetterl <kvetterl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:21 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Opposition to Permit for SouthCoast Wind in Sakonnet River

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Mr. Gagnon,

I am a resident of Portsmouth whose children regularly swim in the Sakonnet River and I am asking that you DENY SouthCoast Wind's application to dredge and lay high-voltage electrical cables through the river bed due to the known and unknown risks to the health of our ecosystem and families.

Thank you,
Kristen Martin
58 Potomac Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Marc A. Lewinstein <marc.lewinstein@alum.dartmouth.org>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 1:44 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Diana Lewinstein
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4-miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently no power purchase agreement in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
 - Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders and spawning fish, as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted— from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
 - Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high-voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
 - Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is not a one-and-done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: Repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]
- RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:
- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."
 - Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and UMASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species

of sea life in the Sakonnet. See [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share link \[drive.google.com\]](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link)

- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible, for any negative effects on existing populations to be undone. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 of the Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Marc Lewinstein
61 Ledge Road
Newport, RI 02840

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Mark Lacz <mark.lacz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 1:26 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: dont do it!

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SUBJECT LINE: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging Ronald Gagnon, P.E. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov Tel: 401-537-4013 Dear Mr. Gagnon, I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable. • There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone. • Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans. • Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com] • Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols: • RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family. • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*. • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Lacz

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Carol Anderheggen <carolmaeray@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 1:07 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

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The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Anderheggen
793 Bristol Ferry Rd
PortsmouthRI 02871
Carolmaeray@cox.net

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Alexandra Lepore <alepore1971@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Comments on your hearing 02/22/24

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Dear Mr. Gagnon:

As I understand it, on 2/22/2024 the offshore wind developer, South Coast Wind and your office, DEM held a hearing, in Portsmouth, for comments on a permit to DREDGE Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay.

This, to install, maintain, operate 2 underwater 345,000 high voltage power export cables, 20.4 miles long each.

Industrialization will potentially devastate coastal waters, beaches, shoreline, all who enjoy them.

And could, very well, KILL marine animals and beach whales!!!

WE the people to NOT approve of this, move. DEM's on mission statement says:

"Our mission put simply is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."

This move, to install these high voltage cables, does nothing to protect or promote our environment and will, sadly, have devastating effects on our marine wildlife.

Please STOP this nonsense!!!

Kind Regards,

Alexandra Lepore
Richmond, RI

(401) 318-3226

"Patience IS a stepping stone to Wisdom. -- Joanne Sacred Scribe

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Brook Hawkins <brook.hawkins19929@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:52 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.

Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.

Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Brook Hawkins
86 Indian Point Rd
Tiverton, Rhode Island
brook.hawkins19929@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Liz Tardif <ltardif502@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:37 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet dredging

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Dear Ron,

Please consider alternative solutions to installing the underwater 345,000 high-voltage power export cables - to minimize the ecological impact on the Sakonnet and its surrounding environment.

Dredging can have significant adverse effects on river ecosystems. It disrupts natural sediment patterns, alters water flow dynamics, and disturbs habitats for various aquatic species. The dredged material disposal can introduce pollutants into the environment and pose further risks to wildlife and water quality.

In addition to dredging concerns, installing high-voltage power export cables threatens marine life. These cables can disrupt migratory patterns, interfere with navigation, and introduce electromagnetic fields into the water, adversely affecting fish, marine mammals, and invertebrates.

Might there be more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives that will ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the Sakonnet for current and future generations?

Thank you for your consideration.

Liz Tardif
502 Black Point Lane
Portsmouth RI 02871

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Pandy McDonough <pandy.mcdonough@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:08 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject South Coast Energy
Attachments: RIDEM-Sample-Email.pdf

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[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/656739e403b0d903ed9eefa7/t/65e1dd8714ba9f57f3c1c5c2/1709301130737/RIDEM-Sample-Email.pdf ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!KTca1wUJaWIJaDN1dSRPv3jiBXz_L9a4qIVBB2FVtISQsWdfS6AJCFkcjmgAgcf_wnNUHIFBJp3xZWdF1aAljxryYXE8A\\$\[static1\[.\]squarespace\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://static1.squarespace.com/static/656739e403b0d903ed9eefa7/t/65e1dd8714ba9f57f3c1c5c2/1709301130737/RIDEM-Sample-Email.pdf;!!KKphUJtCzQ!KTca1wUJaWIJaDN1dSRPv3jiBXz_L9a4qIVBB2FVtISQsWdfS6AJCFkcjmgAgcf_wnNUHIFBJp3xZWdF1aAljxryYXE8A$[static1[.]squarespace[.]com])

Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Lynne White <lfw@cmhllc.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:13 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging
Attachments: ri letter.pages

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SUBJECT LINE:

Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Office of Customer & Technical Assistance

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

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- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.** This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS
YOUR EMAIL

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Douglas C. Curtis, Jr. <dccurtisjr@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:11 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject the Underwater Cable Dredging

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Your have the facts.

Thank You!

D.C. Curtis, Jr.

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Chris Carceller <ccarceller@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:01 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
Subject: Re: DP-23-198 WQC23-044
Attachments: Federal takes.jpg

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Mr Gagnon / DEM,

Another comment after seeing TWO whales beach themselves on the Rhode Island coast yesterday and today.

If DEM doesn't think that these mammals showing up on our coasts are not somehow related to offshore wind, then why would our federal government allow "incidental takes" within all their leases they have with the offshore wind companies. Attached is a combined "take" list of offshore wind companies and how many combined "takes" they are allowed since 2016. How is this even legal since there are endangered species on this list? And I would hope our DEM won't consider "adding to this list" by allowing dredging and cables to come up our Sakonnet River where there are other animals, fish, living creatures that will not make it if we allow them to dredge up their environment.

Please tell Southcoast NO! This is about money and nothing else.

DEM's mission: Our mission is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

If this is DEM's mission, then you have to say no to Southcoast dredging and laying cables in the Sakonnet.....you need to PROTECT our environment.

Quick note: Things that make you go hmmm.....my husband's cousin works for the company that ran the lines for the Block Island project. He lives in NJ and is currently fighting the proposed project that will be pulling the lines under his town for offshore wind electricity. We asked him why he would fight something that he does for a living.....he said there is no way he'd want to have those lines under his town due to the dangers they can cause. Hmmm. I guess the "Not in my backyard" pertains to even those who make a living off this.

We need to wake up!!!! This is not for the betterment of our state, our people or our animals.

Thanks AGAIN for listening,
Christine Carceller
63 Lepes Rd
Portsmouth RI 02871

On 2/28/2024 4:06 PM, Gagnon, Ron (DEM) wrote:

Hello Christine,

Comments received. Thanks for submitting.

Ron Gagnon

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Ron Gagnon, P.E.
Administrator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Tel: (401) 537-4013

Email: Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

From: Chris Carceller <ccarceller@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM) <Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov>
Cc: Audette, Kimberly (DEM) <Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov>; chris Carceller <ccarceller@cox.net>
Subject: DP-23-198 WQC23-044

Mr. Gagnon / DEM,

I would like to address my concerns with the proposed dredging/cable laying by Southcoast Wind up the Sakonnet River. I was in attendance at last week's meeting at the Portsmouth High School and know many residents made similar verbal concerns.

My family is deeply concerned with the dredging due to the fact that unknown chemicals will be unearthed and "thrown" back into the clean waters of the Sakonnet River. I was told after the meeting that the DEM has still not received the core sample results of the chemicals from Southcoast. Why would you if they don't HAVE to give you the results before the DEM has to give their answer. This should be MANDATORY before DEM makes a decision. How can you or anyone else from the DEM make an educated decision if all information is not given to you, or given to you with enough time to read everything (this is ASSUMING Southcoast give you the results in the next few days)?

We use the Sakonnet River for many different water activities and are deeply concerned that the dredged chemicals under the river will affect us, our residents and the sea life that is in the Sakonnet River and beyond. Some of our beaches close down for days due to rain run off, how long will they be closed when we dredge up materials that have been lying still for decades? And how many animals/fish/people will be affected by this?

Our other concern is the EMF and electrical current that will have an effect on the sea life and our residents going up the Sakonnet River and under our town of Portsmouth. There are no long term studies as to what this can do to our sea life or residents. Do we just want to guess what can happen over time and hope for the best? NO!!! Our river has never had electrical current at this astronomical amount, so nobody has any idea what it will really do to the environment. And once one line goes in, how will you say no to future companies that want to do the same if you say yes to this company?

If you and DEM approve Southcoast to move forward with the dredging and cable laying along the Sakonnet River, I hope you will be able to live with yourself when you find out it is closing down beaches, killing sea life, causing people harm, or God forbid there is a breach in the cable over the years and causes enormous issues. I know our federal government is allowing thousands and thousands of incidental "takes" of our ocean mammals with all the ocean wind "farms", but please don't allow Southcoast to additionally harm our Sakonnet River! (I don't consider the wind factories out there farms, since the definition of a farm is "An area of water devoted to the raising, breeding, or production of a specific aquatic animal" when Southcoast and other companies are actually killing aquatic animals.)

I am not trying to be dramatic.....I honestly worry about our Sakonnet River with this proposed dredging/cable laying. As a boy scout parent, kayaker, swimmer, surfer-Mom, I am on our local waters very often. The Sakonnet River is pristine and loved by many of us. I've spent many hours cleaning up the coastline here in Middletown & Portsmouth, and love everything about our OCEAN state. Don't allow a company in it for profit allow you to make a decision that will negatively affect us or our waters.

I hope DEM makes the best decision for our waters and our residents, not for political reasons! And I surely hope your department doesn't feel forced to make this decision by any of these politicians. They'll move on within a couple of years, and you'll be left with your decision long after they're gone.

Thanks for listening and I hope public comment is honestly taken into account. If you are able to confirm that you received this email, I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Christine Carceller
63 Lepes Rd
Portsmouth RI 02871
401-683-4705

cc: Kimberly Audette

Energy Activities

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-other-energy-activities-renewable>

MARINE MAMMAL SPECIES All Marine Mammals Are PROTECTED under the Marine Mammal Protection Act	TOTAL STOCK SIZE OF MAMMAL SPECIES	TOTAL OF ALL INCIDENTAL HARASSMENT TAKES (IHA)	TOTAL % OF STOCK SIZE
TOTAL COUNT OF ALL SPECIES	1,954,725	577,874	30%
TOTAL ENDANGERED SPECIES	18,193	5,021	28%
WHALES - Mysticetes (Baleen)			
Fin Whale, Endangered	6,802	3,066	45%
North Atlantic Right Whale, Endangered	338	1,013	300%
Sei Whale, Endangered	6,292	393	6%
Blue Whale, Endangered	412	22	5%
Sperm Whale, Endangered	4,349	527	12%
TOTAL Endangered Whales	18,193	5,021	28%
OTHER WHALES - Protected			
Humpback Whale	1,396	2,305	165%
Minke Whale	21,968	5,069	23%
Dwarf Sperm Whale	4,548	8	0.2%
Pygmy Sperm Whale	7,750	10	0.1%
Cuvier's Beaked Whale	Unknown	75	n/a
Bainville's Beaked Whale	5,500	8	0.1%
Gervais' Beaked Whale	Unknown	8	n/a
Sowerby's Beaked Whale	Unknown	8	n/a
True's Beaked Whale	Unknown	6	n/a
Northern Bottlenose Whale	Unknown	12	n/a
Mesoplodont Whale	Unknown	29	n/a
TOTAL WHALES	77,548	12,559	16%

DOLPHINS - Odontocetes, Protected			
Atlantic Spotted Dolphin	39,921	33,757	85%
Atlantic White-Sided Dolphin	93,233	22,233	24%
Bottlenose, Offshore Dolphin	62,851	64,900	103%
Bottlenose, Coastal Dolphin	6,639	14,166	213%
Clymene Dolphin	4,237	344	8%
Common Dolphin, Short-Beaked	172,974	247,278	143%
Pygmy Killer Whale	Unknown	10	n/a
Killer Whale	Unknown	10	n/a
False Killer Whale	1,791	36	2%
Fraser's Dolphin	Unknown	384	n/a
Melon-Headed or Little Killer Whale	Unknown	228	n/a
Pantropical Spotted Dolphin	6,593	275	4%
Long-finned Pilot Whales	39,215	4,387	11%
Short-finned Pilot Whales	28,924	2,369	8%
Risso's Dolphin	35,215	2,615	7%
Rough-Toothed Dolphin	4,853	258	5%
Striped Dolphin	67,036	149	0%

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Duncan K Law Jr <dklawjr2@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

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Respectfully submitted,

Duncan K Law Jr
dklawjr2@verizon.net

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: LisaMarie Leavitt <lisamarie@creativeambianceevents.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 1:55 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Save the bay!

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

From all that we know about these failed wind projects, why do we continue to keep pushing them, never mind funding them? Haven't we learned from the Block Island debacle?

Haven't you heard?: Numerous studies reveal...(not in order of urgency or importance). In plain speak...

- ~Interference in US defense acknowledged by the Pentagon & locator radar for boat passenger safety/search & rescue.
- ~Gallons of diesel leaking, effecting ocean life/water quality dangers.
- ~Death of plankton, and sustainable foodstuff for ocean life, whale survival.
- ~Dangers of cables to fishermen/possibility of electrocution.
- ~Maintenance & repair is extremely costly to the taxpayer.
- ~Scrambles whale, shark, seal, etc. sonar and is causing untold numbers of beaching.
- ~the complete destruction of our fishing industry in RI, which sustains many families, not just corporations. And our economy.
- ~Our scenic coastline, an industrial blight and likewise will effect tourism and taxpayer coastline views in unmeasured ways. A concern of brides booking here, planning for her future wedding. It's honestly the talk around town.
- ~So far cost analysis has shown overall return on investment/years of effective measure yields more expenses/cost to repair, maintain & replace more costs than benefits.

Thank you for listening!

Warm Regards,
LisaMarie Leavitt, Candidate State Representative, District 31,
401-413-4042

[SCHEDULE A CALL WITH A DESIGNER \[app.acuityscheduling.com\]](https://app.acuityscheduling.com)



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Hillary Davidson <hg davidson401@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 4:23 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: opposed to the dredging in the Sakonnet River

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I find it disturbing that we even need to write this letter of opposition as it never should have gotten to this point in the first place. I am a long-time (30 + years) resident of Newport and as a child lived on Block Island. Throughout my many years in RI, I have followed, and or been involved in many different applications to the DEM for various projects from private home dock extensions, to yacht club deck expansions to a private residence looking to encroach into wetlands. All applications were rejected as they posed a potential "risk" for various reasons.

Looking back these application's risk factors were ridiculously minor in comparison to what is being proposed in the Sakonnet River. DEM is an absolute joke if this project is approved.

Regards,

Hillary Davidson
10 Cowsill Ln
Newport, RI
401.258.5954

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Thomas Grieb <tom.grieb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 11:57 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging Sakonnet River File# DP-23-198; WQC 23-044

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Mr. Gagnon-

Like many Portsmouth residents, I was away when DEM held their February 22 local public hearing on the Southcoast dredging permit. I would like to provide the following remarks for the record:

I am not against wind power but I am asking DEM not to grant Southcoast a permit to lay cable in the Sakonnet River. I ask DEM to request Southcoast to, instead, use the delivery alternative explained below which I have not seen suggested or reviewed anywhere else.

The EFSB put a hold on Southcoast's cable siting activity in RI because Southcoast broke their Power Purchase Agreement with MA and does not yet have another agreement. After having their contract broken, MA joined with CT and RI to begin to renegotiate stronger JOINT contracts with the Offshore Wind Companies - including Southcoast. Read the following press release with a quote by RI Governor McKee:

<https://www.mass.gov/news/massachusetts-rhode-island-and-connecticut-sign-first-time-agreement-for-multi-state-offshore-wind-procurement> [mass.gov]

Because of this initiative, Southcoast will not need to deliver their electricity exclusively to MA as is assumed by their present dredging application which is reflective of their previous contract. A new JOINT contract would allow Southcoast to deliver electricity to the joint MA, CT and RI grid, through RI if that was more efficient.

Under that joint agreement, it will make more sense for Southcoast to deliver their electricity to the Quonset, RI area, just as Revolution wind is doing. The advantages are enumerated below:

- 1) The route would be cheaper for Southcoast because it is approximately the same distance but eliminates the elaborate (and potentially environmentally damaging) dredging up the Sakonnet and crossing Portsmouth before going back out into RI waters to further dredge - that is a win for Southcoast.
- 2) This alternative will provide to RI (rather than to MA) the electricity transmitted through the cables being placed within RI waters and RI will receive the tax revenue from the Quonset termination and transmission station - this is a win for RI.
- 3) The cables would be in the same area as the already permitted Revolution Wind cables, greatly reducing the risk of spreading any potential environmental damage in RI waters - this is a win for DEM and the environment.
- 4) At Quonset, the disturbed area will be in type 6, (industrial waters), instead of the more ecologically sensitive type 1 and 2, (conservation and light use waters) of the Sakonnet at Portsmouth - a win for Portsmouth, DEM and the

environment.

5) Other than some re-planning by Southcoast, there is absolutely no downside to this alternative plan!

Therefore, I ask DEM to not grant the requested dredging permit to Southcoast for laying cables in the Sakonnet River. Instead, if Southcoast wishes to use RI waters to deliver their electricity, DEM should request Southcoast to direct their cables to the Quonset, RI area for delivery under the re-negotiated joint contract.

Tom Grieb
110 Thayer Dr.
Portsmouth, RI
(203) 247-3478

Environmental Management

FEB 29 2024

Permit Application Center

80 Adams Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871

2/26/24

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

On Thursday, February 22nd I attended the meeting in Portsmouth where I reside. My family and I object to the power cables going up the Sakonnet River. Disturbing the legacy sediment to install power cables poses grave environmental risks that threaten the natural habitat of many species and could erode the natural beauty of this place.

Thank you for organizing the meeting; it was very informative.

Sincerely,

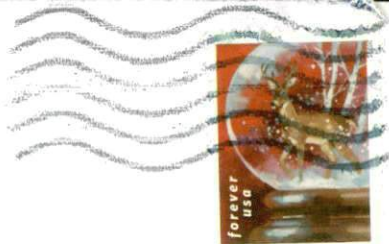
Daniel Waubung



Daniel Warburg
80 Adams Dr
Portsmouth, RI 02871-5402

PROVIDENCE RI 028

26 FEB 2024 PM 3



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon, PE
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

0290835734 0006



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Environmental Management

FEB 29 2024

Permit Application Center

February 25, 2024

Re: Dredge Permit Application for Offshore Wind Project in Portsmouth

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for holding the February 22 public comment hearing in Portsmouth. I appreciated the opportunity to share my views on the permit application, and wanted to supplement those comments.

Allow me to reiterate that I live on the Sakonnet River and swim, clam, fish and sail in these waters. I am also a member at Montaup, where I am on the course about 100 days a year. The proposed project will no doubt have impact and inconvenience on me and my family. Nevertheless, I believe projects like these are necessary to counter global warming, which I feel has potential adverse impacts that are many magnitudes greater the proposed dredging project.

The suggestion I wish to add to my previous comments relates to the timing of the dredging in the Sakonnet. I have not seen any information regarding such timing. However, I would prefer to see the dredging occur in the Fall timeframe so that disturbed sediment has several months to settle before the recreational water activities (swimming, etc.) begin in earnest (in the May/June timeframe).

I appreciate your consideration of this suggestion and commend you on the professionalism exhibited in conducting the Feb 22 hearing.

Sincerely,



Rich Tully
123 Power St., Portsmouth, RI



Ms. Karen Tully
123 Power St
Portsmouth, RI 02871-4118

PROVIDENCE RI 028
26 FEB 2024 PM 4 L



RI DEM
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attn: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
235 Promenade St.
Providence, RI 02908

02908-573499



RIDEM Public Comment on SouthCoast Wind Transmission Cables

February 26, 2024

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Environmental Management

FEB 29 2024

Permit Application Center

Dear Mr. Gagnon:

I'm writing in support of the proposed SouthCoast Wind transmission cabling via the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay to connect the offshore wind facility to the power grid. There is an urgent need to switch our current reliance on fossil fuels to proven clean renewable power sources such as wind, solar, and hydro power to meet our energy needs, while our planet is heating.

It is incomprehensible to me that there are those who are actively undermining these transition efforts at this time of climate change crisis. The critique offered by opposing groups seems to go against expert scientific findings, or is without context to the degree of impact relative to ongoing practices. Claims are made that offshore wind installations may kill whales, even though there is no evidence to support this according to marine mammal expert Dr. Michael J Moore from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. [What we know — and don't know — about offshore wind and whale deaths - The Boston Globe](#). In addition, GreenPeace is probably the organization with the longest track record of protecting whales, and who is squarely behind offshore wind energy. They blast the misinformation campaigns obstructing efforts to incorporate wind energy as a way to battle climate change and wean ourselves off fossil fuels. [How to Stop Whale Deaths from Real Threats, Not Lies About Wind Energy - Greenpeace USA](#)

Submarine electric cable technology is hardly a new experimental concept, as there is more than 200 years of experience! [Submarine Power Cables \(escaeu.org\)](#) Furthermore, the impact of disturbing bottom sediment during the cable burying process needs to be in the context of our current ongoing sea-bottom disruption during fishing trawler and scallop dragger activity, in which large swaths of sea bottom are disrupted on a daily basis, compared to the onetime narrow channel perturbation of burying cable. [Bottom trawlers: Engines of marine destruction - Down to Earth \(france24.com\)](#), and [To Manage Global Trawling Impact, Think Local | NOAA Fisheries](#).

I urge the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to focus on science rather than on loud misinformation campaigns and local citizens swayed by provocative and misleading headlines in local papers opinion sections.

Sincerely,


Marco P Dirks

Tiverton, Rhode Island February 26, 2024

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Chris Carceller <ccarceller@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Audette, Kimberly (DEM); chris Carceller
Subject: DP-23-198 WQC23-044

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Mr. Gagnon / DEM,

I would like to address my concerns with the proposed dredging/cable laying by Southcoast Wind up the Sakonnet River. I was in attendance at last week's meeting at the Portsmouth High School and know many residents made similar verbal concerns.

My family is deeply concerned with the dredging due to the fact that unknown chemicals will be unearthed and "thrown" back into the clean waters of the Sakonnet River. I was told after the meeting that the DEM has still not received the core sample results of the chemicals from Southcoast. Why would you if they don't HAVE to give you the results before the DEM has to give their answer. This should be MANDATORY before DEM makes a decision. How can you or anyone else from the DEM make an educated decision if all information is not given to you, or given to you with enough time to read everything (this is ASSUMING Southcoast give you the results in the next few days)?

We use the Sakonnet River for many different water activities and are deeply concerned that the dredged chemicals under the river will affect us, our residents and the sea life that is in the Sakonnet River and beyond. Some of our beaches close down for days due to rain run off, how long will they be closed when we dredge up materials that have been lying still for decades? And how many animals/fish/people will be affected by this?

Our other concern is the EMF and electrical current that will have an effect on the sea life and our residents going up the Sakonnet River and under our town of Portsmouth. There are no long term studies as to what this can do to our sea life or residents. Do we just want to guess what can happen over time and hope for the best? NO!!! Our river has never had electrical current at this astronomical amount, so nobody has any idea what it will really do to the environment. And once one line goes in, how will you say no to future companies that want to do the same if you say yes to this company?

If you and DEM approve Southcoast to move forward with the dredging and cable laying along the Sakonnet River, I hope you will be able to live with yourself when you find out it is closing down beaches, killing sea life, causing people harm, or God forbid there is a breach in the cable over the years and causes enormous issues. I know our federal government is allowing thousands and thousands of incidental "takes" of our ocean mammals with all the ocean wind "farms", but please don't allow Southcoast to additionally harm our Sakonnet River! (I don't consider the wind factories out there farms, since the definition of a farm is "An area of water devoted to the raising, breeding, or production of a specific aquatic animal" when Southcoast and other companies are actually killing

aquatic animals.)

I am not trying to be dramatic.....I honestly worry about our Sakonnet River with this proposed dredging/cable laying. As a boy scout parent, kayaker, swimmer, surfer-Mom, I am on our local waters very often. The Sakonnet River is pristine and loved by many of us. I've spent many hours cleaning up the coastline here in Middletown & Portsmouth, and love everything about our OCEAN state. Don't allow a company in it for profit allow you to make a decision that will negatively affect us or our waters.

I hope DEM makes the best decision for our waters and our residents, not for political reasons! And I surely hope your department doesn't feel forced to make this decision by any of these politicians. They'll move on within a couple of years, and you'll be left with your decision long after they're gone.

Thanks for listening and I hope public comment is honestly taken into account. If you are able to confirm that you received this email, I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Christine Carceller
63 Lepes Rd
Portsmouth RI 02871
401-683-4705

cc: Kimberly Audette

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Barbara Ghazarian <bghazarian@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:33 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: REJECT the Dredge Application request of SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC to dredge the Sakonnet River

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

After attending the public hearing on SouthCoast's application to dredge a cable line up the middle of the Sakonnet River last Thursday, Feb. 22 at Portsmouth High School and in addition to doing research on my own, I'd like to go on record as a Portsmouth resident AGAINST approval of SouthCoast's application.

I am a amateur quahog clammer who regularly clams off the shore of the Gulf Cove Fishing Area in Portsmouth from late spring thru early fall. Not only are the cherrystones in the Cove plentiful and delicious but I sincerely enjoy clamming as osprey dive for fish in the same water only 30 feet away. While I am not sure of how many of my fellow clammers will write to you, I am sure that the vast majority of us are very concerned over how dredging the Sakonnet River will affect the quahog population in the Cove and elsewhere on the river.

I implore the RI DEM to reject this application. There are other routes SouthCoast's cable can take that will not disturb the Sakonnet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Ghazarian
239 Rolling Hill Rd.
Portsmouth, RI 02871
401-222-9383

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: j briand67@aol.com
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:03 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy
Attachments: form.pdf

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SUBJECT LINE:

Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Office of Customer & Technical Assistance

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj>
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a **single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs** and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924>

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution.** This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

JODI BRIAND

37 HOLLAND ST NEWPORT RI.

Jbriand67@aol.com

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Doug Marzonie <dmarz60@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:32 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life

are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]

● Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

● RI DEM has explicitly stated, “Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.

● Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.

● Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. **The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).**

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas M. Marzonie
27 Atlantic Drive
Little Compton, RI 02837
dmarz60@icloud.com

*Presentation link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share> link [drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Dick Bordeau <rwbordeau@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:21 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast Wind

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To Ron Gagnon,

My wife Jean and I as 40 year summer residents of Little Compton, R.I. are ADAMANTLY OPPOSED to the proposed SouthCoast Wind Energy Permit Application. As enumerated by many others in the area we do not believe that anywhere nearly enough testing has been done on the potential collateral damage of such a project. We also believe that this proposed project is in clear violation of the Public Trust Doctrine in the Rhode Island Constitution.

Sincerely, Dick and Jean Bordeau

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: JAMES BALDWIN <jjjbaldwin@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Twofer yesterday

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TWO RI WHALES YESTERDAY!!



Meghan Lapp

Not just one whale but two whales yesterday in Rhode Island. The juvenile fin whale in Potters Pond that the stranding team euthanized last night after it was thrashing around trying to move, and this pilot whale that washed up dead on Moonstone Beach down the road.

Two in one day

SPEAK UP!

MAKE IT STOP

[@noaa](#) [@ack.4whales](#) [@greenoceansri](#)

[@savetheoceanfrombigwind](#) [@nantucketcurrent](#)

[@_ncfsa_](#)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: mspinelli5@aol.com
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind Turbines

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Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine and human life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors, and there could potentially be a major impact on humans in the surrounding areas. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields.
Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the

offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a **single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs** and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- ● RI DEM has explicitly stated, “Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- ● Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- ● Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed**.

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.**

This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Maria J. Spinelli

mspinelli5@aol.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Gianna Sgroi - E3 <gianna@e3peo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:06 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of South Coast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two under water power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
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I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.** This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Islands waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
 Gianna Sgroi
gianna@e3peo.com

*Presentationlink: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link
[\[drive.google.com\]](https://drive.google.com)

Gianna Sgroi
Chief Operating Officer

T 908.516.8555
 D 908.516.8576
 F 908.516.4446

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[\[youtube.com\]](https://www.youtube.com)



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: S. Dawson <sammdawson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:58 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

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- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:
 - RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
 - Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
 - Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging

performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Dawson
91 Sakonnet Point Road Little Compton RI
sammdawson@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kathleen Papp <kathleenpapp@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:58 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: REJECT South Coast Wind Energy

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Papp
18 Thurston Ave.
Newport, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: melyssa beimler <melyssabeimler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:46 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please, Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Thank you for your service to our communities!

I am writing to you today to ask that you please reject the permit for SouthCoast Energy to do dredging. The research is clear that the risks and costs far outweigh the benefits.

Gratefully
Melyssa Beimler
melyssabeimler@gmail.com
575 Tuckerman Ave.
Middletown, RI
02842

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: George Close <close1166@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:44 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

As a landowner, citizen, taxpayer and voter...I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". This application request is SO PREMATURE.... I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable. Please Consider these irrefutable facts:

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
 - Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
 - Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!M2HeWv2Ngv8JunHfdDMbkTVPFmxk-nl2NRpVYeKO5zprjuqkB kRLO1flgvBxC2vz61MkblqEZ0MuXOJIDxK4g\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8 ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!M2HeWv2Ngv8JunHfdDMbkTVPFmxk-nl2NRpVYeKO5zprjuqkB kRLO1flgvBxC2vz61MkblqEZ0MuXOJIDxK4g$[tinyurl[.]com]) & [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!M2HeWv2Ngv8JunHfdDMbkTVPFmxk-nl2NRpVYeKO5zprjuqkB kRLO1flgvBxC2vz61MkblqEZ0MuXNPXHFBGw\\$\[tinyurl\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!M2HeWv2Ngv8JunHfdDMbkTVPFmxk-nl2NRpVYeKO5zprjuqkB kRLO1flgvBxC2vz61MkblqEZ0MuXNPXHFBGw$[tinyurl[.]com])
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- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
George Close
71 Warrens Point Road
Little Compton, RI
close1166@gmail.com

*Presentation link:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share link ;!!KKphUJtCzQ!M2HeWv2Ngv8JunHfdDMbkTVPFmxk-nl2NRpVYeKO5zprjuqkB_kRLO1flgvBxC2vz61MkblqEZ0MuXNkpg0qLA\\$\[drive\[.\]google\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link;!!KKphUJtCzQ!M2HeWv2Ngv8JunHfdDMbkTVPFmxk-nl2NRpVYeKO5zprjuqkB_kRLO1flgvBxC2vz61MkblqEZ0MuXNkpg0qLA$[drive[.]google[.]com])

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: cfd234@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:50 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
 - Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
 - Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
 - Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]
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I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Hall
cfd234@gmail.com

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Roger Greene <bassone1@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:48 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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SUBJECT LINE: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging Ronald Gagnon, P.E. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov Tel: 401-537-4013 Dear Mr. Gagnon, I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable. • There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone. • Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans. • Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com] • Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols: • RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family. • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*. • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning."

The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution). Respectfully submitted, YOUR NAME YOUR ADDRESS YOUR EMAIL *Presentation link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGk> [drive.google.com]

Roger

Roger M. Greene
110 Flanders Netcong Road
Flanders, NJ 07836-9618
Office: 973.691.2666
Cell: 201.723.3521
Fax: 973.691.2666
e-mail: Bassone1@verizon.net

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: JAMES BALDWIN <jjjbaldwin@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:46 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind Farm in RI
Attachments: Flyer+for+DEM+SouthCoast+Cabling+Hearing+2.22.24.pdf

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Ron,
Need to reject this application.
Dead whale in Pt Judith Pond !
When is enough, enough?
James

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/656739e403b0d903ed9eefa7/t/65d73d3b259fe052fac9824c/1708604732879/Flyer*for*DEM*SouthCoast*Cabling*Hearing*2.22.24.pdf ;KysrKysr!!KKphUJtCzQ!!6XdrNg4GPPHtMVoBIXbT1NAPc2rkkcwmNbwV3Nu ntMNPWHlanjYbYg9wb5YANtSaBtknWR1JARyq5XtMEECw\\$\[static1\[.\]squarespace\[.\]com\]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://static1.squarespace.com/static/656739e403b0d903ed9eefa7/t/65d73d3b259fe052fac9824c/1708604732879/Flyer*for*DEM*SouthCoast*Cabling*Hearing*2.22.24.pdf;KysrKysr!!KKphUJtCzQ!!6XdrNg4GPPHtMVoBIXbT1NAPc2rkkcwmNbwV3Nu ntMNPWHlanjYbYg9wb5YANtSaBtknWR1JARyq5XtMEECw$[static1[.]squarespace[.]com])

Southcoast Wind Facts:

SouthCoast Wind is developing **one of 9** proposed Offshore Wind projects:

- **149** positions to install wind turbines & offshore substation platforms
- **30** miles south of Martha's Vineyard
20 miles south of Nantucket

Things to Consider:

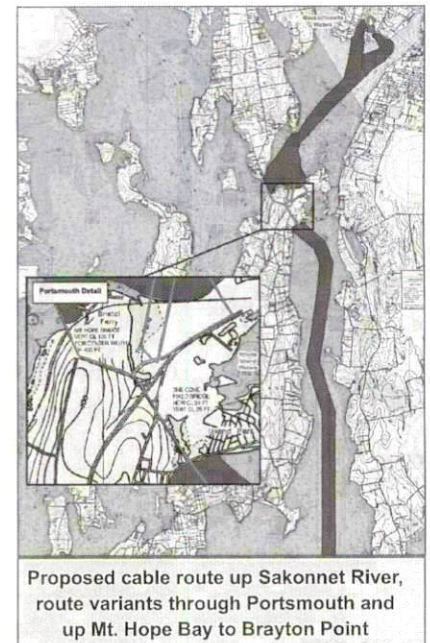
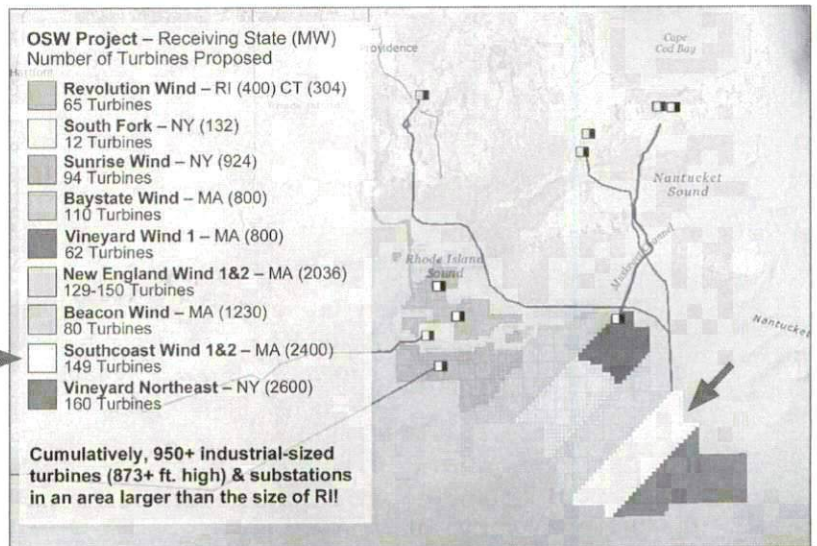
1. The buried high voltage electrical cable (345,000 volts) would extend northwest from the lease area, through federal and Rhode Island state waters, up the Sakonnet River, with an intermediate underground crossing in Portsmouth. The cable then continues through Mount Hope Bay and ends with a grid connection at Brayton Point in Somerset, MA.

2. Years of industrial heavy metals and toxic pollutants have settled deep into the seabed from the jewelry, chemical, and textile industries and the U.S. Navy. Cables will be laid using a jetplow or jet sled burial tool, using high-pressure water jets to blast into the sediment to create a 3 to 13 ft. deep trench, **digging up heavy metals and pollutants that are toxic to aquatic organisms even in minuscule amounts and may damage or even permanently destroy critical marine habitats and aquaculture.**

3. High voltage cables may travel through residential neighborhoods in Portsmouth. Placing buried onshore wind turbine high-voltage direct current cables through well-established residentially zoned neighborhoods with this high of voltage is new in the U.S. Generally, high-voltage direct current cables operate through commercial zones, transportation, and electric rights of way or between countries.¹

4. EMF emanating from subsea electrical cables is known to affect marine life.² Cable laying is consistently mentioned in terms of having the potential to impact many species. Increased sedimentation associated with cable installation could impair some species' ability to forage effectively or avoid predators. If cables are not buried properly or if they do not remain buried, their electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> (QR codes on flyer back)

5. Cables must be regularly maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous, takes an average of two months to repair, and often exceeds \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation.²
Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> (QR code on flyer back)



¹ Falmouth Onshore Wind Cables Real Estate Study Warranted; Frank G Haggerty; Posted Sun, Feb 18, 2024; <http://tinyurl.com/359279k5>

² Electrical cable failure trending and reliability analysis for operational developments; <https://ore.catapult.org.uk/stories/electrode/>

**Send in your Comments to urge the RI DEM
to REJECT the
Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC
Written comments are currently being accepted.**

**The NOTICE period for this application
ends at 4 p.m. on March 7, 2024**

Comments should be addressed to:
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Comments may mailed to above or emailed by March 7, 4 PM to:
Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Questions? Call: 401-537-4013

SouthCoast Wind Energy proposes the following:

- Installation, operation, and maintenance of two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long.
- Possible placement of fill (i.e., secondary cable protection) in state waters over the proposed underwater export cables to protect segments of the submarine export cables and existing utilities.
- Installation of the underwater export cables at the Project's proposed landfall construction areas utilizing horizontal directional drilling (HDD) with work including temporary excavation/dredging at eight offshore HDD pits at each of the two landfalls on either side of Aquidneck Island at Portsmouth, Rhode Island.
- The proposed work involves dredging of approximately 1,867 cubic yards (CY) of sediment from eight HDD pits for a total of approximately 14,936 CY of dredging. The excavated material will be backfilled into the HDD pits. Cable burial methods may include a jet plow or jet sled-type burial tool. Alternatively, cables may be laid on the seabed and trenched post-lay or a trench may be pre-cut prior to cable installation. The project location is the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth.



QR codes for articles on flyer front:

<http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8>



BBC: How undersea cables may affect marine life

<http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj>



Daily Mail: Lobsters are being deformed and left unable to swim because of electromagnetic fields from undersea wind farm power cables

<http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924>



Providence Journal: Problems prompt National Grid to suspend work reburying Block Island wind farm cable

Interested in learning more?



green-oceans.org



Sign our Petition

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Sean Mullaney <sean.mullaney@trustanalytics.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:47 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

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- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition**. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a **single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs** and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution**. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Mullaney

25 Amesbury Lane
Little Compton, RI 02837
Sean.mullaney@trustanalytics.co
m



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Aimee Burke <aimeeburke@me.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:47 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

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Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Burke

37 Long Pasture Rd.

Little Compton, RI

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link
[drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Louise Cardoni <louise.cardoni@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:46 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

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Respectfully,

Louise Cardoni
8 Park St
Newport, RI 02840

cell [401-835-5987](tel:401-835-5987)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Jane Broderson <janebroderson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:45 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

To: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

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*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspI-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [drive.google.com]

Respectfully submitted,

By: Jane (Broderon)

PA/NJ LICENSED REALTOR & ATTORNEY

Team Lead: Berkshire Hathaway Home Serve, Haverford

PA Realtor's Lic#: RS305605 Berkshire Hathaway PA Broker's Lic#: RB061717C

NJ Realtor's Lic#: 1007315Berkshire Hathaway NJ Broker's Lic#: RB8332408

www.janebroderon.com [janebroderon.com]

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- Top 2% Globally for Berkshire Hathaway)

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338 W. Lancaster Avenue

Haverford, PA 19041

(610) 649-7410

Berkshire Hathaway Fox & Roach Realtors

41 S. Haddon Avenue

Haddonfield NJ 08033

821 Hagys Ford Rd

Narberth, PA 19072

ph: (610) 617-3113

c: (610) 637-2605

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Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Brendan Dyer <dyer.brendan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:40 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: SOUTHCOAST wind

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Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Simon Davidson <sjdav65@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:39 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject South Coast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Tel: 401-537-4013

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Respectfully submitted, Simon J. Davidson
sjdav65@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Henry White <hwhite1000@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:37 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Report Suspicious

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Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I truly don't believe you want to be responsible for moving this project forward. It could be disastrous.

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

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Henry White
99 So. of Commons Road
Little Compton, RI 02837

Henry H. White
Hwhite1000@gmail.com
[LinkedIn \[linkedin.com\]](#)
Tel: 978-943-2722

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: eblamar@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:35 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Protect the sakonnet

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Please don't allow dredging of the beautiful Sakonnet River. The wildlife, the tourism economy, property values, the natural beauty would all be affected dramatically. Thank you for doing what you can to stop this.
Elizabeth Lamar
Sent from my iPhone

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Brandon Newell <Brandon.Newell@truenorthseafood.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:34 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Save Sakonnet/ MT hope bay. DO NOT DREDGE

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Good Morning,

I recreationally fish Sakonnet and Mount Hope Bay for fluke/ tog/ black seabass each year. This area is unique and hold many good bottom fish.

It would be a shame to dredge and ruin future generations of fishing.

Thank you for your time.



Brandon Newell

Facilities Manager
True North Seafood Company
86 MacArthur Dr, New Bedford MA
T: 774-202-1054

truenorthseafood.com [truenorthseafood.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Richard Bohan <rbohanjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bohan

Newport RI

rbohanjr@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: JEANENE GWIN <jeanenegwin@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:25 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

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SUBJECT LINE:

Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

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- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] [Lobsters deformed and unable to swim because of wind farm cables](#) [tinyurl.com]

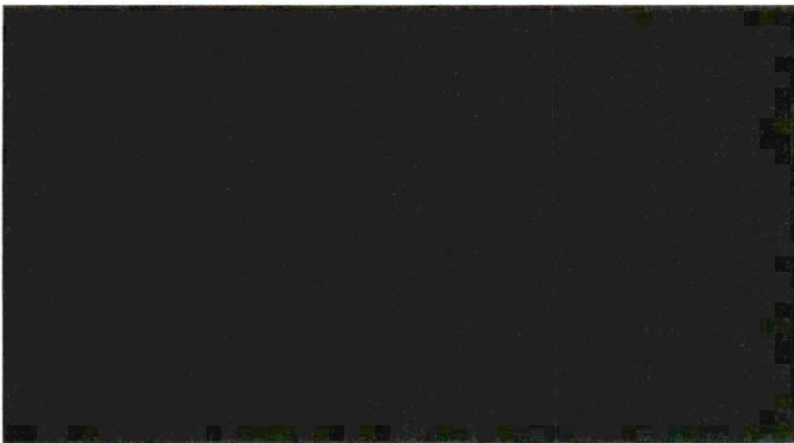


Lobsters deformed and unable to swim because of wind farm cables

By Chay Quinn

Electric magnetic fields created by the cables which transport energy from offshore wind farms make lobster larvae three times more like to grow deformed, according to scientists

- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: [Problems prompt National Grid to suspend work reburying Block Island wind farm cable \[tinyurl.com\]](#)



Problems prompt National Grid to suspend work reburying Block Island wind farm cable

The company says it needs to find out what is causing blockages to a newly installed pipe at Crescent Beach.

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, “Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution. This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant

uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted, Jeanene Gwin

YOUR ADDRESS 10448 Azalea Rd YOUR EMAIL jeanenegwin@verizon.net

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [drive.google.com]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[mail.onelink.me\]](#)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Octavius Prince <djoctavius@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:23 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South coast Windfarm DISASTER

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SUBJECT LINE:

Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

Ronald Gagnon, P.E.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment.** The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life.** If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields.
Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the **disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even **a single cable failure can be**

enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- • RI DEM has explicitly stated, “Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.
- • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet***.
- • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.**

This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick O. Prince
10 Ocean Heights Rd. Newport RI

djoctavius@gmail.com

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kathleen Keating <kkeating50@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Please Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Mr. Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to REJECT the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC".

I oppose Southcoast's intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth.

The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries may prove irreparable and the massive industrialization of our ocean has potentially devastating impacts to our coastal waters and shoreline which is an essential habitat for hundreds of animals, birds and fish, and enjoyed by humans as well.

- **There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place.** Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- **Electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors.** Studies show that lobsters, filter feeders and sharks, skates, and other marine life are highly affected and altered by electromagnetic fields and this could cause serious ecosystem issues in our bay and the Sakonnet.
- **The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them.** The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- **The disruption to the seabed will NOT be a one and done proposition.** Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, and while they make up just 10% of the initial

cost of building an offshore wind farm, they account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry.

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:

- RI DEM has explicitly stated, **“Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.**
- At a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, **experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.**
 - The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects determined on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.** This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (*Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution*).

Lastly, it is hoped that all comments sent in, both in support and in opposition, will be made publicly available online after the deadline. Rhode Islanders deserve transparency from our government representatives, who are elected or hired to work for our needs and rights.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and information on where all comments received will be available for public viewing.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kits van Heyningen
694 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI 02840

*Presentation link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfaksp-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link [drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Donna DeFusco <ddef12@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:20 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging - Reject Wind Turbines Period !!!

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To: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon:

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable. • There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone. • Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted - from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans. • Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com] • Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols: • RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family. • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*. • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems

and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

In closing - we, the people, all know it's wrong and unhealthy all around and if we are lucky produces 1% of the energy needed - certainly not "green" by any means - should be "black" and trying to convince everyone to agree is disturbing and wrong. So disappointed in the gov't who's original promise is to protect and serve the people - not fill the pockets of those already wealthy parties who lives off their own interest provided by taxpayers. It's a very, very sad state you all are allowing to happen in our government. This is the first time I have ever felt that I needed to respond to our State government - you all are really going too far to push this agenda of wind turbines that will provide for NY-NJ-CT-MA and 4% RI - REALLY???!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Donna DeFusco, RI Taxpayer for over 50 years
ddef12@gmail.com
Live in Jamestown - Work in Portsmouth

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Allen Tetreault <altreau725@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

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Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com]& <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
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enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

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- • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of “adequate resource planning.” The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be “undone”. The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and **still have not been completed.**

I believe **this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island’s Constitution.** This doctrine requires by “all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment” for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

*Presentation link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gUjoUW4FO7pfakspl-arsW2rqbzSQGkG/view?usp=share_link
[drive.google.com]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Diana Oehrli <dianaohrli@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Email: ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
- Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans.
- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com]

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- Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
- Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed.

I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Oehrli
215 Coggeshall Ave
Newport, RI 02840
diana@dianoehrli.com
401-662-5634

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Wendy Logan <wendyclogan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:12 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC Permit

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Dear Mr. Gagnon, I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth.

The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable and as there is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place, approving the cable installation is premature. Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted. And much more that is unknown.

Respectfully,

--
Wendy Logan
Columnist/"Savoring the City"
Newport This Week
292 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840
203-219-3185

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Diane Harrison <harrisondiane22@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Reject SouthCoast Wind Energy, LLC Permit for Dredging

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Dear Mr. Gagnon, I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable.

- There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone.
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- Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com]
- Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols:
 - RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."
 - Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*.
 - Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution). Respectfully submitted,

Diane Harrison
Jamestown, RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Susan Farrell <tealadyri@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:06 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South Coast Wind Energy Permit

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I am against the South Coast Energy permit. It will have a devastating impact on our Beautiful beaches and shoreline to all the residents and sea creatures that live here.
Please don't destroy what makes Rhode Island a Beautiful place to live and visit!

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Edie Burke <edieburke84@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:06 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am writing to urge you to reject the "Dredge Application Request of SouthCoast Wind, LLC". I oppose their intent to dredge, install and operate two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth. The impacts to our marine habitat and fishing and aquaculture industries will be irreparable. • There is currently NO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT in place. Approving the cable installation is premature. Permitting should not be done on a timetable dictated by the developers when we don't know if this project will even come to fruition. Irreparable damage will have been done and cannot be undone. • Chemical testing has not been completed to identify the toxins in the sediment. The effects of the dredging may cause resuspension of contaminants from over a century of dumping of industrial toxic waste, causing disruption to filter feeders, spawning fish as well as the fishing and aquaculture industries that depend on them. The whole food chain will be impacted – from vegetation to plankton, shellfish, fish, birds, animals, and even humans. • Unknown effects of the EMF emanating from 345,000 high voltage subsea electrical cables on marine life. If cables are not buried or blanketed properly or if they do not remain buried (as happened with Block Island), electromagnetic fields could be disruptive to migratory patterns, feeding and spawning behaviors. Studies show that lobsters and other marine life are highly affected and deformed by electromagnetic fields. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nr9zbbh8> [tinyurl.com] & <http://tinyurl.com/3rtsvarj> [tinyurl.com] • Subsea cables must be regularly monitored and maintained, so the disruption to the seabed is NOT a one and done proposition. Subsea cables make up just 10% of the initial cost of building an offshore wind farm, but account for 75-80% of insurance claims by the offshore wind industry. The cost implications of even a single cable failure can be enormous: repairs take an average of two months and often exceed \$12.5 million in costs and lost power generation. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2ad87924> [tinyurl.com] RI DEM must be held accountable to its own statements and protocols: • RI DEM has explicitly stated, "Our mission, put simply, is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family. • Moreover, at a public presentation in Portsmouth, RI on November 17, 2022, experts from RI DEM and U. MASS Dartmouth said they were unsure of the potential negative effects of electromagnetic force (EMF) on the various species of sea life in the Sakonnet*. • Failing to provide crucial information from independent fisheries experts falls short of "adequate resource planning." The RI DEM and UMASS experts suggested guidelines for before/after studies, so if this permit is granted and dredging performed in the meantime, it will be too late, literally impossible for any negative effects on existing populations to be "undone". The testing/studies were incomplete in 2022, and still have not been completed. I believe this permit violates the Public Trust Doctrine in Rhode Island's Constitution. This doctrine requires by "all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment" for Rhode Island waters. The significant uncertainty about the risk to the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay ecosystems and fishery from the proposed cable warrants, indeed demands prohibiting approval. (Article 1 Section 17 Rhode Island Constitution).

Please think of the ecosystem you are disrupting. This will be extremely harmful to the animals who live in the Little Compton area.

From,

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Barbara Ghazarian <bghazarian@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:33 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: REJECT the Dredge Application request of SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC to dredge the Sakonnet River

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

After attending the public hearing on SouthCoast's application to dredge a cable line up the middle of the Sakonnet River last Thursday, Feb. 22 at Portsmouth High School and in addition to doing research on my own, I'd like to go on record as a Portsmouth resident AGAINST approval of SouthCoast's application.

I am a amateur quahog clammer who regularly clams off the shore of the Gulf Cove Fishing Area in Portsmouth from late spring thru early fall. Not only are the cherrystones in the Cove plentiful and delicious but I sincerely enjoy clamming as osprey dive for fish in the same water only 30 feet away. While I am not sure of how many of my fellow clammers will write to you, I am sure that the vast majority of us are very concerned over how dredging the Sakonnet River will affect the quahog population in the Cove and elsewhere on the river.

I implore the RI DEM to reject this application. There are other routes SouthCoast's cable can take that will not disturb the Sakonnet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Ghazarian
239 Rolling Hill Rd.
Portsmouth, RI 02871
401-222-9383

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Patty Horan <pattyh444@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:21 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM); Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
Subject: Do Not Dredge the Sakonnet River

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Hello-

PLEASE DO NOT MOVE FORWARD ON THIS DREDGING PROJECT! CONSIDER THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE, THE WILDLIFE, AND THE OCEAN! DO YOU REALLY KNOW THE LONG TERM IMPACTS?? SHOW US THE REAL DATA! PUT THE WIND TURBINES ON THE LAND NOT IN THE OCEAN! WE HAVE ALL BEEN SCAMMED INTO THIS AND THE LONG TERM IMPACTS ARE BEING IGNORED!

PLEASE - PLEASE -PLEASE WAIT FOR SOLID RESEARCH!

CONCERNED LOCAL RESIDENTS,
PATTY & JAY

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Sandra Craig <mmesandracruz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Comment Submission: Opposition to: SouthCoast Wind LLC Permit Application for Offshore Wind Energy Cables and Dredging in Sakonnet River & Mt Hope Bay

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Attention: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr. Gagnon,
ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov

I am writing to urge you to deny the "Dredge Application of SouthCoast Wind". I am extremely concerned about their desire to install and operate "two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long, in the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay in Portsmouth.

My home is located on the Sakonnet River. I am concerned myriad creatures that live in or near the Sakonnet will be subjected to toxic material, including forever chemicals, when over 100 yrs of industrial pollution accumulated in the sediment will be disturbed by dredging in order to lay over 20 miles of subsea transmission cable.

The Sakonnet is teeming with life: my daughter and I once "baby sat" a young dolphin that was separated from its mother while swimming in front of my home; we literally "talked" with the dolphin for over two hours until the Coast Guard arrived to shepherd the creature to safe harbor.

I am concerned about the impact of this particular dredging and the subsequent operation of the cables-- not only on the Sakonnet, but also on Third Beach, Peabody Beach, Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, and beyond. Thousands of people flock to Aquidneck Island's many beaches. Hundreds of recreational fishermen use shore access points all along the Sakonnet—for example, many regulars use Taggart's Ferry Lane, which borders my property, all year long to access the shore to fish. In addition to my own family members, countless swimmers, kayakers, paddle boaters, windsurfers also use Taggart's Ferry lane to access the rocky shore in summer, including entire families that swim, fish and collect (to eat) shellfish that attach themselves to the rocks.

I reference (link below) an EcoRI article* that graphically describes the long history of industrial pollution in Narragansett Bay. "Heavy metals, such as lead, silver and cadmium, are toxic to aquatic organisms even in minuscule amounts. High levels of toxic metals from historic inputs still lie buried in deeper sediments." The article further notes that these legacy metal and other toxic deposits, " have been collecting there for centuries and can be stirred up by severe storms or dredging. "

The food supply chain-- from the the smallest to the largest, any creature "breathing" or ingesting the toxic material resuspended and dispersed in the water will be affected: from the shell fish to all sorts of fish that inhabit these waters,

to myriad seabirds and sea and land mammals (otters, raccoons, voles, rabbits, foxes, etc.), including humans - adults and children- who eat them—all will be affected by the introduction of toxic chemicals in the entire length of the Sakonnet and Mount Hope Bay. Have you determined what will be the impact on the health of all these creatures? Will these proposed actions by SouthCoast, contaminating water in an area essential to fishing, be in violation of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq.) and Seafood Safety Regulations (21 C.F.R. § 123)?

My house is perched on the edge of the Sakonnet, so, unfortunately I know only too well the intensity of storm surges and what ocean waves can do in the Sakonnet. Will the cable be buried to at least a depth of 10 or more feet below the sea bed? If not, how deep? Have tests been done to determine the optimal "safe" and "secure" depth, given the ever increasing intensity of storm surges. Have tests been done to determine if "possibly" covering cable with fill (as a so called secondary cable protection) will withstand the action of waves charging and pounding upriver in hurricanes? The Sakonnet in front of my house and elsewhere is only around 20 feet deep. What exactly is the plan to secure the cables so there will be no movement and consequent further disturbance of the sea bed and to any sea creatures that might make new homes near the cable's path?

That of course assumes the sea creatures will not be disturbed by the EMF's these high frequency transmission lines will emit. Are there plans to determine the effect of EMF's?

Crabs, clams, scallops, sand dollars, starfish, worms, insects and microorganisms all rely on the sand beneath the rocky beaches or in tidal zones. Various rays, skates and sharks feed over sand bottoms in between rocks. Some use electrical sensing capabilities to find animals hidden in sand between and beneath the rocky sea bottom to eat. Do you know if they will be impeded in their search by the electrical charge emitted due to the massive amount of electricity passing through the cable, and as well by the heat?

Will there be continued monitoring of EMF's during the life of the cables' operation? This is an area of ongoing research and study: it is premature to assume there will be no long term deleterious effects, as we simply don't yet know conclusively which and how or to what extent various sea creatures, and humans, are impacted by EMF's from high frequency transmission cable.

Worryingly, with respect to maintenance, there is research aplenty about the "usually unmentioned " need for cable repairs. Plus, will there be chemicals in these cables that are considered toxic and would thus require a special process (super fund type) for clean up if/ when they leak? How do you clean up a toxic leak in the sea? Subsea cable repairs account for 85% of insurance claims. ** Repairs will presumably require more digging and disturbing of the sea bed. Cable failures will disrupt transmission to the already fragile grid and cause huge cost increases: will these costs be passed on to ratepayers?

Aquidneck Island already suffers numerous beach closures due to pollution in Narragansett Bay. How many more beach closures will this dredging necessitate ? Will people become ill from the chemicals disbursed in the water from dredging? Are there plans to mitigate the pollution, for example, creating oyster reefs such as is part of the Rhode Island Oyster Restoration Initiative? ****

These are among the many questions that need to be asked / answered before a permit is granted, particularly, since there is no PPA***. What if this wind farm project never comes to fruition? The damage to the environment and all who live in it will be irreversible.

I urge you to follow the letter and spirit of the DEM's stated mission: "to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family."

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Craig
Indian Ave, Middletown R.I.

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT of this email, as well as confirming if submission of my comment by email is acceptable for the purpose of bringing my objections, as a member of the community, to the attention of the DEM in this matter.

Footnotes:

* Rhode Island's Pollution Problems Long in the Making - ecoRI News

** <https://www.energylivenews.com/2023/09/22/subsea-cable-failures-pose-global-threat-to-offshore-wind/>
[energylivenews.com]

*** DPU approves termination of SouthCoast wind contract

**** <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/2024-NRCS-RI-Oyster-Initiative-Brochure.pdf>
[nrcs.usda.gov]

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 9:39 AM
To: Mara Shore
Cc: DEM.FileReview; Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: RE: SouthCoast Dredging Report

Importance: High

Good Morning,
Please see the link below for SouthCoast Wind 1 Project. Let me know if you have any trouble opening the link. Sometimes the code goes to junk mail.

Thank you, [☐ SouthCoast Wind 1 Project](#)

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Kim Audette
Applications Coordinator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Permit Application Center (PAC)
Tel: (401) 537-4009

Email: Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

From: Mara Shore <mjlshore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 9:24 AM
To: Audette, Kimberly (DEM) <Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: SouthCoast Dredging Report

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Good morning,

Would you please share the SouthCoast Dredging Report with me?

Thanks so much,
Mara Shore
25 Sakonnet Point Road
Little Compton, RI 02837

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 8:38 AM
To: ccarceller@cox.net; Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: DEM.FileReview
Subject: SouthCoast Wind 1 Project

Importance: High

Good Morning,

Please see the link below in response to your recent records request to the department. This should complete your request.

The information you requested is in [Book 2, Attachment G: Hydrodynamics and Sediment Dispersion Modeling Report](#) and [Attachment H: Benthic Habitat Mapping Report](#).

Please confirm that you have received this information. Let me know if you have any trouble opening the link. Sometimes the code goes to junk mail.

Thank you,

[SouthCoast Wind 1 Project](#)

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Kim Audette
Applications Coordinator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Permit Application Center (PAC)
Tel: (401) 537-4009

Email: Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov

Website: www.dem.ri.gov

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 11:22 AM
To: Chris Carceller
Cc: DEM.FileReview; Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: RE: SouthCoast Wind 1 Project

Christine,

This is public information you can download the information from the link that I sent to you, and send it out to whomever you would like. You will not be able to forward the link directly to them. We do not have anything on the DEM website at this time. If you would like you, can send me and email with the other residents cc'd and I can send another link to all of you in a collective email, that each person will be able to open. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

-Kim

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Kim Audette
Applications Coordinator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Permit Application Center (PAC)
Tel: (401) 537-4009

Email: Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

From: Chris Carceller <ccarceller@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 10:27 AM
To: Audette, Kimberly (DEM) <Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: Re: SouthCoast Wind 1 Project

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Kim,

Good morning. Thank you for sharing the link. Several other residents at the meeting were hoping to view this, but I'm not sure if I'm allowed to share it with them since it says this:
(State of RI has not provided links to their terms for me to review, I'm not sure what that means?)

Should they all email you to get their own emailed copy of this? Or is this public information for me to share? Or is it on a public DEM website I can point them to?

Thank you,
Christine Carceller

You've received a secure link to:

SouthCoast Wind 1 Project

To open this secure link, we'll need you to enter the email that this item was shared to.

ccarceller@cox.net ⓘ

Next

By clicking Next you allow State of Rhode Island to use your email address in accordance with their privacy statement. State of Rhode Island has not provided links to their terms for you to review.

On 2/26/2024 8:37 AM, Audette, Kimberly (DEM) wrote:

Good Morning,

Please see the link below in response to your recent records request to the department. This should complete your request.

The information you requested is in [Book 2, Attachment G: Hydrodynamics and Sediment Dispersion Modeling Report and Attachment H: Benthic Habitat Mapping Report.](#)

Please confirm that you have received this information. Let me know if you have any trouble opening the link. Sometimes the code goes to junk mail.

Thank you,

[SouthCoast Wind 1 Project](#)

[\[rigov.sharepoint.com\]](#)

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Kim Audette
Applications Coordinator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Permit Application Center (PAC)
Tel: (401) 537-4009

Email: Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Mary Howe <maryhowe827@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 2:53 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Request from reporter for DEM response to Feb. 22 public hearing

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25 Feb 2025

Dear Ron Gagnon,
hi, this is Mary Howe, reporter for the environmental website ecoRI.org [ecori.org].

This note is a follow-up to the public hearing that the Department of Environmental Management held on Feb. 22 at Portsmouth High School on the topic of dredging the Sakonnet River to bury cables for SouthCoast Wind.

Could you please notify me when the final permit for the work and the DEM responses to questions from the public hearing are released to the public?

Thank you very much.

Mary Howe
ecoRI.org [ecori.org]
401-330-7503

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 1:04 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: FW: APRA Request

Importance: High

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Kim Audette
Applications Coordinator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Permit Application Center (PAC)
Tel: (401) 537-4009

Email: Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

From: Audette, Kimberly (DEM) <Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 12:35 PM
To: Ben Branchaud <bbranchaud@nasrcc.org>; DEM.FileReview <DEM.Filereview@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: RE: APRA Request
Importance: High

Ben,

Please see the link below in response to your recent records request to the department. This should complete your request. Please confirm that you have received this information. Let me know if you have any trouble opening the link. Sometimes the code goes to junk mail.

Thank you, [SouthCoast Wind 1 Project](#)

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Kim Audette
Applications Coordinator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Permit Application Center (PAC)
Tel: (401) 537-4009

Email: Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

From: Ben Branchaud <bbranchaud@nasrcc.org>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 12:22 PM
To: DEM.FileReview <DEM.Filereview@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: APRA Request

Hello!

Please find attached an APRA request form.

Thank you,
Benjamin Branchaud
Political Coordinator
North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
4017872833
www.nasrcc.org
14 Jefferson Park Road, Warwick, RI 02888

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 8:10 AM
To: Katrina Hamilton Gewirz
Subject: RE: COMMENT SUBMISSION: Opposition to the acceptance of SouthCoast Wind LLC Permit for Offshore Wind Energy Cables and dredging the Sakonnet River & Mt Hope Bay

Confirming receipt of this email and confirming that submission of comments by email is acceptable.

Thank you for submitting the comments.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Ron Gagnon, P.E.
Administrator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Tel: (401) 537-4013

Email: Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

From: Katrina Hamilton Gewirz <kgewirz@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2024 4:45 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM) <Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: COMMENT SUBMISSION: Opposition to the acceptance of SouthCoast Wind LLC Permit for Offshore Wind Energy Cables and dredging the Sakonnet River & Mt Hope Bay

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PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT of this email, as well as confirming if submission of COMMENTS by email is acceptable. Alternatively, a letter will be sent in the mail by the March 7th deadline, despite the carbon footprint of the latter.

ATTN: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon, P.E.
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Tel: 401-537-4013

Dear Mr Ronald N. Gagnon, P.E.,

First off, my most sincere thanks for the time and information you shared with me prior to start of Thursday's Hearing. It was a welcome opportunity to meet you and then to see the cordiality of all the speakers. Thank you also for your 30+ years carrying out the mission of RI DEM, in part which states: Our mission put simply is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family. (*1)

What follows are additions to the public comments I made on Thursday. While I presented concerns and questions only 2 days ago, after continued research and thought on the request of this proposal, coupled with the reminder of the mission of RI DEM, my opposition remains and I add the following:

No one can predict the future. There is current and extensive uncertainty for the future of the Off Shore Wind industry in our area. A few examples include states reneging on Purchase Power Agreements(*2), the constantly changing balance sheet of the developers, the admission by developers that projects are suffering from "inflationary cost hikes and supply chain slowdowns" (*3) as well as organizations pursuing the potential violations to The Clean Water Act, The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and The Endangered Species Act among others. (*4, *5, *6).

Accordingly, I urge RI DEM's Decision making Matrix to be limited to the proven environmental BENEFITS of dredging and cable instillation of foreign material in these waters with the knowledge that there are no guarantees for their need or future use.

Is there strong scientific evidence to exemplify that dredging and laying of these cables (and all their foreign materials) would improve the environment in the Sakonnet and Mount Hope Bay? The answer is no.

As a result, for RI DEM to grant permission to commence with the dredging and cable placement - both with inevitable environmental changes and a myriad of unknowns, without any guarantee that the wind farm will ever be built - would be a tragic mistake. This runs the risk that SouthCoast starts dredging in hopes of getting contracts or approvals that may never come. Then we are left with an altered - and arguably damaged - ecosystem for no reason at all.

Submitted with care, deep concern & thanks for your consideration.

Katie Hamilton Gewirz

Middletown, RI 02842

kgewirz@aol.com

FOOTNOTES:

(1)[About Us | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management](#)

**About Us | Rhode Island Department of
Environmental Management**

(2)[DPU approves termination of SouthCoast wind contract \[commonwealthbeacon.org\]](#)



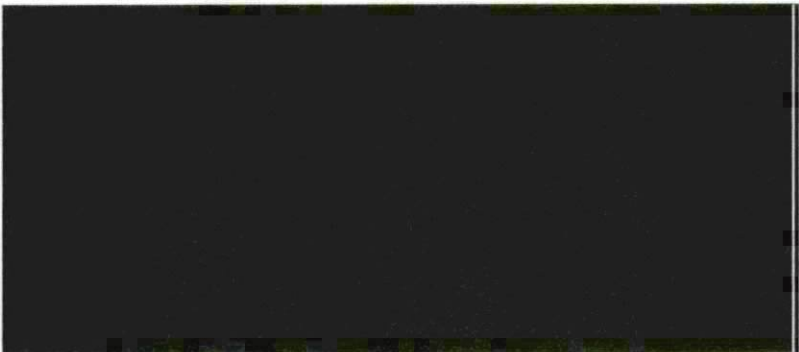
DPU approves termination of SouthCoast wind contract

Bruce Mohl

THE MASSACHUSETTS Department of Public Utilities on Monday gave its blessing to an agreement terminating offshor...

[commonwealthbeacon.org]

(3)[R.I. offshore wind proponents optimistic despite SouthCoast financing troubles - Rhode Island Current \[rhodeislandcurrent.com\]](#)



R.I. offshore wind proponents optimistic despite SouthCoast financing tr...

Nancy Lavin

RI offshore wind proponents optimistic despite financial headwinds halting contracts in Massachusetts.

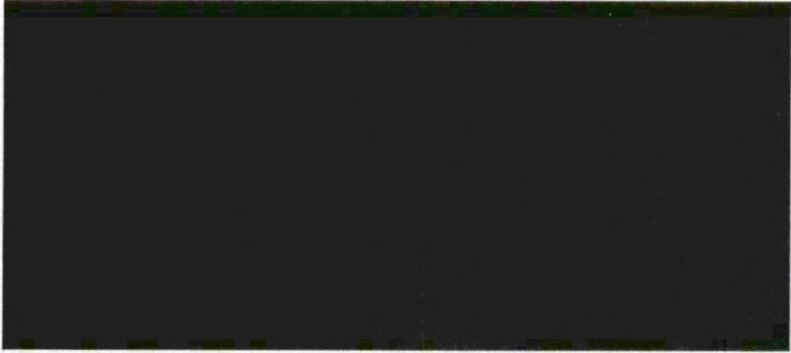
4)[E&E News: N.J. county, groups sue to overturn offshore wind farm's approval \[subscriber.politicopro.com\]](#)

E&E News: N.J. county, groups sue to overturn offshore wind farm's approval

Cape May County and fishing industry and environmental groups filed a lawsuit Monday against two federal agencies...

[subscriber.politicopro.com]

5) [Orsted offshore wind farm hit with lawsuit by New Jersey county \[reuters.com\]](#)



Orsted offshore wind farm hit with lawsuit by New Jersey county

A southern New Jersey county on Tuesday challenged federal approvals for a major wind farm in U.S. waters off the coast...

6) [Will offshore wind turbines spoil ocean views from Newport mansions? Lawsuits say yes \[providencejournal.com\]](#)



Will offshore wind turbines spoil ocean views from Newport mansions? Law...

A lawsuit by groups in Newport and Block Island says offshore wind turbines will cause 'unnecessary loss and irritation' to residents...

Environmental Management

February 13, 2024

FEB 23 2024

Ronald Gagnon
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Permit Application Center

To Ronald Gagnon and RIDEM,

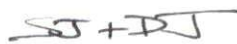
We are asking that you reconsider implementing the SouthCoast wind plan.

This wind project is another terrible investment for Rhode Island, with only a 42% return on investment (on a good day). We still need 58% of some other form of energy to fill the void. In the process, the environment is destroyed in order to save it! It sounds like another 38 Studios fiasco—benefitting very few Rhode Islanders and only the companies that are building and installing the windmills, its cables, etc. Plus, our electric bills are going to go up, up, up, not down from this. The cost of electricity is going to be three times the number the governor is citing, after you factor in distribution to the customer.

One of Rhode Island's best assets is its beautiful waterways, the sea life and its delicious seafood. To date, there has not been one study showing there will be no impact from the windmill and cable installations in Rhode Island. The folks that are destroying the things that we hold dear will be remembered for doing so, even after they say "We're so sorry, it sounded like a good plan at the time."

Thank you for getting public comment on this matter.

Regards,



Susan and David Jamison
Jamestown, RI

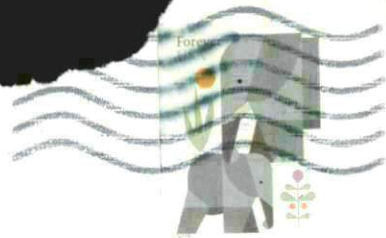


The Jamisons

97 SLOOP STREET
JAMESTOWN, RI 02835

PROVIDENCE RI 02908

21 FEB 2024 PM 5 L



Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental
Management → Office of Customer :

Technical Assistance

Attn: Ronald Gagnon

235 Promenade Street

Providence, R.I.

02908

02908-573499



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Sharon Allan <sharonallan@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging the Sakonnet River

Importance: High

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Hello,

I was at the meeting last night and I was very disappointed. I had felt we would have been able to ask questions and get some answers but that was not the case.

My opinion on allowing SouthCoast Wind Energy to utilize the Sakonnet River is horrible. For years DEM has tried to clean up the river and asked all of us to put in very expensive septic systems to clean the Sakonnet river. And that is working well. I have lived on the Sakonnet River for 48 years and have seen the improvement in the water quality.

If you allow this to happen the dredging will dislodge the sediment and all the pollutants will rise up again and we will have to start all over trying to clean up the river. To me this is a big problem and I am ashamed that DEM would allow it. This is a great place for fisherman and you are going to ruin it with the action of allowing this company to do this. Why don't they go through Massachusetts from the water; I know why because them using our Sakonnet River is cheaper. That is not a good reason for us to ruin our water.

Please I am begging you not to allow this to happen. If you have already given the OK to this company, I will have lost all faith in the DEM.

It will be regressing in the name of progress. I am sure there is another alternative for them that does not do this type of damage.

Sharon and Edward Allan
26 Atlantic Ave
Portsmouth, RI 02871
401-474-9524

I want you aware that We are not against wind (but not in this distructive manor) and solar (which our home has)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: A D van Beuren <advanbeuren@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 5:02 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Dredging the Sakonnet

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Dear Mr Gagnon,

As a longtime property owner on the Sakonnet River I want to express my concern about the proposed dredging of the Sakonnet.

Dredging and the laying of high voltage cable will only compound the irresponsible placement of hundreds (thousands?) of 600-800 foot tall windmills off our shores which was apparently approved without proper environmental or public review and normal due process. The mistake of mindlessly pursuing "renewable" energy should not be compounded by the destruction of marine habitats in the Sakonnet without full environmental review BEFORE approval.

Archbold D. van Beuren

Archbold D. van Beuren
From my Phone... Please excuse the typos

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Ben Riggs <rmcriggs@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:28 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Cable in the Sakonnet

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Dear Mr. Gagnon,

I am a citizen and resident of the State of Rhode Island who regularly transits the Sakonnet by boat. *My qualifications as they relate to the factual assertions made in this letter include: a career as a Naval Aviator with training in oceanography, meteorology, air and sea navigation, air traffic control, and aeronautical engineering; a second career as CEO of 4 separate manufacturing companies, two of them subsidiaries of multi-national conglomerates; and more recently, responsible for teaching a 10 hour course on the Global Environment and the State of the Oceans at a university here in Rhode Island and at the Newport Circle of Scholars.*

First, the proposal requires trenches for transmission lines being dug deep in an ocean floor that has previously been undisturbed for thousands of years. There are two areas of environmental impact here that have not been adequately addressed either by fact finding or proposed method of amelioration:

a) The ocean floor outside of harbors and entrance channels is where about half of the Planet's accumulated carbon is sequestered. Digging it up will release significant amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, which will combine with oxygen to become carbon dioxide, which is a factor in creating global warming. In addition, the process may well dig into and release large pockets of trapped methane gas, which is around 22 times worse for global warming than carbon dioxide. There has been no independent investigation of the amount of carbon that is likely to be released, or the location of methane pockets and the amounts likely contained in them.

b) The electromagnetic leakage will be very harmful. For example, here is growing evidence that many fish and shellfish will be significantly impacted, particularly during their extended winter mating season. Evidence being gathered in Virginia and by the Cornell Lab describes some of this concern. There has been no independent study done here to identify the potential threat to Right Whales. The sounds of construction, operation, and electromagnetic fields are known to confuse a whale's navigation system, resulting in more collisions with ships, entrapments in fishing lines, and beaching. The Navy has had issues with the impact of Sonar on whales and other species of marine life, such as Dolphins. This requires further investigation.

Lack of Public Benefit: It might make sense to try to somehow work around the above described problems if there was an overriding and urgently needed public benefit at stake. But there clearly is not. In the case of wind power, it produces a very small amount of power compared to its wide footprint on the environment. (For example, it would take 125,000 wind turbines to generate enough electricity for New York City, even if the wind blew all the time.) **Wind power is not "green", it is not economical, it won't create jobs,**

it does not reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and it will not reduce global warming.

Studies in the U.S. (such as ERCOT Bentek IV on the impact of 2300 wind turbines there on the power grid, as well as one done for the onshore/offshore wind turbine industry in Ireland (by Fred Udo) show that the savings

of fossil fuel use and carbon emissions are either minimal or actually negative. For those interested in pursuing “renewable energy” mandates, there are plenty of other opportunities, including more use of hydro power, nuclear,

and trash-to-energy technology, along with natural gas until the new modular nuclear technology is more available.

For Rhode Island, there is 9 cents per kWh renewable energy available from Maine (hydro and wind), versus a starting price, including the mainland cable cost recovery, of 30.5 cents (plus taxpayer subsidies) for Sunrise.

Consequently, there is a significant negative economic impact, and no meaningful environmental benefit, because

manufacturing simply gets transferred to coal burning China and India.

Further, the assertion that it will provide electricity to a large number of homes is false.

Wind power is intermittent, and conventional power would be required for the approximately 60% of the time wind power does not meet customer needs. Not a single conventional plant can be retired.

Thank you.

Ben Riggs
Newport
846-2540



Virus-free. www.avast.com [[avast.com](http://www.avast.com)]

[\[avast.com\]](http://www.avast.com)

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Matty Bauer <mpbauer170@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:21 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: South coast wind energy

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Hi Ron,

My name is Matt Bauer and I live in Tiverton. I am writing this email to you to because I oppose the south coast wind energy's plan to dredge the sakonnet river and mount hope bay. As a life long outdoorsman in the area I know how important both areas are to not only our major sport fish but waterfowl, shorebirds and whitetail deer . From the commercial fisherman, charter captians, and the weekend warrior, this plan will destroy not only an enjoyable time on the water but an entire industry. Tourist flock to the state during the fishing season specially to fish these areas. The hotels, tackle shops, restaurants, and local shops depend on this. Both of these proposed spots are some of the last places in the smallest state in the country that still feel wild. I think it is important to keep it that way. Not only for us but for the future generations of this great state we call home.

I would like it to be known that I am in no way against the idea of renewabale energy. However; the notion to dredge a large area in order to do so seems counter productive and dangerous. I fear that the consequences from this project while have a terrible long last affects for not only sportsman but whoever enjoys these areas of Rhode Island.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Matt Bauer

Tiverton, Rhode Island

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Kathryn Leonard <kateleonar@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:38 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Sakonnet River dredging

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RI DEM. Attn: Ron Gagnon

I am writing in the hopes that RIDEM disapproves the dredging of the Sakonnet River to accommodate the OWT cables. The Pogies go up the river with the Stripers following them along. The Black fish and tautog also go up into the river. The Fluke lay on the bottom and may go up the river to spawn.

As the owner of a commercial fishing boat and a former 25-year member of the Newport City Council, I find dredging the river will have a negative impact on our marine life and fishing. R.I. is famous for our natural resources and beauty. I, and many of us, feel that our state (and Newport) will no longer be known as the Sailing Capital of the World and the draw of new residents, tourists, businesses based on tourism etc but instead be known as the ugly waters of offshore wind turbines that have killed our marine life and our economy.

Kate Leonard
Newport RI

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Dan Moriarty <dan.j.moriarty@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:06 PM
To: TownCouncil@portsmouthri.gov; Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Subject: Wind Farm Cableing

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Dear All,

I am a business owner in the Island Park neighborhood of Portsmouth, located just down the road from the proposed landing spot on Park Avenue of the cables. I have run the business for 30+ years(founded in 1976) at this location. My suggestion for the Town Council to consider with this project has nothing to do with the opposition or approval to the project. Instead, what I would like to propose is a long term solution for this area which would be mutually beneficial.

Recent storms(end of 2023, beginning of 2024) have closed this exact section of roadway to coastal flooding. This has been happening with greater frequency as well as greater volume(sea water) and potential for significant damage. There are 2 salt water ponds that Boyd's Lane bisects at this location. What I would like to propose is to earmark the funds(coming from the wind farm) for a capital improvement project for this section of road. The road is going to be dug up as it is, why not attempt a long-term fix to a problem that will only get worse? An elevated roadway with culverts connecting these salt water ponds would mitigate this problem.

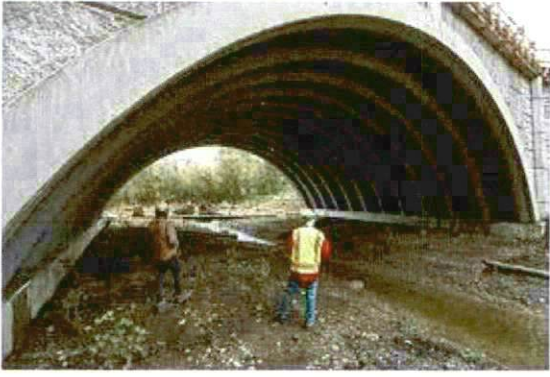
Consider a pre-cast "flyway" connecting in a "T" at the bottom of Boyd's Lane sitting over a large culvert creating free flow during the next storm event.

Having this roadway closed each and every storm event is not a solution. Please consider thinking outside the box, leaning into a project(wind farm cables) we all know is a foregone conclusion and solving another long-term issue at the same time.

Thank you for your time,

Dan Moriarty





--
Dan Moriarty
Moriarty's Liquor Locker
401-683-4441

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Emil Cipolla <etcipolla@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 12:42 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM); LoBianco, Joseph (DEM); kimberly.audotte@dem.ri.gov
Cc: Bill Thompson; Ed Monaco; karen gleason; Green Oceans
Subject: OffShore Wind Turbine cables under the Sakonnet
Attachments: OSWT Cables - Sakonnet River ET Cipolla.docx

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Honorable members of RI DEM

Attached is a short note recommending an alternate route for the cables

Emil T. Cipolla
Portsmouth RI 02871
401 293-5915

Comments regarding the planned underwater cables from the Offshore Wind Turbines under the Sakonnet River

RI DEM Mission is (paraphrased) to be the agency that supervises and controls the protection, development, planning and utilization of natural resources of Rhode Island, including the soil, waters..., mammals, reptiles, fish, shellfish, and other forms of aquatic life.

I have reviewed hundreds of pages from a variety of sources regarding the planning, construction of the mechanical components, their reliability, installation, operation, maintenance and repair, and end-of-life concerns. These articles include the regulatory and approval responsibilities of the federal, state and local governments, the advantages and disadvantages, the economic and financial aspects, the expected annual energy production in MWH, and the cost to the ultimate consumer (homeowner and business). While critical, these topics are outside the scope before this paper, nor will there be any discussion of alternate approaches to mitigating the effects of climate change (e.g. nuclear and solar).

There are at least eight proposed projects of up to 1000 turbines and towers off the Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Islands. These towers are planned to be over 10 MW capacity, several hundred meters tall, and spaced apart in a block to minimize interference. All are in waters subject to Federal, not State, regulation. Little or none of the energy will be consumed in Rhode Island directly (albeit there will be an indirect benefit from the additional overall energy added to the grid).

The issue is : NOT WHETHER the project should be developed, but IF the cables from the planned OFWT projects are implemented and are under the Sakonnet River, what are the impacts upon the land and waters under RI DEM jurisdiction. Are there feasible, better alternatives for the cables?

The current proposal is for the South Coast Wind (aka Mayflower, OCS A0521) phase one to route cables north from its 'bloc' about 30 miles under the Sakonnet, have landfall at Island Park Portsmouth, and then go underwater to interconnect to the existing Brayton Point transmission facility.

Another project, Revolution Wind 1, (OCS-A0486) which is near South Coast will route its cables west, then south of Aquidneck Island, and then north by the West Shore of Narraganset Bay and have landfall at Quonset Point. The river bottom soil will be disturbed, and the shellfish, fish breeding areas and other marine life soil will be impacted (probably less disturbance and impact than the current dredging from Providence area). The extent of the damage is difficult to ascertain, but there will have measurable negative impacts.

This paper proposes that the South Coast project follow a similar route to (e.g. south of Acquidneck) and continue past Quonset point to connect to Brayton Point. The impact of this additional short mile recommended route should have a minimal impact to Narragansets Bay. If there are any additional cable costs, these would be offset by eliminating the \$ 23 M Host Community Agreement costs.

There is a second alternate route that would have no impact on either Narragansett or the Sakonnet; that is for South Coast to bypass the Sakonnet, and go north, to have landfall near New Bedford.

Recommendation and Conclusion is to reject the Sakonnet route.

FEB 21 Ms. Audrey M. Pfeiffer

2.15.24

Permit Application Center,
Deep Water Center,

The attached article articulates some of my concerns regarding the off shore wind farms. Other concerns I have are as follows:

- the shedding of the blades' coating is toxic material and will make it's way into the food chain (fish contamination)
- economic effects of shutting down the Sakonnet River (no fishing or recreation use) while construction is in process.
- unknown effects of dredging on shell fish beds - will they recover?
- only 10% of energy produced will be for RI.
- questionable guarantees that the installing wind turbine companies will still be in business to repair turbines in the future.

where I vacation in Prince Edward Island, Canada, some time ago



Native American Rights Fund

Ms. Audrey M. Pfeiffer

a company from Spain installed wind turbines in Eastern Kings County (at the intersection of Soule's Line Rd and Rt 16 and up in North Lake). After several years many of the blades stopped rotating and some fell off. The company went out of business, the company that bought them out said it wasn't their problem. How do we know the same won't happen here (for example the Portsmouth wind turbine !!!)

I am against it for all the above reasons. Also the public has not received estimates on how this project will effect energy costs. If this project takes a nose dive, the tax payers will have to bail it out.

Sincerely
Audrey MacLeod Pfeiffer
442 Third Beach Rd
Middletown, RI 02842



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR*Wind — the cause for, and ruin of, offshore turbines***To the editor:**

Let's imagine an industrialized Coxes Ledge. Over 800-foot turbines with 350-foot blades, built with petroleum-based epoxy and Amazonian balsa. Structures erected across 84,000 acres, the hard-earned dollars of taxpayers constituting unto 70 percent of the cost.

The non-recyclable blades with a life expectancy of but a few years turning and turning — well, except when the wind falls below 10 mph or exceeds 45 mph (they stand still, and the turbines rust) — all of us dependent on their energy production. "Fossil fuel" stations long shut down, atomic energy hidden in a vault.

It doesn't take an expert to forecast a hurricane will, sooner or later, be on its way to Cox Ledge. Between 1949 and 2006, 93 hurricanes hit the U.S. mainland. September 2023's Hurricane Lee mercifully missed Rhode Island and Massachusetts, yet flexed its muscle all the same, increasing wind speed by 85 mph in 24 hours, registering as Category Five. It's not a stretch of the imagination to suggest one of these hurricanes will be less merciful, landing as a direct hit on Coxes Ledge.

GCube, a renewable energy insurer, reports component failures in turbines with eight megawatts or more occur after just one year, with larger turbines failing earlier. The

proposed towers are 11 megawatts. And this data comes from the Baltic Sea, where the highest wind ever recorded is 64 mph.

The Atlantic Ocean is not the Baltic Sea. In the Northeast, winds over 100 mph are not uncommon. We face shearing winds commonly.

A study by Rose et al reports:

"In 2003, a wind farm of seven turbines in Okinawa, Japan was destroyed by typhoon Maemi and several turbines in China were damaged by typhoon Dujuan. There is a very substantial risk that Category Three and higher hurricanes can destroy half or more of the turbines at some locations. We believe our results underestimate the probabili-

ty of loss because we model only buckling of the tower base but ignore damage to other components. Our results may also underestimate the probability of tower buckling because we analyze the onshore version of the NREL 5-MW turbine, which has a rigid foundation structure and is not subjected to wave loads."

Ask your politicians: When the wind farm experiences a significant loss of turbines, how long will it take to replace/repair them? What will happen to the grid? Will the blackout last weeks, or months?

And who will cover the cost? The public, naturally. Just as the government subsidy earmarked to build

them is paid by the public. There is no government money without tax money. For sure, electric rates will increase.

My prediction is: when 30 percent of turbines buckle with a direct hit Category Three hurricane, the grid will be fried. No energy will be produced. The Feds won't come. Local governments won't be able to shoulder the repair. The original company left town after the construction. Their CEO will be in Aruba. Epoxy will float in Coxes Ledge. We, the people, who blindly paid for it, will watch a rusting wasteland.

Ara Sadaniantz
Little Compton



Department of Transportation
Property Management Rm 130
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Office 401-563-4542
Fax 401-222-1212

February 16, 2024

Mr. Ronald Gagnon.
RIDEM
235 Promenade Street
Providence RI, 02908

Certified Mail# 9175999703282930408 Environmental Management

FEB 21 2024

Permit Application Center

Re: 30 Day Public Notice, File Number OP-23-198;WQC 23-044

Dear Mr. Gagnon,

Please be advised that South Coast Wind Energy, LLC has applied to the Department of Transportation for the grant of a subsurface cable easement beneath the former Newport Secondary Railroad Right-of-Way. The attachments show the location and particulars of the easement request. The easement remains under review with all reviewers, thus far, expressing no objection. I estimate the review will be concluded shortly.

We are interested in obtaining site plans which you may have involving this and any other use of RIDOT-controlled land.

Please direct any questions or information to Sandra Redding of my staff, at sandra.redding@dot.ri.gov or 563-4020.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Christopher Santilli
Administrator for Real Estate

Cc: Almagno, McHugh, Esq., Carcieri, Redding



State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer and Technical Assistance
235 Promenade Street ~ Providence, RI 02908-5767
(401) 537-4029

RECEIVED

FEB 08 2024

Department of Transportation
REAL ESTATE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

30 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

30 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE and NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

RIDEM File Number: **DP -23- 198; WQC 23 - 044**

Date: **February 6, 2024**

This Office has under consideration the application request of: **SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC** for a State of Rhode Island Dredge Permit, that includes a State of Rhode Island Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. § 1341 *et seq.*; and R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-35, 46-12 and 42-17.1) and in accordance with the *Rules and Regulations for Dredging and the Management of Dredge Materials (250-RICR-150-05-2)* and the *State Water Quality Regulations (250-RICR-150-05-1)*. The applicant proposes the following:

- Installation, operation, and maintenance of two underwater power export cables and associated communications cabling, each approximately 20.4 miles long.
- Possible placement of fill (i.e., secondary cable protection) in state waters over the proposed underwater export cables to protect segments of the submarine export cables and existing utilities.
- Installation of the underwater export cables at the Project's proposed landfall construction areas utilizing horizontal directional drilling (HDD) with work including temporary excavation/dredging at eight offshore HDD pits at each of the two landfalls on either side of Aquidneck Island at Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

The proposed work involves dredging of approximately 1,867 cubic yards (CY) of sediment from eight HDD pits for a total of approximately 14,936 cubic yards of dredging. The excavated material will be backfilled into the HDD pits. Cable burial methods may include a jet plow or jet sled type burial tool. Alternatively, cable may be laid on the seabed and trenched post-lay or a trench may be pre-cut prior to cable installation.

Project Location: **Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay**

City/Town: **Portsmouth**

Comments invited: The purpose of this NOTICE is to inform all landowners of properties adjoining the site of proposed activities and other interested individuals or agencies of the proposal and to provide for a period of thirty (30) days within which to provide comments or objections. The NOTICE period for this application ends at 4:00 p.m. on **March 7, 2024**. Comments should be addressed to:

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Attention: Ronald Gagnon
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Tel: 401-537-4013

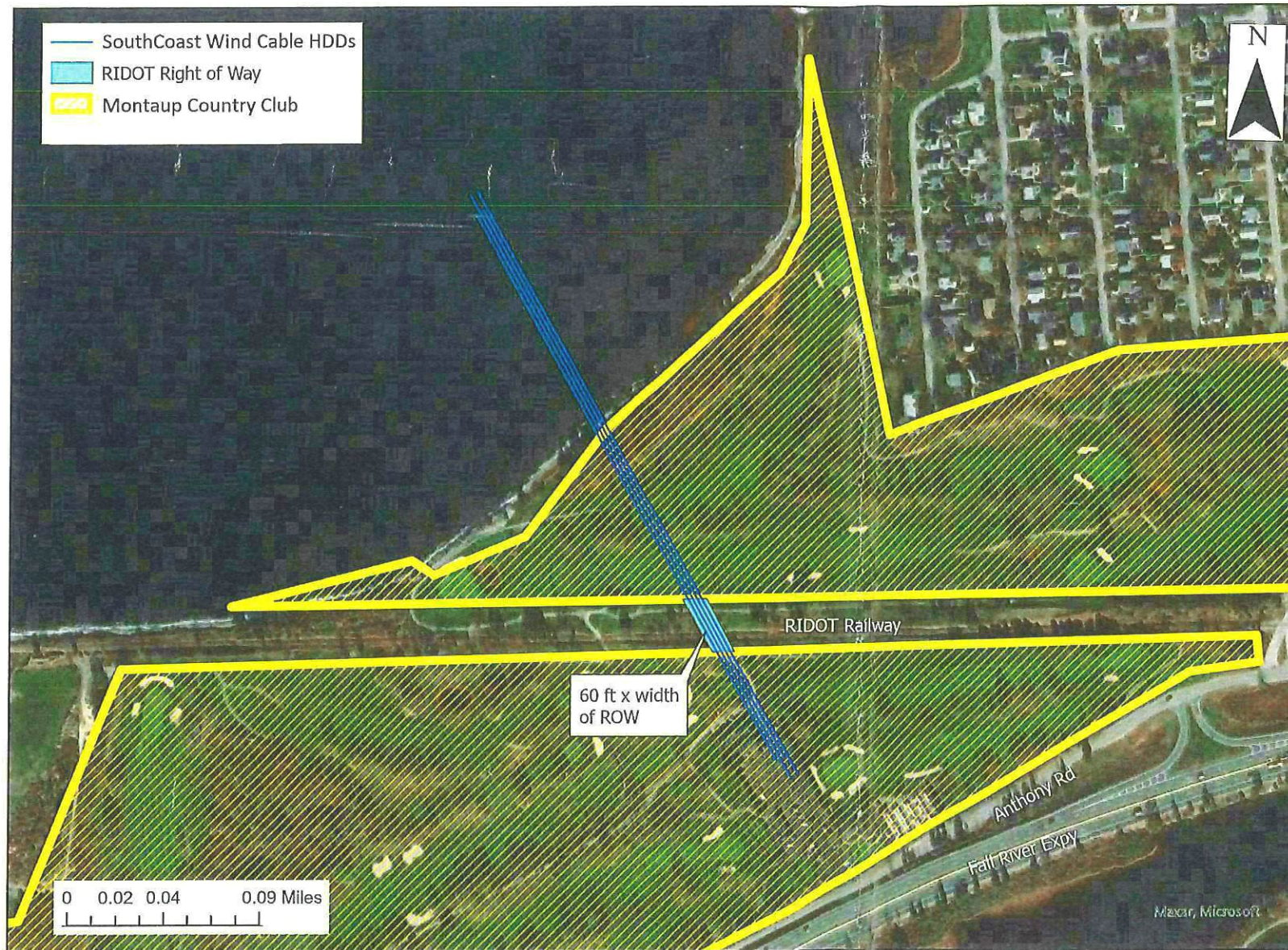
In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 42-35 of the R.I.G.L.) a public comment hearing has been scheduled for **February 22, 2024, at the Portsmouth High School Auditorium, 120 Education Lane, Portsmouth, Rhode Island from 6:00 to 10:00 PM.**

Parties interested in/or concerned with the above-mentioned matter are invited to be present at the above-mentioned time and place. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of Customer & Technical Assistance at 401-537-4029 / 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Additional Information: Any questions related to this NOTICE should be directed to Ronald Gagnon in DEM's Office of Customer & Technical Assistance at (401) 537-4013. Documents related to this notice may be reviewed at this office by appointment by calling 401-537-4029.

SOUTHCOAST WIND 30% HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILL DESIGN OFFSHORE EXPORT CABLE LANDFALL

VICINITY MAP



LEGEND

- HDD START/END
- SOIL BORE
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- EXISTING STORM DRAINAGE LINE
- EXISTING SANITARY SEWER LINE
- EXISTING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE
- PERENIAL STREAM CENTER LINE
- FRESH WATER WETLANDS IN THE VICINITY OF THE COAST

GENERAL NOTES

1. THE UTILITIES AND NATURAL FEATURES SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON:
 - LEVEL D SURVEY PERFORMED BY DIPRETE ENGINEERING, 01/19/2022
 - GOOGLE EARTH 2020
 - OTHER FACILITIES MAY EXIST NOT DISCOVERED THROUGH THE RECORD CHECK. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY THE EXACT LOCATION, BOTH HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL, OF ALL UTILITIES THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE UTILITY COMPANIES. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG, 811 OR 1-888-344-7233.
2. STATE PLANE COORDINATE (HORIZONTAL DATUM): REFERENCES RHODE ISLAND PLAN COORDINATE SYSTEM - NAD83 1983, US FOOT.
3. STATE PLANE COORDINATE (VERTICAL DATUM): NAVD 1988. THE COORDINATE SYSTEM THAT THIS SURVEY WAS BASED UPON IS STATE PLANE NAD 88, US FOOT.
4. ALL VERTICAL RADII ARE 400', AND HORIZONTAL RADII ARE 50' UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGEND:

- RI FEMA FLOODZONE
- WETLAND
- PERENIAL STREAM CENTER LINE
- FRESH WATER WETLANDS IN THE VICINITY OF THE COAST
- MOORING FIELDS

172033 - Aquidneck Island MontaupCountry Club Parking Lot HDD.dwg



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

POWER ENGINEERS
PROJECT ENGINEER: TODD GOYETTE

POWER ENGINEERS
PROJECT NUMBER: 172033

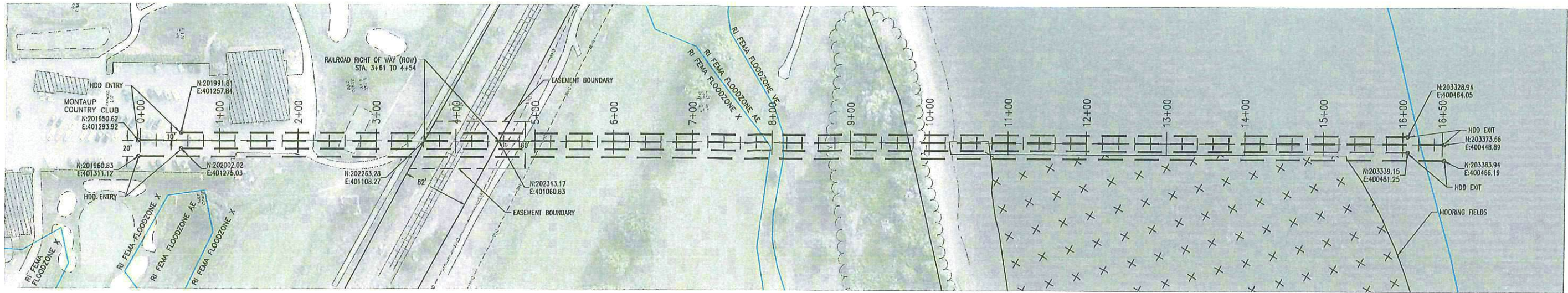
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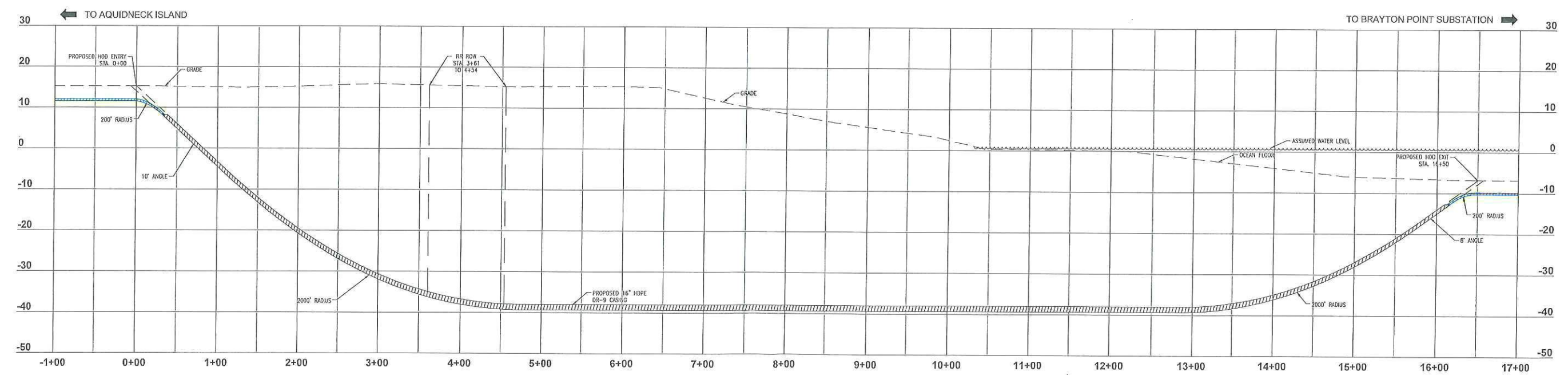
REV	REVISIONS	DATE	DRN	DSGN	CKD	APPD	REFERENCE DRAWINGS	SCALE:	AS SHOWN
I	UPDATED RAILROAD EASMENT	12/06/2023	BAJ	TSG	TSG			DSGN	TSG 08/13/2021
H	UPDATED RAILROAD ROW	10/28/2022	ASW	TSG	TSG			DRN	ASW 08/13/2021
G	RAILROAD STATIONS DETAILED	09/16/2022	LAS	TSG	TSG			CKD	TSG 08/13/2021
F	INCORPORATED SOUTHCOAST COMMENTS	05/11/2022	LAS	TSG	TSG				
E	INCORPORATED SOUTHCOAST COMMENTS	04/29/2022	ASW	TSG	TSG				



SOUTHCOAST WIND		JOB NUMBER	REV
AQUIDNECK ISLAND HDD		172033	▲
MONTAUP COUNTRY CLUB PARKING LOT GENERAL NOTES AND MANIFEST		DRAWING NUMBER	G1-1



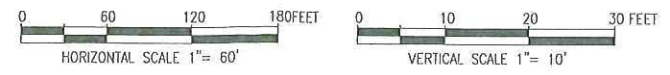
PLAN VIEW



PROFILE VIEW

NOTES:

1. THE UTILITIES AND NATURAL FEATURES SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON FIELD SURVEYS, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORD DOCUMENTS. OTHER FACILITIES MAY EXIST NOT DISCOVERED THROUGH THE RECORD CHECK. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY THE EXACT LOCATION, BOTH HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL, OF ALL UTILITIES THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE UTILITY COMPANIES. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG, 811 OR 1-800-344-7233.
2. PLAN AND PROFILE ALIGNMENT IS CONCEPTUAL AND NOT BASED ON PROJECT SPECIFIC FIELD SURVEY OR GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION.
3. THE UTILITIES AND NATURAL FEATURES SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON:
 - GOOGLE EARTH 2020
 - TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH WEB GIS MAPS AND ONLINE PROPERTY INFORMATION
4. PROPERTY LINES ARE BASED ON RIDOT RECORDS SHOWING AN 82 FOOT WIDE RIGHT OF WAY SHOWN CENTERED ON TRACK LINE.



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172033 - Aquidneck Island MontaupCountry Club Parking Lot HDD.dwg

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REV	REVISIONS	DATE	DRN	DSGN	CKD	APPD	REFERENCE DRAWINGS
I	UPDATED RAILROAD EASEMENT	12/06/2023	BAJ	TSG	TSG		
H	UPDATED RAILROAD ROW	10/28/2022	ASW	TSG	TSG		
G	RAILROAD STATIONS DETAILED	09/16/2022	LAS	TSG	TSG		
F	INCORPORATED SOUTHCOAST COMMENTS	05/11/2022	LAS	TSG	TSG		
E	INCORPORATED SOUTHCOAST COMMENTS	04/29/2022	ASW	TSG	TSG		

DSGN	TSG	08/13/2021
DRN	ASW	08/13/2021
CKD	TSG	08/13/2021

SCALE: AS SHOWN
FOR 24x36 DWG ONLY



SOUTHCOAST WIND		JOB NUMBER	REV
AQUIDNECK ISLAND HDD		172033	1
MONTAUP COUNTRY CLUB PARKING LOT PLAN AND PROFILE		DRAWING NUMBER	P1-1

2/14/2024

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
235 Promenade St
Providence, RI 02908

AP Enterprise, LLC
0 Park Ave.
Portsmouth, RI 02872

Attn: Ronald Gagnon

My name is Arthur Palmer owner of AP Enterprise, LLC and the former Portsmouth Town landfill.

RIDEM landfill closure program is fully aware who I am.

I would like to propose an addendum to any final agreement with South Coast Wind.

As far back as the early 1900s the Sakonnet River was connected to the marsh along Boyds Lane via Park Ave. Today that connection has been filled in and the marsh flow is only to the Old Orchard Cove.

I would strongly suggest that as part of the negotiations with South Coast Wind you request the restoration of the Sakonnet River connection. If you will notice by the attached pictures that the sediment over the years have built up as part of the blockage. It is my opinion this area is now the breeding ground for extensive mosquito population. Reopening the connection would alleviate the problem, keeping the water moving. (A justification for this suggestion)

The only issue from the state point of view is that the corner lot (Map 25 Lot 1) is privately owned by an estate. But if the state really wants to pursue this proposal, I'm sure the state could figure out a way to acquire or gain access to this property. Or the connection could be moved to go around the private property.

Sincerely,

Arthur Palmer



AP Enterprise, LLC
28 Teal Dr
Wakefield, RI 02879

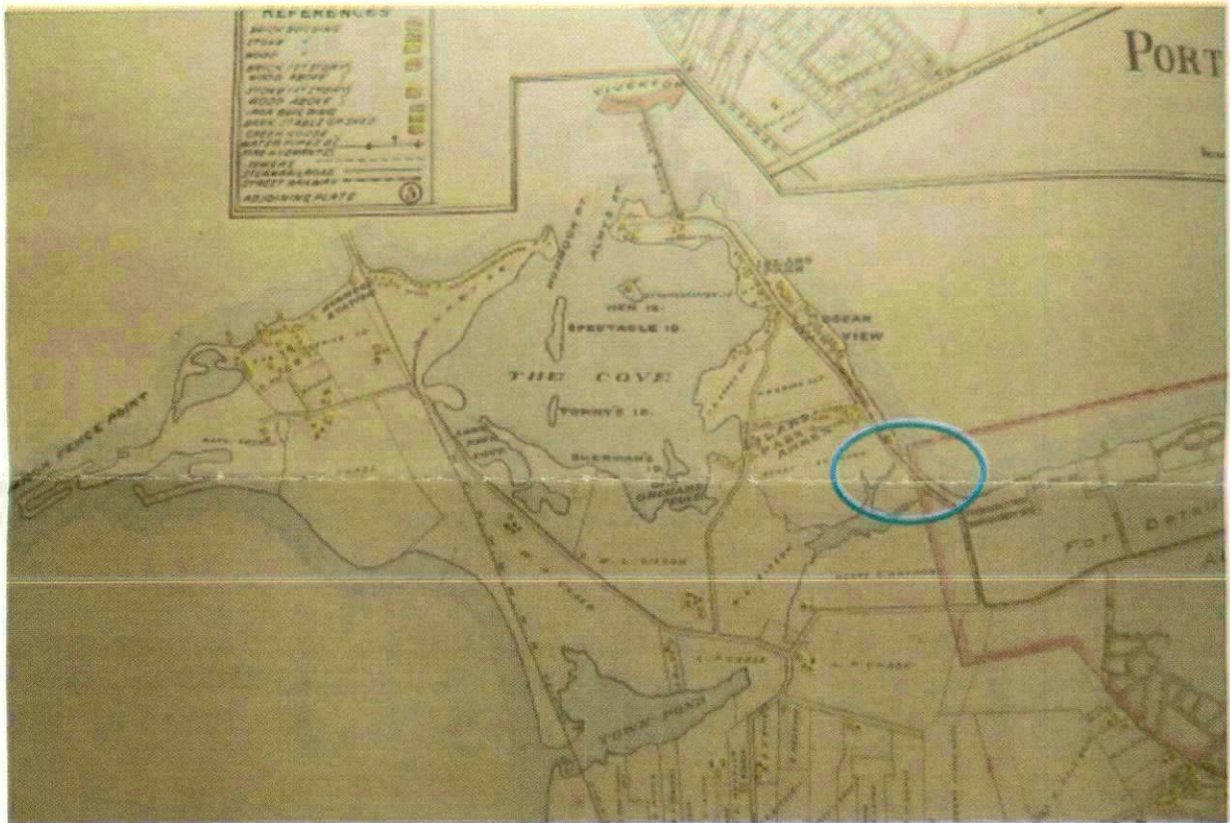
C: 401-855-6821

Environmental Management

FEB 19 2024

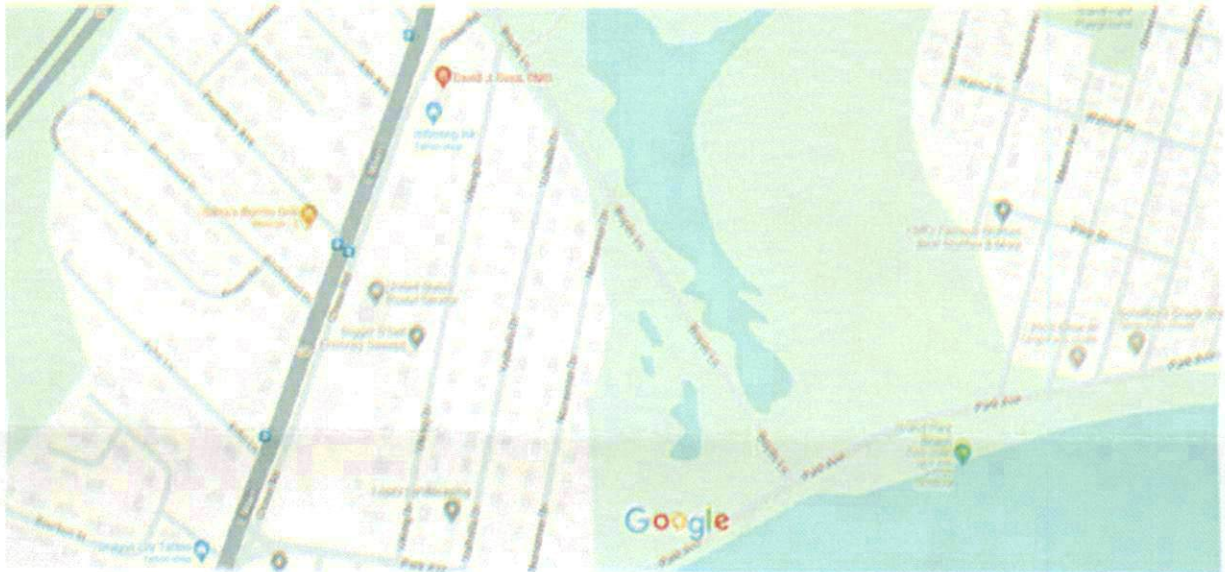
Permit Application Center

1907 Newport Atlas by LJ Richards



Blue indicates the marsh opening to the Sakonnet River under Park Avenue at Island Park Beach.

Google Maps Island Park 2024 zoom map



Map data ©2024 Google 200 ft

Google Maps Island Park 2024 Map



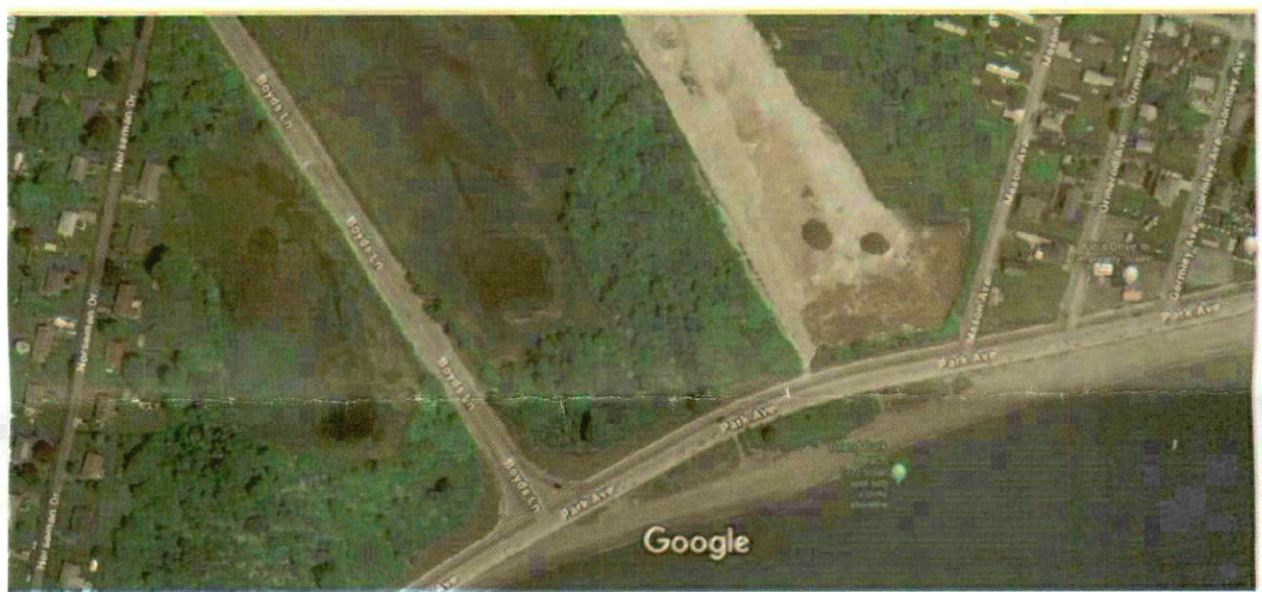
Map data ©2024 500 ft

Google Maps Island Park 2024 Satellite Map



Imagery ©2024 CNES / Airbus, Maxxis, Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOGA, Maxar Technologies, RISIS, USDA/FPAS/IGEO, Map data ©2024

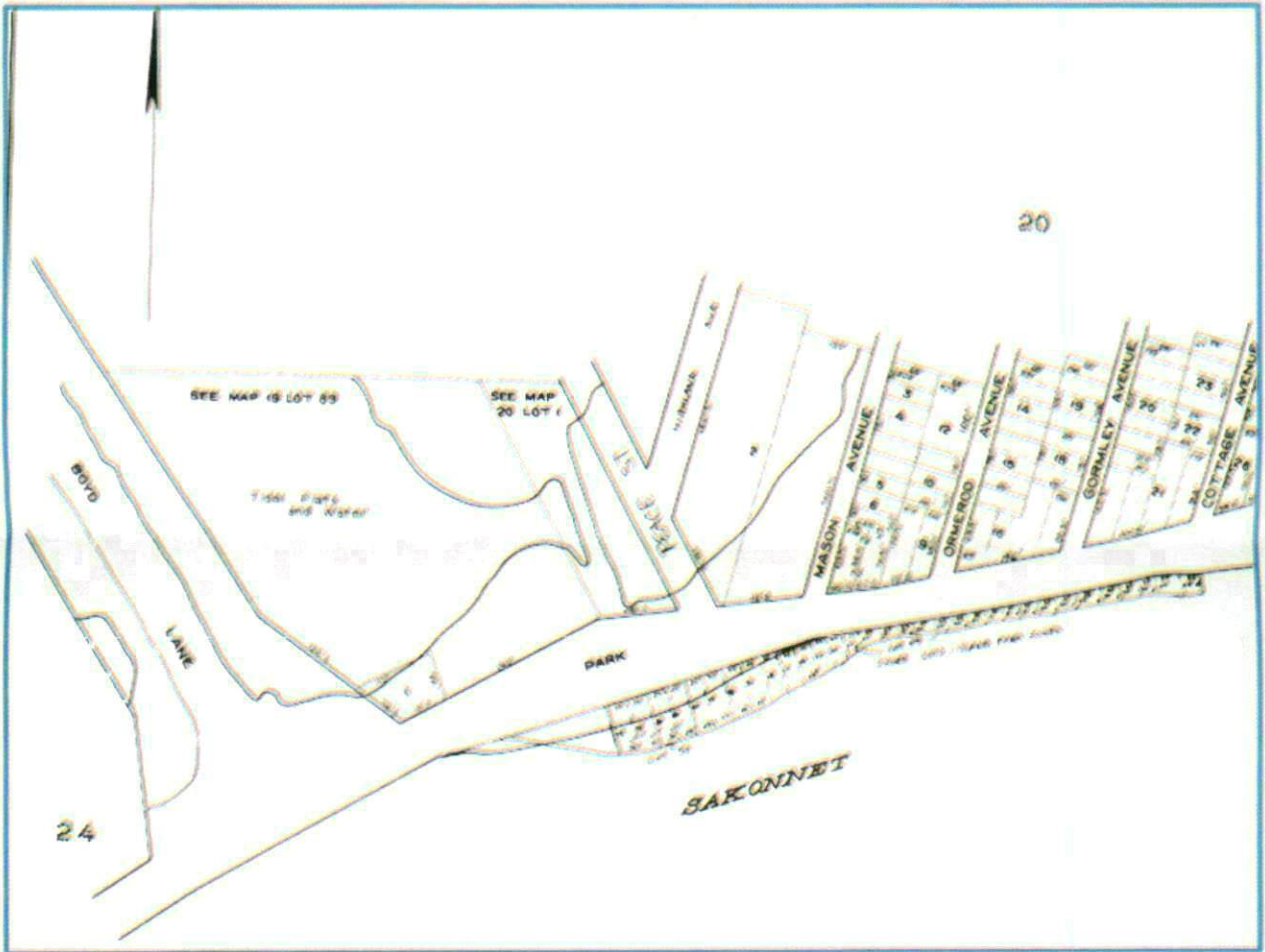
Google Maps Island Park 2024 Satellite Map - zoom



Imagery ©2024 Maxxis, Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOGA, Maxar Technologies, RISIS, USDA/FPAS/IGEO, Map data ©2024

Portsmouth Map 25

<https://www.portsmouthri.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/113>



Vision Appraisal Map 25 Lot 1

<https://gis.vgsi.com/portsmouthri/Parcel.aspx?pid=7294>

0 PARK AVE

Location 0 PARK AVE

Mblu 25/ 1/ 1/ 1

Acct#

Owner STEINHOF AVIS F

Assessment \$23,100

Appraisal \$23,100

PID 7294

Building Count 1

Current Value

Appraisal			
Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2023	\$0	\$23,100	\$23,100
Assessment			
Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2023	\$0	\$23,100	\$23,100

Owner of Record

Owner STEINHOF AVIS F
Co-Owner C/O ROBERT STEINHOF EXECUTOR
Address 144 HARBOR RD
 SWANSEA, MA 02777-1446

Sale Price \$0
Certificate
Book & Page 55-503/0
Sale Date 01/24/1964

Ownership History

Ownership History				
Owner	Sale Price	Certificate	Book & Page	Sale Date
STEINHOF AVIS F	\$0		55-503/0	01/24/1964

Building Information

Building 1 : Section 1

Year Built:
Living Area: 0
Replacement Cost: \$0
Building Percent Good:
Replacement Cost
Less Depreciation: \$0

Building Attributes

Field	Description
Style:	Vacant Land



Arthur Palmer
28 Teal Dr.
Wakefield, RI 02879-6109

PROVIDENCE RI 028

14 FEB 2024 PM 3 L



RIDEM - Ronald Gagnon
Office of Customer & Tech
235 Promenade St
Providence RI 02872

02908-576799



February 11, 2024

Abigail Demopulos
17 Constitution St.
Bristol, RI 02809

Environmental Management

FEB 19 2024

RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer and Technical Assistance
235 Promenade St
Providence, RI 02908
ATTN: Ronald Gagnon

Permit Application Center

Dear Mr. Gagnon:

I am writing in support of the proposal by SouthCoast Wind to dredge in the Sakonnet River to install underwater power export cables and route the cables via Portsmouth to the power plant in Somerset.

Rhode Island and Massachusetts both need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Offshore wind offers the potential for clean energy. Developing an offshore wind industry in Southern New England will help to diversify our economy and potentially attract new industries. Offshore wind is well-established in Europe. If New England can't demonstrate that it can take a long-term view and overcome procedural hurdles to develop this industry, we will continue to depend on imported energy and miss opportunities to be part of a new industry.

Narragansett Bay is already suffering the impacts of climate change so we must do our part to bring greenhouse gas emissions down locally and globally.

I call on the RIDEM to ensure that this installation is done in a manner that protects the Sakonnet River ecosystem.

Sincerely,



Abigail Demopulos

Abigail Demopulos
17 Constitution St.
Bristol, RI 02809

CAPITAL DISTRICT 208

13 FEB 2024 PM 3 L



Roy Lichtenstein

RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Customer and Technical Assistance
235 Promenade St
Providence, RI 02908
ATTN: Ronald Gagnon

02908-576799



Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Nancy <vhoward17@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 1:52 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM)
Cc: Audette, Kimberly (DEM); DEM.FileReview; LoBianco, Joseph (DEM); maryellen martin; jforgione28@gmail.com; Tom Grieb
Subject: Re: DEM/SouthCoast Dredging Application Feb 22

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Thanks Ron, I appreciate the information and quick response! Nancy

On Feb 15, 2024, at 5:35 AM, Gagnon, Ron (DEM) <Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov> wrote:

The Dredge Regulations can be found at: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-150-05-2>.

The Water Quality Regulations are at: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-150-05-1>

We are also subject to the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-401/clean-water-act-section-401-state-certification-water-quality> [epa.gov]

Ron

From: Nancy <Vhoward17@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:33 PM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM) <Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov>
Cc: Audette, Kimberly (DEM) <Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov>; DEM.FileReview <DEM.Filereview@dem.ri.gov>; LoBianco, Joseph (DEM) <joseph.lobianco@dem.ri.gov>; maryellen martin <martinellenm@gmail.com>; jforgione28@gmail.com; Tom Grieb <tom.grieb@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: DEM/SouthCoast Dredging Application Feb 22

Thanks for the quick response and information Ron.

While in most cases that makes sense, since the EFSB (another state agency/board) and the Supreme Court both paused this application, it seems like DEM would too.

State resources are being spent to review this application which may be unnecessary.

I would like a copy of the RIDEM rules that govern an application of this type. Can you provide that or should I contact someone else?

Sincerely, Nancy Howard

<https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/environment/2024/01/22/southcoast-winds-appeal-over-offshore-wind-transmission-cable-denied/72313612007/> [providencejournal.com]

On Feb 14, 2024, at 2:21 PM, Gagnon, Ron (DEM) <Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov> wrote:

The review of the Dredge Permit application and the Water Quality Certificate application are independent from the Energy Facility Siting Board process. An EFSB decision is not needed for the DEM applications. Once an application is received, we are obligated to complete a review and issue a decision unless the applicant voluntarily withdraws the application.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Ron Gagnon, P.E.
Administrator
Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
Tel: (401) 537-4013

Email: Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

From: Nancy <Vhoward17@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:36 AM
To: Audette, Kimberly (DEM) <Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov>
Cc: Gagnon, Ron (DEM) <Ron.Gagnon@dem.ri.gov>; DEM.FileReview <DEM.Filereview@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: DEM/SouthCoast Dredging Application Feb 22

Thanks again for the documentation.

I'm curious why this hearing has been scheduled.

Last June, the state Energy Facility Siting Board unanimously voted to pause consideration of the application for the transmission line until questions about the financial viability of the 2,400-megawatt project are cleared up.

Here's a recent article from the ProJo.

It seems to me that until the EFSB has confidence this project is financially viable, DEM should not spend time and money reviewing this extensive documentation.

Thank you, Nancy Howard

On Feb 14, 2024, at 7:52 AM, Audette, Kimberly (DEM)
<Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov> wrote:

Good Morning,
Please see the link below in response to your recent records request to the department. This should complete your request. Please confirm that you have received this information. Let me know if you have any trouble opening the link. Sometimes the code will go to junk mail.

Thank you, [SouthCoast Wind 1 Project](#)
[\[rigov.sharepoint.com\]](#)

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

235 Promenade Street | Room 260 | Providence, RI 02908



Kim Audette

Applications Coordinator

Office of Customer & Technical Assistance

Permit Application Center (PAC)

Tel: (401) 537-4009

Email: Kimberly.Audette@dem.ri.gov

Website: www.dem.ri.gov

Gagnon, Ron (DEM)

From: Joe Forgione <jforgione28@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Gagnon, Ron (DEM); Audette, Kimberly (DEM); joseph.lobianco@demri.gov
Cc: Nancy Grieb; Edward Monaco; Bill Thompson; karen gleason; Richard Hood; Tom Grieb
Subject: Questions For DEM Hearing in Portsmouth on February 22, 2024

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To DEM:

As an interested resident in Portsmouth I have the following questions regarding the hearing you are slated to have regarding the dredging application for the Sakonnet/Mt. Hope Bay. Please include this and your responses to this in your public record.

You claimed to others who have sent questions that according to agency regulations you must have a hearing if an applicant applies for a permit. However, as you are aware the route through the Sakonnet/Mt Hope Bay has not been approved by the PUC/EFSB. In fact, they have issued a stay on approval after a hearing in May of 2023 in which the developer testified that they were seeking to terminate their PPAs with utility providers and may not get funding under the circumstances.

Thus, I would appreciate answers to the following questions.

1. Will you be issuing a permit for dredging even though the PUC/EFSB has not approved the route and the route may never be approved ?
2. Do you have a timeline for a decision after the hearing?
3. How long will the permit be valid before another application and review is required?
4. Will the permit be transferable to another entity or does the new entity have to reapply? Assuming that the developer (applicant) is taken over by another entity or seeks to transfer the right under another legal entity?
5. What is the DEM's plan (not the plan of the applicant developer) to assure that there is no impact of dredging on recreational and fishing activity due to sediment disturbance?
6. Do you have technical parameters for approval (e.g.sediment levels, types, etc)? And will you be publishing the detailed assessment showing how these parameters were used to justify your decision?
7. Will there be testing and who will do the testing of contaminant levels in near real time during dredging? It should be an independent third party and not the developer.
8. What provisions will be made to assure the chain of custody of samples that are collected and tested?
9. Who will perform the dredging and what experience do they have in shallow tidal basins and bays? (to minimize disturbance)
10. Will the DEM and other agencies be on board every minute during dredging? If not, why not?
11. Will provisions be made for community members to observe the entire process on board? If not, why not?
12. What are the contaminant thresholds upon which DEM et al, will issue a cease dredging order?
13. Will the data collected during dredging be made available to the public or will this be another case of redacted proprietary information?
14. Finally, will the DEM assure the public that there will be no partial or full shut down of the areas during dredging?

15. Has the DEM ever approved a high voltage cable route of this magnitude (equivalent miles) through a Type 1 area? If not this magnitude, please provide other examples which were approved.

Thank you for all that you do to protect our precious environment.

Joe Forgione
Portsmouth Resident