



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New England District

# News release

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## Corps details protocol for December public hearings for wind energy project Draft EIS

**CONCORD, Mass.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District will hold four public hearings in December to gather information and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addressing the proposed Cape Wind wind energy project in Nantucket Sound, Mass.

The Corps' New England District Commander and District Engineer Col. Thomas Koning will be the Corps hearing officer. James Hunt, Director of the state's Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office, will represent the Commonwealth's Environmental Secretariat as the Draft EIS also serves as a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the state review purposes.

Each meeting will be similar and provide a meeting overview, a review of Corps jurisdiction, an overview of the proposed project, a review of state jurisdiction, and oral testimony from the public for the record. A stenographer will record that testimony.

Those who wish to make oral statements for the record can sign up to do so beginning an hour before the start of each meeting. A time limit of 2-5 minutes (depending on how many people sign up as determined 15 minutes before the start of the meeting) will be imposed on all speakers. All speakers are encouraged to summarize lengthy remarks and then enter the entirety of their remarks in writing by submitting them for the record either at the hearing or during the public comment period through Feb. 24, 2005. All comments will receive equal consideration.

Those who sign up to provide oral testimony will be able to speak according to the order they signed up at the registration table and in accordance with established Corps hearing protocol. That protocol in descending order is: members of Congress (or their representatives); governor (or his representative); other elected state officials; local elected officials; representatives of federal agencies; representatives of state agencies; representatives of local agencies; and all others (in order in which registration cards have been turned in).

A traffic signal will be used to alert speakers to the time remaining to speak: a green light will come on to indicate two minutes remaining; an amber or yellow light will come on indicating one minute left; and a red light will come on indicating time has expired.

Two stenographers will be available to take testimony. One will be in the hearing room recording the testimony as it is delivered. The other will be outside the hearing room and can record testimony from people with no time limitation.

Should time run out for any hearing, the hearing will be closed at the scheduled time (those time restrictions imposed by the facility operators) and all those who have signed up to speak and were not able to, will be provided an opportunity in the future. Each person will be contacted individually by mail with that information.

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## **Corps details protocol for windfarm hearings/2-2-2-2**

Those who wish to provide comments at the hearing are reminded that their comments receive equal consideration whether made in person or in writing, by mail or email. Also, individuals are encouraged to speak at only one hearing, therefore ensuring that all who wish to provide testimony are given an opportunity to do so.

The hearings will offer no opportunity for discussion or debate. Those with questions will direct those questions to the record, not the hearing officers or the panel. A transcript of each hearing will be prepared and posted online (about 10 days after the hearings), and the record will remain open and written comments can be submitted until Feb. 24, 2005.

Public hearings are scheduled: on Monday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. (registration to begin at 5 p.m.) at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School on Edgartown Road, in Oak Bluffs, Mass.; on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. (registration to begin at 6 p.m.) at the Mattacheese Middle School at 400 Higgins-Crowell Road in West Yarmouth, Mass.; on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. (registration to begin at 5 p.m.) at the Nantucket Community School at 10 Surfside Road in the Mary P. Walker Auditorium in Nantucket, Mass.; and on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. (registration to begin at 6 p.m.) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Room 10-250 at 77 Massachusetts Ave. in Cambridge, Mass.

The Draft EIS was prepared by the Corps, in cooperation with 16 federal, state and local resource agencies, in response to a permit application from Cape Wind Associates, LLC for the installation and operation of 130 offshore wind turbine generators in Nantucket Sound, Mass. The document also serves as the Environmental Impact Report for the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and for the review by the Cape Cod Commission. While the Army Corps of Engineers, Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and the Cape Cod Commission are conducting joint review for public purposes, each agency retains independent review authority over matters within each agency's respective jurisdiction.

The purpose of the Draft EIS is to assess the environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction of an offshore wind-powered generating facility by Cape Wind Associates in Nantucket Sound. The Draft EIS provides detailed information on the potential impacts and benefits of the applicant's proposed wind energy project in Nantucket Sound and potential impacts and benefits at the alternative sites. Cape Wind Associates LLC applied to the Corps for a permit to construct an offshore wind energy facility in November 2001. The purpose is to generate up to 454 MW of clean, renewable wind-generated energy that will be transmitted to the New England regional power grid, including Cape Cod and the Islands.

Hard copies and CD copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at 32 local area libraries on Cape Cod, the islands, and in Boston, Mass. An electronic version of the Draft EIS is available for review and download on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select "projects" and then Cape Wind windfarm permit application. Or go directly to: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/ccwf/windfarm.htm>

Public comments on the Draft EIS can be sent electronically to [wind.energy@usace.army.mil](mailto:wind.energy@usace.army.mil) or mailed to Cape Wind Energy Project EIS Manager Karen K. Adams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751. Reference file # NAE-2004-338-1. The public notice can be reviewed online at the Corps website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and search by file number or state.

A compact disc (CD) copy of the Draft EIS and a Project Summary Brochure can be requested from the above address, by emailing a request to [wind.energy@usace.army.mil](mailto:wind.energy@usace.army.mil), or by calling 978-318-8335.