

VIA FAX
978-318-8303

John T. Griffin, Jr.
109 Old Farm Rd.
Centerville, MA. 02632
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19 February 2005

Karen Adams
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Rd.
Concord, MA. 01742

004329

Comment on Draft EIS for the proposal for an Offshore Wind Project in Nantucket Sound.

By way of introduction, I am a lifelong summer resident of Cape Cod who settled permanently in Centerville in 1992, beyond visual distance from the Sound. I have been a licensed aircraft pilot and ship's Captain for over 40 years with vast experience navigating on and over the Sound. For several years I served as crewmember and Captain of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard passenger ferries, and I have amassed a lifetime of recreational boating experience under both power and sail worldwide. I am a former U.S. Navy line officer with extensive sea duty, and I currently serve as Vice Chairman of the Barnstable Municipal Airport Commission.

I am opposed to any "industrial" development of Nantucket Sound by Cape Wind or any other entity, particularly this project for several reasons including but not limited to safety, environmental, and economic concerns.

- **SAFETY:** There is little doubt that the proposed 130 huge wind turbines will diminish safety on the Sound. Marine traffic on the Sound consists of commercial passenger and vehicle ferries (some very high speed) barges, fishing vessels and numerous pleasure craft. While GPS will pinpoint their locations and the location of vessels so equipped, radar is needed to detect and locate other vessels and navigation aids in fog and times of reduced visibility. Dense fog, often closing in suddenly, is common on the Sound. The spinning turbines (windmills) will mask and confuse radar to such a degree that even a skilled operator will have great difficulty interpreting "the picture" if there even is one.
- On a clear night the lighting on the towers will be very confusing to mariners by making it difficult to pick out other vessels, lighted buoys and on-shore nav aids among the clutter. These same lights may be equally confusing or disorienting to

aircraft transiting the area. How are the blade tips going to be lighted at the top of their arc?

All three local Airport Commissions (HYA; ACK; MVY) have expressed opposition to this project based on air safety issues. It is my understanding that USCG Air Station Cape Cod at Otis has grave concerns about their ability to safely conduct aerial rescues among the spinning blades in the area (20+ square miles) covered by the "wind farm".

Studies by the British Ministry of Defence have shown that wind farms, even on a much smaller scale than this, seriously degrade the performance of both air defence and air traffic control radars by masking targets, creating false or "ghost" targets and cluttering screens. I believe that they no longer allow these turbines to be erected within 75 kilometers of a radar installation. Cape Approach which provides ATC services to thousands of flights over southeastern Mass. is located at Otis.

The proposed transformer and maintenance platform poses other problems related to possible on board fires or explosions and major oil spills.

- **Environment:** Visual, noise and light pollution will be a reality that will effectively destroy the quality of life along all shores facing the wind farm and forever ruin the tranquility of the Sound. The current test tower which is tiny compared to each of the 130 proposed generating towers is clearly visible to the naked eye from Craigville Beach though it located at the southernmost boundary of the proposed project. Tip vortex noise from 390 whirling blades (tip speed is about 180 mph at nominal operating RPM) and the associated machinery noise will be carried by the wind to shore. That plus the necessary fog signals (SEVERAL VERY LOUD HORNS) will be nothing short of excruciating to the ear of shore dwellers and destructive to real estate values around the Sound.
- The notion that the Sound is the "outer continental shelf" and that somehow Horseshoe Shoal is "way out in the ocean" is absurd. The Sound is nearly totally landlocked; a lake filled with sea water not a great deal larger than Lake Winnepesaukee in N.H., or Moosehead Lake in ME., and vastly smaller than many other lakes in the US and Canada. It is only by an aberration that the Sound is not classified as state territorial waters, and no state would allow such a project in its lakes. Maintenance and construction craft, plus helicopter operations from the work and transformer platform(s) create their own potential environmental hazards.
- **Economics:** To my knowledge no wind generation project has ever been profitable without government subsidy. It has typically been a relatively inefficient and expensive method of power generation. The developer of this project is taking advantage of an aberration in the law regarding the definition of "Federal Waters" in what had traditionally been "inland waters", with no apparent body of authority save the Corps of Engineers, an entity which likes to build things. The developer, if allowed to build this atrocity, will derive huge economic benefit from the use of 24

square miles of pristine waters (and the seabed) at no cost to them, and no benefit to the taxpaying citizens. This is just plain wrong!

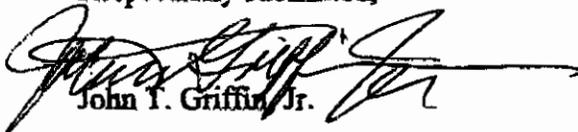
The area is subject to severe storms, hurricanes in the summer and winter nor'easters, each with very high winds and often with embedded tornadic gusts (Hurricane Bob). This is likely to destroy many or all of the turbines. The cost to repair them will be enormous, and most likely will not happen. They will become junk and a blight to everyone; truly a lasting monument to stupidity.

The electricity generated by this project, if it ever actually goes on line, will go into the power grid, like water into a sponge, and become untraceable. There is no way to allocate it to Cape Cod. Therefore the Cape will not pay any less for this energy than from any other source(s) as distribution costs won't go down.

Most of the jobs generated by this project will go to off-Cape or out of area companies and union workers from Boston locals. That is why I have seen so many of these union members demonstrating in favor of this project. I have been rudely verbally accosted by such people.

- **Conclusion:** Alternative sources of energy are desirable in their proper place, and when economically advantageous. This project is in the worst place and will likely never be financially viable. Cape Wind will probably reap a windfall if they just get it built. Beyond that, who knows who will keep it going? The majority of people who support this project are not from Cape Cod. Many look only at the emotional issues of "clean" or "renewable" energy sources without considering the reality and enormity of this project and the impact it will have on the Cape and the islands. Some think it will be a tourist attraction. Maybe some will come to see it. But many more will stay away because of the annoyance factor, and because our shores and beaches will never be the same. Local businesses will suffer. Some of our most valuable real estate will lose much of its value causing a reduction in local tax revenues.
- This project is proposed for the wrong place and for all the wrong reasons, particularly greed. The Corps of Engineers should reject it. I encourage a moratorium on all industrial development of Nantucket Sound.

Respectfully submitted,


John T. Griffin, Jr.

February 26, 2005

004(330)

**Colonel Thomas Koning
US Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742**

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2005

004(330)

Colonel Koning:

I am a new resident of Cape Cod.

My family has enjoyed our vacations and vacation homes on the Cape for more than 20 years. We are lucky people. I am fortunate to be able to conduct my business from any location in the United States and as of last spring have selected Cape Cod as my permanent home.

We are building a house and experience the long ordeal and torture exerted by the local commissions' domain and restrictions in permitting such a project. I can see, however, that the overall concern is in the protection of wildlife, indigenous plants, water quality, conservation, and preservation of the entire waterfront community's well being.

This is special. It's unique. We are in a place from which our forefathers landed, settled and formed our country. I can appreciate our heritage right here, first hand, as a witness every day. Cape Cod is a national treasure that must be preserved, nurtured and cherished in its purest form, by all means possible.

This wind farm project is bad for us. Not only for the residents who would have to look at that thing every day, but for every American who has visited the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Denali, or any of our pristine natural gifts. There are no power lines or wind mills there. Nantucket Sound is absolutely no different. We cannot ruin what we have.

I have seen the wind mills in California. They don't work. Even in the desert it's an eye sore, a hazard to the birds, and an invasion to our natural resources. They are in disrepair and a massively inefficient in some scheme toward natural energy production.

This whole thing is an experiment, an experiment with no future in economical benefit, fraught with the severe possibility of some catastrophe, and strongly against the wishes of the community in which the behemoth is proposed to be built.

Stop this project. It is not for us. Not here. Not now. This is not the place for a science test.

I do not want my children and their children to grow up under those ridiculous fans. I'm doing my part in responsible, respectful building in a sensitive zone. The municipal, state and federal governments, including your area of focus, have responsibilities as well.

Yours truly,



Mike Dodson

Cape Cod Resident

Feb. 16, 2005

Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Rd,
Concord, MA 01742

4331

Re: Cape Wind

Dear Colonel Koning:

I first want you to know that I am for renewable energy. When they first started talking about it and trying to get solar energy off the ground no company really took the ball and ran, which someone should have done.

This is not a matter of NIMBY - if I lived in Minnesota I would feel the same - it is in my mind two big moral issues:

1. Giving away federal waters which I believe belong to the people. We have limited recreational coastline available to our people for their enjoyment and much needed vacations. If they want to do this further out to sea, maybe I could see the benefit. Their tax subsidies come out of our pockets, either way.
2. To allow private business to use this precious resource for their own profit is unconscionable. They have no track record in this business; the benefit to private citizens will be minimal at best; other world experiments with water located wind farms are not encouraging.

Why is the Corps of Engineers given this responsibility as I understand you have no extensive experience or guidelines in this area? Why can't you work with this company to find other land to lease in New England for the same purpose? If we don't come up with a way to regulate this abuse of our resources, next we'll have a floating gambling casino and more. Obviously, wind farms are also easier to repair on land than at sea.

"How can we justify destroying such an amazing area for any reasons?" - Joy Marzolf, N. Falmouth, MA.

"Neither the federal government nor the state have established ground rules with respect to the private use or private development of public waters for purposes of wind energy generation." State Senator Robert O'Leary.

Sincerely,

Dee Caton

Dee Caton
12 Midland Av,
Nantucket, MA 02554

cc: Sen. Kennedy; Sen. Kerry; Sen. O'Leary; Rep. Turkington; Gov. Romney

February 16, 2005
Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

004382

Dear Colonel Koning:

My husband and I spent thirty years in the Real Estate business - so we had felt secure in choosing Nantucket Sound as an environmentally safe and wonderful place to settle for the balance of our lives.

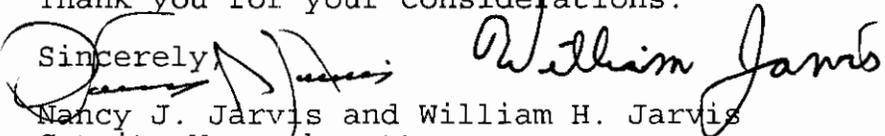
The Cape Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement negates that otherwise correct decision. The statement is inadequate for our personal and the public's boating and navigation safety. Threats from possible leakage of oil; as well as the visual pollution. The negative impact on fish, fishing, birds and all migrations.

Why does this statement have such a poor analysis of alternative sights? It is a particularly poor study on the impact on tourism. It seems to be just another feeble inadequate attempt at thrusting Cape Wind into our beautiful productive sound, our lives and the lives of future generations. There are other sound alternatives.

Please consider our visual, audio and natural environment in its proper light. Do not accept this draft as a positive, it does not make the case to put such a natural treasure at risk.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,


Nancy J. Jarvis and William H. Jarvis
Cotuit, Massachusetts
(727 Main Street) 02635

February 17, 2005

Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

004833

Re: Cape Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Colonel Koning:

I am writing to you as a humble hard working long time resident of Cape Cod to plead for your consideration in ending the Cape Wind's efforts to place a wind farm in the proposed location.

Like the vast majority of opponents to this proposal I am not against alternative forms of energy but rather I oppose the sacrifice of pristine natural resources that have demonstrated such a precious part of our history and represent the foundation of our future. As a country, but first as a state, we must allow for more time to determine the most appropriate methods to deploy this technology. We have a chance to set an example for the rest of the country lets make sure it's the right example by establishing a moratorium and allowing for a comprehensive effort to consider the most appropriate way to deploy this technology. Let our oversight of this new technology catch up with its deployment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Conway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent.

Gary R. Conway

Corinne Wickel
111 River Road
Mashpee, MA 02649

February 17, 2004

Colonel Thomas Koning
US Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

004334

Dear Col. Koning,

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to voice my opposition to the windmills in Nantucket Sound. One of my main objections to this project is that the residents of Cape Cod and the Islands are not going to benefit from the energy that is produced. Yes, a very small percentage of energy is supposed to be supplied to the Cape, but that is not enough to equate the damage to the Nantucket Sound environment. Destruction of a natural resource by a private, profit making company is not fair to the people of Cape Cod or anywhere!

I am not going to rehash all the information, I just want to state : Save our Sound.

Sincerely,



Corinne Wickel

February 17, 2005

Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

004335

Dear Colonel Koning,

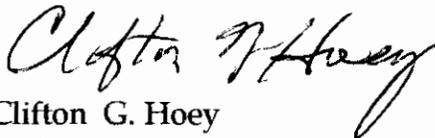
I want to register the **STRONGEST PROTEST** that I can in order to protect the present beauty of Nantucket Sound.

My wife and I own a home in South Yarmouth to which we will permanently move shortly. Probably the primary reason we wish to spend the rest of our life on this earth there—on the Cape—is because of the view and the pristine beauty of the ocean and the sandy beaches. It's that simple!

We and many thousands of other people including residents and visitors do not wish to look at a wind farm when we go to the beach.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Sincerely,



Clifton G. Hoey
50 Claremont Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Robert and Nancy Solomon
83 Quail Lane
Hyannis Port, Massachusetts 02647

February 17, 2005

Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

004336

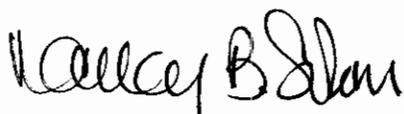
Dear Colonel Koning:

We implore you—for the sake of one of our country's most fragile natural treasures—not to act on the existing Cape Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

From everything we can read about it, it is inadequate at best. The list of its shortcomings has been published many places but please add to the other voices our shock at how inadequately this Environmental Impact Statement addresses THE POLLUTION THAT WILL RESULT FROM SERVICING THE TRANSFORMER SUBSTATION, THE IMPACT TO SO MUCH OF OUR PRECIOUS WILDLIFE—BIRDS TO MENTION ONE GROUP THREATENED, AND THE JEOPARDY THESE WINDMILLS WILL POSE TO BOAT NAVIGATION FOR RESIDENTS AND OUR BIG TOURIST POPULATION.

The Cape is a fragile place to begin with—in terms of both population and financial strength. We beg you not to make decisions with such inadequate information. The impact is much too serious.

Thank you for listening to us,



Nancy Burke Solomon



Robert J. Solomon

Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Ma. 01742

February 17, 2005

004337

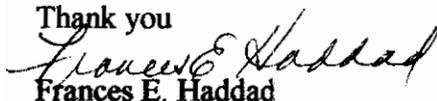
Dear Colonel Koning;

I am writing this letter to tell you that the Cape Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete. It does not address air and boat navigation safety. It also does not address bird and wildlife safety. It ignores the threats of oil pollution on the transformer substation, visible pollution and associated economic impact on tourism and does not address alternative sites that are available to Cape Wind. They have set their sights on this location regardless of the negative impacts this would have on that beautiful pristine location that Cape Codders have enjoyed for years.

I beg of you to insist on them exploring other venues that would not be so harmful to our beloved area. I recognize this as being an extremely profitable project for these developers with no respect for how we, as land owners, feel. To allow them to continue with this project would have a tremendous impact on this area forever.

Please give this matter your utmost attention. It is very important to all Cape Cod Residents.

Thank you



Frances E. Haddad
84 Uncle Edwards Road
Mashpee, Ma. 02649

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Frank A. Stasiowski, FAIA
PO Box 95190
Nonantum, Massachusetts 02495
617-965-0055
617-965-5152

4338

February 17, 2005

Colonel Thomas Koning
US Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

RE: Cape Wind DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Colonel Koning:

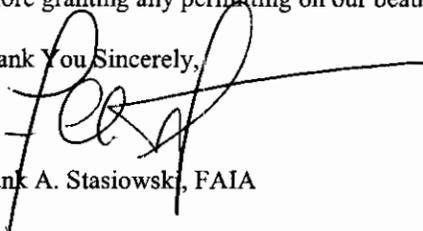
As a summer resident of Cape Cod (22 Driftwood Circle, Mashpee) and as a licensed 100T Near Coastal Captain who has navigated the waters of Nantucket Sound for over 40 years, I find that the draft EIR prepared on behalf of the wind turbine project is inadequate in its coverage of the issues and lacks diligent investigation on several fronts.

Specifically, the report needs much more analysis of areas such as air and boat navigation safety, pollution threats from oil on the transformer platform and substation, the specific impact to birds and other wildlife, visual pollution and its associated economic and tourism impact, and most importantly the report's woefully inadequate analysis of other alternative sites for such a project.

As an architect, I am very much a proponent of sustainable energy; however, to approve the siting of this project in Nantucket Sound is parallel to allowing a similar project in the Grand Canyon or in places such as our National Parks. And the fact that a PRIVATE developer should be granted permitting for such a project without thorough detailed analysis of alternative sites sets a precedent that endangers much of what President Teddy Roosevelt set out to preserve as National Parks and Seashores 100 years ago.

I implore you to re-examine the points I've made and to force the investigation of alternative less impactful sites before granting any permitting on our beautiful God made Nantucket Sound.

Thank You Sincerely,


Frank A. Stasiowski, FAIA

February 16, 2005

John J Davis
177 Lake Drive West
Wayne, NJ 07470

Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

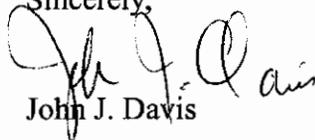
004339

Dear Colonel Koning,

My wife and I own beachfront property in West Dennis, MA, and are very concerned about the impact that the proposed energy producing windmills will have on our environment. There will be a negative impact on boating, wildlife (birds, fish, seals, etc.), tourism, and visual beauty, in addition to pollution from oil spills from the transformer substations.

My family and I strongly object to the Cape Wind project, and urges you to do everything in your power to not let it happen.

Sincerely,


John J. Davis

Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA
01742

001340

Dear Sir,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. The Cape Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate in many areas , including: air and boat navigation safety, impacts to birds and other wildlife, pollution threats from oil on the transformer substation, visual pollution and associated economic and tourism impacts, and analysis of alternative sites. This area is too important a national treasure to threaten with a project of this nature.

Again I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joan Gerster



18 Seaview Lane

Newbury, MA

01951

Feb 21, 2005

Colonel Thomas Koning
U.S. Army Corps of Eng.

004341

Colonel,

I want to speak out against the proposed program of generating power with wind powered turbines in the sound near Mantucket, the Vineyard and the Cape is ill advised.

In addition the Cape Wind Draft Environmental Study is inadequate. It does not do enough in my mind to fully measure the impact on sailing, hazards to navigation and a general blight on the horizon.

Sincerely

Paul Morency

11 Ridgely Rd

Winchester, MA 01890

Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams
Cape Wind Energy EIS Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road,
Concord, MA 01742

004342

Dear Ms. Adams,

Airtricity is a wind developer with wind projects in Ireland and Scotland and is currently developing a number of projects in the United States. Airtricity is also the developer of the first wind farm in the Irish Sea, the Arklow Banks Project, in conjunction with GE Wind Energy.

Wind energy is one of the greatest potential energy sources available to the United States. There are many reasons to support wind energy. For the record these reasons must be stated:

- **It's clean.** Wind power does not produce dangerous waste, nor does it contribute to global warming. The coal plants in the United States are polluting the air and water with so much mercury that 45 states have issued fish advisories for mercury in 2003¹. Wind energy is a national resource for all the people and it supports the Clear Skies initiative of President George W. Bush.
- **It's abundant and reliable.** Wind power, in combination with a full range of renewable energy technologies, such as biofuel, wave and solar, could meet all of the energy needs of the United States. These resources belong to the United States, they are on our land or in our waters. They belong to the greatest democracy in the world and do not reside in distant, politically unstable lands.
- **It does not need to be imported:** The United States is now a net importer of natural gas and is planning to increase imports through the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG). LNG in many instances will be imported from politically unstable regions of the world. The lessons of the Middle East should be taken to heart and the lives of young men and women should never again be risked through potential over dependence on fossil fuel in foreign lands.

¹ Additional Analyses of Mercury Emissions Needed before EPA Finalizes Rules for Coal-Fired Electric Utilities, US EPA, Office of Inspector General, Feb 3 2005

- **It's affordable.** The first offshore wind turbines in the UK are producing power more cheaply than the newest nuclear power station. The UK Government's figures show that all wind power will be cheaper than nuclear power by 2020².
- **It works.** Denmark already gets 20% of its electricity from wind power. Wind energy is a viable quality product and is now a \$10b worldwide industry with major industrial enterprises such as GE and Siemens supplying wind turbines to the global market.
- **It creates jobs.** The wind industry could bring thousands of new jobs to the USA. About 1,000,000MW of electricity plants are installed in the USA. With grid upgrades which are required for security purposes anyway as much as 300,000MW of wind energy could be installed over the next 20 years in the USA. This represents a huge manufacturing opportunity. Many of the jobs created in the offshore component of this industry will come from the offshore engineering skills used by the declining oil and gas industry.
- **It's safe.** Wind turbines are safe, they are not filled with radioactive materials, they do not contain hazardous materials or chemicals and when they are at the end of their useful life they can be taken down and the steel and other materials can be recycled. From a Homeland Security perspective they are not a terrorist risk and by being so diversified in the landscape do not provide the same threat risk as large centralized fossil and nuclear plants. Furthermore wind energy is one of the safest energy technologies. No member of the public has ever been injured by wind energy or wind turbines anywhere in the world, despite the fact that there are now over 68,000 operational wind turbines.
- **It's popular.** Wind energy is one of the most popular energy technologies. Opinion surveys regularly show that just over eight out of ten people are in favor of wind energy, and less than one in ten (around 5%) are against it³. In an onshore environment wind farming is popular with farmers, because their land can continue to be used for growing crops or grazing livestock. Sheep, cows and horses are not disturbed by wind turbines. A recent MORI poll proved that wind is popular - with 72% of respondents preferring it to nuclear power.
- **It supports tourism.** The UK's first commercial wind farm at Delabole received 350,000 visitors in its first ten years of operation. A MORI poll in Scotland showed that 80% of tourists would be interested in visiting a wind farm.

² OXERA, Results of renewables market modelling, February 2004.
www.dti.gov.uk/energy/renewables/policy/oxeraresults.pdf

³ MORI - Renewable Energy Wins Support From British Public
<http://www.mori.com/polls/2002/greenpeace-energy.shtml>

Furthermore, wind farm developers are often asked to provide a visitor centre, viewing platforms and rights of way to their sites.

- **Wind Turbines are not energy intensive:** The average wind farm will pay back the energy used in its manufacture within three to five months, this compares favorably with coal or nuclear power stations, which take about six months to pay back the energy used in their manufacture⁴.

There are plenty of arguments against raised against wind energy. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) deals in a very comprehensive manner with most of the arguments, which are frequently raised against wind energy. As a piece of professional work the DEIS compare very favorably with EIS documents which have been prepared for comparable offshore projects in Europe.

The DEIS debunks many of the myths associated with development of wind farms and in particular offshore wind farms. For the record on this project the DFIS states that:

- The project will not adversely affect the currents, waves or temperature of the sea in the vicinity of the project.
- The project will have minimal impact on the Benthic and Shellfish resources
- The impact on Finfish will be minimal or non existent during operation of the Wind Turbine Generators (WTG)
- Once operational the presence of WTG foundations is not expected to substantially impact marine mammal and sea turtle movement
- Impact on wildlife and vegetation of the on-shore transmission system will be minimal
- Some infrequent bird collision mortality is possible but this risk will not adversely affect the overall population levels of the two federally listed bird species
- The DESI goes on to comment on the minimal expected impacts on coastal and freshwater wetland resources, water quality, noise, transportation, electrical and magnetic fields, telecommunications, air and climate and describes in detail the expected socioeconomic benefits.

What is the final argument against the project? The project will be visible. To be precise the project will be visible from a number of historic properties and structures. The visual impact is unarguable – they are structures and they will be seen, although they will be painted in a matt grey color to minimize the visual impact.

Development of the community will always result in shaping and reshaping the landscape. Wind Turbines are a new dynamic in the landscape. They are often described as elegant. People often gasp in awe of the beauty of the structures. Within a short time

⁴ www.bwea.com

following the construction of the wind farm, the structures will be accepted in the landscape and may well become admired as one of the defining moments in American energy policy. The structures may themselves become part of a historic site in the future – marking the transition of the United States of American to energy independence.

I hope that you will approve the permitting of this milestone project in an expeditious manner.

Sincerely,



Martin McAdam
General Manager – North America

Comment Sheet
On Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
For the proposal for an Offshore Wind Project
In Nantucket Sound

RECEIVED
NOV 1 2005
004343

Name: Jean Johnson

Address: PO Box 1255
1695 Herringbrook Rd.
Eastham MA 02642

Phone Number (Please include area code): (508) 255-9072

Email Address: jjohnson@capecod.edu

Please state your questions/comments in the space below:

First, I must say I consider myself an
environmentalist and definitely favor "green
power" including wind farms. My objection
to the proposed offshore wind project in
Nantucket Sound is strictly due to the
intended location.

As a full time resident of Eastham and as
an individual who enjoys the treasures of the
National Seashore Park on a year round basis,
I passionately believe that we should preserve
Nantucket Sound and Horseshoe Shoals for
future generations. This area is too important
to too many people to give away to private
developers for profit. I fear that once we
let go of this precious area, other areas will
follow. My grandchildren may never know
the Cape I fell in love with as a child,
unless we have the foresight to preserve
rather than gamble with our treasured
natural environment.

**Please fold this questionnaire in half, affix two stickers or pieces of tape,
and mail it to the address listed on the other side.**

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Becky Harris [becky.harris@tufts.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 11:30 AM
To: Energy, Wind NAE; mepa@state.ma.us; pdascombe@capecodcommission.org;
GOoffice@state.ma.us; kennedy@senate.gov
Subject: Cape Wind comments attached



Cape Wind
Comments Harris.doc

To Whom it May Concern:

Please find my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Cape Wind project attached. Thank you for your consideration.

—
Rebecca J. Harris, PhD
SEANET Program Coordinator
Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine
Wildlife Medicine Building
200 Westboro Rd., North Grafton, MA 01536
p: 508-887-4933
f: 508-839-7946
www.tufts.edu/vet/seanet

9349

February 23, 2005

Ms. Karen Kirk Adams, Cape Wind Energy Project DEIS Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

cc: MEPA Office, Anne Canady, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, No. 12643,
100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

cc: Cape Cod Commission, 3225 Main St., PO BOX 226, Barnstable, MA 02630-0226,
Attn: Cape Wind DRI Review

cc: Governor Romney, Massachusetts State House, Room 360 Boston, MA 02133
cc: Senator Ted Kennedy, 2400 JFK Building, Boston, MA 02203
cc: Senator John Kerry, 2400 JFK Building, Boston, MA 02203
cc: Attorney General Thomas Reilly, McCormack Building, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108

Reference File No. NAE-2004-338-1
EOEA No. 12643
Cape Com. File No. JR#20084

**Comments submitted by Rebecca Harris, PhD, Tufts University, in response to the
*Cape Wind Energy Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement***

I am an avian ecologist working at the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine Center for Conservation Medicine / Wildlife Clinic. I coordinate the Seabird Ecological Assessment Network (SEANET) which focuses on threats to marine and coastal birds, citizen scientist beach surveys for bird mortality, and compilation of seabird population and mortality information. The comments below are my own. I offer the comments as an expanded version of the public comments I submitted on December 16, 2004 at the Cambridge Public Hearing, focusing primarily on my area of expertise (birds), with some additional points on other topics of concern.

I strongly support the development of renewable energy sources such as wind power. There is growing evidence from other sites that if siting and risk assessment are done thoroughly in advance of construction, impacts to birds (and other wildlife) can be minimized. However, I believe that the DEIS has some inaccuracies and data gaps that need to be addressed before the process can move forward. I urge the Corps to produce a Supplemental DEIS to fill in the data gaps that are acknowledged in this DEIS, particularly surrounding potential impacts on birds and long-term monitoring details, before proceeding to the Final DEIS (FEIS) stage.

BIRDS

General Comments: Under Regulations section and 5.6.1, there is no mention of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat. 755). Migratory birds are treated as "protected species" under this act, as marine mammals are under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. A review of wind tower bird collisions at an onshore European facility by Barrios and Rodriguez (2004) concluded that "new wind installations must be preceded by detailed behavioral observation of soaring birds as well as careful mapping of migration routes." This DEIS acknowledges that the avian studies done thus far are inadequate

for this project, and “further study” is recommended repeatedly in the Preliminary Avian Risk Assessment section 5.7-A. I conclude that the risks to birds from this project are not well enough understood to proceed, and additional years of year-round aerial, boat and radar surveys are vital (as recommended by Mass Audubon Society).

The estimate presented in the DEIS of 364 birds/yr killed by the project is not supported by the evidence available. The estimate of birds killed per year should be a range of values; it is impossible to predict the level of mortality so precisely when there are so many unknowns, and the data used to generate the figure are from land-based wind farms. European data on offshore wind farm impacts should be incorporated into these estimates, and each species group (migrating landbirds, terns, and wintering waterfowl) should be assessed separately, and according to seasonal patterns.

WTG STRUCTURES and BIRDS

5.7 Avian Resources

During aerial and boat surveys (and presumably during the radar observations as well), the majority (>90%) of birds (mostly seabirds and other waterbirds – loons, terns, etc.) were observed on the water or flying at altitudes below the lowest range of the radar. Therefore, a large percentage of birds flying below the rotor swept zone were probably not tracked by the radar.

Comment: The above statement that the majority of birds observed during radar observations were presumed to be below the range of the radar (and below the rotor swept zone) cannot be made with certainty. Aerial and boat surveys found most birds at this low altitude, but these surveys were done during the day in good weather; radar was used at night during all types of weather. Thus, to say that boat and aerial surveys were methods of “ground-truthing” radar studies is not accurate. Radar captures a different set of species flying at different altitudes, during different times of day and different seasons than the species observed by other surveys. The altitude at which migrating songbirds fly ranges from 92-615+ m (300-2000 ft) (Kerlinger 1995; Lincoln et al. 1998), and radar should pick up most birds flying at this range. Because songbirds migrate at relatively high altitudes at night, you would not expect to observe very many during the daytime aerial and boat surveys, so it is inaccurate to infer that overall the majority of birds are flying near the water, on the basis of these surveys. This assumption ignores the millions of songbirds that migrate at night, many of which were presumably picked up by the radar survey.

Section 5.7.3.2.1 Collision Risk Evaluation Night migrating songbirds do not tend to collide in large numbers with even brightly lit structures such as lighthouses, spotlighted buildings, and heavily lighted communication towers with guy wires (see lists in Shire et al., 2000). The L-864 red flashing lights proposed for night-lighting of the WTGs have not been demonstrated to attract birds.

Comment: The above statement conflicts with other statements made in the DEIS, and is inaccurate. There have been many incidents reported (and probably many more unnoticed or unreported) of songbirds colliding in very large numbers with lighthouses, buildings and communication towers (e.g., USFWS 2000, R. Podolsky, personal communication, Kingsley and Whittam 2001). Red pulsing lights have been demonstrated to attract and disorient birds (Gauthereaux and Belser 1999), and red strobes have not been studied to my knowledge (USFWS 2000), so definitive statements about red flashing lights should be made with caution.

An issue of great concern that is not given enough attention in this DEIS is that of WTG impact on night migrating songbirds. The lower bounds of typical flying altitude of migrating songbirds (92-615+ m (300-2000 ft), Kerlinger 1995; Lincoln et al. 1998) would be within the rotor sweep height of 127 m (417 ft), and songbirds' attraction to lights would possibly bring them several meters lower and in contact with the structures (USFWS 2000, Kingsley and Whittam 2001). Indeed the number of birds estimated by radar studies to be flying in the rotor height zone each year was 608,942 birds (possibly including some flocks, which would increase the actual number of individuals). The decisions that are reached on FAA-required lighting for the towers will be very important when considering the potential impact of the towers on night migratory birds. There is some evidence that white lights might be less attractive to songbirds, and this option should be investigated (Gauthreaux and Belser 1999, USFWS 2000, Kingsley and Whittam 2001).

Even though migrating landbirds are only using the flight path for 10-20 days per year (as stated in the DEIS), the impact will not necessarily be relegated to a few birds. The DEIS reports that 10% of migrating songbirds were estimated to be in the rotor strike zone at night (from radar surveys), and an estimated 69.5 birds/hr were estimated to be at rotor height during migration. Even these numbers are quite significant, and given that millions of birds migrate at these times of year and are concentrated into small areas, a range of values should be given to express the variation that occurs from night to night and year to year. Also, the number of birds at rotor zone height in preliminary radar surveys does not take into account potential attraction to lights, which is well documented in songbirds (USFWS 2000, Kingsley and Whittam 2001). In addition, more strikes are likely to occur during inclement weather, as birds can more easily become disoriented and unable to see the structures (Herbert 1970), as mentioned in the DEIS. One year of radar study is certainly not enough to produce a reliable estimate of bird strikes, given annual variability in storm frequency and foggy and cloudy conditions. Finally, most shorebirds and some landbirds have been observed migrating at lower altitudes over the ocean than over land (Lincoln et al. 1998), bringing even more birds into the zone of possible contact with rotors than expected due to land-based wind farm surveys.

Section 5.7.3.2.1 Collision Risk Evaluation (p. 128)

Comment: Because 19% of the study area was sampled, this is the adjustment used to extrapolate one observation of a grebe (or other species) flying at rotor height across the entire area. However, at the moment that the bird was observed flying at rotor height, 19% of the area was not being sampled (a much smaller percentage was being observed because of the nature of boat or aerial surveys), so it is not accurate to extrapolate in this way. The method of boat survey was not estimating density, just abundance in the area surveyed at the time, so extrapolations are more difficult. Thus, per year estimates of numbers of birds flying at rotor height (164 grebes, 1,350 loons, 4,091 gannets, 8,767 cormorants, 658 scoters, 18,629 gulls, and 10,958 terns) are not necessarily correct, and should be used more cautiously.

General Comment: Garthe and Huppopp (2004) recently evaluated avian species vulnerabilities to wind tower collisions for the North Sea, and emphasized the importance of considering the following factors in determining risk: flight maneuverability, flight altitude, percentage of time flying, nocturnal flight activity, sensitivity towards disturbance by ship and helicopter traffic, flexibility in habitat use, biogeographical population size, adult survival rate, and conservation status. Each factor was scored on a 5-point scale to assign a sensitivity index to each species, given available data and some additional survey data. A similar procedure would be valuable to

assess risk in the northwest Atlantic. Although some species are not shared in common with those in this European study, their conclusions are applicable to our avian populations to some extent. They concluded that species differed greatly in their sensitivity index, and loons were among the most sensitive (including red-throated loons *Gavia stellata*, a species of both regions), followed by the velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* (likely to be similar in sensitivity to many sea duck species observed in the Sound), sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (possibly reflecting vulnerability of common and roseate terns in this area) and great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (also present on the northwestern Atlantic coast during winter).

The DEIS concluded that gannets, terns, loons, alcids, sea ducks and grebes may fly at rotor height, and thus, some fatalities may occur. These conclusions follow those of Garthe and Huppopp (2004, above) in terms of at risk species groups, so it is possible that the risk posed by WTGs to birds is too great. Similarly, it was stated that some unknown amount of mortality is likely to occur in shorebirds. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the killing of any bird is not technically allowed under the law, unless permitted, and the USFWS does not issue incidental or accidental take permits. Manville (2003) of the Migratory Bird Division of the USFWS maintains that just because no citations or prosecutions have been filed against wind energy companies for violations of the MBTA, it does not mean that such prosecutions are out of the question. The law has not been used, but energy companies should attempt to comply with it and work with USFWS from the outset to avoid prosecution.

Section 6.0 Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring (general)

Comment: There are no details given on the nature of post-construction biological monitoring, although some sort of monitoring is recommended for birds in the DEIS. For birds, in addition to radar and other population monitoring methods, we recommend beached bird surveys for mortality monitoring. Currently volunteers are walking beaches throughout Nantucket Sound through SEANET (the Seabird Ecological Assessment Network www.tufts.edu/vet/seanet), which could serve as pre-construction controls. Post-construction monitoring of avian mortality at offshore wind developments is certainly challenging, but some attempts should be made to delineate how this monitoring could take place, whether by beach or boat surveys.

OIL POLLUTION and BIRDS

5.5.6.1.2 Potential Indirect Impacts

Bioaccumulation From Consuming Contaminated Prey

...In order to minimize and mitigate any minor spill incidents, all service vessels will be equipped with oil spill handling equipment. In addition, waste collection systems will be installed on board each WTG. The waste collection system is based on a container system for easy and safe handling during transfer from/to turbine-service vessel-dock...

...In open water, marine organisms such as fish and whales have the ability to swim away from a spill by going deeper in the water or further out to sea, reducing the likelihood that they will be harmed by even a major spill. Marine animals that generally live closer to shore, such as turtles, seals, and dolphins, risk contamination by oil that washes onto beaches or by consuming oil-contaminated prey (USEPA, 2004).

Comment: In the above section regarding possible oil contamination from WTG operations, there is no mention of seabirds. It is well established that marine and coastal birds are among the most vulnerable animals to oil pollution. Oil in the marine environment is a threat to seabirds because it forms a thin layer on the ocean surface where many birds spend their time. The

hydrophobic nature of oil causes plumage to readily absorb it, decreasing the bird's insulation, waterproofing and buoyancy, leading to death due to hypothermia or starvation. The toxic properties of oil can also lead to death if ingested or inhaled (Weise and Ryan 2003). The amount of oil that is lethal to birds is very small (Leighton 1995). The idea that animals "have the ability to swim away from a spill" is very unlikely when it comes to birds (and probably most other taxa as well). There is enormous evidence from small and large oil spills that birds can be heavily impacted, and they typically do not exhibit avoidance behavior. Even lubricants and other oils from basic WTG operations are of concern to birds, particularly sea ducks which are vulnerable to oil because they spend much of their time resting on the water's surface (King and Sanger 1979; Williams et al. 1994). Sea ducks are known to congregate in the Sound in large numbers (Tables 5.7-3 through 5.7-7, and the risk to these birds of low-level chronic oiling should certainly be considered. A single drop of oil can disrupt a bird's waterproofing, leading to death particularly during cold weather (Weise and Ryan 2003).

BATS

5.6.4.2.3 Bats

...as well as their limited home ranges and echolocation sensory systems, suggest that the number of bats likely to be at risk of collision with wind turbines in the Nantucket Sound Project area is extremely low. ...Given that bats can detect large landscape and background features using echolocation at distances up to 328 feet (100 meters) (Griffin, 1970; Suthers, 1970), it seems unlikely that foraging bats would be unable to detect turbines... bats crossing the Sound should be capable of using echolocation to avoid wind turbines.

Comment: Recent evidence indicates that wind turbines may kill large numbers of bats (estimated for one West Virginia site at at least 70 bats per turbine per year, Kerns and Kerlinger 2004), and although the available data comes from land-based wind farms, lack of data on offshore wind farms does not mean there is no risk to bats in the near shore environment. The DEIS states that bats can use echolocation to detect and avoid wind turbines, but this is clearly not true, based on numerous studies showing large levels of bat mortality at wind turbines (e.g., Kerns and Kerlinger 2004, Williams 2004). Although there is no law equivalent to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to require developers to evaluate impacts to bats, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) asked Cape Wind in 2000 to assess the risk of the Nantucket Sound project to bats. They did not perform this risk assessment, and the statement of no risk in the DEIS is not accurate. In the case of the West Virginia wind towers, no pre-construction surveys were performed to evaluate the project's risk to nocturnal migrant birds or bats, and the impacts were realized only after construction was complete. It is often difficult to predict what impacts to wildlife will be, but some assessment of habitat use and potential risk is better than none at all.

SEA TURTLES

5.5.6.1.1. Potential Direct Impacts

Electromagnetic/Thermal Emissions from Submarine Cable and Inner-Array Cables

Since the electric field would be completely contained within those shields, impacts are limited to those related to the magnetic field emitted from the submarine cable and inner-array cables. As described in Section 5.13, the magnetic fields associated with the operation of the inner-array cables or the submarine

cable system are not anticipated to result in an adverse impact to marine mammals or sea turtles (ICNIRP, 2000; Adair, 1994; Valberg et al., 1997).

Comment: Submarine magnetic field alterations have the potential to affect sea turtle orientation, because marine turtles use magnetic fields to migrate (Irwin et al. 2003). Even subtle alterations of the local magnetic field have the potential to disrupt sea turtle movement patterns, so this possibility should not be discounted.

5.5.6.1.1. Potential Direct Impacts – Construction/Decommissioning: Acoustic Harassment The rarity with which the protected whale species and sea turtles occur within Nantucket Sound...

Comment: Sea turtles are not necessarily rare visitors to the Sound, and Mass Audubon surveys recorded regular sightings of several species of this protected species while completing aerial bird surveys during late summer/fall (Perkins et al. 2003). The basis for most sea turtle population distribution information offshore of MA is mainly strandings data, which does not accurately reflect their abundance in Nantucket Sound. The majority of cold-stunned sea turtle strandings occur in Cape Cod bay and north of Cape Cod, but this is due to water circulation patterns, and does not necessarily reflect offshore turtle population densities.

LOCAL TEMPERATURE EFFECTS

5.2.4 Temperature: The Project is anticipated to have no measurable impacts to water temperature in Nantucket Sound because the cables would be buried a minimum of 6 feet (1.8 meters) below present bottom.

Comment: The above is likely to be true, but the effects of wind turbines on the local atmosphere also should be considered. A recent study simulating the effects of thousands of onshore turbines concluded that an increase in air temperature nearby was likely (at night the warming of the air was about 2 degrees centigrade) (Roy et al. 2004). These results are confirmed by real wind farms in California where turbines have been found to pull down heat from above.

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19: 21-23.

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Michele Grimm [MGrimm@northernpower.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 11:46 AM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: Cape Wind Energy - YES!

To the Army Corps of Engineers,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Cape Wind Energy project in Nantucket Sound.

004345

This wind farm will provide 420 MW of power to the New England area - this will provide our communities with a tremendous source of renewable energy!

Our country's continued reliance on imported fossil fuels makes us vulnerable to sudden changes in the international oil supply - both in terms of availability and price. A global energy crisis could happen at any time due to the volatile situation in the Middle East. Although our efforts to foster peace in the region are to be applauded, there is still great unrest in the region and we are spending billions to foster U.S. oil interests there. The more power we produce here at home, the more independent this great country will be.

In addition to the jobs (potentially hundreds) that this project will create in Massachusetts, millions of dollars in power costs will be saved every year. Both of these factors will help promote economic growth at the local level.

The wind farm will have minimal negative impact to the local environment. The construction will minimize disruption to the seabed and the wind turbines will not harm marine life. Fishing activities on the shoal will not be impacted. Older wind turbine designs were often a danger to birds. The Cape Wind turbine design is much safer. Guy wires (support wires coming off the tower to the ground), which have been a significant problem for birds, will not be used. The turbine blades will take between four and five seconds to complete one rotation, which is slower than older towers, allowing birds to fly through safely.

Above all, wind energy is a clean source of power. Unlike fossil fuels, wind power produces no greenhouse gases. The electricity from the Cape Wind project will keep more than a million tons of greenhouse gases from being released into our air. This will help us start turning around the global warming trend which has continued to rise dramatically especially in the last decade.

God has given us this great unlimited natural resource. We should use it. Our children and grandchildren will inherit the legacy we leave behind - will it be more and more pollution and global warming every year? The Cape Wind farm will be a model for other wind energy projects across the country. This project can help lead the way to a better environment and a better future for all of us.

Sincerely,

Michele Grimm

Engineering Administrator
Northern Power Systems, Inc.
182 Mad River Park
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Phone: (802) 496-2955 x 318
Fax: (802) 496-2953
Visit us at: www.northernpower.com

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Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Justine Dymond [jdymond@english.umass.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 12:59 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind power on the Cape

As a frequent visitor to the Cape, I'd like to say that I would love to see a wind farm there and to know that as a tourist I'm visiting a place that uses renewable energy sources. Indeed, I would be more likely to spend time and money vacationing there if there were a wind farm. I fully support alternative energy sources.

004346

Sincerely,
Dr. Justine Dymond

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Dorothy Greene [revdag@webtv.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 12:13 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Cc: comments@saveoursound.org
Subject: wind farm

054347

As a summer resident of West Dennis for over seventy years, I am writing to protest the construction of the proposed wind farm in Nantucket Sound. No private entrepreneur should have the right to exploit for personal profit our beautiful seashore. I have deep concerns about not only the negative esthetics of the gigantic windmills but also their impact on the environment. I ask you to reconsider the appropriateness, practicality, and safety of this project.

The Rev. Dorothy A. Greene

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Chris Cox [ccox@c-map.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 12:24 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Cc: anne.canaday@state.ma.us
Subject: Wind Farm comment

004349

Dear All,

I would like to register my strong opposition to the construction of a wind farm in Nantucket Sound.

I do support alternative energy projects, but the costs here greatly exceed any forecasted or real benefits. It is also the intangible costs really concern me.

I reject the NIMBY argument, as I live and boat on the north side of Cape Cod and, believe it or not, would much rather see such construction there.

The waters between Cape Cod and the Islands attract mariners and tourists from around the world. If wind conditions were optimal across the top of Niagara Falls... would that make a wind farm a good idea?

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Chris Cox
Barnstable, MA

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: William Dunlay [wdunlay@maine.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 12:34 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Cc: Alexandra Floratos
Subject: Comment on the Cape Wind Energy Project

004349

Karen Kirk-Adams
Cape Wind Energy Project EIS Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Ms. Kirk-Adams,

I would like to offer a short comment on the Cape Wind Energy Project. I think it's imperative that we acknowledge the larger picture. We have to transition to renewable sources of energy because of global warming and because oil and natural gas will run out in the coming decades. Even if we disregard the threat of global warming there is no escaping the inevitability of oil depletion. This country's oil production has been in decline since 1970. The world oil supply will be gone by 2050 or earlier as predicted by oil companies that have every reason to exaggerate their own reserves.

The need to transition away from fossil fuels is indisputable. We can't do without energy. If we are to replace fossil fuels before they run out we have to start now. Wind will always be the greatest source of renewable energy. We have to build windmills where the wind blows. Consequent to these inescapable realities, the Cape Wind Energy Project and many projects like it, yet to come, are an absolute necessity.

Yes, let's do the best we can with aesthetics, but let's not deprive the next generation of a robust economy and a healthy planet because a few well-meaning but short-sighted people don't like the looks of a windmill. I see their earth-saving potential. What can be more beautiful than that?

Sincerely

William Dunlay PE, Certified Energy Manager
972 Shore Road #7
Cape Elizabeth ME 04107

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Louis Sault [3ponds@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 12:24 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: Cape Cod Wind Farm

We are Cape Cod year-round residents who think that the Wind Farm should be given serious consideration. We need inexpensive, renewable energy here on Cape Cod. Lou & Vicki Sault.

004350

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: reginaqse@earthlink.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 11:34 AM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: opposing the cape wind project

Dear Karen,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed wind farm off in Nantucket Sound. The Cape Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate in many areas, including air and boat navigation safety, impacts to birds and other wildlife, the possibility of pollution – from oil and visually, and the impact it may have on residents of the nearby islands.

Is it possible to consider some other site for the wind farm?

Thank you,

Regina Weichert

mail2web - Check your email from the web at
<http://mail2web.com/> .

mail2web - Check your email from the web at
<http://mail2web.com/> .

004351

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Morgan Tingley [mtingley@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 10:50 AM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: DEIS Comment (attached)



TingleyDEIScomme
nt.doc

Dear Ms. Adams -

Attached is my comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Wind Project, reference file #NAE-2004-338-1. I look forward to seeing the final version.

Sincerely,

Morgan Tingley

004352

31 Elliot Street
Exeter, NH 03833

February 22, 2005

In response to the Cape Wind Project Draft EIS, Reference NAE-2004-338-1:

While I cannot claim to have read every page of the Draft EIS, I have tried to read all the parts that deal directly with the topic that interests me the most: the characterization of avian resources and risk from the proposed Cape Wind project. I have a number of comments to make on this characterization, as presented, and will try to do so in as structured a fashion as possible. While I am not an expert on turbine-bird interactions in the typical sense of the word “expert”, I do have a strong basis for my opinions. As a student at Harvard University, I spent seven months writing my honors thesis on the impacts of wind turbines on birds, and how past studies relate to the proposed project in Nantucket Sound. Consequently, not only have I read most of the literature that is available (at least that which is cited in the Draft EIS), but I have spent considerable time applying it to the Horseshoe Shoal location and this specific project.

While the Draft EIS presents itself as making a fair and unbiased view of available data (e.g. through a literature search), it is also subject to several misrepresentations of published work. As I have read this work as well, I feel it is unfair of the Draft EIS to manipulate other’s research so that it meets the needs of the proposed project. Descriptions of these misrepresentations follow.

The study by Erickson et al. (2001; cited e.g., 5-103) is a classic example of misuse of statistical extrapolations. In the study, Erickson et al. used rates of avian mortality (typically from studies with small sample sizes) associated with cars, cats, windows, communication towers, and wind turbines, and estimated the total number of fatalities per year for each of these based on estimates (or figures) of the total number of each currently existing at the time. While I will not go into the problems associated with extrapolating from estimates, and thus the risk involved in trusting such results, it is important to point out a different problem which impacts how this study’s results are used in the Draft EIS. Namely, Erickson et al. does not focus on per-unit mortality. A valid comparison of mortality risk to birds *can only* be done if you look at per-unit mortality risk of various structures. The study by Erickson et al. only looked at total (aggregate) mortality risk, and thus the results are biased by the fact that there are far more structures of other kinds (e.g. communication towers, skyscrapers) currently in the US than there are wind turbines. These results do not actually indicate what structures are “riskier” to birds and therefore cannot provide guidance as to the relative benefit or harm of erecting wind turbines.

As the Draft EIS reports from Erickson et al., total estimated mortalities from wind turbines are expected to be two to three magnitudes lower than those of towers or highways. However, as there are three to four magnitudes fewer wind turbines currently

existing in the United States than communication towers or miles of highway, then it is likely that each turbine is one to two magnitudes deadlier to birds than these other things. Just because we do not have a lot of avian-associated mortalities at wind turbines in the United States currently, it does in no way mean that building more wind turbines would not lead to a critical number of mortalities in the future. In summary, the Draft EIS should not use the study by Erickson et al. as evidence in support of the unproven hypothesis that wind turbines are relatively harmless to birds. It is used in this way primarily in sections 5.7.2.2.1 and 5.7.3.2.1.

In a strategic move, the Draft EIS tries to separate the Cape Wind project from the high level of avian mortalities at Altamont Pass (e.g. Orloff & Flannery, 1992) for good cause. However, the Draft EIS should be more honest about the disparity of that situation. On page 5-103, the document says “To date, no population-level impacts have been documented as a result of avian collisions with onshore wind turbines...”. However, this is not the conclusions of Hunt et al. (1998), which showed that mortality resulting from turbine collisions at Altamont Pass was the most likely cause of decreases in population and adult survival in the southern California population of Golden Eagles.

Furthermore, the Draft EIS goes on to claim that “no listed endangered or threatened species has been involved.” However, this statement should include the caveat, “in the United States.” In Spain, it is well known that the wind farm at Tarifa has had serious problems with mortalities of protected species such as Griffon Vultures and Black Storks. Moreover, according to Lekuona (2001), Lammergeyers and Bonelli’s eagles have been seen in “situations of risk” surrounding the turbines, although no carcasses were found. As it is, the Draft EIS seems to claim that wind farms, anywhere, have never had any problems with endangered or threatened species. This is very different from saying that no “problems” have occurred in the United States, as Europe has had much greater development and monitoring of wind farms (off- and on-shore) than the U.S.

Additionally, the Draft EIS makes multiple conflicting claims on avian impacts that result in misdirecting the lay reader. On page 5-101, the EIS rightly claims that risk is species and location specific, and that often the factors defining mortality (especially significant mortality, or “mortality events”) are weather and season. However, on page 5-103, the EIS claims that the proposed wind farm would not pose a risk to most species because “those that [use the Shoal] are present for relatively short periods (seasonal) of time.” The EIS has provided no evidence (nor does any exist) that birds that only use wind farms seasonally or migrate through, are at significantly lower risk than those that live there year-round. In fact, evidence exists to the contrary. As the Draft EIS claims itself, habituation can be a potentially important factor when considering long-term mortality of a population that lives in close proximity to a wind farm. With migratory or seasonal populations, there often will be no habituation, so mortality will be an on going (seasonal) occurrence. Consequently, the Draft EIS very wrongly excuses itself from a more detailed assessment of specific avian risks because it has failed to follow its own logical pathway.

While it is good to see that the applicant has conducted a variety of methods to characterize avian use of the proposed site, the temporal extent of the surveys are unfortunately limited. Songbird migrations can differ extraordinarily from year to year depending on weather, climate, and food supplies. The difference between a big night-flight going over land (and missing radar) and going directly over the monitored sight is slight. The fact that the radar monitoring during migration only lasted for one year and that this single year's worth of data is defining the entire characteristic use of tens of millions of songbirds (known to migrate annually through coastal Massachusetts), perhaps should indicate that the radar monitoring effort by the applicant was not sufficient to fully gain the information needed to accurately assess avian risk. Perhaps knowing this, the Draft EIS glaringly omits any sort of validation for representativeness of study years for the radar studies in section 5.7.2.2.5. This should be done prior to the acceptance of any of the applicant's results on avian use and occurrence of the proposed study area.

As the Draft EIS explains, lighting of wind turbines as required by the FAA has been demonstrated to be an important factor in determining avian mortality, particularly for night-flying migrants (5.7.3.2.3). As the applicant is undoubtedly aware, the FAA is in the process of conducting studies on the impacts of various lighting combinations on birds and will, in due time, release these results to the public. It is of my opinion that the applicant should not be allowed to proceed with any construction that would be required to be lit at night until the FAA completes these studies and releases their results. Care should be taken at all costs to make the lighting as avian-friendly as possible while still adhering to the safety of aircraft as required by the FAA.

In assessing the cumulative risk to birds of collisions (5-122), the Draft EIS uses Erickson et al.'s estimated mortality risk of 1 - 2 birds per turbine per year. However, these are relatively conservative estimates. Erickson et al. bases their estimates on US studies only, of which none are off-shore. A study conducted in Blyth, England – one the only near-shore studies of its kind – estimated mortality to be between 1 and 5 birds per year (Parkinson, 1999). In its comparison to other sources of avian mortality, the Draft EIS does not mention that at this rate, the proposed project would be responsible for between 130 and 630 avian fatalities per year (at the minimum, as no one has yet been able to conduct a truly accurate assessment of fatalities offshore).

While this may not be a large number compared to the millions of avian fatalities each year attributed to other factors, the Draft EIS refrains from making two important points. First, there is no mention of cumulative impacts. The Draft EIS does not address the role that this proposed wind farm may play in conjunction with other negative pressures on birds. There is no question that it is highly unlikely that the proposed project would be the sole cause of extinction for a species; however, the Draft EIS does not address the fact that it may help contribute to the endangerment of a species. Second, there is no mention of asymmetrical species mortality. Mortality is not likely to be equally spread among all species, and some species will be more seriously impacted than others. The Draft EIS needs to take this into account. At Altamont Pass, the Golden Eagle population has been declining (Hunt et al., 1998) due primarily to the fact that

fatalities observed at that wind farm are skewed toward large, resident raptors. While the Draft EIS does mention that raptor mortality is not frequent at U.S. wind sites other than Altamont, it does not mention in its conclusion which species or group of birds are likely to be most affected by collisions with this particular project. As the Draft EIS mentions that terns are likely to fly at rotor height (5-125) and be at high risk to collision, does the study wish us to assume that the wind farm could be responsible (at worst) for 130 to 630 Roseate Tern fatalities per year?

Finally, the Draft EIS repeatedly claims that the proposed project would be the very first of its kind in the US, not only in its location (offshore) but also in its scale. Consequently, as the report claims, and I agree, there is no sure way of knowing the impact on birds of the project. However, the Draft EIS uses this as a way to side-step the burden of proof. If I were developing a new chemical pesticide that had never been tested, I would not apply for a permit to widely distribute it over half of the United States. Instead, I would set up a trial experiment in a small area and carefully monitor the results. Why has the applicant never suggested that 5 or 10 turbines should be built and their impact be monitored? Just because neither the public nor the applicant has a good way of estimating the impacts of this project does not mean the applicant should be allowed to proceed without developing a method to do so! The applicant is the one proposing to build the project, and the burden is on the applicant to develop the appropriate means to predict the potential impacts. In this case, the applicant has utterly failed at providing an acceptable or scientifically valid estimate of potential avian impacts of this project. Until the applicant conducts a test that measures the impact of wind turbines on birds in the offshore environment, the applicant should not be allowed to meet the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan W. Tingley

References

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- Hunt, W. G., Jackman, R. E., Hunt, T. L., Driscoll, D. E., & Culp, L. (1998). A population study of golden eagles in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area: population trend analysis 1997. Report to National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Subcontract XAT-6-16459-01. Santa Cruz: Predatory Bird Research Group, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Lekuona, J. M. (2001). Mortalidad de Aves Y Murciélagos en los Parques Eólicos de Navarra Durante un Ciclo Annual. Navarra: Departamento de Medio Ambiente, Ordenacion del Territorio y Vivienda.

Parkinson, K. (1999). Environmental consequences of offshore wind power generation. Unpublished M.Sc. dissertation, Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull.

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Anne Grady [agrady@massbay.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 12:55 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I SUPPORT CAPE WIND! AMERICA WANTS CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY!! THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

Anne Grady
6 Drury Lane
Natick, MA 01760-1225

cc:
Capewind

004953

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Jim Richman [artframe01@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2005 7:00 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Cc: ann.canaday@state.ma.us
Subject: Wind Farm

004354

Dear Karen Kirk-Adams / Ann Canady, In regards to the wind farm: Please do not allow our prestine environment to undergo such a horrible change as that proposed by Cape Wind. The Cape is such an ecologically and environmentally fragile place. . .The Cape is an international tourist spot. . .how can we even think of destroying such a truely beautiful place where we are most fortunate to live. We must save this delicate and beathtakingly beautiful land. The private developers only interest is money, don't let their greed destroy our beautiful Cape!! Sincerly, **Jim and Camilla Richman Yarmouth, Ma.**

--- artframe01@earthlink.net
--- EarthLink: It's your Internet.

I've been a Provincetown based fisherman for 32 years and I, like other Provincetown fishermen, resent people telling us there are fish on Horseshoe Shoals. There are no cod, haddock, whiting, or flatfish. During the summer tourist season striper and bluefish are fished for sport, and, of course, would continue to be fished, probably better, because of the addition of rip rap around the towers.

I don't wish to[COMMENT1] disparage my fellow fishermen; we've had so many losses that we're set up, as a knee-jerk reaction, to be against anything depicted as furthering our losses. The true loss to us, is that of our traditional bread and-butter grounds, Stellwagon Bank.

As a past Director of the Provincetown Fisherman's Association, I know many fisherman who don't even realize that the Mass. Fisherman's Partnership is including them as those fishermen who oppose the wind farm.

I, and many other fishermen in Provincetown, wholeheartedly support the Wind Farm and feel that failing to support it is selling out our country and its promise of renewable energy.

John H. Baldwin
42 ½ B Harry Kemp Way
Provincetown, MA 02657
508-237-0875

[COMMENT1]disparage

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Tara Strachan [BistoBaby@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 12:58 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I am a senior at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and am writing in favor of the wind farm off Nantucket shoal. I believe it will provide a substantial difference in the decrease of air pollution and therefore benefit not only the Cape and Boston area but also the nation as a whole.

I know that the US Army Corps of Engineers will be receiving a substantial body of comments from the organization that was created to oppose Cape Wind that calls itself the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, or, Save Our Sound. I ask the Corps to consider that an underlying motivation of the Alliance in this EIS review is to delay, for the sake of delay, the public interest NEPA review now underway.

I call your attention to a document the Alliance circulated to Environmental Consulting firms in early 2004 entitled, "Alternatives Analysis, Request For Proposal".

The third paragraph of this document begins with:

"The Army Corps of Engineers is engaged in an environmental review as part of the permitting process for the wind energy plant. The identification and analysis of alternative locations are key issues to delay the environmental review process..."

Delay for the sake of delay does not reveal a good faith effort on the part of the Alliance in participating in this EIS review process and I think their comments should be considered with that in mind.

Sincerely,

Tara Strachan
101 Academy drive
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

cc:
Capewind

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
4355



*Town of Barnstable
Conservation Commission*

200 Main Street
Hyannis Massachusetts 02601

034358

Office: 508-862-4093 E-mail: conservation@town.barnstable.ma.us FAX: 508-778-2412

1/21/05

Karen Kirk- Adams
Cape Wind Energy EIS Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742

Scott G. Blazis
4 Three Ponds Drive
Centerville, MA 02632

Dear Ms. Kirk Adams,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the wind powered electrical generating facility proposed for Nantucket Sound.

Before I relate the substance of my objections I would like to thank you and all members of the Army Corps of Engineers involved in this process. The large number of "boiler plate" communications that you must receive that repeat the same objections or support *ad nauseum* must make your task even more difficult. I assure you that this is not that type of letter.

I believe that a short biography would assist you in evaluating the merits of my opinions. I am a biologist with postgraduate experience in Marine Microbiology. My work with cyanobacteria, and unicellular algae centers on symbiotic relationships with Horseshoe Crabs, (rather Ironical Given the proposed site name). The Town of Barnstable presently employs me as a biology teacher at Barnstable High School. In addition, I have been a resident of the Town of Barnstable nearly all my life, and presently occupy a seat on the Town of Barnstable Conservation Commission. In addition, I hold a commission in the U.S. Merchant Marine, USCG# 997539, and captain a charter fishing boat out of Lewis Bay, Hyannis.

Let me make clear that the following comments represent my individual opinions and not those of The Town of Barnstable Conservation Commission as a whole.

Impacts to Wildlife: I feel that the DEIS is deficient in its analysis of impacts to wildlife in the following areas:

1. **Plankton:** The EIS drafted for a smaller project, the "Horns Rev" facility in Denmark documented local reduction of primary productivity of pelagic plankton, in addition to species changes. Multiple sources of pollution including copper contamination from the slip rings of the turbines were cited. As this plankton population supports a complex food web, it would be remarkable if this food web was not disrupted. The consequences to local recreational and commercial fishing in the area are unknown. The consequences to feeding patterns of state and federal listed endangered bird species that occupy the area are unknown.
2. **Sea Turtles:** This area is a summer feeding ground for several endangered species of Sea Turtles. I regularly observe during my activities as a charter boat Captain the following species:
 - 1) Kemp's Ridley
 - 2) Leatherback Turtle
 - 3) Loggerhead Turtle
 - 4) Green Turtle

It has been documented that lighting can disrupt breeding, feeding, and migration of sea turtles. There are also probable impacts to these populations from noise, magnetic fields, plankton changes, and increased boat traffic. None of these issues have been addressed.

- 3) **Avian Mortality:** If one accepts the data from the DEIS, (I do not, as peer review is absent) approximately 300 "takings" or fatalities due to blade strikes can be expected. It is not known if the endangered species populations

that utilize this area, either while migrating or feeding, specifically, Least and Common Tern, Roseate Tern, Osprey, and Piping plover, can sustain the yearly impacts that are projected.

4) Benthic changes: No adequate study of the long-term impacts to shoaling patterns, and consequential changes in baitfish distribution has been done. The integrity of the ecosystem as a whole depends upon the changes in water velocity associated with shoals and tidal rips. In addition changes in plankton populations would be likely to result in changes in shellfish communities. Sediment plumes from construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning will affect benthic grain size and either smother, (sessile organisms) or dislocate, (mobile) adult organisms, or affect recruitment of juveniles.

5) Cumulative impacts: The conversion of a large portion of Nantucket Sound from Prime habitat for the previously mentioned organisms, to tertiary habitat, will place additional pressure on the remaining surrounding areas. Wildlife as well as human activities such as commercial and recreational fishing will shift to other shoals within Nantucket Sound. This additional pressure will deleteriously affect the wildlife values of these areas as well as their recreational and commercial value.

Migrating finfish follow a predictable seasonal migration based on water temperature and baitfish availability. The migration sequence of importance to Nantucket Sound begins with shoals in Vineyard Sound, moving to Succoneset shoals, Horseshoe shoals, Bishops & Clerks, Hankerchief shoals, and finally Monomoy shoals. These areas are inextricably connected as links in a chain of food biomass and quality habitat. This chain is essential for the ecosystem as a whole in Nantucket sound. It is unfortunate that the shallow waters of Horseshoe Shoals that attracted the attention of Capewind for the purpose of siting wind turbines are also what attract wildlife. It is also ominous that Hankerchief shoals as well as Monomoy Shoals have been identified as possible alternative or future sites for development.

Impacts to Navigation: Others have objected to the proposed project as interfering with established ferry routes between Lewis Bay and Edgartown among others. I will restrict my comments to vessels of which I am familiar.

Small Boat Traffic: Horseshoe Shoals lie directly between Martha's Vineyard and ports in the Town of Barnstable and Yarmouth. The preferred route to Edgartown and Oak Bluffs would take one directly through the proposed facility.

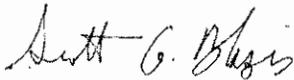
The spacing of the turbines makes this a serious navigational hazard during conditions of limited visibility, strong winds, heavy seas, and nighttime navigation. Small craft may avoid these towers in good conditions when radar functions well and visible or audible signals are perceivable. During inclement weather radar is problematic due to the pitching and rolling characteristic of craft less than 60 feet OAL. The ability of a Captain to pilot under these conditions while attempting to track visible aircraft beacons requires that the captain direct his attention away from the immediate vicinity of his vessel. This is an undesirable situation. Combine this with vessels limited in their ability to maneuver, sailing vessels tacking to maintain a course, both recreational and commercial vessels engaged in fishing, and the result could be loss of life and property or loss of use of the watersheet, a public resource.

Alternatives: Little discussion has been devoted to alternative options for the development of wind power on Cape Cod. Land based turbines could be placed on existing power transmission easements, closed landfills, and other state, municipal and private lands with far fewer regulatory hurdles or environmental impacts.

In addition deep- water platform technology is less than a decade away and will be cheaper to build service and install. This technology will also have far fewer environmental impacts than near coastal installations.

Given the recent change in State water delineation, ambiguous or absent federal guidelines, and unacceptable local impacts, I encourage you to conclude that the proposed project is premature and not permissible in its current configuration.

Sincerely,



Scott G. Blazis
Conservation
Commissioner

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Betsy Boyle [info@capewind.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:02 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I am writing to express my support of the Cape Wind project. In the face of the already realized negative impacts of climate change and in the interest of national security we must decrease and eventually end our dependence on fossil fuels.

The positive aspects of this project far outweigh any of the perceived negative impacts. As a bellweather for other, similar projects it is imperative that this project move forward. I am pleased that the Army Corp of Engineers has been able to move this project forward and that its findings have been overwhelmingly positive. I applaud your efforts and encourage you to promote this project's continued success.

Sincerely,

Betsy Boyle
140 Thorndike St.
Cambridge, MA 02141

cc:
Capewind

004857

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: ACBrox [xorb@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:01 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: Cape Wind DEIS comments

CAPTAIN ALBERT BROX

P.O. Box 14
Cotuit, MA
Captain_Eagle@comcast.net

004358

February 23, 2005

Karen Kirk Adams
Project Manager
Cape Wind Energy EIS Project
USACE
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Ms. Kirk Adams,

I would like to include my comments of the EIS of the Cape Wind project. Specifically, after reviewing the Navigational Risk Assessment portion of the EIS I have concerns about the projects eastern boundary as proposed, and the operation of ferries nearby.

I am the Master and Senior Captain of the M/V Eagle, the largest passenger/car ferry operated by the Steamship Authority. I have sailed as a deck officer with the Authority since 1987, with the majority of my time on the Hyannis to Nantucket run. I have been within the proposed wind farm footprint during periods of bad weather and/or heavy traffic, on ships operated by the Authority including the M/V Eagle. The areas that I am referring to are the northeastern boundary near Broken Ground and portions of the eastern boundary of the wind farm.

While I am generally supportive of the project as a whole, I feel that the eastern boundry may need to be reconsidered to better allow for the heavy marine traffic in that area.

Sincerely,

Albert Brox

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: David Wilson [info@capewind.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:02 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

We need to vigorously pursue alternatives to coal, oil and natural gas energy. Wind is one of the avenues we need to pursue.

Please support the Cape Wind project.

Thanks.

Dave Wilson
Acton, MA

Sincerely,

David Wilson
13 Lincoln Drive
Acton, MA 01720

cc:
Capewind

004359

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Richard Coffin [Coffin@jacobssf.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:05 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

As a child who grew up on the South Shore of Massachusetts; I spent many summers at the cape and enjoyed it's unique beauty and environment. Although I now live on the west coast, as an engineer and scientist, I have been following the Cape Wind project for many years. As scientific studies have shown, climate change is happening and we must do something now or the Cape as we know it may change in just a few generations. Catastrophic weather systems along with sea level rise could change our planet and the Cape forever. Los Angeles is currently experiencing its wettest winter ever with tornados and mudslides, while Seattle is having summer like weather in February. Cape Wind effects everyone.

The Cape Wind project appears to be the perfect opportunity to implement a large scale and efficient wind farm in the Unites States and could set the example for a generation fo change towards real energy independence. Please do not let a few wealthy NIMBY's stop this well panned project.

I fully support the project an urge you to do the same, so more children can enjoy the cape, and and hopefully, a more energy independent America.

Richard S. Coffin, PE

Sincerely,

Richard Coffin
1360 Waller Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

cc:
Capewind

004360

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Gray Watson [gray.capewind@mailnull.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:06 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

004361

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

As an owner of a hybrid car and solar panels on my house, I am an obvious proponent of alternative energy. I believe strongly that we cannot make steps forward without investment. I paid more for my hybrid and my solar panels cost me \$10k but I felt it was important to make long term investments.

I see the Cape Wind project to be a similar situation. There are downsides to the proposal but an investment in alternative energy not only makes sound financial sense in the long term but any reduction on our reliance on foreign energy gives great returns on state security as well. Oil fired power plants (like the one in Sandwich) are being built all of the time, increasing our already fragile dependance on foreign oil. Oil money helps finance, at least indirectly, radical islamic teachings all around the globe.

15 of the 19 hijackers on 9/11 were from Saudi Arabia not including Osama. We must rid ourselves of our thirst for oil and alternative energy is the old way. If we do not make investments now into projects like Cape Wind then when are we going to start fixing the problem.

I feel strongly that the wind turbines off Nantucket will become a tourist attraction, will encourage other projects like it around the country, and get more people to start thinking about energy usage and its economic and political ramifications.

Please don't shy from your duty.

Sincerely,

Gray Watson
29 Tarbell Ave.
ATT: CapeWind
Lexington, MA 02421-6253

cc:
Capewind

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: john stempien [info@capewind.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:09 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I support the Cape Wind Project. Let's make a decision that our kids will be proud of!

Sincerely,

john stempien
20 braman st
danvers, MA 01923

cc:
Capewind

004362

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Alec Clowes [info@capewind.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:10 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

Developing renewable energy sources is a priority in this age of rising fossil fuel prices. Additionally, reducing our reliance on overseas energy will reduce geopolitical tensions such as the war in Iraq.

As a part-time resident of Cape Cod, I feel the boating and tourism industries will not be harmed by the turbines, and I feel the views from land will be minor. In fact, many people will want to see the installation as it will be such an important breakthrough energy source for the United States.

Thanks, Alec Clowes

Sincerely,

Alec Clowes
303 Quissett Ave
Falmouth, MA 02543

cc:
Capewind

034363

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: LSBasRiver@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:18 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Cc: ann.canaday@state.ma.us; comments@saveoursound.org
Subject: Objection to use of public land for private industrilization

004964

My name is Charles A. Walsh, 49 River Street, South Yarmouth, Mass. 02664.

I wish to voice my strong objections to the potential use of a national and state treasure -- Nantucket Sound-- for a commercial wind farm with little benefit to Cape Cod, the islands, Massachusetts and New England.

The installation of 130 giant turbines represent an industrial park in the middle of a pristine sound with potential to significantly imperil navigation, marine and wildlife, fisheries, and recreational boating all for private gain.

Would we place such a complex in the middle of one of our national parks or the Grand Canyon. The answer is NO!! Why then subject Nantucket Sound to the potential for many types of natural or accidental disasters when there are other locations and options with minimal impact on the environment and population.

Cape Cod and it's unique beauty and value must be saved for future generations as any other national treasure.

Yours truly,
Charles Walsh

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Alma Greene [afgrene@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:14 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

004365

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I am sick to death of politicians making decisions without regard to future. Wind is a big part of our potential energy for future. Let's due it now for the sake of our children and grandchildren, Please.

Sincerely,

Alma Greene
500 Old Colony Road #320
Hyannis, MA 02601

cc:
Capewind

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Pamela Carle [pamcarle@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:31 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I support the Cape Wind project. I have lived on Cape Cod for part of most years since 1950 and grew to love it early on. The Cape Wind project is forward looking and timely. It will be an asset to the Cape, not an eyesore at all.

America needs the energy and Cape Wind can provide that as well as their growing expertise in alternate forms of energy generation. Clean, modern, bold -- the project's attributes match our ideal of Cape Cod perfectly.

Sincerely,

Pamela Carle
328 North Rd
Bedford, MA 01730

cc:
Capewind

02/23/05

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Pasquale Polillo [polillo@cape.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:37 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

004367

Let's Leave The Twilight Zone

I returned to the Cape in 1998. About 40 years before, I became involved with individuals concerned that the Coney Island development of the south shore could spread north. I agreed this was a serious threat and helped out whenever I could.

As we know, the efforts of these dedicated people and years of hard work led to the Historic District and a coordinated plan to protect the Cape's north side and eventually most of the Cape. I have always felt pride in the small part I contributed to this effort and consider myself a conservationist.

Like everyone else, I've been listening to the arguments for and against the Wind Farm. I've also looked into the wind industry and find that it is one of the great growth areas for business and job creation in more that 30 countries. It seems clear that the time for wind as a major way to produce electric power has arrived.

I also think that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement compiled and published by US Corps of Engineers has laid out all of the important public welfare and safety issues that should have been be considered. It reinforced my own research that there would be no harm to birds, the fishing industry and cause no navigation problems on the water or in the air. Most important, the project will give us a much safer and dependable supply of electric power generated by an inexhaustible energy source, that will help lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

As for the opponents, their arguments, especially those touting the negative impact on the environment, seem to have withered away as each came under scrutiny. And, in the midst of the shrillness of their opposition, it is probably hard to imagine that if none of the wind turbines would be visible from land, almost all who now oppose it, would be supporting the Wind Farm. And, I think that takes us to the Twilight Zone of reason.

So, in the spirit of the near occult, let me offer three predictions to the part-time residents with waterfront property, to their wealthy supporters from around the country and anyone else who follows their lead. The Wind Farm will not be a mechanical horror but instead a thing of grace, beauty and majesty. Most of you will develop a sense of pride knowing that this achievement has sparked a national movement towards developing safe renewable energy, especially if you have the good fortune of seeing it from your deck. Finally, most opponents and especially the politicians who vehemently oppose the Wind Farm, will do their best to take credit for it.

Pat Polillo

Sincerely,

Pasquale (Pat) Polillo
42 Whistler Lane
Yarmouthport, MA 02675

cc:
Capewind

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Anne Marie Babineau [a_babineau@usa.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:40 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I am a 57 year old woman, who in 1986 saw my first wind farm while travelling to Palm Springs in California. Its beauty is still embedded in my mind. Its also made me THINK that environmental energy, at least in CA, was becoming a monumental concern (ergo, a monumental project). In the 19 years since that visit, I have never read/heard of any PROBLEMS occurring from its construction and, very apparently, its energy "boost" provided relief to both consumers and air quality. While very aware of energy pollution here on the East Coast, a wind farm site for us never entered my mind
..... Until NOW!!!

Therefore, I am a Cape Cod resident in support of the proposed Wind Farm. I can't stomach the selfish ideas that I hear from the supposedly, educated population here on the Cape - eg: being a visual detriment; aesthetics????, what does one see looking at "nothing"??? Where is their concern FOR the environment - have they felt no sadness when local and international oil disasters strike (and we are certainly not at a loss for the visual stimuli presented to us via TV broadcasts, newspapers, documentaries, etc) Oh, lest I not mention that some folks feel no need for television sets Where is their consideration for the following generations ??- Cape Cod is not destined to die with this one [generation].

ANY new endeavor will have its share of problems - I trust that WE MUST TRUST the gifted, courageous and intellectual visionaries who have dared to have concern and insight for those who are to follow THEM. We all are faced with problems that extend anywhere from personal relationships (divorce rates are at their highest and no one has voiced putting a stop to marriage) to national endeavors such as our NASA projects. BUT, as marriages and scientific experiments DO succeed, in my opinion, so can our desperately needed Wind Farm. Let's not turn our backs on this one!

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Babineau
PO Box 57
Mashpee, MA 02649

cc:
Capewind

004368

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Ben Berry [info@capewind.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:43 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

004369

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

In this day of \$50 dollar Oil, isn't it time the United Stated took advantage of the wind to lessen our dependance on unfreindly nations for energy ?

The wind farms are unobtrusive, and will be a boon for marine life, fishing, and tourism..

Sincerely,

Ben Berry
200 Cabrini Blvd
New York, NY 10033

cc:
Capewind

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Peter Adams [peter@evpcreative.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:48 PM
To: mepa@state.ma.us; Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: Cape Wind Project

004870

To Whom it may Concern,

As the peaking of world oil supplies rapidly approaches, we have to ask, "where will our energy come from in the near future"? It will not be from oil, or natural gas. It will not be from nuclear, at least in the short run. So where will it come from.

Go beyond the rhetoric. Look at the future. It doesn't look all that promising.

Cape Wind is one of the first of what will be thousands of small solutions to the coming crisis. Without them we are in more trouble than we are already in.

Please support Cape Wind with positive action.

Thank You,

Peter Adams
Campton, NH

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: NK Acevedo [brookelynn1971@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:49 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

Sincerely,

NK Acevedo
33 Wave Ave #3
Revere, MA 02151

cc:
Capewind

034371

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Daniel J Morast [dmorast@iwc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:50 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE; anne.canaday@state.ma.us
Subject: Comments, Cape Wind Nantucket Sound Proposed Project

Comments by: Daniel J. Morast
Sub: Cape Wind Proposal, Wind Turbines in Nantucket Sound
Date: Wednesday, 23 February 2005

03/19/05

To:

1. Karen Kirk-Adams
Cape Wind Energy EIS Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742
wind.energy@usace.army.mil
2. Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office, Anne Canaday, EOEA No. 12643100
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
anne.canaday@state.ma.us

Dear Government Officials:

The attached comments concern the wind turbine facility proposed by Cape Wind for Nantucket Sound and relate to the initial and "long-term" monitoring, assessment and reevaluation of this project. I respectfully note that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is less than complete regarding monitoring protocols. These comments were initially presented to at the Wind Energy & Wildlife Forum hosted by a consortium of wildlife and conservation organizations on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Should there be a need to contact me directly, the information is provided below.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Morast, President
International Wildlife Coalition, Inc.
70 East Falmouth Highway
East Falmouth, Massachusetts 02536
Ph: 508-548-8328 Fx: 508-457-1988
E-Mail: dmorast@iwc.org

Wind Energy & Wildlife

Monitoring Protocols

Comments by:

February 22, 2005

Daniel J. Morast, President
International Wildlife Coalition, Inc.
70 East Falmouth Highway
East Falmouth, Massachusetts 02536

Ph: 508-548-8328
Fax: 508-457-1988
E-Mail: dmorast@iwc.org

Representing an organization with a modest, but consistent involvement with research and conservation issues pertaining to the marine environment, off the coast of New England (and specifically adjacent to the shores of Massachusetts), I respectfully provide the following comments to all interested in the Cape Wind proposal to erect and operate wind turbines within Nantucket Sound.

Not surprisingly, my review of the Cape Wind /Army Corps Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS) centered on Section 5: *Environmental Resources and Consequences*.

After consuming Section 5, I moved on to Section 6, and Section 9. Section 6 deals with the *Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Program*, and Section 9 deals with the Commonwealth's responsibilities with respect to the *Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act* (and the mitigation of environmental and biological impacts of the proposed marine-based wind powered turbines).

My concern centers on the need for scientific "long-term" monitoring of this "first of it's kind" facility in sensitive coastal waters. This project is an experiment, and a rather large one at that.

The final test of this experiment is not whether a light bulb beams when the turbine blades begin turning, but rather with the conduct of extensive measurements and assessments, over time, of the environmental and biological impacts caused by the rotating turbines, the towers upon which they rest, the cables that connect the towers to the transformer platform, the cables that connect the

transformer platform to the land stations and the vessels that are required to maintain the proposed facility.

While much has been written about the pre-construction conditions, and the “probable” post-construction impacts, the DEIS says phenomenally little with respect to the design and conduct of multi-year, independent scientific monitoring programs that must be implemented so as to document and demonstrate minimal impact, or to provide insight as to the extent of environmental or biological damage, and the potential strategies to mitigate both short-term and long-term negative impacts.

I. This is an Experiment *first, largest, grandest, etc.*
Let's document this experiment to the nth degree!!!

All note that the Cape Wind proposed turbine proposal is the largest such project in the world, and the first in the US. If oceanic wind turbines are to be constructed in coastal waters on other states, in other regions of the US, then this initial experiment must have an extremely robust monitoring program in place during construction, and certainly for years after initial operation.

All of us who want clean, renewal energy look to wind turbines as a possible alternative “green” source of electrical energy. If the Nantucket Sound – Cape Wind experiment proves successful, then, in deed, it may be exported and repeated in other coastal areas around the U.S. However, if the project isn't done correctly the first time, any additional offshore wind turbine proposals will be again starting from scratch ... government officials charged with responsibilities over energy facilities and natural resources will once again be asking the same questions (that could have been answered by the Cape Wind project, if scientifically viable monitoring programs were instituted during the pre-construction, construction and post-construction periods of the Nantucket Sound turbine facility.

II. Section 6: Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) –

- A. Proponent’s DEIS: Is a very General Response
- B. DEIS notes that a: Detailed CEMP is to be developed, **based upon comments received in response to the DEIS.**

The lack of monitoring specifics in the DEIS is alarming, and so, there is not much to comment upon, except to state the following: There should be a solid statement, by the developer, noting their intent to monitor the wind turbine facility for a number of years ... and such monitoring protocols should be established by applicant, government, and independent scientists and resource-management specialists. And all this, should be presented to the public for comment, prior to permitting.

The fact that the DEIS is void of details regarding long-term monitoring leaves the developer looking like they are attempting to avoid considerable extra (but very important) work. For example, note the following:

III. Sec. 6.1 Pre-Construction Monitoring – “Scientific Measurement Devices Station (**science tower**) will remain in place **for five years** (measuring: A) wind, B) waves, C) current, D) air & water temperature, and E). sea level variations.”

This is a start. Cape Wind seems to be committing the operation of the science tower for five years. Though it only measures wind, waves, etc. the five year window of review is a good place to start a discussion on the length of long-term monitoring.

IV. Sec. 6.1.1 Seabed Conditions – “Seabed has been surveyed (re. Seafloor, Sub-seafloor) and “...*may be supplemented with additional surveys, as needed, based upon the final siting of the Project.*”

- A. what’s with “May?” These additional surveys of the seabed should be an absolute, and the details of these surveys and resulting analysis needs to be handled by independent scientists answering to governmental agencies (and ultimately, to the public).

B. siting of the Project, once it's been fixed, starts the evaluation process of what to look for over time (and will take time for scientists to compile). A considerable scientific evaluation process can only begin once a final site has been chosen, re. monitoring protocols. One should expect a final site determination, and then a thorough evaluation of scientific monitoring procedures specific to the final site ... and this work has to be done and accepted prior to final permitting.

V. Sec. 6.1.2 Noise Monitoring – Proponent notes that noise surveys were conducted and acoustic modeling was undertaken, etc. for the DEIS. But, there is no mention of any intent to monitor noise levels after construction ... while the turbines are in operation. Hopefully, if the Army Corps will not demand ongoing acoustic monitoring, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will ... and that the design and establishment of these acoustic monitoring protocols will be the mandate of government and independent scientists working in conjunction with applicant specialists.

VI. Sec. 6.2 Construction Monitoring -- “Several environmental resources will be monitored during construction. Details of this monitoring will be determined in consultation with reviewing agencies based upon final siting, selection of construction equipment and methods, construction schedule, and pertinent permit/approval conditions.”

This is huge! These many factors are extremely significant. Surely, neither the Commonwealth nor the Army Corps, can issue a permit for this project without the parameters of siting, equipment, methodology and scheduling having been selected and then presented to the public and independent scientists for proper review.

VII. Section 6.2.1 Underwater Sound – “**The** NMFS observer will be present during **initial** pile driving activities to ensure that no listed species are within the Safety Zone radius during construction.”

This statement in the DEIS seems to indicate the National Marine Fisheries Service shall have but one observer present during pile driving, and then only at the initial phase of such activities. Surely, specialists will identify this effort as less than adequate. Proper scientific observation will require many trained experts, positioned throughout Nantucket Sound ... and they should be present throughout the full construction phase of the project.

Post-Construction Monitoring

VIII. Sec. 6.3.1 Seabed Conditions Monitoring – “Post-construction inspection for scour and erosion will be conducted during the **first** year following construction.”

As noted elsewhere, what’s with a post-construction survey only during the first year following construction. This experiment requires a multi-year survey cycle.

IX. Sec. 6.3.2 Noise Monitoring – “... monitoring will be conducted in a manner sufficient to confirm that any noise limits imposed in permit conditions are met during operation.”

Ok, this is encouraging, but what conditions are to be set, by whom and to what extent does the public get to review and comment upon the specifics of the acoustic monitoring being proposed? Such questions need to be addressed before final permitting can be considered

X. Sec 6.3.3.1 Biological Monitoring – Vegetation: “Should the habitat not recover naturally, the disturbance will be **mitigated by replanting.**”

Many might not think that a “second replanting” is sufficient to reestablish the habitat. And surely, if the habitat is threatened for a long term, the public has the right to know of this consequence ... and the developer and the government have the obligation to document and mitigate

all impacts (or the absence of impacts, considering the desire to export offshore wind turbine facilities to other coastal sites).

XI. Sec. 6.3.3.2 – Biological Monitoring – Shellfish:

“Shellfish beds disturbed by project activities in Lewis Bay will be re-seeded as **discussed with the shellfish constable** for the Town of Yarmouth.

Does this constitute adequate long-term monitoring or mitigation protocols? Discussions with a “shellfish constable?” The general public, and certainly those who commercial fish for shellfish, deserve a more scientifically robust inquiry into impacts and longer-term effects of offshore wind turbine and cable laying operations before permitting is approved.

XII. Sec. 6.3.3.3 – Biological Monitoring – Sea Turtles and Marine Mammals:

“The presence of sea turtles and marine mammals in the Project Area, and observed reactions of these animals to the Project will be documented during post-construction **field surveys of bird resources.**”

I am surprised this statement is in the Cape Wind DEIS. To be sure there are some similarities in the way that scientists conduct marine mammal and avian surveys, the seasonality, and a host of other parameters demand thorough consideration of how each of these surveys are to be developed and conducted.

XIII. Sec. 6.3.3.4 Biological Monitoring – Birds:

“Field surveys will be conducted to quantitatively assess bird resources and patterns of use in the Project Area ... these surveys will span a **12-month period** to capture variability in seasonal use”

I hope this means a 12-month period for five or ten years. Many additional comments will surely point out that a one-year monitoring of any biological component of the Cape Wind turbine project will be inadequate ... and this is certainly most true for coastal birds, bats, etc.

Section 9: dealing with Mass Environmental Policy Act requirements.

XIV. Sec 9.3 Mitigation for Potential Fisheries Impacts:

“The Applicant **will work cooperatively** with commercial and recreational fishing agencies and interests to ensure that the construction and operation of the Project will minimize potential impacts to commercial and recreational fishing interests.”

Our organization has worked with the fishing community long enough to know that fishing men and women, and the fishing organizations and related government agencies shall certainly require a significantly more detailed written agreement for impact evaluation and conflict mitigation than a promise that the applicant will “work cooperatively” ... and these agreements need to be completed **before** permitting this project.

XV. In Closing

At the Wind Energy & Wildlife public forum (February 22, 2005) a few additional questions were asked of panelists. I offer these additional words as part of my public statement on monitoring protocols, and general aspects of the debate at hand.

Oil Spills – One question raised the issue as to what was worst for the benthic environment of Nantucket Sound, the projected wind turbines or an oil spill. The benthic specialist on the panel noted the obvious, an oil spill had the potential for extreme damage. However, this issue of oil spills begs the question as to which outcome may lead to more oil being spilled into Nantucket Sound (or other coastal areas with respect to additional offshore turbine facilities).

One could argue that 130 marine turbines in an oceanic passage way for vessels of all types could prove to be a significant threat, re. boat and turbine collisions (thus dumping oil and gasoline into the Sound. Another might offer the supposition that increased wind turbines

generating electricity would help reduce the American consumption of crude oil and all its chemical derivatives. Specialists need to consider both aspects of this question. I do, however, offer the view that with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stating that there is one and only one location for a oceanic wind turbine facility in the greater New England area (i.e. Nantucket Sound), one would have to ask a very pointed question as to how much oil consumption this one facility might deter (if any at all).

Health Risks – At the Wind Energy and Wildlife forum, the question of nation-wide health risks due to fossil fuel power plants was again raised. These health risks are very real; that’s accepted. However, the same concerns over this single Cape Wind facility in all of New England and its capability to impact regional or national health trends with respect to energy production is a very big leap. And to be sure, unless there is adequate monitoring systems in place to document all aspects of this initial experimental facility, the export of these coastal wind turbines to other communities around the United States will be unduly delayed as these communities deal with unanswered questions.

Bird Strikes – With the many bird mortalities attributed to collisions with buildings throughout the US (and certainly in big cities), the question was raised regarding why wildlife experts and conservationists were concerned over the deaths of a few birds at the proposed Nantucket Sound turbine site.

As will undoubtedly be pointed out by avian specialists, the birds being “generically” killed by strikes with buildings are certainly not the same species (with some few exceptions) as the waterfowl and coastal seabirds flying the US seaboard and/or foraging or nesting in the coastal areas adjacent to the proposed site. Again, an adequate monitoring program developed and conducted by independent scientists (reporting to government agencies) will be required to adequately document all impacts, avian or otherwise.

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Ellie Doyle [EDoyle@bcgi.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:54 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE; mailto:anne.canaday@state.ma.us
Cc: comments@saveoursound.org; info@capewind.org
Subject: Nantucket Sound wind Farm

004373

February 23, 2005

Karen Kirk-Adams
Cape Wind Energy EIS Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742
Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office, Anne Canaday, EOE No. 12643100
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Kirk-Adams and Secretary Herzfelder,

I have spent my life on the ocean waters of New England and the East Coast of the United States as crew on ocean and day races, pleasure cruising with my family and friends and as a Yacht Delivery Captain. The coastal regions of New England are among the most beautiful I have ever been lucky enough to see. One of the things I love most about New England is the beauty and the accessibility of the ocean.

This love of the ocean gives me an awareness that it is become absolutely necessary to develop cleaner non-polluting sources of energy however, I don't feel that that enough thought and study has been done for me to fully support the Cape Wind wind farm on Nantucket Sound.

I have read most of the Army Corps of Engineers very thorough environmental impact study. I don't believe that it should be the only study considered nor do I believe that Nantucket Sound is, as Cape Wind would have you believe, the only good place to site a wind farm in the area. Personally, I believe they chose the Sound for financial reasons and not with any sort of altruistic "creating cleaner energy" thought.

Please count me among the group that would like further study before a commitment is made to put a wind farm in Nantucket Sound.

Sincerely,
Eleanor S. Doyle
212 Humphrey Street
Marblehead, MA 01945

3/2/2005

781-929-2914

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Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Kathy Fisher [kfisher@gordonschool.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:52 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I support Cape Wind.

CG4374

Sincerely,

Kathy Fisher
160 Birkshire Dr.,
Warwick, RI 02886

cc:
Capewind

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Rob Garrity [rmg47@cornell.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:52 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

Having been an active participant in the renewable energy industry for the past 3 years, I can say without equivocation that this project is hugely important, not just for the Cape, but for the national RE scene as well. It will set precedence. And further, as in many ways we are the development role models for the rest of the world, it is not an overstatement to say that it will have global reach. As stewards of the earth and as citizens attempting to make for a peaceful world, our dedication to RE and a sound discourse on the subject should be objectives of utmost importance. The passing of the Cape wind project will be evidence of our dedication to realizing these goals.

Thank you for your time,
Rob Garrity

Sincerely,

Rob Garrity
51 German Cross Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850

cc:
Capewind

004375

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Edward Pryor [epryor@snet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:53 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I am writing in support of the proposed Cape Wind project. I believe it is essential for this nation to continue to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and dependence on oil from parts of the world that are unstable and not friendly to our country. While the Cape Wind Project alone will not achieve that aim, it is a step in the right direction. Wind power is a proven technology that is now cost competitive with other alternatives. The demand for electric power continues to grow and will have to come from somewhere. Based on what I know about the DEIS, this seems to me a good alternative with little environmental impact other than visual which is in the eye of the beholder. Other alternatives such as fossil fuel or nuclear would have much greater negative environmental impacts.

For the reasons stated above, I believe that this proposed project will be in 'the common good' and therefore support it.

Sincerely,

Edward Pryor
33 Wahconah Drive
Bozrah, CT 06334

cc:
Capewind

004376

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Julie Kelleher [ajkelleher@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 1:53 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

Please do everything you can to support the Cape Wind project. It is important to our environment and our children's future to find clean, renewable energy sources.

004377

Sincerely,

Julie Kelleher
27 Cedar Street
Auburn, MA 01501

cc:
Capewind

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Nancy Cronan [Tercro@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 2:03 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

I support the Wind Farm ideology.

Sincerely,

Nancy Cronan
135 Rockland Street
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

cc:
Capewind

004373

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Nancy Goodman [ngoodman@environmentalleague.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 2:02 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: cape wind comments

034379

Dear Ms. Adams:

Attached please find our comments on the Cape Wind DEIS. We have also mailed you a hard copy today.

Nancy Goodman
Vice President for Policy
Environmental League of Massachusetts
14 Beacon Street, Suite 714
Boston, MA 02108
617-742-2553
www.environmentalleague.org



February 23, 2005

Ms. Karen Kirk Adams, Cape Wind Energy Project DEIS Project Manager
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Reference File No. NAE-2004-338-1
EOEA No. 12643
Cape Cod Comm. File No. JR#20084

Dear Ms. Kirk:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Cape Wind Energy Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) is an independent, member-based, nonprofit organization established in 1898. We are dedicated to protecting the air, water, and land for the people of the commonwealth. We do this by voicing citizens' concerns, educating the public, advocating for strong environmental laws, and ensuring that our laws are implemented and enforced.

The proposed Cape Wind project has generated intense feelings both pro and con. Advocates for the project point to its potential to generate enough energy to satisfy the equivalent of 75% of Cape Cod's electricity needs. Further, those who favor the project point out that it would do this with no pollution emissions, including no emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Many opponents of the project object to its location in the Horseshoe Shoals area of Nantucket Sound. They state that this is a special part of Massachusetts, that views along many miles of coastline will be altered, that navigation will be made more difficult, and that birds may fall victim to the project's rotating blades.

The Environmental League takes very seriously the claims and concerns on both sides of this debate. Our organization draws its support from, and represents the concerns of, people throughout the commonwealth who love the many special places that are found in Massachusetts. We also are deeply concerned with the problems associated with the burning of fossil fuels. Chief among these problems is the grave threat of global climate change. Another is the historical tendency for power plants with noxious emissions and other health risks to be sited in proximity to poorer communities and communities of color.

We do not believe there is any formulaic way to assess the myriad concerns and values at stake in this decision. After considerable debate and reflection, we have concluded that the time has come when the United States must accelerate the transition to cleaner

renewable energy, and we believe that the Cape Wind project is an important and necessary step in that direction.

That said, it would be preferable had the U.S. already established an ocean zoning regime that would identify the most appropriate sites for offshore wind power projects. Such a system could reduce the time and friction involved in permitting wind projects and help ensure that such projects that do go forward are constructed in places that provide the greatest benefits with the least harm and risk. The Congress and relevant agencies should move as quickly as possible to develop such policies. However, on the basis of the public record, we believe the project proponents have identified a suitable site for the project and the lack of a more robust and comprehensive ocean zoning framework should not delay the project.

ELM does have a number of specific concerns with the DEIS that we outline below:

1) Public compensation—The DEIS does not provide details on how the public will be compensated for Cape Wind's use of a very valuable public asset, the land and waters of the United States. If the United States wants to transition to generating a greater portion of our energy from renewable sources, we must make it an economically attractive proposition. As we have seen with the Cape Wind proposal, a project of this kind is a risky and expensive undertaking. However, the public must be compensated for the use of this public asset and the economic benefits need to be shared in an equitable fashion between the developer and taxpayers. In order to determine adequate compensation financial transparency is needed and the project proponent should be required to provide detailed, annual audited information to regulators on project costs and revenues.

Compensation could be calculated in a number of different ways, e.g., once a certain amount of profit is realized by the company, a certain percentage of profit from that point forward would be paid into a compensation fund or a sliding scale could be established whereby over time the amount of compensation paid increases with the assumption that profits will increase over time.

2) Decommissioning—Very little is said in the DEIS about decommissioning of the project. More detailed information about what will happen once the project's useful life is over is needed, including not only decommissioning but also remediation of the site. We would propose that Cape Wind be required to establish, from its revenues, a fund to pay for the eventual dismantlement of the project and any restoration efforts that are needed as a result of the turbines coming down. By creating the fund as the project commences and letting it grow through investment returns, the public interest will be served and public confidence enhanced and the economic burden to Cape Wind will be minimized.

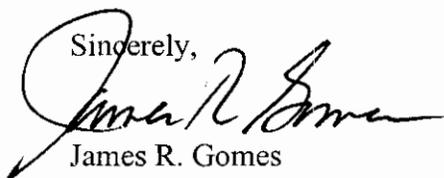
3) Data gaps—There is no doubt there will be benefits from generating electricity from wind. The use of fossil fuels has a wide array of detrimental environmental impacts including serious impacts from extraction, refining and transport. While one might conclude that the benefits of generating power through wind outweigh the impacts, we still need to fully understand what those impacts are and try to mitigate them to the fullest

extent possible—be it through possible changes in the configuration of the wind farm, technological fixes, or perhaps off-site mitigation measures.

Specifically related to avian impacts, we concur with comments submitted by the Cape Cod Commission, MassAudubon and Rebecca Harris of Tufts University about the need for more data over time to fully understand the effects on birds. There appear to be gaps in information about specific species, problems with the methodologies used in the DEIS to determine impacts, and questionable conclusions drawn from other studies cited in the DEIS. The information in the DEIS on avian impacts is incomplete and we join with these commenters and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in calling for three full years worth of data on terns, winter waterfowl, and migrating songbirds.

In conclusion, we thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for its work in developing the DEIS. Given the novelty, scale, and importance of the project, we believe it is essential that these outstanding questions are answered satisfactorily so that the project can be supported by a wide range of stakeholders and the public can be assured that all serious concerns and issues have been addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Gomes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

James R. Gomes
President

Cc: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Governor Mitt Romney
Attorney General Thomas Reilly
Secretary Douglas Foy

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Christine James [christine@meipl.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 2:05 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: Endorsement letter on behalf of Cape Wind project

004380

Dear Army Corps of Engineers,

Please find attached a letter of endorsement for the Cape Wind project from Maine Interfaith Power & Light (MeIPL), a non-profit organization and electricity aggregator in Maine. The letter has been reviewed and signed by MeIPL board president, Peter Felsenthal. A hard copy of the letter can be mailed to you, if required.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine James
Congregation Outreach Coordinator
Maine Interfaith Power & Light
PO Box 146
Brunswick, ME 04011
207.721.0444
christine@meipl.org
www.meipl.org



Maine Interfaith Power & Light

Statement in Support for the Cape Wind Project

February 23, 2005

Maine Interfaith Power & Light (MeIPL) submits these comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs, in support of the Draft Environmental Impact Statements/Reports prepared for the **Cape Wind Energy Project**.

Maine Interfaith Power & Light was founded by people from various faith traditions in 2000 in order to pursue a shared mission: "For the preservation of God's creation, we join together to purchase electric power that has the least possible adverse effect on this fragile earth - our island home." As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and licensed electricity aggregator, we bring Mainers and Maine organizations together with suppliers to buy green electricity. We work to offer our pool the best green electricity value in the state of Maine. Through our partnership with Maine Renewable Energy, MeIPL offers Maine's residential consumers the only 100% renewable, emission-free electricity products in the state. MeIPL is part of a loose network of other Interfaith Power & Light groups that is forming across the United States to help people of faith "walk our talk" of care for the Creation by greening electricity generation and, thereby, slowing global warming.

MeIPL urges the Corps of Engineers and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs to approve the environmental reports for this project to enable Massachusetts and the region to curb their consumption of fossil fuel for electric generation. Moreover, MeIPL believes that this indigenous wind resource will enable Massachusetts to achieve the policy objectives in the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard and its Climate Action Plan.

Beyond the immediate benefits that such a project would bring to the region, the Cape Wind Project is urgently needed in light of current reports on global warming:

- Recently, the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declared that the world has "already reached the level of dangerous concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere" and called for immediate and "very deep" cuts in emissions if humanity is to survive.
- On January 24, 2005, a commission of scientists from the U.S., the U.K., and Australia declared that the world is about 10 years -- or about 2 degrees Fahrenheit -- away from irreversible climate change. A week or so later, researchers with the British Antarctic Survey reported that the massive West Antarctic ice sheet may already have begun to collapse.
- In late January, Britain's Hadley Center for Climate Prediction and Research released giant computer models created by the combined power of more than 95,000 computers in 150 countries. The models dramatically increased the estimate of future warming from between 4 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit to as much as 20 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A recent *Christian Science Monitor* article noted that the 850 new coal-fired power plants that India, China, and the U.S. are planning to build would generate up to five times more carbon dioxide than would have been avoided by the Kyoto Protocol.

Clearly, the way we generate electricity must change if we are to have any hope of stemming the devastating impacts of global warming here in New England and throughout the world. MeIPL, a non-profit organization and licensed electricity aggregator, brings Maine consumers and organizations together with suppliers to buy electricity from non-polluting, renewable resources such as hydro and wind. Through increasing sales of our clean electricity products, MeIPL is demonstrating that Mainers care about air quality and global warming and are willing to spend a little more for emission-free, domestically-produced "green" power.

MeIPL's overall goal is no less than to revolutionize the way the United States generates electricity. We want to help create the demand for clean, renewable, domestic power that frees us from our dependence on fossil fuels and puts the brakes on global warming. Our near-term objective is to generate enough demand for the extant renewable power capacity in the state (especially hydropower and biomass) so as to create a need for additional renewable generators.

Projects such as Cape Wind, as well as the Redington Mountain and Mars Hill, two wind farms proposed in Maine, are the kind of projects that are needed to make this necessary transition from polluting, fossil-fuel generated power to clean renewable power. MeIPL has enthusiastically endorsed wind projects in our home state, and we are pleased at this opportunity to endorse another wind project in our region that will have such positive impacts on our air shed.

MeIPL supports the timely approval of environmental reports related to the Cape Wind Project so that this important project can move forward and begin to help the region meet the challenge of global warming.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Felsenthal, President
Maine Interfaith Power & Light
P. O. Box 146
Brunswick, ME 04011
207-721-0444
www.meipl.org

Learn more about MeIPL by visiting www.meipl.org, and about the National Interfaith Power & Light movement and the 20+ other IP&L groups by visiting www.theregenerationproject.org

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Lesley Miller [lesleymiller@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 2:06 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: wind park project on Horseshoe Shoal

004381

Dear Ms. Karen Kirk-Adams:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have previously written to the Army Corps of Engineers to voice my support for the Cape Wind Project.

To my elected officials, I wish to emphasize the need to go ahead with permitting this worthy project which, according to the Harvard School of Public Health's report, will prevent the premature death of about 15 human beings annually.

The DEIS points out that few birds or other species of animals will be adversely affected by the windpark. It makes sense to stop worrying as much about those few birds and bats and proceed to make our lungs (and theirs) freer of the airborne pollutants emitted by fossil fuel burning plants, in particular the Cape's contingent among the Filthy Five, Mirant and Brayton Point.

Every year of delay will cause more people to die untimely deaths. Let's get on with building the windfarm now!

Sincerely,

Lesley Miller
448 Weir Road
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675-2525

cc:
Capewind

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: Deborah Aylesworth [dnaredriver@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 2:16 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: FW: Cape Wind Energy Project

To the Army Corps of Engineers,

After reading the Cape Cod Times today, I want to echo the voice of Paul Schrader on the Opinion page. He suggested installing the windmills on existing utility easements which are high on the spine of the Cape. I had a similar thought about using other town land. This would allow the profits to return to the towns which are all facing override votes this spring. The town of Harwich can no longer use the land at the dump for refuse. It looks to be ideal for locating turbines as it is at a high point in the town and vegetation has grown back to form hillocks.

I think that the Corps should be very cautious about giving permission to a commercial venture to permanently change what many think of as national treasure. Any alternative energy proposals are just a very small portion of our energy needs. We must remember the physician's admonition "Do no harm". Let us start with a sample wind project on Cape Cod land - not on Cape Cod water. Sincerely, Deborah N. Aylesworth

-----Original Message-----

From: Deborah Aylesworth [mailto:dnaredriver@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2005 8:22 PM
To: Joseph.A.Bocchino@usace.army.mil
Subject: Cape Wind Energy Project

Dear Mr. Bocchino,

I have the information which was distributed at the public hearing on Cape Cod and I have followed the print, radio and TV coverage. I did attend the meeting at the Middle School in Yarmouth and listened carefully to all speakers. I have been connected to Cape Cod since 1954. My family moved here in 1973. I have seen alot of change as the need for housing and commercial development increased. With that has come the need for increased energy. I will not be in the sightlines of the turbines so this is not a "not in my back yard" issue for me.

I want to encourage the Corps to look at this project as one that will impact more than the current population on Cape Cod. This will have an effect on any one who looks at, crosses, or experiences this body of water as a source of food, transportation, beauty for many years to come. The Sound is a body of water that will be severely impacted by the Cape Wind Project. It is clear from both sides of the issue that the Cape will not derive a great deal of savings from this project since the power goes into a grid. Only the people who have invested in this project will reap the benefits.

I have read a great deal about the pros and cons but have not heard anyone ask about whether the turbines will be lighted with flood lights or something like that. If that is the case, the amount of light sent into the night-time sky by such a large number of turbines will change (pollute) the sky forever. I hope you will respond to this concern.

I am very concerned that this project has not been given the fullest hearing in the Federal and State jurisdiction. The project has been located on Horseshoe Shoals in such a way as to skirt around both jurisdictions. Please do not give away this unique and beautiful body of water. It would be a frivolous act. There are so many ways that we can come together in the best way to protect our environment and to find new sources of energy. I do not believe that Cape Cod should be made to bear the brunt of this country's hunger for energy. Let us just practice turning down our heat and lights and driving more energy efficient cars. Cape Wind is not our savior. We must search for a solution that will protect our sea and land and no line the pocketbooks of a few people. Sincerely, Deborah N. Aylesworth, South Harwich.

Adams, Karen K NAE

From: GLongG@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 2:16 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Subject: Proposed wind energy facility off Cape Cod

004383

Dear Sirs,

I am writing you to express my grave concerns about the proposed wind energy facility proposed to be off shore of Cape Cod, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard.

I live in western Massachusetts so this is not a NIMBY concern; it is a concern for the whole essence of New England shores and surrounding waters. The proposed location could not be more poorly placed. While it may be more economically viable to put it in this location, it would result in the sacrifice of some of the most legendary and scenic waters of southern New England. I have no doubt it would have a substantial impact on tourism and real estate, economic engines of the area.

Wind is an important new source of energy. This, however, is not the place to make the statement. It will only backfire and cause future resistance.

I hope you will deny the effort to go forward.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Long
P O Box 83
Mill River, MA 01244

Adams, Karen K NAE

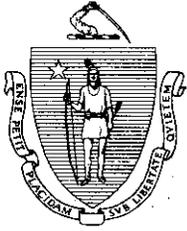
From: Sam White [sam.white@redwoodpower.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 3:51 PM
To: Energy, Wind NAE
Cc: mepa@state.ma.us
Subject: set an example

004381

This note is to express my hope that you set an example and help push through Cape Wind Project. Politics should not get in the way of providing a stable energy supply for future generations.

Sincerely,

Sam White
617-491-8448



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

ANNE M. PAULSEN

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Committees:
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Elderly Affairs
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ROOM 22, STATE HOUSE
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CHRISTINE BARBER
LEGISLATIVE AIDE

004386

February 23, 2005

Karen Kirk Adams, EIS Project Manager
Cape Wind Energy Project
Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Ms. Adams;

I am writing in support of the Cape Wind Project and the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS/DEIR/DRI) that the Army Corps of Engineers issued on its own behalf and on behalf of MEPA and the CCC. I urge the Corps, MEPA, and the CCC to complete a final EIS expeditiously so that this important project can go forward.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement appears to indicate that there will be no impacts from Cape Wind on aquatic life, minimal impacts on commercial and recreational boating, and a relatively small number of bird kills per year.

Cape Wind would emit no air or water pollution, and by allowing for a substantial reduction in use of fossil-fuel power plants, would cut annual air pollution by about 448 tons of particulates, 120 tons of carbon monoxide, 4,642 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 1,566 tons of nitrous oxides, along with several hundred pounds of toxics such as mercury. By one estimate, Cape Wind would have public health benefits of \$53 million a year due to reduced deaths and illness from respiratory ailments.

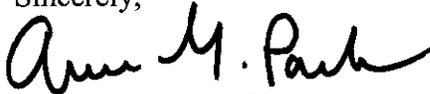
Cape Wind would also reduce carbon dioxide emissions -- the main cause of global warming -- by more than one million tons per year. By doing so it would make the single greatest contribution to preventing climate change of any project or policy measure in New England.

Cape Wind would also have economic benefits by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels whose overseas sources are insecure and whose prices may jump by large amounts in

future years. According to the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board, by putting downward pressure on electricity prices, Cape Wind would save consumers in New England about \$25 million a year, with \$10 million of that being saved by Massachusetts customers.

For these reasons, I urge the Army Corps, MEPA, and the CCC to give your approval to the Cape Wind Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne M. Paulsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" being the most prominent.

ANNE M. PAULSEN
State Representative

4 Plumb Lane
Nantucket, MA 02554

009306

February 15, 2005

Dear Sir/Madam:

Have you ever been to the Altamont Pass, or the Tehachapi Pass? If you had, you would see vast seas of windmills with only a tiny percentage of them turning at any one time. The rest sit rusting away with some even missing blades. And what about the wind farm in Denmark that has been dismantled two years after it was built? The answer to the fuel situation is not to be found in electricity generation. It is to be found in more efficient cars, trucks, and buses. For clean electricity generation, there is nuclear power. France produces 80% of its electrical power with nuclear power stations. Cars are the problem and we should be doing more to get the automotive industry to clean up its act with hybrid, fuel cell, gasohol, LPG, and any other suitable technology.

Trashing Nantucket Sound will not solve the problem. All it will do is provide a nice little tax write off for someone using public space, and we'll have to hit the taxpayer to clean up the mess when they are rusting away in idyllic stillness in several years time. If, unlike in the 70's, we are actually serious about making this work, then Governor Romney has offered Boston Harbor as an alternative site for them and we do not have to defile an area of such outstanding natural beauty, environmental diversity, etc. One could sit at Logan Airport and admire them from afar and marvel at how they fit in with the power stations and smoke stacks and commercial shipping. This is not the answer. If however it proves to be the right direction to proceed in, then this is not the place. Perhaps we should think of putting them in Yosemite?

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Christopher McLaughlin