



The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Up

Issue #8

December 12, 2022

This issue includes the following topics:

- [Questions](#) regarding recent statements about the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Farm
- [Question](#) about New York and New Jersey sharing power generated by offshore shore wind farms
- [Information](#) about oyster bed rehabilitation programs and offshore wind turbines

The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Ups periodically provide a review of recent research efforts in which the effects of offshore wind farms have been studied. In addition, in response to readers' suggestions and questions, Round Ups occasionally include factual, clarifying information.

Research included in Round-Ups points you in the direction of the science and assumes no point of view one way or the other about the presence of offshore wind farms off our shore. Likewise, clarifications are provided without editorial comment; they are there for you to consider so you can draw your own conclusions.

Please note that we expect to publish a January 2023 Round Up and then we will take a little break, resuming publication in March 2023.

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“Did the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Farm get bigger?” (and other questions from readers)

I read that the Atlantic Shores wind project has been expanded to 357 turbines and has been extended north to Barnegat Light. What happened? Why was this area expanded? Why wasn't there any notice or publicity about it?

Answering your questions in the order asked: Nothing has happened. The area was not expanded. There was nothing to report because there were no changes to the developmental plan.

Atlantic Shores was awarded an offshore wind energy lease by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”). The lease became effective March 1, 2016 for an area encompassing 183,353 acres. That is still the entire area that Atlantic Shores may develop and it has never been changed since the lease was awarded. The area always extended from the Atlantic City area north to Barnegat Light.

In April 2020, Atlantic Shores submitted to BOEM the Construction and Operations Plan (“COP”) for development of approximately 102,000 of those acres, designated as Project 1 and Project 2, in the southern portion of the lease area. That COP was

updated and refiled September 2021 with no change in coverage area. The remaining 81,000 acres, which came to be known later as Project 3 or Atlantic Shores North, are not included in this construction and operations plan.

Click on the link below to access the September 2021 COP:

<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Atlantic-Shores-COP-Volume-1-Project-Description.PDF>

The COP for Projects 1 & 2 stated that 200 wind turbines would be built in this area. Based on the same proportion of wind turbines to area, it would be expected that Project 3 would have 159 wind turbines.

Click on the following link to see the map of the area from the original lease. After you click on the link, scroll down to page A-3

<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/leasing/OCS-A 0499 Lease.pdf>

Administratively, however, there was a change. In September 2021, Atlantic Shore applied for a new lease number to differentiate Project 3 from Project 1 and Project 2, both of which are the subject of the COP under consideration by BOEM. Atlantic Shore's request was granted in April 2022, with Projects 1 & 2 retaining the original lease number OCS-A 0499, under which all 183,353 acres had been awarded; Project 3 was assigned new lease number OCS-A0549. There was no change, however, in the configuration of the original lease area.

I continue to be confused about the visibility of the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Farm project compared to the rest of the world. Is it, or is it not, the most visible modern wind turbine complex in the world?

It is not. We addressed earlier versions of this question in *Round Up #6* (October 10, 2022). Whenever that statement subsequently appears, however, so do the questions like the one above and we are happy to continue to research.

Below is a link to photomontages of what the wind turbines in the North Irish Sea Array ("NISA") will look like from shore. NISA is a wind farm in the planning stages off the coast of eastern Ireland. It will consist of 30 – 36 wind turbines and it is 7.8 – 14.5 miles from shore.

Click below to see a map of the coastal towns directly west of the wind farm and videos of what the turbines will look like from the shore of each town:

<https://2021b.macroworks.ie/>

For more information about NISA, click on the link below.

<https://northirishseaarray.ie/project-details/design-location/>

Is it true that a federal agency cancelled sales [of offshore wind farm leases] off the Hamptons NY?

Yes and no. Yes, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) announced 20 months ago that it was withdrawing consideration of two areas off Long Island. No, because even though consideration of these areas was tabled last year, those areas may be made available again in the future. No, also about the word “sales.” Developers lease, not purchase, the area on which they are approved to construct wind farms.

In April 2021, two weeks after BOEM (a federal agency) first announced the plan to create five new offshore wind farm development zones in the Atlantic Ocean between New York and New Jersey, officials decided not to consider leasing two zones closest to Long Island — Fairways North off the coast of the Shinnecock Inlet and Fairways South off Fire Island (collectively known as the Fairways).

BOEM Program Analyst Arianna Baker added that issues with Fairways included a major maritime traffic separation scheme going into New York Harbor, marine life feeding areas, and concerns over visibility from South Shore beaches. Baker later clarified that in the future, the two zones may be introduced as areas available for lease to wind farm developers. (Click on the second link below to access the entire article.)

Click on the link below to see BOEM’s map showing the two areas previously withdrawn and the six other areas in the NY Bight that were leased during BOEM’s February 2022 offshore wind auction:

<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/images/NY-wide-area-call-psn-fsn.png>

Click on the link below to access an article reporting on BOEM’s April 2021 decision to withdraw the Fairways from consideration:

<https://www.danspapers.com/2021/04/news-latest-hamptons-offshore-wind-farm-idea-shelved/>

I read that Hudson South is going to be used to supply energy to New York. Is that true?

That is unclear at this point. There are four separate offshore wind leases in the Hudson South area, which is the southern part of the NY Bight region. Each of those four leases was awarded through auction by the Bureau of Energy Management (“BOEM”) to a different developer in February 2022.

We can find no statements from any of those companies about where the energy generated by these wind farms would be directed.

Here are the links to the websites of the companies with leases in Hudson South:

Lease OSC-A 0538 Attentive Energy LLC
<https://corporate.totalenergies.us/attentive-energy>
Lease OCS-A 0539 Bright Wind Holdings LLC

Bight Wind Holdings, LLC is a joint venture between RWE Renewables and National Grid Ventures. We were unable to locate a website for BWH

LLC Lease OCS-A 0541 Atlantic Shores Bight LLC

<https://www.atlanticshoreswind.com/>

Lease OCS-A 0542 Invenery Wind Offshore LLC

<https://invenergy.com/>

Click on the link below to see the press release from the Department of the Interior announcing the winners of the NY Bight February 2022 auction for offshore wind energy leases: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-sets-offshore-energy-records-437-billion-winning-bids-wind>

“Have New York and New Jersey made a deal to share energy generated from offshore wind farms located off each coast?”

We have not been able to locate anything confirming that such an arrangement exists. If you have information to the contrary, kindly email us at RoundUpLBI@gmail.com and direct us to your source(s). We appreciate your input.

What *can* be confirmed is that they share a commitment to offshore wind energy production for their states. Governor Hochul and Governor Murphy have each announced their state’s offshore wind energy production goals (see below). Per BOEM, reaching those goals will collectively produce 16 gigawatts of offshore wind energy capacity by 2035. Click below to access information from BOEM and scroll down to the Background section:

[https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/BOEM NY NJ Shared Vision.pdf](https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/BOEM%20NY%20NJ%20Shared%20Vision.pdf)

Click below for an article about New Jersey’s offshore wind energy production goal:

<https://www.nj.com/politics/2022/09/nj-will-increase-targets-for-offshore-wind-production-to-help-battle-climate-change-murphy-says.html>

Click below for an article about New York’s offshore wind energy production goal:

<https://www.insideenergyandenvironment.com/2022/08/new-york-remains-offshore-wind-pacesetter-with-third-solicitation/>

The governors have also mentioned “a plan for a coordinated offshore wind supply chain effort between New York, New Jersey and BOEM, titled ‘A Shared Vision on the Development of an Offshore Wind Supply Chain.’” Click on the link below for more information about that plan:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-interior-secretary-haaland-and-governor-murphy-announces-historic-wind-energy>

Offshore Wind Farms & Oyster Bed Rehabilitation Programs

Readers have been following this development and they suggested that we include information about these efforts to make more people aware that this type of activity is going on.

“Community Offshore Wind Helps Revitalize Oyster Habitats on Long Island with Huntington-Northport Oyster Reef Project,” from national.gridus.com, June 28, 2022
<https://www.nationalgridus.com/News/2022/06/Community-Offshore-Wind-Helps-Revitalize-Oyster-Habitats-on-Long-Island-with-Huntington-Northport-Oyster-Reef-Project/>

“More than 50 wind farm sites to be reviewed to restore at-risk marine species,” from Oceanographic Magazine
<https://oceanographicmagazine.com/news/wind-farm-sites-oyster-restoration/>

“Wind Farm Oyster Reefs,” from Engineering with Nature: An Atlas, Volume 2 by the US Army Engineer Research & Development Center
https://issuu.com/poweroferdc/docs/erdc-sr-21-2_ebook/s/12092131

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This Round-Up was prepared by a group of writers and researchers from Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Round-Ups are distributed to the voting representatives of the eleven member organizations of the Joint Council of Taxpayers Associations of LBI (JCTA). Each taxpayer and property owners association then distributes this information to its members and the community via its regular communication methods, e.g., through newsletters; posted on websites; social media.

Questions about the content of Round-Ups and suggestions for topics to be covered in future issues can be directed to RoundUpLBI@gmail.com. The Round Up research and writing team welcomes questions and comments.

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