



TOWN of CASWELL BEACH

1100 Caswell Beach Road • Caswell Beach, NC 28465
(910) 278-5471 • Fax: 1-866-271-3641 • Website: www.caswellbeach.org

February 19, 2015

Office of Renewable Energy Programs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
381 Elden Street, HM 1328
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

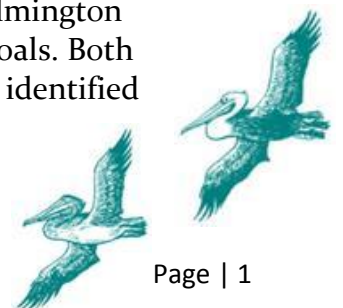
Re: Public Comment for OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2015-009
Docket ID BOEM 2015-0001

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment conducted for the stated purpose of examining the impact of commercial wind lease issuances and site assessment activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf offshore of North Carolina. While we appreciate the environmental assessment conducted to discover the impact of various surveys and meteorological buoys or towers, we respectfully request that other factors be considered before proceeding any further.

Prior to allowing commercial-scale wind energy production off the shores of the state of North Carolina, Brunswick County and the Town of Caswell Beach, the following concerns must be thoroughly addressed:

- The cost and economic viability of the proposed energy
- The environmental impact of the full scale facilities
- The effect the facilities will have on tourism
- The distribution of the revenues to those impacted by the facilities
- The effect on economic development
- The benefit to the local communities
- The impact on local wildlife and migratory birds
- Impact of Commercial Wind Energy Farming
 - Both the Wilmington East Wind Energy Call Area and Wilmington West Wind Energy Call Area are located near two sand shoals. Both shoals contain beach quality sand deposits that have been identified by the US Army Corp of Engineers as possible sand



borrow sights for future beach re-nourishment on local beaches of the Brunswick County islands. The sand borrow sights are identified as Jay Bird Shoals Borrow Area (located adjacent to Caswell Beach) and Frying Pan Shoals Borrow Area (located directly south of Bald Head Island). Our concern is; turbine field interference or prohibition of sand dredging for beach re-nourishment near or in the turbine fields.

- The turbine models used in the photo simulations for Oak Island on the BOEM web site show both the Siemens SWT turbine and the Vestas V164 turbine; in the simulations both models are visible from the shore line at all simulation distances. The visibility of the turbines will have a negative impact on the local tourist industry. The requirement for standard FAA and USCG lighting on the turbines is understandable but increases visibility of the turbines from the shoreline. The economical impact of lost tourism and low real estate values due to the intrusive visibility of the turbine fields should be thoroughly addressed. We would request that both Wilmington Call Areas be relocated to a distance not visible from the shoreline.
- The Electrical Service Platform on each of the simulation models for Oak Island are all in similar locations. From the location of the platforms it appears the Cape Fear River will be involved in the transportation of power from the platforms to the mainland. The impact of power transportation to the main land; on the environment, the maintenance of the shipping channel through the Cape Fear River and to the local community should be thoroughly addressed.

Until these concerns are fully addressed, the Town of Caswell Beach, North Carolina is opposed to further exploration of commercial-scale wind energy production off of our coast. Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,



Deborah Ahlers
Mayor Pro Tem
Town of Caswell Beach
Caswell Beach Town Hall
1100 Caswell Beach Rd, Caswell Beach, NC 28465

