



February 22, 2015

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

Re: Public Comment for BOEM 2015-009

Dear Sirs:

We very much appreciate 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 understand the environmental assessment is conducted to discover the impact of various surveys and meteorological buoys or towers, we respectfully request that other factors be considered before proceeding with any further action. These are significant issues that need to be resolved in order to insure that the proposed construction does not have a negative effect on our Town as well as others adjacent to the proposed project area.

Prior to allowing commercial-scale wind energy production off the shores of our Town and Island, the following concerns should be adequately 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
- The effect on navigational hazards for recreational and commercial fishing boats
- The high cost of power transition to shore
- High costs associated with equipment maintenance in a highly corrosive salt environment.

4601 E. Oak Island Drive · Oak Island, North Carolina 28465
Phone: (910) 278-5011 · Fax: (910) 278-1711 · Website: www.oakislandnc.com

Additionally:

- Both the Wilmington East Wind Energy Area and Wilmington West Wind Energy Area appear to be located over two shoal areas which have been identified by the US Army Corp of Engineers as possible sand borrow sights for future beach nourishment on Caswell Beach, Oak Island and Bald Head Island. The sand borrow sights are Jay Bird Shoals Borrow Area, located adjacent to Caswell Beach and Frying Pan Shoals Borrow Area, located directly south of Bald Head Island. Together, these sites comprise a total of approximately 4,591 acres of beach quality sand. If established as indicated, would the turbine fields interfere with the ability to dredge these valuable sand deposits and place the sand on nearby beaches?
- The turbine models used in the photo simulations for Oak Island on the BOEM web site are the Siemens SWT-3.6-107 and the Vestas V-164. The simulations produced by both models indicate the turbines will be highly visible from the shore line, even at the furthest distance. In addition there appears to be a requirement for standard FAA and USCG lighting on the turbines to meet the requirements for marine navigation lighting, making the turbines even more visible from the shoreline. Therefore, the turbines could have a serious impact on our tourist industry.

Until these concerns are fully addressed, the Town cannot offer an opinion regarding further exploration of commercial-scale wind energy production off of our coast.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty W. Wallace

Betty W. Wallace, Mayor
cc: Town Council