



## Save Long Beach Island, Inc.

[www.savelbi.org](http://www.savelbi.org)

### PRESS RELEASE

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#### Save LBI

#### Calls for Cancellation of Close-to-Shore Wind Projects

**Background:** Save Long Beach Island, Inc. (Save LBI) from its inception has not opposed offshore wind in general, only where projects do not make sense from either an environmental and economic perspective. In that vein, due to their substantial adverse impact on the beauty and use of the shore itself, the tourist economy, fisheries, marine mammal migration, our military and civilian onshore radar capability, vessel traffic, and a host of other problems, we have strenuously opposed development in the extraordinary close to shore (9 miles) Atlantic Shores lease area, and asked the State and federal government to consider projects farther east in the Hudson South wind area and beyond, as well as onshore options to reduce carbon air emissions.

**A Positive Step:** So, it is a positive sign to see the New Jersey (NJ) Board of Public Utilities (BPU) putting forth two new proposed projects farther out in the Hudson South area for environmental review, where they should actually appear as “specks on the horizon” as Governor Murphy has promised. They also will not impact the shore experience from airborne noise and changes in air temperature and humidity from turbine operation. The BPU orders on the projects recognize that both projects would not impact the shore communities and shore based tourism. It is also noteworthy that the BPU did not approve the Atlantic Shores 2 project, which is much closer to the shore and more economically costly. It loses on both counts and we hope that project is not even considered in future solicitations.

**An Anomaly:** The BPU action appears to point towards a more sensible siting policy for offshore wind development. But this leaves the Atlantic Shores 1 project, and the entire Atlantic Shores lease area, the closest to shore large turbine wind project in the world, alone as an anomaly, not consistent with a more sensible siting policy. That lease area was selected before the issues with it were known. It is simply not an acceptable place for the placement of the large, noisy wind turbines of today. In fact, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, which governs the site selection process calls for cancellation of a lease, when, among other things,

“continued activity pursuant to such lease or permit would probably cause serious harm or damage to life (including fish and other aquatic life), to property, to any mineral (in areas leased or not leased), to the national security or defense, or to the marine, coastal, or human environment”.

If ever a lease area met those criteria, this is it. ***Therefore Save LBI calls for the cancellation of the Atlantic Shores lease area by the U.S. Interior Department.***

**More Opportunities:** We encourage the BPU to look into environmentally acceptable farther out locations, new technologies such as floating wind turbines, as well as onshore initiatives which can be both less costly and less environmentally damaging than offshore wind.

With a one-mile turbine spacing the entire Hudson South area has a wind energy potential of 13,252 megawatts of power, exceeding the Governor's goal, but only a part is currently being considered. The State also needs to fight harder to secure power from that much preferred area, compared to the close to shore wind areas, for NJ and not let it go to New York (NY). That power is now apparently being split between NJ and NY even though these projects are located off the NJ coast, and NY has rejected close in projects off its coast. The Attentive Energy lease area project, for example, has committed to both a 1,404 megawatt project to NY and a 1,342 megawatt project to NJ. NY has another upcoming solicitation, as does NJ. NJ must be successful in obtaining the power from the projects located off its coast.

At the same time, there are onshore actions that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions that are both less costly and environmentally damaging. These include energy conservation measures, alternative industrial and agricultural processes, as well as new smaller and safer modular nuclear reactors. We encourage the State to do a comparative review of those options, considering their environmental impacts from "cradle to grave" and their economics on an equal comparative basis.

**Continued Vigilance:** We also recognize that there may be significant environmental and economic issues with these farther out projects as well. Therefore we will continue to follow the process, and provide constructive suggestions to address such impacts. 2024 will be a critical year for NJ offshore wind projects, and let's keep in mind what's at stake here. We are talking about something vital and precious, the shore and the sea, that has nourished and inspired human beings for centuries, not to be given away without a compelling reason. As President John F. Kennedy put it:

***"We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea - whether it is to sail or to watch it - we are going back from whence we came."***

Save LBI will continue to actively follow these developments and will be strongly engaged in protecting the interests of NJ residents and visitors to our beautiful shore. More information can be found on our website [www.SaveLBI.org](http://www.SaveLBI.org).

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