

Press Release
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For Immediate Release:

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Save LBI Calls for a Redraft of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic Shores South Project.

On June 29th, Save LBI submitted 208 pages of comment on the draft EIS.

Those comments cited 23 subject areas where potentially significant impacts were not disclosed or casually dismissed without evidence, and 7 other subjects where impacts were not fully disclosed-the legal standard for an EIS- including,

- the impact of operational turbine noise on the essential migration of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale.,
- the risk to vessel navigation from the channeling and concentration of commercial and military vessel traffic into a narrow corridor between the two wind energy areas off NJ with radar capability potentially compromised by wind turbines on either side, and
- the synergistic impact of the most visible modern wind complex in the world, the effect of rotating blades, audible noise from turbine operation, reduced breeze and wave and higher temperature and humidity, on the shore experience and upon the persons and businesses that rely on that experience for their economic well-being,

Also cited was the lack of a cumulative impact assessment of all the projects in the NJ and NY Bight areas, and of the impact to the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale which must migrate along the entire east coast to survive, and will encounter numerous wind projects.

Further, there were no true alternatives in the EIS-the “heart” of an EIS- for the public to weigh in on, such as the turbine area, number, power, or gear type, which have already been decided upon by the applicant and the federal and State Agencies.

Compounding all this was a 2000-page EIS often referencing a 4,000-page Construction and Operations Plan, and selectively citing 1,220 technical references, making it impossible to fully read, evaluate actual impact, and prepare comments in the limited time period allowed.

This is not what the National Environmental Policy Act is about. Save LBI has asked that the federal agency go back to the drawing board, correct the defects, and recast the draft EIS within the page limits recently enacted in the Debt Reduction Act.

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