



Save Long Beach Island, Inc.

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For Immediate Release: Offshore Wind Projects, a Real Threat to National Security and Affordability.

Long Beach Island, NJ, September 14, 2026 - Save Long Beach Island (Save LBI) today issued a response to a press conference held in Hammonton, New Jersey on Sept. 10th, where several new Jersey federal elected representatives and various groups expressed continued and future support for pursuing offshore wind projects,

They trotted out the worn-out cliches; that offshore wind would provide needed energy for New Jersey, lower electricity costs, create thousands of jobs, curb climate change, and one representative called the national security concerns over how fields of huge spinning wind turbines can block our onshore military radars “bullshit”.

Bob Stern, Save LBI President, a Ph.D. scientist and former manager of the Office of National Environmental Policy Act Affairs for the U.S. Department of Energy expressed disbelief that anyone could rally behind offshore wind development let alone ignore the national security concerns they pose. “Considering the many negative impacts of these projects brought to light over the last few years, the intense shore community opposition to them, and the widespread concern over keeping electricity and other basic needs affordable, the obsession with these offshore wind projects is hard to fathom.”

Let’s look again at some numbers and facts. The national security concern with the Atlantic Shores South project, which would build 200-thousand-foot-tall wind turbines along the southern NJ coast, is a good place to start.

A review done specifically for Atlantic Shores South by its own expert defense consultant, West Slope Inc, titled Radar Screening Study Report of December 17, 2021 provided in Appendix II–T2 of the Atlantic Shores Construction and Operations Plan (COP) concluded that;

“Because wind turbines will be within line-of-sight of the Atlantic City ASR-9, Gibbsboro ARSR-4, and the McGuire AFB DASR {radar systems}, **Westslope expects that the DOD and FAA will have concerns with the proposed wind turbine generators.**”

The severity of the radar degradation was confirmed by actual testing of the ARSR-4 long-range radar performance in the presence of wind turbines presented in a 2014

Sandia National Labs report, IFT&E Industry Report Wind Turbine-Radar Interference Test Summary (SAND 2014-19003). The Report concluded in Section 2.3.1 that **"The primary surveillance radars (PSRs) were significantly impacted by operating wind turbines at both the detection and tracking levels for regions within and above the wind turbines {emphasis added}."**

The Report supported its conclusions with its test results presented in graphical form, as in its Figure 2.10. The report states that "Figure 2-10 illustrates that **the probability of detection decreases significantly and the probability of false alarm increases significantly {emphasis added}** from the Far to the Within/Above wind turbine region, highlighting the impact of wind turbines on the performance of the radars."

Similar charts were included in the Sandia Report showing that the probability of following a tracked object is significantly decreased, and the probability of showing false tracks is significantly increased by several orders of magnitude with turbine presence.

The radar degradation problem also can't be corrected. Based on unclassified, readily available information:

- (1) there are no readily available hardware or software modifications to the existing radars that can restore their capability, nor are there any newer systems available or on the horizon that would not be similarly compromised,
- (2) the use of other radars or placement of additional radars far enough away along the coast to see behind Atlantic Shores South is not feasible because low-flying targets would be hidden by the earth's curvature, and,
- (3) the placement of "infill radars" on the offshore wind project facilities themselves to see behind them would not be secure from a national security perspective given the foreign equipment on and ownership of those facilities.

Therefore, contrary to the pejorative adjective used during the press conference, this is a real national security danger, particularly in a world that is now routinely manufacturing low-flying drones and cruise missiles by the thousands.

Regarding supplying energy to New Jersey, the wind projects are intermittent, unreliable, and the energy they produce goes into the regional transmission grid and can be used anywhere in the 13 member states and the District of Columbia. It probably won't be used much in New Jersey because the daily times of peak demand in New Jersey don't match up well with the daily times of higher winds.

Regarding electric costs, according to a July, 2024 independent economic analysis by Whitestrand Consulting, Atlantic Shores South alone would **increase** the average New Jersey **residential electric bill** by an estimated **13 percent**, or about **\$224 a year**. The estimated increases are even greater for businesses: **16 percent for commercial customers, or \$1,923 annually, and 18 percent for industrial customers, or \$16,206 annually.**

The same analysis estimates that the cumulative effect of Atlantic Shore South and two other wind projects would increase electric bills by **28 percent for residential customers, 35 percent for commercial customers and 39 percent for industrial customers.**

The proponents at the Press Conference decried the few billion dollars being used to buy back some offshore wind leases, But that money was paid-in by the developers, and over their lifetime these wind projects would cost electric consumers ten-times that. So, developers redirecting their efforts towards options that are more affordable and reliable, like nuclear or combined-cycle natural gas, as called for in the buyouts, will actually be a significant consumer benefit.

The thousands of jobs claimed by proponents doesn't hold up well or for long. For a capital investment of about \$17.5 billion, the Atlantic Shores South project (rated at 2.8 gigawatts) would create about 1,500 *temporary* NJ worker jobs during a 2–3-year construction period. This drops to about 90 jobs during operation projected to last about 30 years. Most of the jobs would go to foreign workers, and with the loss of NJ business jobs from the higher electric rates, and lost NJ tourism jobs from the visual blight, the State as a whole would actually end up losing jobs.

For a comparable investment in a new nuclear project (1.5 gigawatts) you would get about 4,000 construction jobs over a longer 8 year-period, and about 750 permanent jobs over a 70-year period. Offshore wind is simply not an effective job creator, and as an extra plus with the nuclear project you get the same amount of electric energy generated because it operates at least twice as often as the wind project.

The other argument for offshore wind offered at the press conference is that it will “curb” climate change. But buried in an Appendix in the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Shores South project the federal government admits that: “the Proposed Action would have negligible impacts on climate change during construction and operation.”

Denise Boccia, Save LBI Board member, stressed that: “climate change is also not the only environmental issue, and when you look at the evidence, these projects are not clean and green. The underwater noise they create during long-term operation would obstruct essential whale migrations and drive fish away. The turbines interfere with our onshore military radars, impose vessel navigation risks, cause visual blight, unwanted onshore noise and generate air pollutants during construction which would be particularly problematic in environmental sensitive areas such as the nearby Brigantine National Wilderness Area.”

The economics of offshore wind itself are also becoming harder to ignore. Developers have repeatedly discovered that projects that looked attractive on paper become extraordinarily expensive when inflation, interest rates, supply-chain problems, new construction costs and transmission expenses are taken into account. New Jersey has already seen developers taking billions of dollars in losses, citing changing market conditions, and delays. New York has seen similar turbulence. These developments should not be dismissed as temporary setbacks. They are evidence that the economics

of the industry are fundamentally different from the optimistic projections offered when these projects were first proposed.

Thomas Stavola Jr., the attorney representing Save LBI, noted that: “the facts and the law are beginning to resonate in Court. The EPA’s Environmental Appeals Board remanded the Clean Air Act permit for the Atlantic Shores South project, involving air quality impact at the nearby Brigantine National Wilderness Area. Recently, the federal district court of DC remanded the full Construction and Operations Plan back to the federal agency for reconsideration and further agency action.”

Bob Stern concluded, “It’s high time for our elected representatives at the State and federal level to do the same as the Court-start making decisions based on actual dollar numbers, facts and science, instead of hollow slogans.”

About Save Long Beach Island, Inc. Save Long Beach Island, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting the marine environment, coastal ecosystems, and quality of life for residents and visitors of Long Beach Island and the surrounding region. The organization advocates for science-based, balanced policies that safeguard wildlife, preserve local economies, and promote responsible stewardship of ocean resources.

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