

1 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
2 AIR & RADIATION MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION
3
4
5

6 PUBLIC HEARING FOR US WIND'S
7 OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECT
8

9 PERMIT APPLICATION
10
11

12 The hearing in the above matter commenced on
13 Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:09 p.m., at the Ocean
14 City Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City,
15 Maryland.
16
17

18 BEFORE: SHANNON HEAFEY, Hearing Officer
19
20

21 Reported by: George L. Quade, CERT

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT:

3 SHANNON HEAFEY

4 Maryland Department of the Environment

5 1800 Washington Boulevard

6 Suite 455

7 Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708

8

9 MANUEL CORA

10 Maryland Department of the Environment

11 1800 Washington Boulevard

12 Suite 455

13 Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT'D)

2

3 SUNA SARISCAK

4 Maryland Department of the Environment

5 1800 Washington Boulevard

6 Suite 455

7 Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708

8

9 ALSO PRESENT:

10 DAVE WILSON, US Wind

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 - - - - -

3 (6:09 p.m.)

4 MS. HEAFEY: My name is Shannon Heafey, and I'm
5 the Air Quality Permits Program Public Participation
6 Coordinator, and I am going to be serving as your hearing
7 officer this evening.

8 With me also tonight is Ms. Suna Sariscak,
9 she's our program manager; Mr. Manuel Cora, he is the
10 permit engineer for this facility. And there's some
11 folks that are out helping everyone sign in, and there's
12 some other folks from our Permits Program.

13 From the company, US Wind, is Mr. Dave Wilson.
14 And as you can see, we have court reporters here.

15 So I have a little bit to read, and then Mr.
16 Cora is going to give a quick presentation of the
17 tentative determination, the draft permit conditions, and
18 then I'll invite folks up to make a statement.

19 So the Department has made a tentative
20 determination that the permit meets all equitable air
21 quality rules and regulations and may be issued. This

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 hearing is to offer citizens the opportunity to formally
2 comment on the Department's tentative determination and
3 draft permit conditions, or submit written statements to
4 the Department during the comment period.

5 The notification of this hearing appeared in
6 the Worcester County Times on December 5th and December
7 12th, 2024. A docket of information containing the air
8 quality application, the tentative determination, and the
9 draft permit conditions is available on the MDE website.
10 Go under the air tab, and then go under air permits, and
11 you'll scroll down and you will see US Wind, and you can
12 click on the docket and that brings up all of the
13 information. And the docket will be updated as we go
14 through the process.

15 So statements entered into the record will be
16 kept on file at the Department for up to five years, or
17 longer if we have room. The comment period remains open
18 through January 14th. The community does have an
19 opportunity to request a one-time, 60-day extension of
20 the comment period, which must be requested in writing to
21 the Department no later than January 14th, the close of

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 the comment period. And you can email me that; on the
2 sign-in table are my business cards.

3 So -- okay. If an extension request is
4 received and the comment period is extended, a
5 notification will be sent to those who participated in
6 the permit process, local elected officials, and will be
7 posted on our website. And, again, if you have not
8 signed in, please do. That is going to be how I'm going
9 to be -- I will be communicating through email. So I
10 like to be sure everyone's email is up to date and is
11 legible.

12 At the conclusion of the comment period, all
13 comments received will be addressed in a document called
14 the Response to Comments, and that will be prepared by
15 the Department. After the close of the comment period,
16 every comment will be reviewed and addressed.

17 The Department -- well, okay. So that could
18 take a little bit of time after the end of the comment
19 period, but you will receive something by me from it.
20 And -- so if the Department does not receive any comments
21 it considers to be adverse to the tentative

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 determination, that determination becomes the final
2 decision at the end of the comment period.

3 If the Department does receive comments it
4 deems adverse to the tentative determination, it will
5 make a final determination as to whether to issue or deny
6 the permit. A notice of final determination will be
7 placed in the legal section of a newspaper in general
8 circulation in the area, which is probably going to be
9 the Worcester County Times again, placed on the MDE Air
10 Quality Permitting page, and emailed to commenters, those
11 who participated in the public review process, elected
12 officials.

13 Any person contending that they will be
14 adversely affected by the Department's final
15 determination may seek remedy within the Circuit Court
16 system of Maryland. A petition for judicial review must
17 be filed within the Circuit Court for the county where
18 the proposed activity will occur. It must be filed
19 within 30 days after the publication of a notice of final
20 determination.

21 Mr. Cora will give a brief presentation about

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 the tentative determination, the permitting process, and
2 then the comments for the record are invited. Just as an
3 FYI, any comments that have questions will be addressed
4 at the end of the comment period and not tonight. That
5 is so that everybody gets to read the question and we'll
6 get the correct answer.

7 So please do, if you have questions, please
8 make them part of your statement, but just know that
9 you're not going to be getting an answer until the end of
10 the comment period because we do expect to get written
11 comments from folks that could not attend the hearing
12 tonight, and everybody should hear what's going on.

13 I'll be inviting elected officials to speak
14 first. So after they have been invited up to speak, then
15 I will open it up. This is just a quick -- and I'll go
16 over this again in a minute. But as you can tell when
17 you came in, there were multiple sign-in sheets. So
18 there's no particular order that I'm going to call you up
19 in. Don't be offended. Everybody will have a chance to
20 make their statement. We'll be calling people up five at
21 a time and you can come up and sit here until their turn.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 And I'll go over this in a minute, but just so you know
2 how we're going to do the proceeding, and for -- so I'm
3 going to let Mr. Cora make his presentation, and then
4 we'll go from there.

5 MR. CORA: Thank you, Shannon. Good evening,
6 everyone. My name is Manuel Cora. I am the Division
7 Chief of the Combustion and Metallurgical Division of the
8 Air Quality Permits Program, Maryland Department of the
9 Environment.

10 As Shannon stated before, tonight we are
11 sharing some of the key elements or points related to the
12 air -- draft air quality permit and the tentative
13 determination on this permitting process and approvals.
14 This is the recommendation at this stage for the
15 tentative review that we -- our whole team conducted on
16 this application. This -- I just want to say that this
17 permit arrived at our agency a little bit more than a
18 year ago.

19 Just before going over the key elements of the
20 draft permit and approvals, I would like to spend some
21 time sharing some background on the project, or

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 milestones in the permitting process.

2 MDE, also known as the Department here, we
3 received a permit application for an air quality permit
4 application for the construction and operation of the US
5 Wind, Maryland Offshore Wind Project. The complete
6 application was received in November 2023. As stated in
7 the permit application, the project proposes to construct
8 and operate up to 121 wind turbine generators, four
9 offshore substations (OSS), and then one Met Tower.

10 (Inaudible) last year in June, we came here for
11 a public information meeting that was organized by our
12 department. That meeting was in June 13th, 2024.
13 Obviously, the meeting was held here in Ocean City. And
14 that meeting allowed the general public to ask questions
15 and get information about the project, and also a review
16 of information about the permitting process, the
17 different milestones.

18 After the informational meeting, our team
19 engaged in a comprehensive technical review. We went
20 back to our offices and we went over the permit
21 application, in-depth technical review. The end of our

Public Hearing

Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 review, or that stage, ended with the draft permit
2 document, or what is called a tentative determination to
3 issue a permit to construct, and approvals. And we found
4 that the proposed project meets the applicable federal
5 and state air quality regulations.

6 Now, I want to briefly talk about the -- what
7 constitutes air pollution sources for this project, being
8 that it's a wind project, what really constitutes
9 emission sources. And you see there three bullets. In
10 the first bullet, you will see that emissions from
11 vessels traveling to and from the wind -- the turbine
12 development area within 25 nautical miles of the area's
13 boundary during construction and commissioning (C&C)
14 phase of the project.

15 Second bullet there, also emissions from
16 vessels that are temporarily or permanently attached to
17 the seabed, or physically attached to the wind turbine
18 development area during the C&C phase of the project.

19 Then on the third one there, also emissions
20 that are from vessels servicing the wind turbines for
21 offshore substations during operations and maintenance

Public Hearing

Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 activities. Also, emissions coming from temporary and
2 permanently -- permanently stored generators during
3 construction and commissioning, and also O&M phase of the
4 project.

5 Now, a little bit on what was included in the
6 permit application. The permit application is a
7 standalone document that included a -- what you see on
8 the first bullet, major new source review approval. It
9 also includes a prevention of significant deterioration
10 approval (PSD), in addition to an air quality permit to
11 construct.

12 Based on the standalone documents submitted by
13 US Wind containing the NSR, as I mentioned, the PSD
14 approval, and the PTC application and supporting
15 documents, all these documents necessary for us to do a
16 technical review and come to a conclusion.

17 A little bit on the NSR, New Source Review,
18 requirements. During the construction and commissioning
19 phase, the project's potential NOx emissions will exceed
20 100 tons a year, which is the major source threshold
21 applicable in Worcester County. So those NOx potential

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 emissions, that made this project subject to the
2 -- to the NSR approval process, in that first bullet.

3 As a result, then, US Wind will meet and will
4 have to meet the Lowest Achievable Emission Rate for
5 emission of NOx by using engines that meet the most
6 stringent NOx emission standards that are available at
7 the time of deployment.

8 Another requirement under the NSR is this
9 offset -- it's on the third bullet there. And the
10 company is required to obtain what is called emissions
11 reductions, or offsets, for potential NOx emissions for
12 -- during the operations and maintenance phase. And this
13 NOx offset has to be at a ratio of 1.15:1, or the
14 equivalent of 29 tons during operation and maintenance.

15 Just a little bit about -- on the PSD,
16 Prevention of Significant Deterioration. The potential
17 emissions for the project for nitrogen dioxide, NO2,
18 carbon monoxide, particulate matter with 10 microns or
19 less, and particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less,
20 exceeding the PSD significant emissions rate. It's
21 called the SER. And, therefore, that exceedance

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 triggered the PSD approval process. So that's why they
2 submitted a PSD approval.

3 As part of that PSD process, the facility, or
4 the company, then has to meet Best Available Control
5 Technology, B-A-C-T, or BACT, requirements. Those BACT
6 requirements will be by the use of engines that meet the
7 most stringent emission standards available at the time
8 of deployment, and also using ultra low sulfur diesel
9 fuel. That's the B-A-C-T, or BACT, for this project.

10 The third bullet, US Wind was also required to
11 perform air quality modeling to demonstrate compliance
12 with Natural Ambient Air Quality Standards. So modeling
13 was done to show compliance with the NAAQS, in that
14 bullet there.

15 A little bit more on PSD. US Wind was required
16 to conduct -- conduct impact analysis on Class I areas,
17 or areas that are with natural resources that require
18 special protection.

19 Also, additional analyses was required on
20 growth, soil, vegetation, wildlife, visibility
21 impairment, and shoreline fumigation.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 One of the things that the permit -- the
2 approval requires, or will require, on that last bullet
3 there, is going to be related to daily emission limits
4 and ensure compliance with the NAAQS standards, and then
5 show compliance that the project will not exceed
6 significant impacts on the short term.

7 A little bit on the PTS requirements. The PTC
8 is a permit to construct, and you can see the permit to
9 construct is a standalone document that encompasses
10 everything that covers the PSD and the NSR approvals, and
11 it also includes additional requirements for other
12 pollutants -- VOC, SO₂, lead, and greenhouse gases.

13 The PTC, or permit to construct, will also
14 include requirements that are applicable under the New
15 Source Performance Standards for engines and the National
16 Emission standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. Those
17 standards are applicable to the engines that will be used
18 to propel the vessels.

19 Also, applicable state regulations that limit
20 visible emissions from engines, sulfur content in fuels
21 used, and nuisance and odors. That's going to be in the

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 permit to construct.

2 A little bit on a few other things on the
3 permit to construct, Initial Compliance Demonstration.
4 Prior to the construction and commissioning phase, and
5 prior to the operation and maintenance phase, US Wind
6 will be required to submit a report that includes the
7 following on those two following bullets: Specifications
8 on the vessels contracted, all information on each
9 anticipated representative vessel, and each marine and
10 non-marine engine. And they will also be required to
11 revise their potential to emit calculations using
12 approved processes by the Department, approved emissions
13 methodology, and demonstrate that emissions are less than
14 the limits specified in the permit and approvals.

15 There will be a few other requirements that I
16 would like to mention. The -- the company will have to
17 develop and implement a plan -- we call it the good
18 combustion practices and combustion efficiency. That's
19 where this plan will be discussing these practices on
20 combustion efficiency.

21 And the plan will be trying to minimize engine

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 idling, a summary of good combustion practices for each
2 engine, and a preventative maintenance schedule of
3 activities.

4 Continuous Compliance Requirements: US Wind
5 will calculate the actual emissions using the
6 department's approved methodology, and that will be on
7 actual vessels and engines data.

8 It will be required to show that each vessel
9 and stationary engine is certified to meet applicable
10 emission standards.

11 And then they will be required to submit
12 quarterly emission reports with supporting vessels and
13 engine data. Now, that's all the permit -- I was talking
14 about the permit to construct. A little bit on the --
15 that's where we are.

16 A little bit on the future. This facility will
17 be subject to operating permit requirements. This
18 highlights a little bit of where we're going. US Wind
19 must apply for a temporary permit to operate, and that
20 will be prior to the commencement of operation and
21 maintenance.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 And there's going to be a temporary permit,
2 which will be a permit to operate, and that temporary
3 permit to operate that will transition into a Part 70
4 Title V operating permit.

5 And number three here, US Wind will be required
6 to annually certify actual emission of regulated
7 pollutants, and also the -- under the operating
8 requirements, they will be required to report occurrences
9 of excess emissions during operation.

10 Those are the main highlights on the permit
11 side. As Shannon mentioned, all this information and all
12 -- all the draft documents and tentative determination is
13 going to be found here on this dedicated online website.
14 It's there. Any comments can be sent directly to
15 Shannon. And the written comments may be submitted until
16 January 14th, 2025, and 60 days extension --

17 MS. HEAFEY: No, no.

18 MR. CORA: So that's pretty much what concludes
19 my -- my presentation.

20 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you. Okay. And as I had
21 said earlier, we're going to give the opportunity for our

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 elected officials who have joined us this evening to make
2 comments first. And then at that point, I will call
3 people up in groups of five to come up and sit here and
4 then we'll call you each by name. Again, it's not
5 necessarily going to be the order in which you signed in,
6 but I have everybody listed, and I'll be calling each of
7 you up. And if there's time at the end, I'll invite
8 folks that didn't have a chance to sign in, or if people
9 want to amend their statement.

10 And if you get home tonight and think, oh, I
11 forgot to write that in, send me a note and we will add
12 that to all the comments.

13 So I'd like to first ask Senator Carozza if she
14 would like to speak. The microphone is here for the
15 court reporter.

16 SEN. CAROZZA: I want to thank the Maryland
17 Department of the Environment for coming down and having
18 the public hearing. I am Senator Mary Beth Carozza, for
19 the record, representing District 38, which includes
20 Maryland's only ocean beach town, Ocean City, Worcester
21 County, and, of course, also Wicomico and Somerset

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 Counties.

2 And I did have the opportunity last night when
3 I saw the secretary, Secretary McIlwain, to ask if she
4 would be here in Ocean City. I was hoping to be able to
5 present these comments directly to her. But I did let
6 her know I was making the extra effort. We just -- we
7 just convened the 2025 Maryland General Assembly
8 yesterday, so we wanted to make the extra effort. My
9 colleague, Delegate Wayne Hartman, is here as well.

10 So I want to first thank you for this
11 opportunity to offer comments regarding US Wind's air
12 quality permit application for the construction and
13 operation of its Maryland offshore wind project
14 consisting of 121 wind turbine generators, up to four
15 offshore substations, and one meteorological tower, to be
16 located 10 miles off the coast of Worcester County,
17 Maryland.

18 As wind turbines have been installed in other
19 locations, mostly in Europe, over time it is possible to
20 gather quantitative information over their various
21 impacts. We now know that offshore wind turbines are

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 subject to the wake effect, which creates less energy in
2 the air flow downwind than the air flow upwind. As
3 turbines are in rows, each turbine reduces the air flow
4 available to the one behind it. Not only does this
5 reduce energy flow, making the project inefficient; it
6 increases the ozone levels in the surrounding area as
7 ozone levels increase when air flow is reduced.

8 It is imperative that the Maryland Department
9 of the Environment review the significance of the
10 negative impact of the wake effect from the offshore wind
11 turbines and respond to the following questions: Is the
12 negative impact of the wake effect from offshore wind
13 turbines enough to justify the denial of this air quality
14 permit? What is the amount of increase in the ozone
15 levels? Is it impacted by water salinity, current speed,
16 ambient temperature, average wind speed, number or
17 position of turbines, or distance between them?

18 In addition, multiple questions have been
19 raised regarding the number of vessels that US Wind plans
20 to use for the construction, operation, and maintenance
21 -- again, construction, operation, and maintenance, of

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 its offshore wind energy project.

2 Given these many serious questions, many
3 unresolved issues, I believe it would be irresponsible
4 for the Maryland Department of the Environment to rush to
5 approve US Wind's air quality permit for this project.

6 My constituents and taxpayers across the State
7 of Maryland have pointed out how dismayed they would be
8 to discover that the proposed offshore wind energy
9 solution for increased clean energy would actually be the
10 cause for increased ozone with its many negative health
11 effects.

12 As the sole state senator representing
13 Maryland's coast, and Maryland's only ocean beach town, I
14 consistently have maintained that insufficient research
15 and data collection are being used to justify moving
16 forward with a project that will have long-range negative
17 impacts of the environment, marine life, commercial
18 fishing, and the hospitality industry, and an enormous
19 cost to Maryland's rate payers and taxpayers at a time
20 when Maryland faces a budget crisis.

21 The opposition to US Wind's proposed offshore

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 wind energy project continues to mount with a working
2 coalition made up of local residents and visitors,
3 commercial watermen, hotel/motel/restaurant operators,
4 small business owners and their employees, elected
5 officials at every level of government, and a growing
6 number of concerned Maryland residents and their families
7 who have been enjoying their family vacations on
8 Maryland's coast for generations, and are joining the
9 fight to protect our shore way of life.

10 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Amen.

11 SEN. CAROZZA: We urge the leadership of the
12 Maryland Department of the Environment and all of
13 Governor Wes Moore's administration to hear and respond
14 to our voices. And I thank you for this time, your kind
15 consideration of my testimony. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. HEAFEY: Senator, can you email that to us?
18 Can you email it?

19 SEN. CAROZZA: I can email and then give it to
20 you.

21 MS. HEAFEY: You can do that? Thank you.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 Okay. Delegate Hartman?

2 DEL. HARTMAN: Thank you. I, too, would like
3 to thank you for being here and providing the opportunity
4 for us to speak and you to be here and answer questions,
5 as well.

6 As Senator Carozza said, we just started
7 session, so I wasn't expecting to be here. But, as
8 typical, we were off to somewhat of a slow start, and the
9 slower we start and the slower we go, the better off
10 Marylanders are. So sometimes less -- less of the
11 General Assembly is better.

12 So the -- I presented written comments. So for
13 consistency I'll be reading a good portion of it. And,
14 you know, I'm really glad I am here because the numbers
15 that I was able to see as far as some of the emissions
16 and so forth are much different than what we've seen
17 tonight. So when you're addressing questions, if you
18 could clarify the numbers as far as the emissions that
19 you were showing as far as the tons of carbon and so
20 forth a year, if you could address some of that, that
21 would be appreciated.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 So the implementation of offshore wind turbines
2 continues to be a significant cause for concern for the
3 residents and property owners of Ocean City and Worcester
4 County. I, along with many others, have consistently
5 raised these concerns regarding the negative
6 environmental, economic, and visual impacts that will
7 come from the industrialization of the Atlantic Ocean.
8 The development of offshore wind turbines will cause
9 irreversible damage to our local ecosystem, interfere
10 with the biosonar capabilities and migratory patterns of
11 wildlife, and bring harm to our local fishing and tourism
12 communities.

13 The local environment along Maryland's
14 coastline, both to the ocean and the air, now face
15 serious endangerment with the construction and
16 maintenance of 121 offshore wind turbines. The approval
17 of these air quality permits will allow US Wind to
18 produce thousands of tons of CO2 per year, allow them to
19 produce thousands of tons of CO2 per year during their
20 first three years of construction and operation, and
21 within the same time frame they will also be granted

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 permission to discharge hundreds of tons of nitrous oxide
2 per year, which is equivalent to the amount emitted by
3 over 56,000 cars.

4 And that's where I was questioning. You were
5 saying maximum of 100 tons -- it was 100 tons a year, I
6 thought was what I had read in your information there;
7 the numbers I was seeing were much greater. So if you
8 can address that in your questions.

9 Nitrous oxide is known to contribute to smog
10 and acid rain, which can eventually lead to elevated
11 levels and major pollution in our waterways, and the
12 emanation of algae blooms. Additionally, there is no
13 certainty that the volume of clean energy generated by
14 these turbines will offset the amount of carbon emission
15 produced by their construction and operation.

16 We, as a state, should not industrialize the
17 Atlantic Ocean and diminish our air quality to collect
18 wind energy. When we talk about our environment, and
19 we're allowing the detriment of our environment, how can
20 we say that is for the betterment for Maryland?

21 I firmly believe that we should explore other

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 forms of technology to harvest clean energy to fuel our
2 grid in ways that are economically and environmentally
3 sound. For these reasons, I remain strongly opposed to
4 any offshore development in the Atlantic Ocean. Thank
5 you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you.

8 Commissioner Bertino?

9 MR. MITRECIC: No. Commissioner Mitrecic.

10 MS. HEAFEY: I'm sorry?

11 MR. MITRECIC: Commissioner Mitrecic is
12 speaking.

13 MS. HEAFEY: Oh, okay. Wonderful. Thank you.

14 MR. MITRECIC: I'm on the list farther down, so
15 you can scratch me off.

16 MS. HEAFEY: Okay.

17 MR. MITRECIC: Good evening. And, again, thank
18 you all for being here. It's nice that you had this
19 public hearing in the town and in the county that's most
20 affected by these windmills moving forward.

21 My name is Joe Mitrecic. I'm speaking on

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 behalf of the Worcester County Commissioners. We are
2 opposed to the air quality permit and approvals sought by
3 US Wind. This project is doing nothing to improve local
4 quality of life. While wind might be called clean
5 energy, this project will bring pollutants to our air and
6 water. The dozens of boats that will be required for
7 construction, and later maintenance and operations, will
8 produce hundreds of tons of nitrous oxide, contributing
9 to smog, acid rain, and potentially leading to algae
10 blooms in the ocean.

11 Construction won't last forever, but operations
12 and maintenance will be required through the life of
13 these turbines. Even when the turbines are not
14 operational, US Wind's boats will be. What does that
15 mean for our residents? This project is already
16 eliminating Worcester County's only remaining fish
17 houses, crippling our commercial harbor, and is poised to
18 drastically reduce tourism in our town.

19 If these latest approvals are granted, it will
20 also be emitting nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide, and
21 greenhouse gases, into Worcester County. If MDE moves

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 forward with foolishly granting this permit and these
2 approvals for US Wind, given the adverse local impacts,
3 no waivers should be granted. The controls proposed are
4 not enough to protect the local population from the
5 impacts from the project. Worcester County will need
6 increased air quality monitoring to ensure area residents
7 aren't being unfairly burdened with the dirty side
8 effects of clean energy.

9 The bottom line is these monstrosities will
10 never offset the carbon footprint created by
11 manufacturing, construction, and maintaining. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you.

14 Commissioner Weston Young? Are you here?

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You got demoted.

16 MS. HEAFEY: I'm so sorry, what --

17 MR. YOUNG: I'm chief administrative officer.

18 MS. HEAFEY: Oh, I'll fix that.

19 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. Good evening. Once
20 again, I'm the chief administrative officer for Worcester
21 County, and I thank you for your time tonight.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 I am a professional engineer, and I also have a
2 seat on MDE's air quality control advisory council. What
3 we have proposed here are permits that, if authorized,
4 will allow the degradation of the air quality of Ocean
5 City and Worcester County. We currently have no
6 significant stationary emission sources in this area.
7 The construction process and daily operations will add
8 NOx and fine particulate to our air, that is the air our
9 citizens and the eight million unique visitors that come
10 to the county and Ocean City, breathe.

11 Further, in November in a presentation in
12 Salisbury, representatives from US Wind said the O&M
13 facility proposed will house 100 jobs. If you've been to
14 West Ocean City, or the harbor area, you're aware that
15 there's already parking and congestion concerns. Now add
16 up to 100 more cars to the mix. This is not an
17 insignificant increase in pollution, and it will further
18 expand the air quality impacts in-shore.

19 Lastly, the wind doesn't always blow. And
20 what's powering all these homes that this project is
21 supposed to power when nothing's being generated? The

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 electrons have to come from another power source, likely
2 coal, or natural gas generated power. So now to power
3 the homes that this project is supposed to power, at
4 least two power generation systems have to be maintained,
5 one supposedly green, the other likely not.

6 This is inefficient and ineffective. This is
7 neither clean nor green. And ultimately it does not
8 provide a single positive impact to our county, our
9 citizens, or our visitors. And I ask that you deny these
10 permits.

11 I think a significantly more elaborate study
12 needs to be performed that includes all the air quality
13 impacts this project will bring. However, if you decide
14 to go forward, I think any monitoring waivers should be
15 denied. And given the project's timeline for completion,
16 Tier V emission standards should be imposed because
17 they'll likely be wrapped up by the time these O&M boats
18 are operating. And that's on the boats, the generators,
19 and any other equipment they have.

20 And, further, any offsets that are needed for
21 this project should be located in Worcester County, the

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 only county being impacted by this. So I thank you for
2 your time and consideration.

3 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. HEAFEY: Mayor Meehan?

6 MR. MEEHAN: Thank you. Thank you for the
7 invite this evening and allowing us the opportunity to
8 speak. If you would have asked, I would have gotten you
9 another podium that would have made it a little easier.

10 MS. HEAFEY: Sorry. Appreciate that.

11 MR. MEEHAN: So thank you. My name is Rick
12 Meehan, and I'm the mayor of Ocean City, Maryland. And
13 I'm here tonight representing the Mayor and City Council
14 and the citizens of Ocean City, and we're united in our
15 opposition to all three air quality permits that are
16 before us this evening.

17 The first time I addressed this issue regarding
18 the US Wind project was over seven and a half years ago
19 at a public hearing held by the Maryland Public Service
20 Commission in Berlin, Maryland. I stated my concerns
21 about the project at that time. They were ignored.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 We stated our concerns, I can't even tell you,
2 at how many public hearings over the last seven and a
3 half years, and all of them have been ignored, every
4 single one. Not one concession has been made, not one
5 change has been made, to the project to address any of
6 our concerns. It seems unbelievable, doesn't it? Not
7 one.

8 Tonight, unfortunately I expect the result to
9 be the same. And despite the comments made by my
10 colleagues that spoke before me about greenhouse gases
11 and those that will be emitted by this project, I think
12 they'll be ignored and these permits will be approved
13 as this project continues to be fast-tracked through the
14 system. And, believe me, it has been fast-tracked at
15 every single stage.

16 I would like to know if MDE, or those that are
17 involved in this project, have any experience at all
18 previously with evaluating wind turbine projects, in
19 particular one this size. Is there any experience at the
20 staff level with regard to this?

21 So we're talking about quality. Well, I want

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 to talk a little bit about quality. What about the
2 quality of life here in Ocean City and the Eastern Shore?
3 I think my colleagues have spoken about that. What about
4 the quality of the view off our coast when we're looking
5 at what I thought were 914, 938-foot tall turbines, that
6 will totally industrialize our viewshed.

7 What about the quality of the vacation
8 experience, which studies have shown will decline
9 dramatically if the turbines are visible from our beach?
10 What about the quality of our ecosystem that will be
11 dramatically altered during the construction and
12 operation of these monstrous turbines? What about the
13 reduced quality of the Atlantic flyway and its impact on
14 migratory birds, and ultimately the quality of our
15 coastal bays? What about that quality?

16 What about the quality of our commercial
17 fishing industry that US Wind is basically looking to
18 eliminate entirely by taking over our West Ocean City
19 harbor? What about the quality of the recreational
20 fishing experience that will forever be altered with the
21 construction of these turbines?

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 What about the quality of our real estate
2 market and property values that will plummet if our
3 viewshed and our economy are destroyed. US Wind has
4 never even been required to do an economic study on the
5 impact of this project; fast-tracked. What about the
6 quality and the loss of jobs that currently exist today?
7 What about that?

8 What about the quality of life for rate payers
9 across the State of Maryland that will now be faced with
10 a wind tax to provide electricity that may or may not
11 ever be delivered to them?

12 The Governor of Delaware today stated that the
13 US Wind project would save Delawarians over \$200 million.
14 Well, thank you Maryland rate payers for taking care of
15 our good neighbors in Delaware.

16 These permits have already been approved. This
17 is a formality this evening. And, respectfully, I think
18 everybody knows that. And if seven and a half years have
19 proven anything to me, that's the case tonight.

20 But if you look around the opposition is
21 growing. Ocean City stands together with Worcester

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 County, Fenwick Island, Delaware, and over 20 co-
2 plaintiffs in our lawsuit against BOEM and the
3 questionable approval of this project. Questions are now
4 finally being raised state-wide about the viability and
5 the true cost benefit of this project. Are wind farms
6 really the answer to solving our energy problems and to
7 addressing clean energy? I think in final analysis the
8 answer will be no, and we'll all be left behind. Why
9 would we do that?

10 You can approve an air quality permit, but you
11 will not stop our opposition or the right of our local
12 government to represent our citizens. This has been a
13 bad project from the beginning, and you, the State, has
14 been bullied by US Wind, and we have been ignored by the
15 State. But this is about our quality of life and our
16 future, and we will not stand down. Again, we stand in
17 opposition and ask you to deny these permits. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you. I'd like to call up
20 town administrator Terry McGean.

21 MR. MCGEAN: Good evening. My name is Terry

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 McGean, and I am the city manager for Ocean City,
2 Maryland. I'd also like to thank MDE for being here
3 tonight, and specifically for being here in Ocean City,
4 in Worcester County, and not someplace on the other side
5 of the bridge talking to people who aren't affected by
6 this project. So we all, I think, appreciate that.

7 I am speaking in opposition to the approval of
8 all three US Wind air quality permits under discussion
9 tonight. The town of Ocean City has strongly expressed
10 our opposition to the US Wind project since it was first
11 presented to the public in 2017.

12 Our concerns have consistently fallen on deaf
13 ears, and instead US Wind and the State of Maryland have
14 made matters worse, doubling the size of the turbines,
15 doubling the number of turbines, and moving the turbines
16 closer to our shore.

17 The threats to our economy, our viewshed, our
18 property values, our fishing industry, and our ocean
19 environment, from this project are now well-documented.
20 Studies predict a minimum 12 percent loss in tourism
21 trips, and a 50 percent loss of vacation rentals. BOEM's

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 own environment impact statement says the viewshed impact
2 in Ocean City will be major and change the character of
3 the area. To make way for their industrial turbine
4 maintenance facility, US Wind plans to displace the only
5 land port for Maryland's commercial fishing fleet. And,
6 finally, the federal government has approved US Wind's
7 COP without any thought, any mention, of how a
8 catastrophic blade failure, such as what just occurred in
9 New England, would be prevented, much less how it would
10 be cleaned up.

11 Now US Wind comes asking for an air quality
12 permit for their so-called green energy project. And
13 once again our state ignores the concerns of the citizens
14 most impacted by the project and rubber stamps three more
15 permits.

16 These permits will allow US Wind to belch out
17 41,673 tons of greenhouse gases each year off our coast.
18 That's the equivalent to the emissions from 9,000
19 passenger cars. So imagine 9,000 cars sitting in our
20 ocean idling, driving around all year long. That's what
21 they're going to be doing.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 The permit also allows US Wind to produce 616
2 tons -- not 100, 616 tons of nitrous oxide per year. As
3 mentioned, that's the equivalent of 56,000 cars driving
4 per year. As mentioned, nitrous oxide contributes to
5 smog and acid rain, and, most importantly, given this
6 project's location, is a known water pollutant causing
7 algae blooms.

8 Enough is enough. This project is bad for
9 Ocean City; it's bad for Worcester County, and it's bad
10 for the State of Maryland. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you. Mayor Magdeburger?

13 MS. MAGDEBURGER: Rick, I'm your neighbor over
14 there in Delaware. I don't want that. I don't want that
15 -- the money.

16 I thank you for taking the comments tonight.
17 I've echoed comments of all the others that have spoken
18 before me, particularly my comments, and they're very
19 good and very direct.

20 I am the mayor of Fenwick Island, Delaware.
21 I'm your neighbor across the border. Fenwick Island is

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 absolutely opposed to this for all the reasons that have
2 been stated. On the air quality issue, having that many
3 cars idling off our coast is not what we're looking to
4 have. I also noticed when I reviewed all the documents
5 there does not appear to be anything relating to
6 potential fires and the air quality if the equipment that
7 is on these turbines starts to burn. That, in this
8 environment, anybody who lives down here knows that we
9 are subject to lighting strikes in the ocean, and also
10 fires, and I think that that needs to be addressed.
11 Because if, in fact, that does occur -- and the
12 probability is likely -- then there's going to be air
13 quality issues that go beyond what you have analyzed. So
14 thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. Thank you, everyone, who
17 was able to come to speak. I'd like to invite the public
18 up now. And what I'm going to do is invite everyone in
19 groups of five. So when I call your name, if you want to
20 sit up here.

21 The first person is Linda Harrison. Let's see,

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 Jim Strong, Ms. Grindrod, Shane Taylor, and then we have
2 Joe Jankowski. I think that's it for now. I think we
3 got five. I can't count.

4 And, again, I won't be necessarily calling you
5 in the order in which you signed in, but we'll make sure
6 that everybody gets to speak.

7 And, I'm sorry, when you do speak, I want you
8 to state your name and spell it for the court reporters.

9 MR. JANKOWSKI: So I'm the lucky guy that
10 supports the wind turbines off of Ocean City. I'm
11 following all these great comments of the people -- or
12 with the officials here.

13 MS. HEAFEY: Excuse me, sir.

14 MR. JANKOWSKI: I'm sorry, my name is Joseph
15 Jankowski. That's J-a-n-k-o-w-s-k-i.

16 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you.

17 MR. JANKOWSKI: I have to support your coming
18 out and trying to, you know, indicate your position with
19 regard to these. Being an engineer by training -- and
20 not a power engineer, a communications engineer -- I
21 always look toward facts about things. There's a lot of

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 misinformation that's being talked about today,
2 unfortunately.

3 One of the things in the past was, well, you
4 know, when they're testing for these wind turbines,
5 they're killing all these whales. Well, US Wind and all
6 these companies are required to report any of that to the
7 government. And none was ever reported. So maybe that's
8 not exactly the truth about the matter, but when people
9 are talking about they're killing all these whales,
10 that's not exactly the truth, either.

11 One of the things that -- I've been thinking
12 about the viewshed for a long time here. You know, Okay,
13 wind turbines are a little closer now, but it looks like
14 -- if you look at the maps that were here at the
15 presentation several months ago, that it was only the
16 first three or four that are going to be about 10 miles
17 from the shore, and most of the others are going to be
18 further away, so harder to see.

19 I know when I go out fishing and I come in, if
20 it's in the summertime and it's a little bit of a hazy
21 day, you know, I know if we keep going west we're going

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 to run into land sooner or later. But I really -- like,
2 sometimes looking through the haze to see, I can see the
3 skyline of Ocean City. So are they really going to be
4 that visible from the land here? Well, probably. But
5 the other thing that impacts that is if there are -- if
6 you're looking at windmills, wind turbines -- and I've
7 been to Palm Desert in California, where they've got
8 thousands of them, if you're looking at them and you're
9 looking from the side, you can't even really tell whether
10 they're working or not. You have to sort of come around
11 in front to see the blades going.

12 So why is that important? Well, what are the
13 prevailing winds here in Ocean City? Are they from the
14 west? The east? The north? South? As it turns out, I
15 looked that up at one point. They're from the south,
16 which means these wind turbines out there, you're going
17 to be looking at them from the side. You're not going to
18 be able to even see the blades going around very much.
19 It's probably going to look like a little stick out
20 there, and when the blade goes by it goes up in the air a
21 little bit more, and then it comes down when the blade

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 swings by.

2 So that's what they're going to look like. So
3 is the viewshed really going to be terribly damaged by
4 wind turbines that are 10 miles offshore? Probably a
5 little bit. And I appreciate people bringing up that as
6 a concern. Is it going to destroy the people, you know,
7 coming out and wanting to come to Ocean City? Maybe. I
8 don't think it's going to drop things by 50 percent.

9 For one, I love to come to Ocean City. I come
10 here a lot. One of the things that concerns me is if you
11 get an extreme high tide here, some of the streets are
12 flooded. And if we're talking about sea level rise,
13 that's only going to get worse. And why are we talking
14 about sea level rise? Because we're producing so much
15 energy with natural gas, and coal and that, that's
16 putting all these greenhouse gases in the air, and it's
17 causing our climate to, you know, increase in
18 temperature. So that's a big negative impact.

19 Okay. They're going to take these boats out
20 and put these turbines in, and they're going to do this.
21 I don't see how all of that activity isn't more than

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 offset by producing all the electricity with the current
2 coal and gas-fired plants in Maryland. They're producing
3 greenhouse gases that go in the air. Some of those
4 greenhouse gases turn into acid rain, which is falling
5 here in -- in this area. You look at the pH of the rain
6 in -- throughout Maryland, we're downwind from all these
7 power stations that are running on coal and gas. So we
8 get a lot of acid rain around here; typical to deal with.

9 I think that's really all I hope to say. I do
10 support the wind turbines, but I also understand all the
11 concerns that people here have. Thank you.

12 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you. Okay. So we don't
13 have Linda, I guess. Okay.

14 MR. STRONG: My name is Jim Strong. That's J-
15 i-m, S-t-r-o-n-g. Good evening. I want to thank the
16 Maryland Department of the Environment for your time and
17 effort for putting this public hearing together.

18 My name is Joe Strong. I'm the offshore wind
19 sector assistant to the international president of the
20 United Steelworkers of America. I'm a life-long resident
21 of Maryland and visit Ocean City quite frequently with my

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 family for vacation.

2 My job as the offshore wind sector assistant is
3 I am the liaison between our union and US Wind. I work
4 with US Wind on state and federal policy, legislation. I
5 work with them with community outreach; work with the
6 workforce economic development staff of the counties and
7 the city. I work with the various training schools, high
8 school outreach, to recruit future employment, and I'm
9 also charged with the responsibility of putting together
10 an apprenticeship program working with the Catonsville
11 Community Colleges of Baltimore County.

12 A little history: In 2009, the Maryland
13 General Assembly passed legislation that was referred to
14 as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. Our union was a
15 major stakeholder in drafting that legislation and
16 supporting it for its passage. It basically was a
17 guideline to help Maryland reduce its carbon footprint,
18 but at the same time making sure that as we do that we
19 create economic improvements for the State of Maryland.

20 US Wind does both of those. Let me just talk
21 about the economic development. When, in 2021, US Wind

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 made that major announcement down at Tradepoint Atlantic
2 of its plans to build a monopile tower production
3 facility at what used to be the home of Bethlehem Steel,
4 part of that announcement was our partnership that those
5 workers returning there would be steel workers at full
6 capacity. It's expected there will be over 550 employees
7 there.

8 Now, that's not the only jobs that we're
9 talking about. There's actually the construction of the
10 facility. There's construction of the turbines once
11 they're going to be installed, which will create
12 thousands of jobs to my brothers and sisters in the
13 trades. It's also attracting secondary jobs to the
14 state. Hellenic Cable, a company that wants to make
15 cables to connect to the grid, has purchased land right
16 across the Patapsco River from the site of US Wind, where
17 they've announced they're going to hire beginning around
18 150 employees. So there are jobs that are tied into this
19 project. So there's an economic plus to this US Wind
20 development.

21 But on the greenhouse gas reductions, here's

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 what I can tell you: That at a full buildout, the
2 project could result in a net 139 million ton reduction
3 of CO2 emissions, and will produce net clean energy after
4 one and a half months of operations. Over its life span,
5 the project is expected to reduce nitrogen oxide by over
6 60,000 tons; sulfur dioxide by 104,000 tons, and
7 particulate matter by 12,000 tons.

8 This project fits in line with the 2009
9 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, and we would ask MDE to
10 support US Wind's application. Thank you.

11 MS. HEAFEY: State your name.

12 MS. GRINDROD: Jacky Grindrod, Jacky, J-a-c-k-
13 y, and then G-r-i-n-d-r-o-d. Okay. I'm Jacky Grindrod.
14 I live in Berlin; great lover of Assateague Island. And
15 I'm here tonight in support of US Wind because honestly I
16 don't really think we have another rational choice. We
17 don't want wind turbines, nobody wants a wind turbine.
18 Nobody does this for fun. But we're at a tipping point
19 now, and anyone who wants to can see what's going on.
20 North Carolina, Florida, California, Texas, Vermont, we
21 aren't going to be immune to this. We are not going to

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 escape this in Worcester County, or across this wonderful
2 peninsula.

3 So we have to make some hard choices. And
4 actually all we can really do right now is mitigate the
5 damage, make it less horrible than it would otherwise be.
6 I think we have to think ahead, not only to ourselves,
7 but to our children and grandchildren. This is bigger
8 than Ocean City, unfortunately. It's bigger than
9 Worcester County.

10 So, yes, I do support US Wind. I believe the
11 Maryland Department of Environment has done a wonderful
12 job in vetting them. I believe US Wind is doing
13 everything it possibly can to make the impacts of this as
14 minimal as possible because of the necessity for getting
15 clean energy into Maryland and the rest of the country.
16 And I hope that the opposition can be brought to the
17 table and that this can be worked out in a rational way.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. HEAFEY: State your name.

20 MR. TAYLOR: Hello. My name is Shane Taylor,
21 S-h-a-n-e, T-a-y-l-o-r. And I'm with the Oceantic

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 Network. I'd like to start by thanking the Department of
2 the Environment for hosting this hearing tonight,
3 allowing people from both sides of support and opposition
4 to speak regarding the air quality permit.

5 So a little bit of background on our
6 organization. Nearly 15 years ago, Maryland businesses
7 founded the Business Network for Offshore Wind, which
8 works towards achieving the vision of a thriving ocean of
9 renewables industry by building a robust supply chain of
10 local companies. And now as the Oceanic Network we've
11 expanded past just Maryland to national and international
12 supply chain focus.

13 And then a little bit of context that I'd like
14 to add for the record. When Orsted withdrew from its
15 Skipjack Wind project, US Wind applied to absorb their
16 offshore renewable energy credits, increasing the total
17 capacity of the project for which this air quality permit
18 is being sought to 600 megawatts. And this represents a
19 significant portion of the 8.5 by 2031 -- or 8.5 gigawatt
20 by 2031 goal set by the Power Act. And, additionally,
21 the project comes with a commitment to create 6,200 jobs

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 across its four phases. These are both primary jobs
2 through US Wind and secondary jobs, as Mr. Strong
3 mentioned, through the Hellenic Cables array facility and
4 the Sparrows Point steel facility. And our support for
5 this project is tied to our excitement for those two
6 significant investments in the supply chain. The \$90
7 million investment in Hellenic Cables array cable
8 facility, which will be the first of its kind in the
9 nation, and Sparrows Point steel will be the second
10 monopile and first tower facility in the US.

11 And as Mr. Strong mentioned, this facility will
12 created hundreds of unionized jobs due to the MOU that US
13 Wind has established with both the United Steel Workers
14 and the Baltimore/D.C. building and construction trades.
15 The US Wind's project meets coastal zone management
16 standards and importantly will cause little to no
17 detriment to the environment. US Wind conducted air
18 quality modeling analyses for all phases of the project,
19 concluding that the project will meet all federal and
20 state air quality standards. And it's our understanding
21 that the project will achieve significant emission

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 reductions over its lifetime due to the displacement of
2 fossil fuel generation, resulting in improved air quality
3 in Ocean City and the surrounding regions.

4 And to ensure compliance with this permit, US
5 Wind will be required to perform extensive, ongoing
6 rigorous emission monitoring and recordkeeping. It is
7 for these reasons that we as an organization, and myself
8 as an environmental policy student with family in the
9 region, urge that US Wind's permit be approved. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. The next folks I have are
12 Earl Gwin, Charles Stegman, Jen Pawloski, John Groutt,
13 and Kim Quillin.

14 MS. QUILLIN: Hi, I'm Kim Quillin. That's K-i-
15 m, Q-u-i-l-l-i-n. I am a biology professor at Salisbury
16 University, but I'm here just representing myself as a
17 resident of the coastal bays.

18 I've reviewed US Wind's air quality permit
19 application through the lens of my work setting, the
20 current biodiversity and climate crises. We humans are
21 causing five major types of threats to biodiversity. We

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 can see all five types right here in Ocean City. We see
2 habitat destruction and degradation, invasive species,
3 new diseases, over-exploitation, pollution, and climate
4 change.

5 I mention that because I think it bears
6 mentioning the context with which this permit is being
7 viewed, the past harm that occurs right here where we are
8 standing.

9 Today's hearing on US Wind's air quality permit
10 addresses the latter two threats. I have two major
11 takeaways from my review of the permit application.
12 First, I'm very impressed with the high bar of
13 accountability that the EPA and MDE have set with the
14 permit applicants, and I thank you for these high
15 standards for both the construction and commissioning
16 phase, and for the operations and maintenance phase of
17 the wind project, including, as you have heard, the
18 ongoing recordkeeping and reporting.

19 Second, while my default position from a
20 biological perspective is to be very wary of industrial
21 proposals, the takeaway from this application is

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 overwhelmingly positive. Yes, there will be emissions
2 during the construction and operation of the project.
3 But the wind turbines will enable a net reduction of
4 greenhouse gases and particulate matter. That's the
5 point of the project. We are avoiding -- one number I
6 see is 139 million tons of carbon.

7 So I see comparison of these numbers compared
8 to zero. So there's emissions; oh, no, they're higher
9 than zero, but really we need to compare them to fossil
10 fuels, which are, as we've heard earlier, really the
11 beast in the room that we're trying to address.

12 To get my head around this number, I used EPA
13 greenhouse gas equivalencies calculator online -- check
14 it out; super cool -- to say if we stuck with the high
15 pollution fossil fuel status quo instead of turbines, we
16 have to plant about 77 million trees to compensate for
17 the carbon release, and this wouldn't even address
18 habitat destruction by the extraction of fossil fuels and
19 the increased morbidity and mortality of people who live
20 near these plants.

21 So we have to look at the big picture. This is

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 displacing a very destructive practice regarding fossil
2 fuels. So I strongly support your approval of US Wind's
3 air quality application. And I just want to say on the
4 PR side, firstly to the ladies and gentlemen who
5 represent me who spoke earlier, you do not represent my
6 views. And I think there is increasing dissonance on
7 this topic. It's an interesting PR strategy to stir up
8 upset about the issue. So more and more people are
9 getting concerned because of the stirring up of concern.

10 I would like to propose an alternate PR
11 strategy. This PR strategy would be stir up excitement.
12 I work with young people, young adults, who are
13 depressed. The mental illness is intense. Part of this
14 is climate anxiety. People like my students and me, we
15 vote with our dollars. We look for who is providing
16 solutions to these major global crises. And we vote with
17 our dollars to go towards places that are part of
18 solutions.

19 So imagine a PR strategy that said, come enjoy
20 the wind-powered energy here at Ocean City. You know,
21 it's free. Come enjoy dropping off your children at

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 school that's using green energy. Be happy when you turn
2 on the kitchen lights. I'm a constituent I would like to
3 turn on my lights and have that electricity be provided
4 by green energy. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. GWIN: Thank you. My name's Earl Gwin, E-
7 a-r-l-, G-w-i-n. I go by Sonny Gwin, everybody knows me
8 by Sonny Gwin. I'm president of the Waterman's
9 Association of Worcester County. I'm here representing
10 the local watermen. We also -- in addition, I own a
11 commercial fishing business in West Ocean City, as well
12 as a seafood retail business that sells fresh seafood
13 that is packed through the harbor in West Ocean City.

14 I am not only speaking to you as a president of
15 the Watermen's Association, but as a concerned citizen.
16 I'm going to tell you this, the week before Christmas, my
17 vessel, the Skilligalee, fished that week. We figured we
18 fed at least 10,000 people off the fish I caught off my
19 boat.

20 I fish -- 100 percent of my fishery is in the
21 -- in and around the wind leased area. And if this

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 project goes through, we're out of business. That's
2 10,000 people in one week that we fed, and none of these
3 people that's speaking here today can say that, you know,
4 this wind power is going to feed them. It might be
5 giving them good jobs, but at what cost is it giving
6 these good jobs? It's going to go out there and destroy
7 the -- destroy the environment. They're putting this
8 wind-leased area in one of the most diverse areas, the
9 first, second, third lump, where any kind of species you
10 can name, including our beloved blue crabs, go out there
11 and bed down in the wintertime.

12 I'm asking you to not give this permit out and
13 let us go to work and keep these windmills out of here.
14 Thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. PAWOLOSKI: Hi, my name is Jen Pawloski, J-
17 e-n, P-a-w-l-o-s-k-i. I am here as a resident of the
18 Eastern Shore, and I also run a boat club that operates
19 in the waters of Ocean City and in the lease area.

20 My comments today are directed specifically at
21 the air quality permit. I echo the sentiments of our

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 elected officials regarding concerns for our environment,
2 marine life, the commercial fisheries, and our tourism
3 industry.

4 When US Wind's Maryland offshore wind project,
5 outer continental shelf air permit application filed in
6 November of 2023 by US Wind under Section 2.1 OCS sources
7 page 17 cites, U.S. EPA's implementing OCS air
8 regulations at 40 CFR Part 55 about the statutory
9 definition of an OCS source from Section 328(a)(f)(c) of
10 the Clean Air Act. Any equipment, activity, or facility
11 which emits, or has the potential to emit, any air
12 pollutant is regulated or authorized under the Outer
13 Continental Shelf Lands Act, and is located on the Outer
14 Continental Shelf or in the waters above the Outer
15 Continental Shelf.

16 Regulations at 40 CFR Part 55 state that
17 vessels are only considered OCS sources when they are
18 permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed and
19 erected thereon, and used for purposes of exploring,
20 developing, or producing sources therefrom within the
21 meaning of Section 4(a)(1) of the OCSLA 43 USC Part 1331,

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 or physically attached to the OCS facility, in which the
2 case, the stationary source's aspects and the vehicle
3 will be regulated.

4 In accordance with the Environmental Appeals
5 Board decision, In re: Shell Gulf of Mexico, Inc., and In
6 re: Shell Offshore, 15 EAD 193, the potential emissions
7 of an OCS source must also include emissions from the
8 associated support vessels when they are within 25
9 nautical miles of the outer continental shelf source, but
10 only during the time that it is considered an OCS source.

11 During US Wind's final addendum in November of
12 2024, it stated, and I quote, "US Wind has provided
13 vessel specification literature for sample vessels
14 utilizing emissions calculations in attachment A. Sample
15 vessel specifications currently built vessels used for
16 constructing OCS wind facilities that may be used for the
17 project, or closely representative of the type of vessel
18 anticipated to be used for the project. These
19 specifications provide typical vessel engine sizes for a
20 vessel and for the types of vessels that are anticipated
21 to be utilized."

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 This statement I believe to be inaccurate, as
2 US Wind's application fails to address a safe water
3 vessel to bring the permit and the project into
4 compliance with the Jones Act. From US Wind's own
5 Mariner's page, a documented vessel DMMSI Number
6 993672393, a 419-foot vessel, safe water vessel, that has
7 been anchored off the end of the Delaware Bay shipping
8 channel, and at the Maryland-Delaware line on the edge of
9 the US Wind OCS-A 0490 lease area, the Delaware-Ocean
10 City, Maryland line since at least December of 2024.

11 I have screenshots here, and I will supply
12 those to you documented for multiple AIS trackers on US
13 Wind's Mariner's section of their website, as well as the
14 Atlantic Shores offshore wind project website, and marine
15 traffic, the ship's position over the last several weeks.
16 During US Wind's subsequent addendums filed in January,
17 September, and November of 2024, US Wind has not
18 documented any indications that they have accounted for a
19 safe water vessel classification, nor the pollution that
20 the vessel emits over the course of this project.

21 For this reason, and the reasons that our

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 elected officials have supplied tonight, I urge the
2 Maryland Department of the Environment to deny US Wind's
3 OCS air permit.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. STEGMAN: My name is Charles Stegman.
6 That's Charles, C-h-a-r-l-e-s, Stegman, S-t-e-g-m-a-n.
7 I'm a medical doctor with a 45-year career in family
8 practice and public health. I live in Wicomico County.
9 I'm here to testify in favor of permitting by the
10 Maryland Department of the Environment concerning the
11 outer continental shelf air regulations.

12 The benefits of offshore wind with respect to
13 converting Maryland's electric power grid away from
14 polluting fossil fuels to renewable energy are well
15 documented. The US Wind project will provide 1,710
16 megawatts of wind energy to the state, enough to power
17 approximately 700,000 homes.

18 The project will increase the share of
19 Maryland's wind energy production from 1.3 percent to 20
20 percent, and reduce the state's CO2 emissions by 14
21 million tons in the first 20 years of operation. Other

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 pollutants, such as nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide, and
2 particulate matter, are also greatly reduced.

3 By facilitating Maryland's transition from
4 fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy sources, we
5 reduce the release of harmful pollutants into the air.
6 These pollutants trigger health conditions such as asthma
7 attacks, emphysema symptoms, and other lung and heart
8 conditions.

9 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions also helps
10 mitigate climate change. Climate change leads to more
11 extreme weather events, heat waves, and increased air
12 pollution, all of which impact public health.

13 With the transition to renewable energy sources
14 such as offshore wind, we can expect reduced health care
15 costs associated with treating lung conditions and
16 enhanced quality of life for everyone, especially people
17 with these conditions.

18 I followed the issue of offshore wind for the
19 past four to five years, and noted that much of the
20 opposition to this project is based on the belief that
21 having wind turbines offshore will have a negative impact

Public Hearing

Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 on tourism and the commercial and charter fishing
2 industries. I have scoured the literature and have been
3 unable to find any evidence to support these arguments
4 faced in other communities with offshore wind facilities,
5 such as in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and several
6 countries in Europe.

7 Tourism has increased in these communities, and
8 fishing has improved because of the reef effect of wind
9 turbine pilings. The real threat to the beach tourism
10 industry, and fishing industries, is the climate crisis,
11 which is causing rising seas, warming oceans, and more
12 frequent and severe storms that threaten beach
13 communities and businesses. The year that just ended was
14 the hottest in the recorded history.

15 Companies in the U.S. have built more than 153
16 gigawatts of wind power capacity in Texas, Iowa,
17 Oklahoma, Kansas, South Dakota, and Indiana. In
18 addition, 24 gigawatts of wind farms is currently under
19 development with major projects planned for Wyoming,
20 Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas, according to
21 the American Clean Power Association.

For The Record, Inc.

(301) 870-8025 - www.ftrinc.net - (800) 921-5555

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 These projects, as well as the one here in
2 Ocean City, will all help keep us within safe limits of
3 global warming, as well as cleaner air, and healthier
4 air. Thank you.

5 MS. HEAFEY: State your name for the record,
6 please.

7 MR. GROUTT: My name is John Groutt, J-o-h-n,
8 G-r-o-u-t-t. And I live nearby on the Eastern Shore of
9 Maryland for over 50 years, and I'm a constituent of some
10 of the representatives who've spoken today, with whom I
11 respectfully disagree.

12 Most of us here tonight -- like most of us here
13 tonight, I've read many of the relevant documents and
14 attended many, if not most, of the past hearings. We've
15 all listened to the positions and facts presented by all
16 sides.

17 One of the things that I would respectfully --
18 just one question of the Mayor on, he talked about the
19 fast track, but then he also talked he spoke seven and a
20 half years ago at this. And I -- I just wonder how seven
21 and a half years can be considered a fast track, but

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 that's a question.

2 But after some long thinking about this
3 project, I believe that the air quality modeling analysis
4 of the project is a fair decision, and I support it. It
5 includes at every phase of the project, from
6 construction, vessel use, operations and maintenance,
7 will all be federal and state quality standards, which
8 have been mentioned are quite high.

9 In fact, it was pled, as we know, fossil fuels
10 currently producing the energy which is not even going to
11 come close to meeting those standards. And as some of
12 the earlier speakers spoke, the large amount considerably
13 of the -- the emissions that this project will permit --
14 or emit -- will be reduced by this project. So the fact
15 that it produces, it does -- emissions -- but this will
16 reduce it. And so I think that should weigh heavily into
17 our considerations.

18 Compliance with the required standards will be
19 assured by monitoring emissions and requiring records to
20 document compliance with air quality standards.
21 Noncompliance will result in huge fines.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 Now, most of us here tonight -- probably all of
2 us -- value clean air and water. We don't disagree on
3 that, as well as the moderate and generally pleasant
4 climate that we have experienced over most of our lives.
5 One of the alternatives is what we are watching on the
6 nightly news from California. Do we want air quality
7 produced by uncontrollable forest fires here in Delmarva,
8 that will be our future if we don't -- do not get climate
9 warming, climate heating, under control.

10 This new undertaking using energy from non-
11 polluting sources will support all those human blessings
12 that we love, including clean air, our topic for tonight.
13 Naturally occurring wind energy will replace our current
14 burning of dead dinosaurs.

15 It's already been mentioned by earlier
16 speakers, and I won't repeat, the wind will reduce
17 polluting CO2 emissions, net clean energy after a year --
18 after a year -- after only one and a half months will
19 catch up; over its life span of 25 years, will reduce
20 thousands of tons of sulfur dioxide, wreaking like rotten
21 eggs, thousands of tons of particulate matter -- we like

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 to think soot. That's a lot of nasty stuff, material
2 that our eight million visitors that have been mentioned,
3 come to the beach will not have to breathe into their
4 filters through our lungs, and incidentally live with the
5 rest of our lives.

6 If we pick this, we will -- if we adopt this
7 and build the wind power, we will be spared unnecessary
8 and all too frequently major health issues, which has
9 been mentioned by Dr. Stegman, along with a healthier
10 life not cut short by invisible tons of poisons that this
11 project will eliminate during our lifetime. Thank you.

12 MS. HEAFEY: Is there anybody else who had
13 signed up that I might have missed who would like to make
14 a statement?

15 Please come up.

16 MS. BASSICH: Hi, there. Thank you for being
17 here and listening to our comments today. My name is
18 Kimberly, K-i-m-b-e-r-l-y, Bassich, B-a-s-s-i-c-h. I'm a
19 year-round resident of Ocdean City, and I am very
20 strongly opposed to this project. I agree with Mayor
21 Meehan, a lot of what he said earlier, and also Ms.

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 Carozza.

2 Anyway, so I've been -- when I found out about
3 this hearing -- and I've been to many of them -- that US
4 Wind, whose green energy needed to apply for an air
5 quality permit, that sounds a little crazy to me. I'm
6 not -- I'm an R.N., I'm not a scientific person, but I
7 looked into some research on this. And these turbines
8 that they can create reduce energy air plumes, which
9 increase the ozone layer in nearby urban areas.

10 So the upper air, when the turbine spins, these
11 plumes I'm talking about come from the air that goes down
12 into the ocean -- goes down, not the upper air. Anyway,
13 how will this be in compliance with the EPA's ozone
14 standard? The EPA should be required to investigate the
15 potential impact on reduced energy air on ozone
16 compliance.

17 Wind turbines are being built to reduce carbon
18 emissions, but, in fact, due to the intermittent wind
19 speeds, the turbines require backup gas-fired power
20 emissions to increase when the wind is not blowing. How
21 is this green energy?

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 There's a little chemical that I did some
2 research on also today. It's called sulfur hexoflouride.
3 Sulfur hexofluoride, also called FF-6, is used in wind
4 turbines, not directly in the turbine, but in the switch
5 gear that controls electricity generated by the turbine,
6 and has a global warming potential greater than carbon
7 dioxide.

8 And that is all the research I could do today.
9 But I thank you for listening to me, and I am strongly
10 opposed to these turbines, and I hope you deny this
11 permit. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. So I want to thank
14 everybody for coming out tonight. I want to remind
15 everyone that the comment period goes through January
16 14th. If you would like to read or amend your statement,
17 or send in a statement, just send an email to my
18 attention. And my business card is out on the sign-in
19 tables, and it has my email address on it, or my phone
20 number if you wanted to give a call.

21 So, again, thank you so much for coming out in

Public Hearing

Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 this freezing cold weather. Safe home, everybody. Thank
2 you.

3 (Appause.)

4 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded at 7:37
5 p.m.)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Public Hearing
Maryland Department of the Environment

1/9/2025

1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2

3 I, George Quade, do hereby certify that the
4 foregoing transcription was reduced to typewriting via
5 audiotapes recorded by me; that I am neither counsel for,
6 nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the
7 case in which these proceedings were transcribed; that I
8 am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
9 employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or
10 otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21



GEORGE QUADE, CERT

Court Reporter