

******* ACTION ALERT! *******

**Four Days Left to Comment on Large-Scale Offshore Wind Projects – “Empire Wind 1 & 2”
174 Offshore Enormous Wind Turbines Proposed in Prime Fishing Grounds & Busy Harbor Region**

Public Comments due July 26, 2021!

Now is your chance to comment on one of the many large-scale industrial offshore wind facilities in various stages of development in the public ocean waters in the NY/NJ region. **Empire Wind 1 & 2** is nearly 80,000 acres in size and is sited in prime fishing grounds and in a busy international port region, posing significant navigation hazards. These two offshore wind projects pose major risks.

The Norwegian company Equinor (formerly Statoil, an oil and gas company) is seeking to construct and operate the two offshore wind facilities called Empire Wind 1 & 2. Together, these massive projects 12 nautical miles south of Long Island, NY, and 17 miles east of Long Branch, NJ, will include:

- **174** wind turbine generators,
- two offshore substations,
- inter-array cables,
- up to three submarine export cable routes,
- up to three export cable landfalls that connect to onshore export cable systems, and
- two onshore substations providing connection to the existing electrical grid in New York.



Some Key Concerns:

Climate change is an existential threat to the planet (obviously including the ocean) and bold moves to address the impacts from climate change are needed. Clean Ocean Action (COA) supports responsible and reasonable offshore wind development. Currently, there are over **480,000 acres** of ocean committed off the Jersey Shore for wind development, with unspecified needs for onshore industrial support, and this is just the beginning. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently having a “big sale,” with over **800,000 more acres** of public ocean habitat off New Jersey and New York up for grabs and privatization for offshore wind energy development. Together that’s nearly **1.28 million acres**, which is larger than the Grand Canyon National Park, and more than **twice the size** of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park.

In considering the protection of the marine ecosystem, Clean Ocean Action questions the scope, scale, and speed with which these massive industrial offshore wind projects are being developed, including the Empire Wind 1 & 2 projects. COA is concerned with the dearth of science available identifying the impacts to the physical attributes, benthic habitat, fisheries, mammals, birds, and bats. The risks to the ocean to avoid, reduce, or minimize the harm must be known before moving forward.

Some of our key concerns with Empire Wind and other offshore wind energy projects include:

- The location of Empire Wind 1 & 2 is a threat to fisheries in the region, and the socio-economic well-being of the associated communities.
- Empire Wind 1 & 2 is squeezed in between bustling shipping lanes, threatening port navigation safety, and increasing the likelihood of navigational accidents and environmental impacts from spills. Add-in the forecasted more frequent and stronger storms, and there is a recipe for maneuvering challenges and collisions.

- Empire Wind is a large-scale project with towering offshore wind turbines, and associated industrial infrastructure, as noted above. There are onshore impacts, many in already overburdened communities.
- There is too little science known today on what the impacts will be from offshore wind facilities, in general, other than there will be impacts, and they may be significant. Recent studies and agency letters underscore that BOEM has not conducted the biological and ecological assessments needed to determine the effects and impacts of the extensive development. The concerns come from over 200 scientists as part of the New York State Environmental and Technical Working Group, as well as a letter from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- BOEM's process is woefully inadequate and fails to fully recognize the massive impact of all this industrialization in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The ocean has been buffering the impact of climate change for decades, saving the planet from even worse impacts, and will continue to-- if we don't undermine her natural ability to do so.
- As alternatives, ONSHORE wind, solar, and geothermal that are ready now. Or even faster and the greenest energy source—the energy we don't use by applying energy conservation and efficiency.

How to Submit Comments on Empire Wind 1 & 2 by July 16, 2021, 11:59pm:

On June 24th, 2021, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Empire Wind project off the NY/NJ Coast. Comments must be submitted on paper or online by 11:59 PM on July 26, 2021. For a step-by-step guide on how to submit comments, as well as a brief slide show on all the many large-scale offshore wind projects in various stages of development off the NY/NJ coast, go to [COA's website](#).

How to Submit Public Comments in Written Form:

1. Hand write or type your comments
2. Print, enclose, and mail your comments in an envelope addressed to:
 - Empire Wind Scoping Comments
 - Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy
 - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
 - 45600 Woodland Road
 - Sterling, Virginia 20166

How to Submit Public Comments Online:

1. Go to www.regulations.gov
2. Type "Docket No. BOEM-2021-0038" in the white "search" box and click the green "Search" button
3. On the new page that appears, click "Comment"
4. Type or upload your comments
 - a. Type your comments in the space provided, or
 - b. Attach your comments as a file
 - i. To attach your comments as a file, first create & download your comments as a PDF to your computer
 - ii. Then, click "Browse..." and find your comments file on your computer; click Open to upload the comments to the Regulations.gov webpage
5. Enter your email address
6. Select an identity (i.e., individual, organization, or anonymous)
 - a. If prompted, enter your personal/organization's information in the space provided
7. Click the white box under "reCAPTCHA" for "I'm not a robot"
8. Click "Submit Comment"