



## The Offshore Wind Round-Up

Distributed through the JCTA

Issue #25

July 8, 2024

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- The U. S. Department of the Interior **has approved** the Atlantic Shores South project. More information begins [on page 4](#).
- **Photo simulations** showing the visual impact of the Atlantic Shores North project from points on the shore are included in its Construction and Operations Plan. Access those simulations through the link to the COP [on page 5](#).
- A response to a **comment about the size** of an offshore wind turbine begins [on page 6](#).

### IS HOMELAND SECURITY TAKING OVER THE ATLANTIC SHORES OFFSHORE WIND FARM AFTER IT IS COMPLETED?

**ANSWER:** The U.S. Coast Guard, which is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is responsible for the waters in which the offshore wind turbines operate.

From the website of the U.S. Coast Guard (“USCG”): “The Coast Guard is the principal Federal agency **responsible for maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship** in U.S. ports and inland waterways, along more than 95,000 miles of U.S. coastline, throughout the 4.5 million square miles of U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and on the high seas.”

*For more information about the USCG click on this link*

<https://www.uscg.mil/About/>

**The most frequently asked follow-up question** was “Will access to the offshore wind farm be prohibited or limited?”

**ANSWER: No.** No entity with jurisdiction in this area has announced that access to the offshore wind farm will be restricted after its completion. Boats will not be allowed into the offshore wind farm during the construction phase, however, nor will they be allowed to tie up to the turbines once they are installed.

- As reported in the August 2023 Offshore Wind Round Up, Atlantic Shores sent the following response on July 13, 2023 when asked that same question:

**“Atlantic Shores will not restrict access** to the wind turbine area except for limited areas during construction for safety reasons.

Atlantic Shores will work with the US Coast Guard to institute **a 500-meter safety zone around each construction vessel**, which other vessels will not be permitted to enter for safety reasons. These 500-meter safety zones will only be maintained around active construction vessels.”<sup>1</sup>

- Since that time, we have been unable to find any reports that note a change in this position from Atlantic Shores or any other entity with authority over the area. Please email [RoundUpLBI@gmail.com](mailto:RoundUpLBI@gmail.com) if you have information to the contrary.

## CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE FOR ATLANTIC SHORES SOUTH

On May 1, 2024, Atlantic Shores submitted an **updated Construction and Operations Plan (“COP”)** to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) for Lease Area OCS-A 0499: Atlantic Shores South. This version of the COP informed the basis for the Final Environmental Impacts Statement (“EIS”) that was published on May 31, 2024.



**NOTE THAT ATLANTIC SHORES SOUTH (“ASOW SOUTH”) IS  
COMPRISED OF TWO SECTIONS:**

**PROJECT 1 (in blue) AND PROJECT 2 (in orange).**

**The portion outlined in grey adjacent  
to these projects is Atlantic Shores North**

*From Section 4.1.2 Project Construction Process and Schedules in the ASOW South COP:*

- “Construction of each Project will initiate with the **onshore facilities**, including the onshore substations and/or converter stations and onshore interconnection cables.
- The **onshore facilities** in each Project will be constructed first so that power from the electrical grid can be used to energize, commission, and maintain each Project’s offshore facilities . . . as soon as possible after their installation.
- Construction of the **offshore facilities** is expected to begin with installation of export cables and the WTG [wind turbines] and OSS [offshore substation] foundations.” [Once the foundations are in place, the cables and topsides of the OSSs and WTGs are installed.]

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<sup>1</sup> A recent example of this safety zone being established is contained in the Rule published in the Federal Register on March 26, 2024 regarding an offshore wind farm off the coast of Virginia <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/26/2024-06409/safety-zone-coastal-virginia-offshore-wind-commercial-wind-farm-project-area-outer-continental-shelf>

- “Installation of the Projects’ **onshore and offshore facilities** may occur over a period of up to 3 years (to accommodate weather and/or seasonal work restrictions); offshore construction is expected to last approximately 2 years.”

*Information below is summarized from Table 4.1-2 Anticipated Construction Schedule in the ASOW South COP:*

- **PROJECT 1:** Most of the **onshore construction** is expected to start in 2025 during the first and second quarters of the year, with some cable and other installations scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2026.

The **offshore construction** is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2026 with the installation of the wind turbine foundations and then the turbines themselves would begin during the second quarter of 2026.

- **PROJECT 2:** Most of the **onshore construction** is expected to start in 2026 during the first quarter of the year, with some cable and other installations scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2026 and 2027, respectively.

The **offshore construction** is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2027 with the installation of the wind turbine foundations and then the turbines themselves would begin during the first quarter of 2028, with work being done May – December to minimize risk to the North American Right Whale.

*Access the full, updated Construction and Operations Plan for ASOW South by clicking on the link below and then scroll down to Section 4.1.2*

[https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Atlantic Shores South\\_Volume I\\_Project Description\\_05-01-2024.pdf](https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Atlantic%20Shores%20South_Volume%20I_Project%20Description_05-01-2024.pdf)

## CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE FOR ATLANTIC SHORES NORTH

Atlantic Shores North (“ASOW North”) is the **northern portion of the leased area** which, in total, is 183,253 acres. ASOW South occupies 102,124 acres and ASOW North occupies the remaining 81,129 acres.

ASOW North filed its **first Construction and Operations Plan (“COP”)** on March 1, 2024, so it is about three years behind ASOW South in the review and permitting process. Unlike ASOW South, it is considered **one Project**, not two. ASOW North and ASOW South each submit their own COPs to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) for review and approval.

*Information below is summarized from Table 4.1-2 Anticipated Construction Schedule in the ASOW North COP:*

- **Onshore construction** of substations and/or converter station and installation of interconnections cables is expected to start in 2026 and be completed in 9 – 12 months.

- Installation of other cables and **offshore installation** and construction of the OSS [offshore substation] and WTG [wind turbines] foundations is expected to start in 2027 and be completed over 6 – 10 months.
- The installation of the **wind turbine towers** is expected to take 17 months during beginning in 2027 and completed in 2028. Work would be done May – December to minimize risk to the North American Right Whale.

## ATLANTIC SHORES SOUTH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

On July 2, the NJ Department of Environmental Project (“NJDEP”) released an announcement under the subject line “Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind South Record of Decision.”

In this announcement, the NJDEP stated that the Department of the Interior had announced its **approval of the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind energy project**. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

*From that announcement:*

- “On May 23, 2024, BOEM announced the **final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** for the proposed project, which analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the activities outlined in the project’s construction and operations plan and considered reasonable alternatives.
- BOEM held four public meetings and a nation-to-nation consultation during the public comment period on the draft EIS to gather valuable feedback from Tribes, government agencies, ocean users, and others. The feedback resulted in **measures identified** to avoid, minimize or mitigate the potential impacts of the project, including visual impacts and potential impacts to marine life and to existing ocean uses such as fishing.
- The Record of Decision **describes these measures**, which BOEM will require as terms and conditions of its approval of the Atlantic Shores South Construction and Operations Plan.
- The ‘Notice of Availability of a Joint Record of Decision for the Proposed Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind South Project’ **will be published in the *Federal Register*** in the coming days.”

Further federal & state approvals and permits are required before construction can begin. **The Permitting Dashboard**, an official website of the U.S. government, is the source for updates regarding this project. September 30, 2024 is listed on that website as the target date for the final decision regarding the Construction and Operations Plan for Atlantic Shores South.

Access The Permitting Dashboard by clicking on this link  
<https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-project/atlantic-shores-south>

## PHOTO SIMULATIONS OF VISUAL IMPACT ATLANTIC SHORES NORTH

Each Construction and Operations Plan submitted for review and approval to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) contains a section with **computer-generated images** showing what the view from specific points on the coast would be expected to look like after the offshore wind turbines are installed.

**Appendix II-M1 Visual Impact Assessment** – Wind Turbine Area Attachment E Photo simulations Part 1 includes photo simulations from the points listed below.

Each section is **organized** in the same way:

- **The header page** for each location includes information about the simulation, environment and photography as well as content and sun position maps. The **page numbers** on the header pages are in the upper right corner.
- The photos are **presented in this order**: first, a photo of existing conditions at the time noted on the photo. Next, photo simulations of what that view at that time under those conditions would be expected to look like after the offshore wind turbines have been installed.
- **Note the suggestion posted on each photo page**: “Printed at 100% the resulting simulation size is 15 inches wide by 10 inches high. At this size and focal length, the simulation should be viewed from **a distance of 21 inches.**”

Here are the page numbers of the **sections of particular interest** to Long Beach Island residents and visitors:

- Barnegat Lighthouse State Park, pp. 44 – 50
- Atlantic Ocean Beachfront in Barnegat Light, pp. 51 – 59
- LBI Foundation of the Arts & Sciences in Loveladies, pp. 60 – 68
- Ship Bottom Municipal Beach, pp. 81 – 89
- Beach Haven Historical District, pp. 103 – 116
- Centre Street in Beach Haven, pp. 117 - 152
- Holyoke Avenue in Beach Haven, pp. 153 - 173

Access the entire Attachment by clicking on the link below  
and then go to individual sections by scrolling down:

[https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-jersey/2024-03-01\\_App\\_II\\_M1\\_20043\\_SLVIA\\_North\\_Attachment\\_E\\_-\\_Photosimulations\\_-\\_Part\\_1.pdf](https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-jersey/2024-03-01_App_II_M1_20043_SLVIA_North_Attachment_E_-_Photosimulations_-_Part_1.pdf)

## OFFSHORE WIND TURBINES AND AN 18-WHEELER

--- Recently, a local government official declared that you could **drive an 18-wheeler** through an offshore wind turbine, a statement which resulted in a **flurry of inquiries** about the accuracy of that statement and opinions about its point.

*From the website of Equipment Experts, Inc.:* “Fortunately, when it comes to width, most semi-trucks are fairly similar. Most semi-truck trailers and tractors are **about 8’ – 8.5’ wide** . . . [That width] is purposeful. With these dimensions, vehicles can better fit in a standard U.S. highway lane.<sup>2</sup>

*From the Construction and Operations Plan of Atlantic Shores South page E-5:*  
“Maximum pile diameter at seabed **Monopile 49.2 feet** (15 meters).”

--- Accordingly, **it is true** that an 18-wheeler could drive through a hypothetical gap in the offshore wind turbine with about 20’ to spare on each side. As to **the point** of that statement, we cannot speculate.

## THE ROUND-UPS

--- *This Offshore Wind Round-Up was prepared by a group of writers and researchers from Long Beach Island, New Jersey. The first Round-Up first appeared in May 2022 and it has been published every month except two since its debut.*

--- *Round-Ups endeavor to periodically provide a **review of recent research efforts** in which the effects of offshore wind farms have been studied. In addition, they occasionally offer factual, **clarifying information**, in response to readers’ questions and suggestions.*

--- *Research included in Round-Ups points you in the direction of the science and assumes **no point of view** one way or the other about the presence of offshore wind farms off our shore. Likewise, clarifications are provided without editorial comment; they are there for you to consider so you can **draw your own conclusions**.*

--- ***Questions** about the content of Round-Ups and **suggestions** for future topics can be directed to [RoundUpLBI@gmail.com](mailto:RoundUpLBI@gmail.com). The Round-Up research and writing team welcomes questions and comments.*

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<sup>2</sup> Equipment Experts, Inc. lists the dimensions of these trucks as 72’ long by 8.5’ wide by 13.5’ tall. Access the Equipment Experts, Inc. website by clicking on this link:

<https://equipmentexpertsinc.com/semi-truck-length-a-guide-to-truck-and-trailer-dimensions/>

■ Round-Ups are ***distributed*** to the voting representatives of the eleven member organizations of the Joint Council of Taxpayers Associations of LBI (JCTA). The board members of each member association collectively make their own decisions about how and when this information will be distributed to its members and/or the community. Most often, taxpayer associations use their regular communication platforms, such as newsletters, website postings and/or social media, to make Round-Ups ***available to the public***.

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