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Offshore Wind Development Policy Positions for Nantucket

Nantucket Board of Selectmen
Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission

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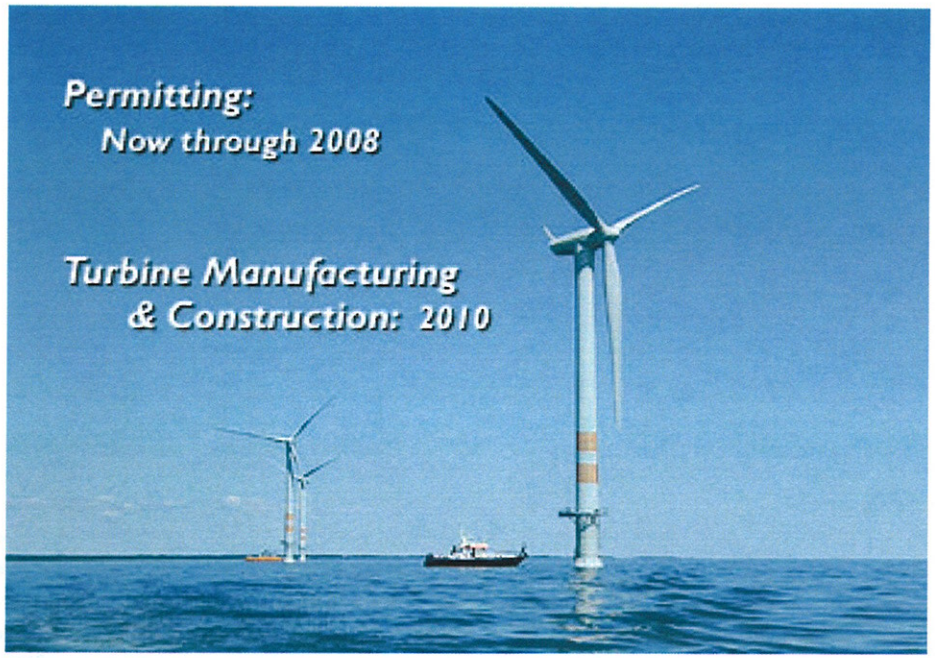
Overview of the proposed Cape Wind project

- 130 Wind Turbines of 3.6 MW each covering approx 24 sq. miles
- Total height of 417' and hub height of 246' over water surface
- Data tower currently collecting data in the Sound
- 468 MW gross/420 MW net electricity at peak output

Source: Cape Wind Associates

- Estimated project cost $800 million - $1 billion
- Proposed site on Horseshoe Shoal
- First Off-shore wind farm in North America
- Construction phase projected to take 18-24 months
- Project Developer: Cape Wind Associates / Energy Management Inc.



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Cape Wind – Visual impact

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Position Options for Nantucket

1. Strong opposition to the existing proposal
   - Large project in an environmentally and socioeconomically sensitive location
   - Lack of existing ocean siting guidelines that would screen potential sites
   - No demonstrated benefits for Cape & Island stakeholders

2. Advocate significant changes or rejection of the existing proposal
   - A reduced scale or pilot project (no more than a 140MW or 40 turbines, about 1/3 of existing proposal, and the same size as the recently proposed Long Island offshore wind park)
   - Potential for subsequent phases to build out full project if certain environmental and economic hurdles are achieved (limited damage to fish and bird habitat; contracts for offtake to Cape & Island communities; limited or positive impact on tourism)
   - Strong monitoring & decommissioning permitting conditions

3. Advocate an alternative and more acceptable proposal with a new project location(s)
   - Study the siting alternatives, including South of Tuckernuck
   - Specify reasonable siting criteria (proximity to transmission, project feasibility, wind resource, impacts on bird, fisheries, and existing use conflicts)
   - Forward to MMS a short-list of sites that meet reasonable siting criteria and satisfy project feasibility hurdles (this work would serve as a cross-check on the MMS evaluation of alternative sites)

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Position Options for Nantucket (cont'd)

4. Development of an independent project proposal
   - Study alternative sites and project sizes suitable to a Nantucket or Cape & Island scaled project (140 MW or less)
   - Determine an apropriate role for Nantucket in project development (from project facilitator, to load aggregator, to contracting with an independent wind development company for construction and operation, to direct ownership)
   - Form the appropriate development entity
   - Seek MMS (or State if within 3 miles) approval for siting an independent project in adjacent waters

5. Passive role
   - Recognize that Nantucket is one of many stakeholders
   - Wind development can serve as a distraction to other pressing municipal matters
   - Wait until the MMS concludes its EIS process and see if Cape Wind actually proceeds to commercial development
   - Attempt to negotiate a contract for offtake or local revenue provision if the project moves ahead

6. Project support
   - Recognize public and political support for renewable energy projects
   - If not here then where
   - Direct siting impacts for Nantucket are mitigated by 11 miles distance
   - Advocate that MMS attach reasonable permit conditions (monitoring, decommissioning)

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