

FAB Meeting November 19, 2018

Response/ Discussion to Nov. 9, 2018 Vineyard Wind Letter to CRMC

Summary of Vineyard Wind Presentation

Vineyard Wind representatives began the meeting with stating that for the current project they will be using the largest commercially available turbines in order to minimize the wind energy area not aligned East & West as requested by fishermen. Using the largest turbines available (about 10MW) allows for a reduction by over 20%, and only 6% of the total WEA will not be aligned East & West. VW presented 3 turbine layout options ranging from 22%-24% reduction in area, an area about 70 square miles. It was also stated that reorienting the alignment of turbines is not feasible due to the timeline of the project. In order for VW to completely realign the configuration of turbines in East & West row, they would have to relocate all but 19 turbines, which would require many months of collecting and analyzing new data as well as redesigning a new cable route. This would delay the VW project at least a year and make it impossible for VW to meet its guaranteed operation date of January 15, 2022. With a delayed project start, they will not qualify for federal investment tax credits, which is critical for VW to deliver energy at a competitive price. VW confirmed that all future projects will comply with the East & West rows with 1nm spacing, and that they will sign any agreement to this. It was also stated that there will be mitigation for displaced the fishermen.

Response/Discussion of FAB and Fishing Industry

- With the currently proposed layout, all the members of the FAB and other fishing industry members agreed that fishermen will absolutely not be able to fish safely in this WEA and will be a fishing dead zone. It was noted that the minimum distance between turbines in this area is about 0.4nm to 0.7nm apart – fishermen will not be able to fish in this area
- There was no RI and Regional Industry consensus to 2nm wide transit lanes – 2nm wide will not provide safe navigable lanes. A minimum of 4 miles is needed for safe transit corridors
- VMS and AIS data used by VW is flawed and inaccurate when determining economic value of area. Some fisheries do not have to report for specific areas and this data is not included. Fisheries are cyclic and vary greatly over the years. It would require large data sets of many years to get an accurate understanding of the value of the area and to use the five years with the highest value.
 - VW requested small working group be formed in order to discuss and access older data
- The RI SAMP requires at least 4 seasons of baseline research. Many fisheries are seasonal and require multiple years to collect baseline data. VW just began baseline

data collection, which will not be adequate to accurately determine impacts – and will not comply with requirements of the SAMP

- The uncertainty of impacts on economically important fisheries due to construction and operation is so great that it is impossible for VW to state that there will not be long-term adverse impacts to RI fishermen. There is a potential to decimate the high valued squid fishery as well as others due to the Noise Acoustic Ring during construction. Electromagnetic fields and Low Frequency Noise from the cables, will also impact the ecosystem. There is also a lot of concern with using the largest turbines that haven't been used, there is no data on impacts.
- The FAB is not concerned about VW timeline and are concerned about their livelihoods and safety. RI fishermen agree that the development process should be slowed down to gather accurate baseline data and to minimize the impacts to the fishing industry.
- The disruption to the fishing industry and displacement of fishermen due to development of WEA will be so extensive, there will be no way to mitigate for the losses
- Many boats will refuse to fish in the entire WEA regardless of the orientation of turbines and VW and other wind development companies will have to compensate for the entire lost area.
- This project is precedent setting and it is critical to do it right to ensure other wind development companies won't do the same
- Rosemary Powers requested alternative options and stated that the state of RI will protect the fishing industry
- Janet Coit from RIDEM also stated that they will devote any resources they can to support the fishing industry

The FAB called a vote and all members unanimously voted to reject the proposal by Vineyard Wind