

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to share a link to a recent webinar hosted by NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research Development Authority) on the science of visibility for offshore wind, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Swvoyo_dQWY. I learned a lot about the impact of the curvature of the earth, the ability to predict the number of likely visible days, the use of worst case images, and the preference for fewer, larger turbines. In addition to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) website, I recommended NYSERDA's website to several people at our meeting for additional information on a wide variety of topics and on-going studies. The next subject in NYSERDA's webinar series is on Stakeholder Engagement, which may also be of interest.

In response to the question about unknowns in the project, there are several outstanding activities still under investigation. The project layout has yet to be determined (or at least published), which will be necessary to understand the visibility of the project. Now that the BPU has announced the Atlantic Shores contract, the project size is known but there are a number of factors that could affect the layout, including turbine size. Ongoing work to collect information about the seabed condition, water depth, and marine and avian behavior could also impact the project layout. Significant data has already been collected but analysis and additional data collection is still underway. Input from the fishing community will also be considered as will the results of on-going studies on the surf clam and cold pool.

Another area you may want to ask about is the construction timeline. For a project this size, construction will occur over a multi-year period. Although the impact is short term, some construction phases will have more impact than others (noise during foundation installation, for example). Fishing and other vessel navigation could be impacted differently at different phases of the construction. I don't know how much of the construction timeline Atlantic Shores can control. Extending the construction period is in no one's best interest but there may be some flexibility if there is an impact.

Hope this answers the question.

Best regards,
Karen Conover

Links to websites:

NY State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA): <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/>

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management: <https://www.boem.gov/>

Presentation by NYSERDA re Offshore Wind Visibility: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Swvoyo_dQWY