

Luly Massaro - Deepwater Proposal for Wind Farm

From: Carol Martin <bvaesq-carol@verizon.net>
To: <cwilson@puc.state.ri.us>, <lmassaro@puc.state.ri.us>
Date: 3/24/2010 11:55 AM
Subject: Deepwater Proposal for Wind Farm
CC: maggie Delia <maggie@biaero.com>

*Brooks Von Arx
Whale Swamp Road
P.O. Box 1972
Block Island, RI 02807*

March 24, 2010

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: Deepwater Proposal for Wind Farm off of Block Island

Dear Commissioners:

My wife and I have been four season Block Island Cottagers since 1988. That 22 year perspective leads me to conclude that any benefit which might accrue to Block Island from Deepwater's current proposal is far outweighed by its overall negative impact. I leave it to others to address the economic shortcomings of this proposal from the public's standpoint, but I can apply common sense to the matter.

Deepwater's proposal does not eliminate fossil fuel usage for on-island electric generation and there is no guaranty that the cost of electricity to Block Island consumers would decrease. Even assuming a reduction in emissions and a possible rate reduction, the overriding negative consequences of this proposal are self-evident.

Installation of eight 450' high turbines would industrialize a significant portion of the island's shoreline. Those structures would jarringly dominate the view shed from the south and east looking seaward. They would overwhelm the setting of the southeast lighthouse - a national historic site and the most iconic symbol of this island. Turbines placed so close to shore would destroy the pristine seaward vistas from the environmentally protected areas of Mohegan Bluffs and Rodman's Hollow. Their presence would endanger local and migrating bird populations, diminish fishing areas and complicate commercial and recreational navigation. They would irrevocably diminish the results of years of concerted efforts to preserve the island's natural heritage which have won Block Island national recognition as one of the "last great places". The towers would indelibly mar the unspoiled ocean side experience which serves as a traditional draw for tourists - a major component of the island's economy. It would render the island less attractive and erode much of what makes this island unique.

Deepwater is not an altruistic, charitable organization. It is a business seeking to profit for the benefit of its investors, not the benefit of the citizens of Rhode Island. What Deepwater offers to Block Island is nebulous at best but the threat that its proposal poses to Block Island as we know it, is all too clear. I

respectfully urge you to disapprove the proposal.

Very truly yours,

BROOKS VON ARX

BVA:cm

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