



## Mall needs HPC approval to add festive lighting

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## House of the week

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# Weighing in on Ocean Wind

## Ørsted reps spend over 3 hours in O.C. answering questions about wind farm, hearing people support and condemn plan

By DAVID NAHAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Ørsted representatives spent more than three hours Saturday morning and afternoon answering questions about the Ocean Wind 1 wind turbine farm proposed off the coast of Cape May and Atlantic counties and listening to a wide range of speakers heartily support and thoroughly condemn the project.

The Danish company had about 10 different employees on or by the stage to respond to a wide range of questions posed by the crowd of about 200 people who came to the Ocean City Music Pier.

The event started with a PowerPoint presentation on the wind farm,

which is now in the environmental review phase. Ocean Wind 1 proposes as many as 98 wind turbines starting 15 miles off the coast in a lease area that would be operational by 2024 if approved after review by federal and state agencies. It would generate 1,100 megawatts from the massive turbines whose blades would reach 900 feet above sea level.

Citizens and representatives of various groups took their turns at the microphones to ask questions, but most took the opportunity to offer their strong opinions on the project, prefacing their questions with statements of how they are for or against it. Other questions came in from online or were submitted on cards for the moderator, local meteorologist

Dan Skeldon, to read.

Much of the opposition to the wind farm came from local residents angry about having to look at the wind turbines filling the distant horizon, asserting they will destroy the natural beauty of the Jersey shore, damage the region's tourism economy and lower property values. They also questioned the wind farm's value in the global fight against climate change.

Much of the support came from business and organized labor organizations who touted the project's impact on providing jobs and economic development in the region. They, as well as citizens, both local residents and from other parts of the state, said they wanted to see this area at the

forefront of green energy production.

The crowd was generally polite, with a little sniping, but dwindled as the meeting stretched deep into its second and third hours. Hearty applause often broke out as speakers offered their pointed opinions both pro and con.

Below are comments and questions from many of the speakers (not in order), ranging from residents telling the company to move the wind farm farther from shore to protect the local economy to former Gov. Jim Florio saying the project needs to move forward to protect freshwater aquifers from saltwater intrusion due to rising sea levels. Also included are answers by the Ørsted representatives.

# Steger heads beach panel

## D. deSatnick quit after city altered focus

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Steve Steger was appointed chairman of the Beach Safety Advisory Committee following the resignation of Dennis DeSatnick last month.

Steger said he hopes a different way to engineer the city's beaches could be discovered so the slope was more like it was years ago. Since its inception, the committee has been seeking a solution to sharp drop-offs in the surf zone resulting in injuries to bathers that may be a result of the current template used for beach replenishment.

Committee member Chad DeSatnick said Steger is a business owner who contracts directly with the city for use of a beach.

"It's my understanding there are members of the mayor's campaign

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# VOICES: Asking questions, offering opinions

By DAVID NAHAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Here are some of the voices raised Saturday during the Ocean Wind 1 forum at the Ocean City Music Pier in a mix of comments on the proposed wind farm and questions.

### Craig Stuart: You can push wind farm farther away from shore

Full-time Ocean City resident Craig Stuart said after talking to numerous friends, family members and neighbors, the biggest question everyone had was why Ocean Wind 1 couldn't be located farther from shore so local residents would not be able to see it.

He said instead of 15 miles to 27 miles out (the proposed location now), why not 20 to 20 to 27 miles out or 24 to 27 miles out?

### QUESTION: "Can you commit to pushing the wind farm as far away from shore as you can?"

ANSWER: Ørsted's Maddy Urbish said there can't be any construction outside of the lease area that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has identified and it couldn't go farther out than the 27 miles, where the lease area ends. She added Ørsted has a separate lease area contiguous to the site of the Ocean Wind 1 project to the south.

"We have chosen to locate the turbines as far back as possible while still meeting the goal of 1,110 megawatts. The straight answer: We cannot move any further back."

RESPONSE: Stewart said he could take a pen and show how to put the turbines further away on the map shown during the presentation. He also asked if Ørsted could appeal to the federal government to move the turbines.

Ørsted's Pilar Patterson said there were many interests and concerns that had to be addressed. One of them, such as putting the turbines closer together, would not meet the need for space that commercial and U.S. Coast Guard vessels require to operate by keeping the turbines 1 by 1.8 nautical miles apart. She added the public will have a chance to question BOEM during the public process in the spring.

### QUESTION: What is the cost to each homeowner to construct the wind farm?

ANSWER: Urbish said the average cost to residential homeowners across the state — all New Jersey ratepayers will get this charge — is approximately \$1.46 per month for the life of the project. Those costs would be for only the Ocean



David Nahan/SENTINEL

Ocean City resident Craig Stuart asks Ørsted representatives to commit to moving the proposed Ocean Wind 1 wind turbine farm farther from shore during Saturday's public meeting at the Ocean City Music Pier.



David Nahan/SENTINEL

Ocean City resident Nicole Fox tells Ørsted representatives that she supports the Ocean Wind 1 project because it will help ensure the future of the resort.

Wind 1 project. (There are other wind farm projects proposed for off the coast; no utility costs for them have been announced.)

### QUESTION: Will there be any financial benefit to the local residents because of the project?

ANSWER: Urbish said there are the larger benefits of helping to fight climate change and flooding, but Stewart said he didn't care about that. He wanted to know direct benefits to Ocean City.

Urbish said as a community hosting Ocean Wind's transmission lines, Ørsted would work with the community, including City Council and the mayor, who asked about that very thing, to decide what types of benefits the company could provide. She said the company would absolutely consider that.

### Nicole Fox: Good for city to be a crucial player in the shift to green energy

Nicole Fox said she is a proud fourth-generation Ocean City High School graduate and an environmental science student studying at Stockton University. The community, she said, is important to her and her family.

She supports the Ocean Wind 1 project and said it provides the opportunity for the town to be a crucial player in the shift to green energy. She said that shift will support her future, her children's future and generations to follow who will also be able to enjoy the wonderful Ocean City community.

"That will be hard to do if the city is under water," she noted, pointing out the resort already has to deal with sunny day flooding.

### QUESTION: Are there plans to study the turbine foundations as artificial reefs for oyster and mussel beds?

ANSWER: Urbish said Stockton is doing some incredible work on coastal resiliency.

Ørsted speakers also said there is evidence from the wind farms off Block Island, off Virginia and in Europe that the bases of the platforms create havens for fish and studies are being conducted on the abundance and types of fish species. The company will conduct studies before, during and after construction to monitor any changes. The company "is committed to contributing to the body of science and knowledge" on the impact of wind farms.

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# MTRAC: Have rental rules in place for 2022

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With an ever-increasing number of homes operating as vacation rentals, the city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC) is asking City Council to pass a comprehensive ordinance dealing with the business of residential rentals before summer 2022.

MTRAC Chairman Dennis Crowley said the committee met several times with city solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz to develop an ordinance.

"We know that Cape May has come very late to the game of residential rentals as a huge piece of our commercial enterprise," Crowley told City Council at a Nov. 1 meeting. "Cape May has morphed into a large business with many different commodities being sold, not the least of which is rentals of our residential properties."

A number of homes in

See MTRAC, Page A2



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