

Protect Our Coast New Jersey

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS CONFERENCE AND WALK SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 12PM, 35TH STREET BEACH, OCEAN CITY, NJ

Protect Our Coast New Jersey (POCNJ) will hold a press conference and walk at the 35th Street beach on September 10, the day before offshore wind developer Orsted is scheduled to begin drilling test holes along the 35th street corridor in Ocean City. This testing, along with offshore surveys that have been linked to whale and dolphin deaths, is overland preconstruction activity for Ocean Wind 1, an industrial project encompassing 98, one thousand foot tall wind turbines off the Ocean City, New Jersey coastline.

Since 2016, when industrial wind survey work began off the east coast, 213 humpback whales have died along the east coast.

The underground cable route will come ashore at 35th Street, then transit west to Bay Avenue, north on Bay Avenue to Roosevelt Boulevard, west across Peck Bay at Roosevelt Boulevard (34th St) Bridge. The cables will transit Ocean City Green Acres land, land that was taken from the city and allocated to Orsted by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. This land easement and diversion was granted after the State Legislature stepped in and voted to strip the Ocean City Council of its home rule authority in 2021.

After crossing the island of Ocean City, the underground electrified cables will then continue on to Route 9 to property near the former B.L. England Generating Station in Upper Township.

Mayor Jay Gillian, in his August 25 letter to the community said, "I want to remind you all that the offshore wind company Orsted has the go-ahead to begin digging test holes on 35th Street starting September 11. Our state leaders still have not heard from the BPU about what this is going to cost and what it's going to deliver in return. Everybody in the entire state who pays an electric bill will be footing the bill. Everybody will pay more. We just have no idea how much. I think we can all agree that clean energy is a worthy goal, but proceeding so blindly and quickly with this project is reckless."

Protect Our Coast NJ agrees with this position. Near shore industrial wind development is reckless, as is the placement of electrified cables carrying up to 1.1 gigawatts of electricity so close to homes and families living in Ocean City.

Officials from POCNJ and other invited guests will deliver remarks and answer questions at this event. POCNJ will also provide an update on recently filed state and federal lawsuits. Following the press conference, participants will walk along the path of the cable route from the oceanfront to the Ocean City bayfront.

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Protect Our Coast is a 501 (c)(3) designated charitable nonprofit organization that is dedicated to protecting our oceans, our shores, and preserving the views and small businesses that have made the NJ shore a premier vacation destination for over a century. Your tax deductible contributions go towards protecting our coast from industrial destruction so that families may enjoy this special place for generations to come. For more information, please visit <https://protectourcoastnj.com/>