

# Protect Our Coast New Jersey

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2023

## GONE WITH THE WIND? OCEAN WIND 1 PAUSED, NOT ABANDONED

A day after Orsted shares plummeted on news that the industrial wind developer was having supply chain issues and billions of dollars in cost overruns, the Danish energy giant announced today that it was pausing its massive offshore industrial project called Ocean Wind 1 until at least 2026. In addition, Orsted is named in two lawsuits filed by POCNJ, Defend Brigantine Beach and Save Long Beach Island. These lawsuits create further uncertainty as to whether Orsted will ever be able to complete the projects. If built, 98 one thousand foot tall turbines would be constructed in the ocean off the southern New Jersey coast.

Protect Our Coast New Jersey (POCNJ) is pleased by Orsted's announcement of a delay; however, we remain resolute in preventing the industrialization of the Atlantic Ocean and destruction of the New Jersey coastline. Despite the delay, it is anticipated wind developers will continue their preliminary construction work to place these gigantic structures off the coast of New Jersey. Preconstruction test work along the 35<sup>th</sup> Street corridor between the beach and bay in Ocean City is scheduled to begin in early September. POCNJ will hold a press conference and walk on September 10 at the 35<sup>th</sup> Street beach in Ocean City at 12 Noon to provide updates on recently filed lawsuits and other actions being undertaken to prevent industrial development along our coast.

POCNJ will continue to oppose the construction of offshore industrial wind facilities that have been linked to significant negative impacts to marine life. Since preliminary offshore wind construction activity began along the Atlantic coast in 2016, 213 humpback whales have died, along with hundreds of other whales and dolphins. In just the past nine months, 62 dead whales have washed ashore along mid-Atlantic and New England beaches.

The announcement by Orsted comes amidst plunging public support for offshore wind in statewide polls, and mounting opposition from grassroots organizations, as well as local and state government leaders. Even the highest ranking members of the New Jersey legislature, Senate President Nicholas Scutari and Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin—both Democrats—issued a joint statement on August 7 questioning the wisdom of industrial offshore wind development.

POCNJ Board Member and Spokesman Robin Shaffer said, "Though this announcement by Orsted is welcome news, we plan to continue our efforts to educate and inform the public about the negative impacts of offshore wind. We urge the public to remain vigilant and not to become complacent in light of the fact at the same time Orsted announced an overall delay in the project, the company renewed its commitment to this project and flatly rejected the option to 'walk away.'"

Shaffer added, "We will continue our fight in state and federal courts. If anything, Orsted's announcement will only intensify our activities, for it shows the positive outcomes that can result when thousands of hard working, committed citizens get together to fight for our oceans, our shores, our livelihoods and our environment."

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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/>*