

1 10/11/2023 - Empire Offshore Wind, LLC - 22-T-0346

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

4 CASE 22-T-0346 - Application of Empire Offshore  
5 Wind, LLC. For a Certificate of Environmental  
6 Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction  
7 of Approximately Twelve Miles of Transmission Line  
8 from the Boundary of New York State Territorial  
9 Waters to a Point of Interconnection in the Town  
10 of Hempstead, Nassau County.

11 PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

12 DATE: October 11, 2023 at 6:32 p.m.

13 LOCATION: 1 Westchester  
14 Long Beach City Hall  
15 Long Beach, New York

16 BEFORE: ALJ ASHLEY MORENO  
17 ALJ Tara KERSEY  
18

19  
20  
21  
22 Reported by Hannah Belair  
23  
24  
25

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2 (The hearing commenced at 6:32 P.m.)

3 A.L.J. MORENO: Please take a seat,  
4 we're going on the record.

5 A.L.J. KERSEY: We have a number of  
6 speakers that we -- we have a number of speakers that  
7 we need to get to, and so we're going to be starting  
8 with the speakers that we had -- were not able to  
9 speak at the afternoon session.

10 We also need to end at 09:30 p.m., so  
11 we are going to be keeping this -- keeping your -- if  
12 you could keep your comments to three minutes, that  
13 would be great. Ladies and gentlemen, please come to  
14 order.

15 On the record, I call case 22-T-0346,  
16 application of Empire Offshore Wind, L.L.C., for a  
17 certificate of environmental compatibility and public  
18 need for the construction of approximately 12 miles  
19 of transmission lines from the boundary of New York  
20 State territorial waters to a point of  
21 interconnection in the town of Hempstead, Nassau  
22 County.

23 Good evening and welcome. We are here  
24 today for a public statement hearing that was noticed  
25 on September 20th, 2023. This public statement

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2 hearing concerns the proposal of Empire Offshore  
3 Wind, L.L.C. and E.W. Offshore Wind Transport  
4 Corporation's proposal to construct, operate, and  
5 maintain the New York portion of the transmission  
6 facilities required to interconnect Empire Offshore  
7 Wind's proposed Empire Wind II offshore wind  
8 generating facility to be located within the Bureau  
9 of Ocean Energy Management to a point of  
10 interconnection with the New York State transmission  
11 systems located at an expansion of the Barrett 138  
12 kilovolt substation located at Oceanside in the town  
13 of Hempstead, New York.

14 My name is Tara Kersey. I am an  
15 Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Public  
16 Service. With me today is Ashley Moreno, also an  
17 Administrative Law Judge at the Department of Public  
18 Service. Together we are responsible for presiding  
19 over the hearings in this case and the development of  
20 a complete record.

21 We may also make recommendations to  
22 the New York State Public Service Commission, which  
23 is the ultimate decision maker in this case. Empire  
24 Offshore Wind, L.L.C. and E.W. Offshore Wind  
25 Transport Corporation's proposal is being reviewed

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2 pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Service Law.

3 On a moving forward base, I will -- I  
4 will refer to the companies as the applicants. Prior  
5 to any construction, applicants must first obtain a  
6 certificate of environmental compatibility and public  
7 need from the Public Service Commission for the New  
8 York portion of the transmission facility.

9 When the case is eventually brought  
10 before the Commission for decision, the Commission  
11 may adopt, reject or modify the applicant's proposal.  
12 The Commission will make its decision in this  
13 proceeding, including the statements here today based  
14 -- the Commission's decision -- the Commission, I'm  
15 sorry, will make its decision based on the entire  
16 record developed in this proceeding, including the  
17 statements made here today.

18 I will also note that the offshore  
19 wind facility is not being reviewed as part of this  
20 proceeding. The offshore wind facility is being  
21 reviewed and considered by the federal government.  
22 Only the New York portion of the transmission  
23 facility is being considered in this proceeding by  
24 the Commission.

25 We are holding this hearing so that

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2 you can provide your comments. We are here to -- we  
3 are here to hear from you on this proposal for the  
4 Public Service Commission's consideration. The  
5 Commission consists of seven members, the Chairperson  
6 Rory Christian and Commissioners Diane Burman, James  
7 Alesi, Tracey Edwards, John Howard, David Valesky and  
8 John Maggiore.

9 Now I'll explain the process that we  
10 are going to follow this evening. As stated, the  
11 purpose of tonight's hearing is to provide you with  
12 an opportunity to tell the Commission your thoughts  
13 on the applicant's transmission proposal.

14 The statements that you make today, as  
15 I had stated earlier, will become part of the case  
16 record. We have a court reporter with us today who  
17 will prepare a transcript of the hearing, which will  
18 be included in the -- in the official record of this  
19 proceeding so that your comments can be considered by  
20 all members of the Commission.

21 When it is ready, the transcript will  
22 be available for view on the Department of Public  
23 Service website. This hearing is not an evidentiary  
24 hearing or a Q&A session, but a forum to hear  
25 comments from you.

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2 I would also stress this is not the  
3 only opportunity for comment. If you do not wish to  
4 speak at today's hearing, but you would like your  
5 views included in the record, there are a variety of  
6 other ways to comment that were listed in the public  
7 notice for today's event.

8 You can do so by submitting comments  
9 on the Department's website, by regular mail or by  
10 phone. Regardless of how the comments are submitted,  
11 they will be given equal consideration. Comments may  
12 be submitted and will be considered throughout the  
13 pendency of this proceeding.

14 If you would like to make a statement  
15 here today, please fill out a registration card.  
16 They are available at the back of the table with our  
17 Department of Public Service outreach staff. We will  
18 call the speakers up one by one using the card.

19 Please speak slowly and clearly so  
20 that the court reporter can accurately capture your  
21 statement for the record. To the extent that you  
22 have a lengthy written statement, please summarize  
23 your statement orally or submit the full record --  
24 the full written statement by email or mail.

25 Because of the number of people we

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2 have registered to speak, we also ask that you stay  
3 within a three-minute time limit for your oral  
4 comments today so that we can ensure to get all of  
5 our speakers.

6 Finally, before we begin, I ask that  
7 everyone be respectful to today's speakers. We  
8 recognize that there may be differing viewpoints, but  
9 this is -- this event is being held so that we can  
10 hear from everyone who would like to make a statement  
11 on the record.

12 Please do not interrupt the speakers,  
13 and please make sure to silence your cell phones.  
14 Our first speaker is Paul Bennett, followed by Steven  
15 Morola. Okay, our next speaker is Dave Dennenberg.  
16 Our speaker is Joseph Naham, to be followed by Peter  
17 Gollon.

18 MR. NAHAM: It was good morning, and  
19 now I'll say good evening. Hello, Your Honors and  
20 Commissioners. Thank you for holding this hearing  
21 and providing the opportunity to hear neighbors'  
22 opinions. My name is Joseph Ross Naham, and I am the  
23 co-chair of the Long Beach Environmental Advisory  
24 Board.

25 We meet monthly, and our meetings are

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2 always open to the public, but no one else attends.

3 We finally presented to the city council 10 months

4 ago, and we presented many proposals, and when

5 Equinor came up, there was only support.

6 Five months later, Equinor met with

7 the Long Beach Environmental Advisory Board, and that

8 -- and at that time, the city council did not join.

9 We were broadsided when our paid elected officials

10 decided to brush the E.A.V.B. aside and wrote out a

11 message opposing this beneficial project without any

12 hint, let alone a heads up.

13 It's hard not to feel like window

14 treatment, volunteering our time like I am tonight on

15 behalf of my community's well-being. I am fourth

16 generation Long Beach, as is my wife, and we remember

17 when Hurricane Sandy inundated our community.

18 We lost -- we lost everything, as tens

19 of thousands also had. We saw the seven-story mounds

20 of trash that were collected by the National Guard

21 and held on the Superblock and at Nickerson Beach and

22 many other temporary dumps.

23 Those items and waste materials didn't

24 help other animals in our ecosystem. It was

25 sheetrock, carpet, furniture, appliances, and massive



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2 amounts of human commodities. From a bird's eye  
3 view, it was a sight that was inevitable.

4 My wife and I tried to do due  
5 diligence. The tax base was gone and two schools  
6 were offline. We saw more container ships lined up  
7 offshore than ever, more than 9/11, and all the ports  
8 in New York and New Jersey harbors were inundated.

9 The ships didn't dock. The container  
10 ships were chemical tankers, oil tankers, and human  
11 commodity container ships, items that would give our  
12 communities anywhere from a few moments to a few  
13 years' worth of satisfaction, but would end up in  
14 landfills or the emissions would impact our planet  
15 for hundreds to millions of years from now.

16 No matter where we lived, we wished to  
17 be active, leave this planet in the same or better --  
18 leave it in the same or better conditions than when  
19 we entered it. I attended meetings that the city and  
20 the State hosted with a focus on resilience and  
21 engineering where they had engineers and architects  
22 from the Netherlands who showed and tried -- tested  
23 true innovations which they had implemented and  
24 resolved their needs to adapt to the constant  
25 flooding.

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2 But the only thing that this community  
3 has worked overwhelmingly hard for on a bioethical  
4 objective has been moving barely treated sewage from  
5 one location to another.

6 When we look at all the challenges  
7 that our community is facing, reduced vendors  
8 accepting recycling, the flaw is that this challenge  
9 is due to humans demanding electricity.

10 And the city in which this hearing is  
11 taking place was once five separate islands separated  
12 by seven inlets for hundreds of thousands of years  
13 and it wasn't until the late 19th century when humans  
14 decided to dredge the -- and fill five of those  
15 inlets and make a man-made island.

16 That was before cars were even a  
17 thought. We had horses and trains and this city  
18 never had a comprehensive development plan. We can't  
19 consciously impact neighboring wetlands anymore to  
20 lay a conduit there.

21 There are similar lines running from  
22 Roslyn to East Garden City, another further out east  
23 on the island, but I believe both of these cables are  
24 D.C. cables so A.C. might be a compromise that they  
25 could use. The site that the electrical substation

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2 is proposed is 200 feet plus right across from the  
3 site of the former Long Beach incinerator which  
4 hasn't been touched for decades.

5 Our city has a population of 33,000  
6 and the population blows up to 80,000 in the summer  
7 and in 2028 all motor vehicle manufacturers will be  
8 fully transitioned to electrical vehicles. The city  
9 currently doesn't even have any public electrical  
10 charge stations.

11 We have an R.P. for one site by the  
12 city hall. That is clearly underwhelming to what  
13 demand will be, especially for visitors making large  
14 out-of-state trips to visit people who live in  
15 apartments without available parking.

16 Because our snowflake Council members  
17 are dodging 65 million dollars in city funding which  
18 ultimately would be leaving an anti-tax -- an anti-  
19 wind tax of 3,600 dollars per household. I want that  
20 to sit in. I want cleaner oceans, healthier  
21 children, independence from dangerous fossil fuels  
22 and recycling use.

23 We could recycle the wind blades and  
24 make them into roofs for bus shelters or telephone  
25 poles. Conduit would be high voltage so it runs with

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2 less frequency and less resistance than low voltage  
3 so there isn't vibration coming off of it.

4 As you heard, it's just 16 N.G.s. It  
5 will power over 700,000 homes with clean energy that  
6 will be here forever even if the shoreline moves  
7 north in 38 years. I want the beneficial offshore --  
8 offshore wind turbines and science is my hero.

9 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you so much.

11 And just for clarification, the noise you were  
12 hearing, we -- we are using a timer. We asked folks  
13 earlier to try to stick to three minutes and we have  
14 so many speakers that we're going to have to insist  
15 on it now.

16 So when you hear that noise, it means  
17 your three minutes are up. Again, if you have a  
18 lengthier statement, we're very happy to hear from  
19 you. If you would put it in writing or if you have a  
20 written statement here today that's lengthy, we're  
21 happy to accept that and put it into the record but  
22 we're going to need people to stay to the three  
23 minute timeframe. Thank you.

24 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

25 MR. GOLLON: Good evening. My name is

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2 Peter Gollon and I've been a Huntington resident for  
3 40 years. My background is nuclear physics and I've  
4 learned as a -- as a scientist to distinguish fact  
5 from fiction. When the facts that I encounter differ  
6 from what I have previously believed, I revise my  
7 opinions. That's how science progresses. I urge the  
8 audience to do the same.

9 I was also a LIPA trustee for five  
10 years and it's clear from what I know that while the  
11 energy from the offshore wind project will land here,  
12 a good bit of it will get exported north and a fair  
13 amount will stay here to power Long Island to replace  
14 what's currently generated at Barrett.

15 A.L.J. MORENO: Again, everyone who is  
16 registered will have a turn. Please do not interrupt  
17 the speakers.

18 MR. GOLLON: I know you're here not to  
19 pass judgment on the offshore component but only on  
20 the cable, but it's worth mentioning because other  
21 people may have brought it up that the  
22 industrialization of the ocean, you can see that now.

23 The lineup of ship after ship after  
24 ship is very close. It's very hard to see something  
25 that's 11 miles offshore whereas I can see the

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2 Barrett plant right here. The complaint about rising  
3 costs of offshore wind, well natural gas prices  
4 fluctuate as well and every rate payer here bears  
5 that penalty.

6 There are some comments made about  
7 inadequacy of batteries. That technology will  
8 evolve. They're not buying them today. Similarly,  
9 about what to do about recycling wind turbine blades,  
10 we'll have 50 years or 25 years to figure that out.  
11 It will progress.

12 What -- what I would suggest is that  
13 everybody here acknowledge that we need the offshore  
14 wind and we need the proposal that is before us here  
15 is that it has to be landed somewhere. The question  
16 that you must consider is where to land it and how it  
17 -- how it should progress to the high voltage  
18 transmission lines.

19 My suggestion which I don't think  
20 anybody will like is that somebody from Equinor,  
21 somebody who likes to preserve the wetlands, somebody  
22 who lives locally and maybe somebody from the general  
23 anti-climate change community be locked in a room and  
24 fed stale bread until they come up with a routing  
25 that satisfies them all. Thank you.

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2 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
4 speaker is Arthur Schnee followed by Helen Alessi.  
5 Our next speaker is George O'Neill followed by Ellen  
6 Feldman.

7 MS. ALESSI: Good evening. Thank you  
8 so much for coming here. I remember the first time I  
9 thought, oh my gosh, these Judges need to come here  
10 to understand and see what this place is like and  
11 what is happening.

12 I am here as the director of Long  
13 Beach Latino Civic Association representing over  
14 1,000 members and growing in Long Beach, Island Park  
15 and Oceanside. In Long Beach, Hispanics are 15% of  
16 35,000 people and in Island Park, it is 40% of that  
17 community.

18 I am also a 20-year resident of Long  
19 Beach and have since moved to Island Park during the  
20 pandemic so that my children and grandchildren from  
21 the Bronx could move in with us over that summer.

22 The wind turbine cable will be running  
23 right behind my home in Island Park. So you can see  
24 why this is especially important to me personally.  
25 We all want to know and understand this project more

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2 deeply.

3 The Latino and Hispanic community is  
4 only now becoming aware of this project. While the  
5 New York State Public Service Commission and NYSERDA  
6 and Equinor are making efforts to put information in  
7 Spanish, this is a process that takes time and a more  
8 intensive effort to engage all parts of the three  
9 communities about this project which will impact us  
10 so deeply.

11 Long Beach Latino Civic Association is  
12 an environmental justice organization and while we  
13 would like to see the reduction of carbon footprint,  
14 we especially feel that these are communities that  
15 have historical and current relevance for this  
16 project.

17 We support the continuation of  
18 outreach to all diverse communities that make up the  
19 beautiful communities of Long Beach, Island Park, and  
20 Oceanside.

21 Lastly, I want to thank the two  
22 interpreters who have been doing an exceptional job  
23 this entire proceeding. I would like to take a  
24 moment to try to say that quickly in Spanish so that  
25 there are folks who are here could understand it.



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2 (Speaking Spanish)

3 Thank you so much.

4 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Thank you  
5 for your comments. Our next speaker is George  
6 O'Neill followed by Ellen Feldman. Our next -- our  
7 next speaker is Johanna Sofield -- Sofield followed  
8 by Marj Issapour.

9 MS. SOFIELD: Hello, my name is -- can  
10 everyone hear me on the back?

11 AUDIENCE: Yes.

12 MS. SOFIELD: Okay. My name is  
13 Johanna Sofield, my children are fifth generation  
14 Long Beach. To be courteous to everybody else, they  
15 were not here, some of them earlier, so some of what  
16 I am saying is to almost be an addendum to some of  
17 the comments made before just to stay concise.

18 I do first want to just thank all of  
19 you including our elected officials, all of you, and  
20 I want to thank the Commission. If we all had the  
21 ability to morph into piping plovers and everybody  
22 here respectfully, this would not have even gotten  
23 off the ground.

24 So I'm asking New York State and the  
25 Commission to treat us, pregnant mothers, not me,

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2 don't spread rumors, former cancer patients like  
3 Kevin Martinson who spoke before, the 4,000 students  
4 that are in our schools and in school districts and  
5 all of the little babies that are born and will be  
6 born, and the four senior housing units and everybody  
7 else in between, can you please treat us like piping  
8 plovers and maybe that's our best chance to stop this  
9 dead in its tracks.

10 It's quite insulting that birds rank  
11 above humans in the process in trying to get  
12 something off the ground. Now I'm going to just read  
13 off very quickly an article that maybe not everybody  
14 found. This is in the news in English, it's actually  
15 a Norwegian report. Norway's state oil company  
16 Equinor continued to be dragged through the mud this  
17 week as its scandalous losses on U.S. operations  
18 blah, blah, blah.

19 I'll go down to say oil minister Tina  
20 Brew had already summoned Equinor's chief executive  
21 and the leader of Equinor's board to her office on  
22 Monday afternoon. I can go on and on. They're not  
23 happy with them.

24 It goes on to say that they were  
25 disgusted with how they treat -- how Equinor treated

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2 them. It goes on to say including the union, which  
3 is a big, you know, we're -- we're union supporters  
4 in this town, the union was upset with Equinor.

5 So before we let Norway and Equinor  
6 ruin our shore and have cables coming through our  
7 country, I would ask you to do some research, because  
8 I don't have enough time to read it to you, it's not  
9 -- it's not courteous.

10 But they're not good actors. They  
11 just left and made a lot of people upset. And I tend  
12 to not like when on any side when people are  
13 disrespectful to each other. But there's a lot of  
14 people passionate with these cables running right  
15 through. But I'm going to now talk about New York  
16 State.

17 So excuse me for one second, I just  
18 went to the wrong thing. I can't believe I just did  
19 this one, I'm so upset that people took so long  
20 before.

21 New York State has a mandate  
22 essentially that what they want is for us to go to  
23 renewable energies. There's also a mandate to  
24 actually care about the minority population in the --  
25 in the State of New York. 55%, Helen just said, is

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2 Hispanic. We're not even talking about African-  
3 American communities like Ms. Lake spoke about before  
4 so -- so well.

5 So the second this project gets off  
6 the ground with cables going through, the lawyers are  
7 going to come down, swarm down, they will represent  
8 the minority communities, and this will become a  
9 problem for New York State.

10 Because you cannot dump a project that  
11 is exploratory in nature in terms of the health  
12 impact in a minority community and not think that the  
13 U.S. Justice Department is not going to say what  
14 happened. It's happening in Louisiana, it's  
15 happening everywhere across this country.

16 So I think Equinor didn't do their  
17 homework because New York State doesn't like when you  
18 drop a project that could negatively impact  
19 minorities and you hope that no one finds out about  
20 it until it's too late.

21 I expect more from New York State, I  
22 chose to live here, I'm getting a little tired, New  
23 York State, because we -- we care more about birds  
24 and we care less about whales and humans and we need  
25 to get back on track. Thank you very much for your

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2 time.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
4 speaker is Marj Issapour, followed by Lindsay Priest.

5 MS. ISSAPOUR: Hello, good evening and  
6 thank you for being here today. I'm Marj Issapour, I  
7 do not live in Long Beach, I live on Long Island, I  
8 do bring my kids to Long Beach and Marvel is their  
9 favorite ice cream place, so I do care about Long  
10 Beach.

11 But I'm an educator, I'm a professor  
12 at Farmingdale State College and have been working in  
13 renewable energy and education in renewable energy  
14 since 2007 officially. So I'm here to kind of talk  
15 about -- I sat here, I had a written statement but I  
16 kind of trashed it after listening to everyone who  
17 was getting very emotional about their families.

18 I actually had prepared a paper to  
19 talk about E.M.F. and I realized I'm going to just  
20 trash that piece and I want to talk to you guys about  
21 -- I'm an electrical engineer by the way, by  
22 training. Now, E.M.F.s can be hazardous to health.

23 If I was a union worker, an I.B.E.W.  
24 person that was running high voltage cables and was  
25 exposed to them every day, and I was three months

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2 pregnant, I would probably would not do that. But  
3 that's about it.

4 When we bury these six -- first of  
5 all, the shielding actually masks a lot of the  
6 E.M.F., right? And also, burying them six feet  
7 underground is equivalent of having something 50 or  
8 60 feet above ground. So burying them underground is  
9 actually extra shielding than actually having the  
10 high voltage cables around the highways.

11 But I'm going to just trash all that  
12 because there was a lot of other misinformation that  
13 people were putting out here about whales and  
14 everything else and their children and their  
15 grandchildren. I want everyone who's here to  
16 consider your -- the life of your grandchildren when  
17 the temperature of earth raises 1.4 more degrees.  
18 There will be nothing left.

19 So we're standing here arguing over --  
20 and by the way, the only -- the only comment that I  
21 heard that made sense and I could sit down and  
22 actually think about it is rerouting. Nothing else.  
23 Everything else that was brought up here very  
24 emotionally about the health of the families and the  
25 children, it's all misinformation.

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2 And because I'm in education, I would  
3 encourage not only Equinor but all other developers  
4 who've gone through this and are going through this  
5 in other municipalities to get ahead of that and put  
6 some really more information in terms of one-to-one  
7 education for people who are advocates against these  
8 things.

9 That's all I can recommend. Other  
10 than that, I do urge you to please do not delay this  
11 project. There are two accomplices -- major  
12 accomplices against our -- that are actually  
13 contributing to our climate change.

14 One is the amount of fossil fuel we  
15 are burning worldwide and not just in U.S. and not  
16 just in Europe, right? Worldwide, it's burning fuel  
17 to create electricity, which are electricity  
18 consumptions going up in the world.

19 And number two is transportation in  
20 U.S., right? Once you get transportation and  
21 electricity generation under control, you have some  
22 hope for the future. I'm not here to scare you. I'm  
23 here to say it is scary. It's going to be scary for  
24 our grandchildren if we keep business as usual.

25 And that's all I'm going to say. If

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2 anyone needs any information or I can be of any help,  
3 find me on Farmingdale's website. Thank you.

4 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

6 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speakers are  
7 Lindsey Priest and Christopher Priest. Our next  
8 speaker --.

9 A.L.J. MORENO: Please do not harass  
10 the speakers. Everyone here has an opportunity to  
11 make a statement. Please be respectful.

12 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
13 Kevin McKenna and Jennifer Zellinger.

14 FROM THE FLOOR: Jennifer Zellinger's  
15 in the back.

16 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
17 speaker is Marilyn Coral -- Carroll, thank you.

18 MS. CARROLL: I'm going to read -- I  
19 want to thank you all, but I know this is part of the  
20 State. You have to respond. You have to have a  
21 discussion. Anyway, I'm a retired --

22 A.L.J. KERSEY: I'm sorry, could I  
23 just pass you the microphone?

24 MS. CARROLL: I'm sorry. Here? Okay.  
25 I'm a -- my name -- okay, I'm a retired educator and



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2 unlike that lady and the man who lived in Huntington,  
3 I live in Long Beach. And I would suspect that if we  
4 ask how many people here, the majority of the people  
5 in Long Beach raise their hand if you oppose this  
6 project.

7 Take a look. Okay. Now, why do we  
8 oppose this project? Nobody likes global warming. I  
9 mean, come on. I live here. Do I want the ocean to  
10 rise and flood my house? Of course not. But we  
11 oppose it for the following reasons. Ecological  
12 reasons, aesthetic reasons, quality of life,  
13 community.

14 Okay, doesn't a community have any  
15 rights about what they want? Should you --  
16 economics. Okay, let's say health problems, health  
17 issues were stated. Economics. Let's be honest  
18 here. Your company is partnering with B.P. You're  
19 losing money in Europe.

20 I have articles from the New York  
21 Times, et cetera, that all over Europe, these wind  
22 companies, here, there's one in Germany. What's the  
23 biggest one? Siemens something? They're losing  
24 millions. General Electric is in the wind business,  
25 and they're losing millions of dollars.

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2 Okay, you know why I brought my phone  
3 up here? Not because I'm expecting a phone call, but  
4 this is it. E.Q.N.R., you're a Norwegian company.  
5 Norwegian is gas and oil. That's how they make their  
6 money. B.P. is a petroleum company.

7 Just today you signed a deal with  
8 Austria, and you're not giving them wind. What are  
9 you giving them here? Contract, winds to 18 -- what  
10 is it you're putting here? Norway's Equinor signs  
11 five-year gas supply and with Austria.

12 It's today's -- just look on your  
13 phones or whatever, where you get your stock news,  
14 E.Q.N.R., you're signing this a contract, okay, where  
15 you're -- you're building for Austria, gas. I mean,  
16 what can I tell you?

17 I predict, and you could write this,  
18 you know, and I probably won't be alive, so the rest  
19 of you are going to have to pay for it, okay? But  
20 this is going to cost the government a ton of money,  
21 and in the end, it's not going to be worth it. Thank  
22 you.

23 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
24 speaker is Marjorie Monahan, followed by Michelle  
25 Leo. Good evening.

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2 MS. MONAHAN: Good evening.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Can't hear you.

4 MS. MONAHAN: Good evening. How about  
5 now? Is that better?

6 AUDIENCE: Louder.

7 MS. MONAHAN: That better?

8 AUDIENCE: Yes.

9 MS. MONAHAN: Okay. Thank you for  
10 allowing me the opportunity to speak. I want to --  
11 I'm Marjorie Monahan. I'm formerly a resident in  
12 Long Beach on Shore Road and now live in Island Park.

13 The Article 7 process, is it meant to  
14 maximize profits for the applicant, the developer?  
15 It's meant to minimize impact on the host  
16 communities. We're a barrier island. In regards to  
17 costs and alternatives, I want to point out the  
18 chosen cable route is in fact the shortest route,  
19 contrary to what the permit manager said.

20 The more appropriate route would be  
21 the water route, Jones Beach or through Shell Creek,  
22 but that would be more expensive. So they're taking  
23 the easiest route, which is the shortest route.  
24 Impacts of the substation in Island Park is going --  
25 the close proximity to homes, residential homes, is

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2 definitely a concern. The noise pollution, the fire  
3 safety issues, because it's unstaffed, it's very  
4 concerning.

5 The permit manager also talked about  
6 the Empire Wind One project, which is revitalizing  
7 Brooklyn with their new redeveloped Brooklyn Marine  
8 Terminal, but we're not getting a revitalization in  
9 our town. We're getting industrialized.

10 The substation area was acquired. It  
11 used to be a very popular waterfront venue. Now  
12 Island Park is going to be industrialized on both  
13 sides with the Barrett plant, POP substation, wind  
14 turbines in Long Beach, and additional P.O.I. at the  
15 Leotis site for the Hampton Road substation P.O.I.

16 Permit manager also mentioned six feet  
17 cable burial. That's not going to be enough because  
18 six feet was the Block Island's cable burial depth  
19 and those are all exposed and the -- the cost is  
20 going to get passed on to those poor residents. It's  
21 not fair.

22 I want to talk about due diligence as  
23 well. It's important to do our due diligence on the  
24 applicant because this is a very, very critical  
25 project. The planning for one, choosing a cable

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2 route through a densely populated, densely  
3 residential neighborhood is -- is pretty unethical.

4 The applicant's Beacon Wind project  
5 runs their cable 200 plus miles up the coast of  
6 Montauk all the way to Astoria simply to avoid the  
7 North Shore of Long Island. They say it in their  
8 planning documents that making a cable landfall on  
9 the North Shore would be too disruptive to  
10 residential communities.

11 Sinkholes have become --  
12 unfortunately, we've just -- we've had a series of  
13 them. Our grounds are not stable. We had one in  
14 Lido Beach earlier this summer, an additional one in  
15 Oceanside, West Hempstead, Baldwin and just earlier  
16 this week, another one in Oceanside.

17 I want to mention due diligence again.  
18 Can we choose an applicant that hasn't had an S.E.C.  
19 violation for alleged bribery to Iranian officials to  
20 obtain projects? Can we find an applicant who didn't  
21 have an incident in Ohio with a fracking project  
22 that'd gone wrong, contaminated the Opossum Creek?

23 A.L.J. MORENO: And Ms. Monahan, I  
24 apologize, but you are going to need to wrap up so we  
25 can get to the next one.

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2 MS. MONAHAN: Okay. A few more things  
3 get a little bit technical. They relate to more  
4 costs and they actually relate to your electrical  
5 case coming Thursday and I read the Equinor petition  
6 which stated that Public Service should not consider  
7 the public comments of the residents, fourteen pages.

8 Some of the -- some of the paragraphs,  
9 they say, quote, unquote, the problem is real. My  
10 response is the problem is Equinor's. Let's find  
11 another applicant --

12 A.L.J. MORENO: And Ms. Monahan --

13 MS. MONAHAN: -- more capable.

14 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

15 MS. MONAHAN: Thank you.

16 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you for your  
17 comments.

18 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Thank you  
19 for your comments.

20 MS. MONAHAN: Thank you.

21 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
22 commenter is Michelle Leo followed by Christina  
23 Kramer.

24 MS. LEO: Hi.

25 A.L.J. KERSEY: Hello.

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2 MS. LEO: Good evening.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Good evening.

4 MS. LEO: Thank you for being here.

5 AUDIENCE: Can't hear you.

6 A.L.J. KERSEY: Can you just speak a

7 little bit closer to the mic? Thank you.

8 MS. LEO: Hi. Everybody hear me?

9 Thank you very much to the opportunity to speak and

10 for coming to town to see public and personal to

11 express. Okay, here we go. I live in the

12 incorporated village of Island Park and my home is on

13 Equinor's proposed alternate cable route.

14 If Equinor is granted the project,

15 what is to stop them from going to set for alternate

16 route in front of my house? Why are our lives worth

17 so little that we should bear the brunt of this

18 project at our doorstep?

19 Residents of Island Park, Long Beach -

20 - and Long Beach and surrounding areas took time off

21 -- took time to -- from work to be here in person and

22 we aren't getting paid to be here. This should tell

23 you that South Shore residents are adamant about not

24 allowing Equinor to destroy our communities with

25 their Empire Wind Two project.

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2 It's deplorable that Equinor -- for  
3 Equinor to think it's okay to run their high E.M.F.  
4 electricity substation through residential streets  
5 and a proposed minimum 45 to 60 foot substation  
6 abutting residence homes.

7 Residents and business owners will  
8 feel the real impacts of the construction, noise and  
9 waivers to the ordinances which will destroy our  
10 health and quality of life.

11 I had a couple of questions, but I  
12 guess I'll just say them since I don't know that  
13 they're here. Equinor continues to redact documents  
14 for costs and their oil spill response plan. My  
15 question to you is, I guess, why does a renewable  
16 company need an oil spill response plan?

17 So -- oh! Long Beach Road. In the  
18 incorporated village, Long Beach Road has -- is  
19 proposed to get a horizontal directional drilling.  
20 There are two roads in and out. Residents will feel  
21 the real impacts of that traffic when the railroad  
22 train arms go down.

23 We'll sit -- we'll sit there for hours  
24 waiting to get out of Allen Park. It's going to have  
25 a huge impact on our quality of life. We're going to



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2 be virtually trapped because we don't know how long  
3 that drilling is going to stay there for. How long  
4 that drilling is going to take.

5 And I have maps of that, which I will  
6 submit to my comment. And my husband is a -- is a  
7 union worker, sleeps nights -- sleeps days because he  
8 works midnights. How is he supposed to sleep during  
9 the day if that cable does come to my alternate --  
10 the alternate route where my house is? Thank you.

11 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

12 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.

13 And you did you want me to take that?

14 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
15 Christina Kramer, followed by Mike Jacobs.

16 MS. KRAMER: Good evening. I'm  
17 Christina Kramer. I was born and raised in Brooklyn.  
18 And as a child, I came to Rockaway Beach. We learned  
19 to love the beach and nature and all that it has to  
20 offer. It was always my dream to live by the beach.  
21 And I met my husband Tim right here in Long Beach.

22 We could have lived anywhere, but we  
23 chose this beautiful city to buy our home and raise  
24 our two boys. We paid a lot for our home here, but  
25 we do recognize that this is one of the last

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2 communities in Long Island or in many cases where the  
3 middle-class family -- the middle-class working  
4 family can purchase a home and live the beachside  
5 dream.

6 We raised our boys here to care for  
7 their neighbors and to be good stewards of this  
8 planet. We told them growing up that this is their  
9 forever home and our beautiful beachside home will  
10 one day be theirs and that they should never sell it  
11 because it's a gem that should be passed on from  
12 generation to generation.

13 My husband and I both run home  
14 businesses and I also commute twice a week to the  
15 city. We persevered through Hurricane Sandy because  
16 our neighbors stepped up and we helped each other  
17 because that's the kind of neighborhood this is. We  
18 all do things for each other and we care about each  
19 other.

20 Very few people in this room know  
21 this, but I got cancer in 2019 and our family has  
22 persevered once again. 25 treatments of radiation,  
23 watching my skin burn off of my body so I know what  
24 that is.

25 In 2023, I received a letter

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2 indicating Equinor wants to bring 230,000 kilovolts  
3 to install high voltage cables and then bring it over  
4 into Island Park and jump it up to 395,000 kilovolts  
5 of high voltage E.M.F. radiation.

6 That's 1260 megawatts and I live on  
7 East Broadway. This is feet from my doorstep. I  
8 literally walk down my stairs and 10 feet to my car  
9 and that is exactly where they want to bury these  
10 volts.

11 I'm happy for Equinor because they say  
12 that New York allows 200 milligauss of E.M.F. in the  
13 -- in the environment, but New York also allows  
14 yellow dye, smoking, alcohol, bioengineered food and  
15 vaping in our State.

16 I also just learned that 63 milligauss  
17 will be right on my sidewalk where I walk my dog  
18 where we cross the street to go to the beaches. I  
19 also park my car across the street and I understand  
20 that if I leave my car and finish my phone call, I  
21 will be ingesting cumulative E.M.F. radiation.

22 I learned along the way, I learned  
23 everything -- everything I possibly could about this  
24 project and I learned how E.M.F. affects humans. I  
25 learned that E.M.F. is cumulative and I found a

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2 statistically significant study that an increase of  
3 one milligauss of E.M.F. will increase your chances  
4 of cancer and leukemia twofold, especially sensitive  
5 in children and -- and fetuses because their cells  
6 are in the developmental stages.

7 This terrifies me, not just for  
8 myself, but for my future grandchildren, I was  
9 planning on growing up here. I learned that the  
10 turbine blades are made with epoxy and resin and that  
11 they contain bisphenol A.

12 Bisphenol A is a toxic substance that  
13 attacks the endocrine system. It causes cancer and  
14 all kinds of issues with your body. These turbines  
15 will be spinning their blades at 200 miles per hour  
16 and because of the sea -- because of the sea spray,  
17 they will have what's called leading edge erosion.

18 Now this bisphenol A will get into the  
19 air and also the ocean. The fish will eat the  
20 bisphenol A and we eat the fish. The water will be  
21 picked up by the clouds in rainwater and it will be  
22 sprayed onto our aquifer and go into our drinking  
23 water.

24 Water filters cannot dissipate these  
25 bisphenol A's, but you know what can? Your stomach

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2 acid. When the -- when the epoxy gets into your  
3 stomach acid, the stomach acid will break down the  
4 epoxy, the bisphenol A will be released and it will  
5 attack the host.

6 We are the host. We don't want to be  
7 the host and I don't want my grandchildren to be the  
8 host.

9 A.L.J. MORENO: Ms. Kramer, I  
10 apologize, but I am going to have to ask you to wrap  
11 up and go to the next speaker.

12 MS. KRAMER: Yeah, you know, I think  
13 that's a little disingenuous. We waited a long time  
14 here and we deserve to be heard. We deserve not to  
15 have high voltage E.M.F. wires. We don't want cancer  
16 and we don't want our future generation to be  
17 destroyed. Thank you.

18 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
19 speaker is Mike Jacobs, followed by Charles Price.

20 MR. JACOBS: Hi, and thank you for  
21 being here. My name is Mike Jacobs. I was jumping  
22 off the Long Beach boardwalk in the early 1950s to  
23 not pay 25 cents to get onto the beach. I lived in  
24 the Algiers Hotel for a while in Long Beach and I  
25 love Long Beach.

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2 And I love what's right outside our  
3 door right here, that magnificent ocean. Listen,  
4 this we have to understand, these good people working  
5 here only are interested in what's happening,  
6 bringing these lines in.

7 There are two separate issues here.  
8 Number one is the insanity of building wind turbines  
9 in our oceans in general. When you start with a  
10 flawed science -- when you start with a flawed  
11 science, there's nowhere to go.

12 And all the things that Christina and  
13 the other people said are correct. The problem is  
14 that windmills in salt water creating electricity,  
15 10,000 miles of copper cables drilled into the ocean  
16 floor is all insanity.

17 The day will come when people look  
18 back on this project and the scam that Equinor and  
19 our state is doing, they're going to say, My God!  
20 How did we not see how insane this is? If you took  
21 the hundreds of billions of dollars that have been  
22 spent and transposed that into solar panels on every  
23 roof, that would solve it.

24 But Equinor and our State can't  
25 control every guy with a pickup truck to put solar

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2 panels on. They want control of the electric grid.  
3 But I am telling you, the day will come. We paved  
4 paradise and put up a parking lot. There it is right  
5 there.

6 Now they're going the other way and  
7 saying, now that we screwed up the land, and look,  
8 I'm all for it. I'm not a reactionary. I don't want  
9 to go into a wagon train. But now to take the ocean  
10 where our kids -- we're trying to teach them to get  
11 away from TikTok, see the natural beautiful earth,  
12 you have a responsibility, every one of you three.

13 You're the gatekeeper of how that gets  
14 to land. And in your decision, when you read all the  
15 good things that people said on your 558 things on  
16 the website, go read them. I think most of them are  
17 bots that were most probably planted by Equinor and  
18 our State of people putting in positive comments.  
19 Read them. They're canned.

20 But when you see the negative  
21 comments, it's wonderful people like this with that  
22 passion for their children. Your mothers and fathers  
23 gave you the beautiful ocean. You have a  
24 responsibility to pass that along to your children.

25 If you -- if you let this project,

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2 you're the gatekeepers of the beach. You're not the  
3 guys, ladies, or whatever to control what's out  
4 there. But you do have the keys to the beach. See  
5 what they did with local rule in New Jersey. They  
6 crushed it.

7 When they don't like when something  
8 happens, they crush it. This is lunacy on steroids.  
9 All I can ask you to do is when you're not in this  
10 room and in your quiet times with yourself, think  
11 about it. Think about boating.

12 Think about building 5,000 wind  
13 turbines from Maryland to Maine. Think about the  
14 navigational hazards. This is a bad idea that's gone  
15 wrong and no one can wake up and say, my God! We're  
16 nuts. And we are nuts.

17 Don't be part of the insanity. Be  
18 individuals. Look at it with an open mind. Don't  
19 look at the microcosm. Look at the big pictures of  
20 windmills and saltwater. And one day, someone is  
21 going to say, we're building unicorns. This is not  
22 real. Thank you. I appreciate what you've done.

23 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
24 speaker is Charles Price followed by D. Jo Eisman.  
25 I'm sorry if I mispronounced that.



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2 MR. PRICE: A lot of people follow,  
3 Mike is not the one I wanted to pick. Good job,  
4 Mike.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Could you just raise  
6 the microphone just a little bit? Thank you.

7 MR. PRICE: Better?

8 A.L.J. MORENO: Perfect.

9 MR. PRICE: Good evening. My name is  
10 Charles Price, and I want to go on a record as being  
11 opposed to the Empire Wind Two high voltage cable  
12 making landfall in Long Beach at Riverside Boulevard  
13 and then traveling through our densely populated  
14 community.

15 I've lived in Long Beach for over 35  
16 years, currently reside at 372 East Harrison Street  
17 with my wife, where we raised our family for the last  
18 26 years. It's our first and only home that we want  
19 to own and hand down to our children so that they can  
20 continue to enjoy the beautiful beach lifestyle that  
21 we created.

22 The route of this cable just does not  
23 make sense. Of all the wind turbine projects being  
24 developed and contemplated all around Long Island,  
25 Empire Wind has the most megawatts, the most

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2 turbines, is closest to the shore, and it's the only  
3 one with a high voltage cable running through a  
4 densely populated, highly trafficked route through  
5 several neighborhoods.

6 Those other projects, Beacon Wind,  
7 Sunrise Wind, South Fork Wind will either run cables  
8 hundreds of miles underwater to power complexes, or  
9 through a State county park, or a very small scale  
10 project that ran through a very small beach community  
11 where the houses are well set off the road.

12 The route of the cable does not make  
13 sense unless the developer, Equinor, is looking to  
14 minimize their costs by selecting the cheapest route  
15 for the cable with no regard to the Long Beach  
16 citizens and the impacted communities.

17 By selecting this current route  
18 through a highly populated, highly trafficked area on  
19 a barrier island with water mains, gas lines, sewer  
20 lines, sharing the subsurface under the roadway with  
21 the potential of sinkholes, Equinor has made the  
22 decision to maximize the impact of the project on the  
23 citizens of Long Beach and our community.

24 This is after the City of Long Beach  
25 and the City Council have already refused to sell or

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2 lease the required parkland to Equinor for this  
3 project. It doesn't make sense to even contemplate  
4 the running of this high voltage cable through a  
5 barrier island that has already seen the impact of a  
6 major storm and select a route for the cable that  
7 runs directly down the evacuation route for leaving  
8 this island.

9 As I stated earlier, I live on East  
10 Harrison Street between Lincoln and Monroe  
11 Boulevards. My street runs to Long Beach Road and to  
12 the bridge leaving the island. Everyone in town  
13 knows this is the preferred route to bypass Park  
14 Avenue and Long Beach Road to get to the bridge.

15 Even out of towners' know, as every  
16 time there's a pop up storm, my block is backed up  
17 with traffic as people try to evacuate the island as  
18 they leave the beach and the beach clubs to the east  
19 of the city.

20 It doesn't make sense that this street  
21 and this current route can even be considered for  
22 this type of project and how can we let Equinor  
23 dictate to us that this is the route that is best for  
24 our community.

25 I stand here today before the New York

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2 State Public Service Commission and respectfully  
3 asked to reject the Empire Wind proposal so that no  
4 landfall camp -- cable runs through Long Beach or any  
5 other densely populated community on the barrier  
6 island. Thank you.

7 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
8 speaker Dr. Jo Eisman followed by Patrice Mullaney.  
9 Dr. Jo Eisman.

10 A.L.J. KERSEY: Yes?

11 MS. EISMAN: Hello?

12 A.L.J. MORENO: Hi, there.

13 MS. EISMAN: My name is Jo Eisman,  
14 I've been a resident of Long Beach for 40 years, I  
15 brought my kids up here.

16 A.L.J. MORENO: I'm sorry. Could you  
17 just speak a little closer to the microphone. Thank  
18 you.

19 MS. EISMAN: I've been in the -- I've  
20 been a resident of Long Beach for 40 years. I  
21 brought my kids up here, I had a practice here for 40  
22 years with my husband. I lost my house and my office  
23 to a 100 year flood, they're happening much more  
24 frequently than every 100 years.

25 I wonder how my children feel about

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2 bringing children into this boiling world. Every day  
3 is a new weather catastrophe, extreme rain,  
4 mudslides, floods, droughts, wildfires. Scientists  
5 attribute this to climate change caused by excessive  
6 CO2. NASA says humans have raised atmospheric CO2 by  
7 50 percent.

8 In 1920, when electricity was becoming  
9 widespread, people resisted it and staged protests.  
10 They needed to be convinced that electricity was a  
11 good social and civil improvement. They were --  
12 change is hard, people are uncertain of the future,  
13 but people won't find getting the Barrett plant in  
14 Oceanside offline too hard.

15 That filthy plant spews black smoke  
16 into the air, it uses Reynolds Channel to cool itself  
17 and puts hot, heavy metal laden water back into the  
18 channel. It sucks up marine life. This plant will  
19 not be used if we have the turbines.

20 With a zero carbon footprint, you  
21 know, people are very worried about the E.M.F.s, I  
22 wondered how many of these people that are so E.M.F.s  
23 did what I did. I saw when I bought my house that  
24 there were wires right outside my window, I had  
25 special agents from the electricity company come to

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2 my house and tell me how much E.M.F.s were coming  
3 into the house, and they were.

4 And I placed my beds of my children in  
5 areas so that the existing power lines that are  
6 already giving you E.M.F.s that you're even unaware  
7 of were not giving it to my children.

8 We will be on the forefront of the  
9 future if we have this wind project like Cape Cod,  
10 like East Hampton, and like Palm Springs, California.  
11 And as a huge bonus, we will benefit economically  
12 with created jobs and \$50 million from the project.

13 It will keep our taxes down and  
14 hopefully our children's future safe.

15 A.L.J. MORENO: Again, please be  
16 respectful. Thank you very much.

17 MS. EISMAN: Thank you.

18 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
19 speaker is Patrick Mullaney followed by Elizabeth  
20 Roche.

21 MR. MULLANEY: Good evening, Patrick  
22 Mullaney. Thank you very much for the opportunity to  
23 speak. I'm sure it's been a long day. For the  
24 record, I agree with many of the sentiments here  
25 tonight but I'll try and keep my point on point, if

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2 you will.

3 As a member of the F.D.N.Y. I've  
4 personally been on scene for over 100 manhole fires,  
5 power plant emergencies and in the last few years,  
6 lithium ion battery fires. In a city as large and  
7 diverse as New York, the city has always been  
8 fortunate to have funding, manpower and facilities in  
9 place to mitigate many of these emergencies. In the  
10 last few years e-scooters, mopeds and e-bikes have  
11 created an emergency even unique to the most seasoned  
12 of first responders.

13 Battery fires have escalated  
14 exponentially and have been the cause of many  
15 injuries and deaths. So my concern is this, in an  
16 area as densely packed as Long Beach and its  
17 neighbors, where are we going to get the resources to  
18 mitigate any of these potential emergencies when they  
19 occur here?

20 Electrical wiring and manholes in this  
21 city are sometimes located several hundred feet below  
22 the city, where here it will only be six feet and the  
23 main cause of these electrical fires is salt. The  
24 fumes from these fires -- excuse me, the fumes from  
25 these fires are very toxic and extinguishment can be

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2 exhausting.

3 Lithium-ion batteries, their fires are  
4 even more concerning. This type of battery storage  
5 is even being considered in some of these  
6 substations. How are local emergency services going  
7 to be equipped with the resources and the manpower  
8 needed for any of these emergencies?

9 Mutual aid, which is when surrounding  
10 departments come and help, is an option as we've  
11 seen, but as we've seen from Super Storm Sandy to  
12 some as recent as the last few weeks, this area and  
13 its surrounding neighborhoods flood to the point of  
14 inaccessibility.

15 What then? It is for that reason that  
16 I'm personally, and many of the other ones, that I  
17 plead with you not to have this cable brought through  
18 our city and into Island Park and into Oceanside.  
19 Thank you.

20 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

21 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
22 speaker is Elizabeth Roche. Elizabeth?

23 MS. ROCHE: I will Pass.

24 A.L.J. KERSEY: Pass?

25 MS. ROCHE: Pass.



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2 A.L.J. KERSEY: Pass, okay. Our next  
3 speaker is Erica Riedel followed by Debbie Slott.

4 MS. RIEDEL: Hi, can you hear me?

5 A.L.J. KERSEY: Yes.

6 A.L.J. MORENO: Yes.

7 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

8 MS. RIEDEL: I'd like to start off by  
9 saying that I do believe in global warming and the  
10 need for clean energy alternatives but we have to  
11 look at the benefit versus the risk in every  
12 situation. I'm concerned about this project for many  
13 reasons but I'm going to highlight one today because  
14 my family is my number one.

15 Our health and wellbeing should always  
16 win. There's not enough research to support the  
17 safety of high voltage cables being underground in a  
18 residential area. We're already exposed to E.M.F.s  
19 to support our life's conveniences, and these high  
20 voltage cables will just add on top of those E.M.F.s.

21 They can't be looked at separately,  
22 you have to add all of our exposures to get the real  
23 number. The recent mailing noted that there will be  
24 a 345 kilovolt cable, actually two, buried  
25 underground in front of my home.

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2 I'm not aware of any research  
3 illustrating health and safety with high voltage  
4 cables of this magnitude being added to our E.M.F.  
5 exposure in residential areas. I'm in the health  
6 field and knowledgeable about science and the  
7 importance of -- and the importance of independent  
8 studies.

9 I, on multiple occasions, requested  
10 these such studies to be provided to me from the  
11 community outreach rep from Equinor. Two different  
12 reps because the first rep left the region. That  
13 never happened.

14 There should be clear information  
15 explaining to the public how much E.M.F.s, how deep  
16 it is being buried, and what the plan is to shield us  
17 from these E.M.F.s. Are they going to plant trees  
18 along the path of the cables to absorb the E.M.F.s  
19 because the street is not protecting us.

20 And I'd like to also point out that  
21 there were two different slides. The first gentleman  
22 said that they were going to be buried six feet, and  
23 then on future slides it says three to four feet, so  
24 which is it?

25 The science says to limit your time

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2 near power lines and cables to reduce your E.M.F.  
3 exposures. So does this mean that now I can't sit on  
4 my front porch because I'm worried about my health?  
5 Science says that increased distance equals increased  
6 safety. Science says that cables should be at least  
7 50 meters from residents, this is 164.04 feet at  
8 minimum.

9 My family lives in a ranch home on  
10 Lincoln Boulevard. This is not 164 feet away from  
11 this cable. Science says 0.5 milligauss exposure is  
12 a margin of safety as closer to 1 milligauss is  
13 linked to childhood cancers.

14 How many milligauss of E.M.F. are we  
15 getting when you add this cable? The gentleman  
16 actually answered that question tonight and clearly  
17 it was way more than 1 milligauss, which has been  
18 proven in the studies linked to childhood cancers.

19 Our additional exposures of E.M.F.s  
20 all day, every day from this cable is irresponsible  
21 and criminal. Would any of you choose your family to  
22 be in the path of this cable? Well, it's not fair to  
23 expose anyone to this. I should have a choice and  
24 the government's job is to protect its people.

25 Again, we have to look at the risk

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2 reward here. The risk is just too great. Our health  
3 is a priority. I'm asking for help and protection  
4 from this exposure on the record. I oppose Equinor's  
5 plan. Thank you.

6 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
7 speaker is Debbie Slott followed by Kristen Donovan.

8 MS. SLOTT: Hi, thank you for hearing  
9 me out. I do believe in global warming -- warming  
10 and I do have solar. So I am not an anti-climate  
11 person but I am strongly opposed to this project.

12 As an Island Park resident and a South  
13 Shore resident my whole life with a home very close  
14 to the proposed substation, the danger the proposed  
15 substation and high voltage cables running through  
16 densely residential areas has an impact on our  
17 health, environment, safety, and property values.

18 It will harm the environment, oceans,  
19 more than making any movement towards climate change.  
20 In island -- in Island Park there are only two main  
21 roads as evacuation routes. If there is a fire,  
22 terrorism to the substation, there is no on-site  
23 surveillance. Why?

24 It is the only evacuation route for  
25 the most of the populated area of Long Beach where

1 10/11/2023 - Empire Offshore Wind, LLC - 22-T-0346  
2 there is no hospital. The substation is being built  
3 too close to homes, health care, apartment buildings  
4 in the area. The substation has to be at flood  
5 elevation, this also proposes a danger to Island Park  
6 in the way of flooding.

7 With flood mitigation, there is still  
8 flooding in our area. It is -- we don't know what  
9 the effects will be. Equinor is asking for many of  
10 our local laws and ordinances to be overturned,  
11 including noise from construction, substation  
12 turbines, among many other issues.

13 There's a huge, huge list of  
14 exclusions. Why? Our laws are for our safety. Why  
15 do they need to be overridden if the project is  
16 deemed safe? Property values of Long Beach and  
17 Island Park will be severely impacted.

18 As it is, Equinor is asking for money  
19 from the State because the project is not cost  
20 effective as it stands. This impacts our taxes and  
21 increases our utility bills. There is no upside, it  
22 is a detriment to our small shore communities.

23 I grew up here and chose to settle  
24 here to be on a shore community away from little  
25 industrialization to be one with the natural beauty

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2 of our beaches, amazing wildlife that is now going to  
3 be in extreme danger.

4 There is no place in the world with a  
5 wind turbine project as large and invasive as this.  
6 Why -- if it had to be, can't it go through the  
7 waterways rather than a densely populated areas of  
8 our communities?

9 We do not know what the future health  
10 effects or dangers will be. We are guinea pigs,  
11 please reject this project. We are all very scared.

12 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

13 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you for your  
14 time. Our next speaker is Kristen Donovan followed  
15 by Deborah Dorenfast.

16 MS. DONOVAN: Hello, thank you for  
17 coming. My name is Kristen Donovan. I am a lifelong  
18 New Yorker. I reside at 15 Parma, Island Park, which  
19 is literally between the substation and where they  
20 want to run this cable, my house will be affected on  
21 both sides.

22 I believe that the federal government  
23 and the State government are violating my rights.  
24 They are not taking into consideration what we want  
25 here. They are working on pride and ego for somebody

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2 who wants to have this on their administration.

3 This is not my issue. My issue is a  
4 number of things. I agree with so much of what was  
5 said, so please don't take me not repeating that as  
6 not agreeing, okay. So I am 100 percent opposed as  
7 long as my family is, also, I speak for them.

8 So like I said, I am here to make a  
9 public announcement that I -- I agree that the levels  
10 of danger to my financial, physical, mental and  
11 emotional health are not being considered. That  
12 ocean out there is access to my God, that's what I  
13 look at, that's what I sit at, and that's what I  
14 pray.

15 I don't go to a church, I don't go  
16 anywhere else. I live here for a reason. That's  
17 access to my spiritual health. In an environment and  
18 the world that's going on right now that we're  
19 talking about how serious mental health is, I am far  
20 from alone.

21 On 9/11, my family came down and sat  
22 on that beach, we were not alone, we were surrounded  
23 by residents who find peace, and solace, and hope,  
24 and faith on that beach. What they're asking to do  
25 is come here and violate my personal space, I paid --

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2 I can't even tell you what I pay.

3 I love my home -- I love my home, I  
4 love my job, I love my community. I'm so blessed  
5 that I get to live here and it's not okay for an  
6 entity to come here and act like what we feel like,  
7 and believe, and want is not valid.

8 So -- and I will say to you, the  
9 things that I've heard from Equinor are not accurate,  
10 and what I'm going to say that for is because I've  
11 done a lot of research, and no, it's not on Google,  
12 and blah, blah, blah.

13 I am the person who talks about the  
14 United State Coast Guard and how they were requested  
15 to make a -- a study on the port access of the  
16 Northern New York lane, which is our waterways. As  
17 stated in this article, they develop -- as they  
18 stated, they develop -- they plan on developing this  
19 whole lease area, the whole lease area, right.

20 This is a following of the excerpt  
21 from this, which I'm happy to give to you as public  
22 record. It states that Equinor Wind has now  
23 submitted the lease, blah, blah, blah, in which it  
24 proposes only a one nautical mile setback.

25 It justifies its proposal by quoting



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2 that the 2012 United Coast Guard guidance document  
3 and not the updated 2015 United States Coast Guard  
4 that submit -- was submitted to the B.O.E.M. prior to  
5 the lease of the sale and in the time of alignments,  
6 it recaps that Equinor completely ignores the 2015  
7 Coast Guard recommendations in favor for an outdated  
8 and supersede the -- the 2012.

9 So this document here states exactly  
10 what they did, that this is not safe. The people  
11 they spoke to, the Coast Guard who -- who man our  
12 waters and keep us safe, they spoke to the -- that's  
13 really -- I shouldn't have talked about the God  
14 thing.

15 Okay. They talked to Port Authority  
16 who planned on in 2050, doubling their capacity. The  
17 cruise lines, the fisheries, the tugboats, the  
18 tugboats want five mile nautical miles because they  
19 can't stop those boats. And when one of those boats  
20 crashes into one of those turbines, everything's  
21 going to hell, and it's going to burn and we can't  
22 put it out.

23 And those fumes and all those  
24 chemicals, that stuff's getting in our air and our  
25 water. And the other thing nobody's talking about is

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2 just the, you know, just that little thing about  
3 communication. Those turbines, they -- what they do  
4 is they disrupt communication waves.

5 And they -- if you're out on that  
6 water, the Coast Guard and everybody else who uses  
7 the -- the frequencies, they can't speak to each  
8 other. So I have a whole another thing about how  
9 whales are worth two hundred -- \$2 million.

10 And if they want to have a paper that  
11 says that they should be not responsible for killing  
12 whales, I think they should be fined \$2 million every  
13 time they do kill a whale and let that go to saving  
14 more whales.

15 Stop them in their tracks. This is  
16 very dangerous stuff. And that, where they want to  
17 build it, the only access to the food store --.

18 A.L.J. MORENO: Do you want me to --.

19 A.L.J. KERSEY: You can leave those  
20 with us. Our next speaker is Deborah Dorenfast  
21 followed by Michael Zapson.

22 MS. DORENFAST: Hi, my name is Deborah  
23 Dorenfast, I live in Island Park, and thank you for  
24 this opportunity. I'm all for green energy, believe  
25 me, I recycle every little thing I can. I -- I

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2 really believe in saving the environment.

3 I am vehemently opposed to this entire  
4 project, the whales washing up that never used to  
5 wash up before this project started. Birds dying,  
6 these turbines, somebody asked me to present this  
7 question.

8 What happens in a hurricane? What's -  
9 - what's going to happen? What happens when these  
10 blades fall in the water? I believe in Texas they're  
11 piling up somewhere and we already know how toxic  
12 they are. But my main reason for being here is about  
13 the cables. I live on a street called D'Amato Drive,  
14 it's a small street, one way in, same way out.

15 I counted five, maybe six footsteps to  
16 where they're going to put this cable. I am so sure  
17 I am going to have cancer, I'm going to die because  
18 of this project because the science says 10 feet  
19 away, 25 feet away.

20 This is so close to my home,  
21 neighbor's homes, not just my street, you've heard  
22 from all these other people in Long Beach. This --  
23 this is terrifying and even if your bed isn't close  
24 to it, the cars are right over it.

25 It's a small street, people park

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2 there, people gather and -- and they talk there. A  
3 little over a week ago, September 30th, about 9:30 at  
4 night, I went for a glass of water, no water. We had  
5 a water main break, the water break -- main on this  
6 little street is less than about 40 years old, 40  
7 years old.

8 And what came up, sand, muck and  
9 water, talk about disruption. Today or yesterday,  
10 what was there, a sinkhole a mile from my house, what  
11 about the sinkholes in Lido Beach. It's too close,  
12 where in the world, they have not answered any of our  
13 questions.

14 Where in the world is a project like  
15 this so close to residents? They have not presented  
16 any science to make us feel like this isn't going to  
17 be the most dangerous thing for us and our families.  
18 So please, I think this is one of the worst things to  
19 happen, I think solar panels, Yee-haw, great stuff.

20 But I think this is just going to kill  
21 our communities, kill tourism, kill our property  
22 values for no return, absolutely no return. Thank  
23 you for hearing me out.

24 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

25 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next

1 10/11/2023 - Empire Offshore Wind, LLC - 22-T-0346  
2 speaker is Michael Zapson followed by James Lynch.

3 MR. ZAPSON: Michael Zapson, lifelong  
4 Long Beach resident, welcome to Long Beach.

5 THE REPORTER: Can you speak to the  
6 mic?

7 MR. ZAPSON: Yeah, sure. I'm speaking  
8 for renewable energy. Wind power is renewable  
9 energy. It does not emit toxic substances or  
10 contaminants into the air. It does not generate  
11 waste or contaminate water. We need renewable  
12 energy.

13 From -- from this window we can see an  
14 old power plant contaminating the air we breathe and  
15 the water which surrounds us every day, 24/7. You  
16 can see the plant, it's right there, it's smoking,  
17 it's always smoking. We need renewable energy.

18 Our water levels are rising, our  
19 houses and infrastructure are flooding, we're having  
20 100 year storms seemingly every year. The good news  
21 is we do have the power to do something about it.  
22 Windmills have zero emissions, they are inexhaustible  
23 and are a step forward toward a cleaner future.

24 We should be doing everything we can  
25 to target a cleaner, healthier, safer future. Having

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2 said all that, I still do not understand the proposed  
3 route through Long Beach and the same should be  
4 reconsidered. The route, not the project. Thank  
5 you.

6 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

8 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
9 James Lynch followed by Debora Stonitsch --  
10 Stonitsch.

11 MR. LYNCH: Good evening, thank you  
12 for coming down. I wish I had some nicer things to  
13 say. I think what you did was a grave injustice to  
14 people that you -- you held a hearing during the day  
15 and you took questions, and you're not doing that  
16 tonight.

17 And you've allowed Equinor, I know  
18 some of them left and they came back in, but you  
19 allowed them off the hook as well. This community  
20 has their back against the wall and I know people  
21 have talked about the maritime, sea life, cancer,  
22 health problems, mental health problems.

23 So I want to talk about the fine --  
24 the finances and how this doesn't work. From  
25 Atlantic City up to Cape Cod, somebody just spoke but

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2 we'll be on the leading edge of Cape Cod. Well, I  
3 got news for you, just this morning, reporting in the  
4 Cape Cod Times is that the power turbine going into  
5 Barnstable, Massachusetts was just stopped because  
6 they -- they -- the company defaulted, they are all  
7 defaulting.

8 And they're hoping to get out of their  
9 contracts because they can't deliver what they  
10 promised. When Equinor was here a year ago, over  
11 Bridgeworks, they held a meeting with the Chamber of  
12 Commerce. They -- right from the start told  
13 everybody your rates aren't going down, they're going  
14 to go up.

15 Well, what are they going to go up by  
16 and they figured 5 percent, okay. Atlantic City up  
17 to Cape Cod, they're looking at, at least a 40  
18 percent increase. We can't afford that, our city  
19 council has -- has led us into a financial abyss as  
20 it is. We're going to take care of that.

21 Our problem here is what you people  
22 are going to do and you need to go back and you need  
23 to take the totality of all these comments. This  
24 thing is not economically feasible, it's not. It may  
25 become a thing of the future, I doubt it.

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2 By the time this thing gets  
3 straightened out with lawsuits and so forth, we'll be  
4 10 years down the line. They've been trying to do  
5 this since 2006 and they have five turbines up off  
6 Boston, only two of them work consistently.

7 So it's a flawed project and it's  
8 flawed economically. These companies are all pulling  
9 out and leaving Austin and Equinor to find new  
10 partners. So it would have been nice, I wish I could  
11 have been here earlier today. It would have been  
12 nice if we were talking something other than the  
13 cable coming across the ground because all these  
14 things add in to the full picture.

15 I started listening to these or  
16 getting involved with this because I wanted a  
17 moratorium on the marine life. I'm saying, where are  
18 all these environmentalists, where are they? To come  
19 out here and -- and -- and protect marine life, they  
20 did it for 40 years. They said that, you know, this  
21 is what they're here to save life.

22 Until we find out that they're going  
23 along with Equinor because they're getting paid by  
24 Equinor. Adrienne Esposito, who spoke here earlier.  
25 Adrienne Esposito, who spoke here earlier for the



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2 Concerned Citizens Environment, she gets paid off,  
3 they're all getting paid off.

4 My friend, Mike Jackson, his company  
5 is doing work for Equinor. So I mean, it's just --  
6 it's -- I'm not saying he is, his company is, they're  
7 representing the -- the municipalities. So this is  
8 just incredible how they're putting money.

9 They hired a company called D.R.V. or  
10 D.M.R., they're a -- they're a company that does  
11 publicity for them. I met with them and they told us  
12 we're just going to flood the town with money because  
13 we have to do it. It's part of the community  
14 benefits program.

15 There's going to be no money left to  
16 do these projects, absolutely none. Our city council  
17 and our local governments see the twinkling lights,  
18 oh, we can solve all our financial problems. They  
19 can't. At best, Island Park and Long Beach were  
20 offered \$26 million over 25 years.

21 When these companies go belly up and  
22 we're stuck with them and left with the -- with the -  
23 - the crap that's out in the ocean, we're going to be  
24 on the hook for that. This is a financial disaster,  
25 never mind a health disaster, and a maritime

1 10/11/2023 - Empire Offshore Wind, LLC - 22-T-0346  
2 disaster.

3 I ask that you take this and come back  
4 here again, and maybe bring the whole board with you,  
5 so they can see the concern and the -- the fright in  
6 the people's faces here. This is our whole life  
7 here, and it's getting destroyed. Thank you.

8 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

9 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

10 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
11 Debora Stonitsch followed by Rachel Schembri.

12 MS. STONITSCH: Hi, thank you for your  
13 time tonight. My name is Deborah Stonitsch, I live  
14 in Long Beach for 41 years. I raised my two children  
15 here and I am a very proud community member. You  
16 know, when Hurricane Sandy hit, I really thought that  
17 that was the end of our community, it was devastated.

18 And we came back so strong from  
19 Hurricane Sandy that now we are a bustling beach  
20 community. For residents, vacationers, second  
21 homeowners, it has just transformed and the fact that  
22 we are thinking that wind energy belongs in this town  
23 across our shoreline, 950 feet tall wind turbines, 13  
24 miles out, I mean, that will destroy everything we've  
25 built to this point.

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2 And it will change the landscape of  
3 this community, it will lessen our property values.  
4 It will destroy any tourism or any thought of a  
5 second home here, we have buildings going up on the  
6 boardwalk that are worth \$3 to \$6 million.

7 And you know how they're advertised,  
8 unobstructed views of the ocean. Well, they better  
9 do their homework because they are going to be very  
10 obstructed views and at night there will be flashing  
11 lights. And another thing, I'm not going to go into  
12 all the things that most people said.

13 I am -- everything that everybody here  
14 that was against this, I am in agreement with,  
15 especially the health issues. I am a tinnitus  
16 sufferer and one thing that those turbines can cause  
17 is tinnitus. They make a sound, especially when  
18 there's that many of them going across the horizon,  
19 that will be audible from our beaches, and God only  
20 knows, from our homes.

21 And I don't want to live like that. I  
22 raised my children here and I thought that they were  
23 going to grow up here and move back home with their  
24 children. And I am telling them, do not buy a home  
25 here until the dust settles on this because you don't

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2 -- I don't want you living here.

3 This will be -- I don't want my  
4 grandchildren to have childhood leukemia and I just -  
5 - the congestion in this community, I'm not  
6 complaining about it, but how are we going to take  
7 two to four years of construction across some of our  
8 major thoroughfares as well as the fact that these  
9 cables are only like three to five feet below our  
10 streets.

11 I -- I'm not -- this is devastating to  
12 me. It's devastating to our community and we are the  
13 guinea pigs for what I consider to be a fail -- a  
14 failing technology. This will be obsolete in --  
15 before those turbines, they only last 20 years,  
16 before they're even at their life cycle, this  
17 technology will be obsolete and it -- the costs are  
18 astronomical.

19 Newsday just reported yesterday that  
20 Empire One, their original proposed megawatt per hour  
21 cost is -- was going to be \$118, it is now up to 160.  
22 Empire Two, what was 107 is now 177. Beacon Wind,  
23 118, now 190.

24 This is from Newsday and Newsday has  
25 been supporting wind energy forever and ever, and

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2 they are now starting to see the light on this and  
3 this will increase wind energy costs almost up to 66  
4 percent, and for what? We're taking a community,  
5 you're destroying it, you're destroying a beautiful  
6 ocean, our beautiful, majestic animals.

7 And for -- I don't understand. It's  
8 not green energy. It's also not energy independence  
9 for our country. They're made in China. They're  
10 being brought in by Norway. I mean, I don't  
11 understand why this is even happening, let alone  
12 here.

13 I don't think it belongs anywhere. I  
14 think we need a moratorium to figure out what is the  
15 better way to end fossil fuel or coexist with it at a  
16 lesser rate than -- than this. And I think we, at  
17 the very least, if you're not going to reject this  
18 project, is to request a moratorium so that we can  
19 research it more and learn more about the effects  
20 environmentally, the impact it's having on us.

21 And the downfall of this community  
22 that worked so hard to build back after Sandy. I'm  
23 sorry. That's all I have to say. Thank you for your  
24 time.

25 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

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2 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Next speaker is Rachel  
4 Schembri followed by William Phillips.

5 MS. SCHEMBRI: Good evening.

6 A.L.J. KERSEY: Good evening.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Evening.

8 MS. SCHEMBRI: I have prepared a  
9 little bit more of a something lengthy to say but  
10 first I just want to say that I am strongly and  
11 vehemently opposed to this project happening anywhere  
12 near my home or this barrier island.

13 Definitely, I'm in favor of figuring  
14 out some kind of a renewable energy source but I'm  
15 shocked that there was such a severe lack of common  
16 sense prior to this moment right now, that we're even  
17 here talking about this for all of the absurd reasons  
18 that have so been clearly pointed out.

19 It's shocking to me that nobody has  
20 stopped to think that just because something can be  
21 done, doesn't mean that it should be done and I'm  
22 here to go on the record tonight so that I can look  
23 my daughter, and her friends, and all of my  
24 neighbors, and my family in the eye and say that I  
25 did something, I stood up, I spoke, I might not have

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2 been the most eloquent speaker in the room or the  
3 most educated about it.

4 I'm a 15-year resident of the city.  
5 My husband is a 30-year resident of the city, and my  
6 daughter is a 13-year resident of the city. We too  
7 plan to remain here, retire here and hopefully have  
8 future generations of Schembri's here.

9 And right now, that's in jeopardy  
10 because of this project, the -- who wants to come to  
11 a beach town and look at wind farms? It's the most  
12 absurd thing I -- I think I've ever heard in my life.  
13 And I am here because I have absolutely nothing,  
14 zero, nothing to gain, monetarily, politically and  
15 everything to lose by allowing this carnival to  
16 continue. Thank you.

17 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

18 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
19 speaker is William Phillips followed by Stephen  
20 Gawron.

21 MR. PHILLIPS: Good evening, Bill  
22 Phillips here. Thank you for allowing me to speak.  
23 I am a 100 percent against a windmill factory in the  
24 waters off my neighborhood and I am a 100 percent  
25 against the high voltage power line that Equinor

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2 wants to run beneath our community to connect that  
3 windmill factory to a substation in Island Park.

4 I, like most, understand the need to  
5 reduce or eliminate fossil fuel consumption to  
6 protect our planet but just because a few people come  
7 to our community with a plan on how to accomplish  
8 this, doesn't mean that it is a good -- it is a good  
9 plan.

10 A good plan makes sense on several  
11 fronts, this plan makes little sense on any front.  
12 Evidence exists that this power line could affect the  
13 health of our citizens, especially those that live  
14 along the route, or attend the grade school that  
15 exists along that route.

16 Equinor and others can cite this study  
17 or that study that asserts that this cable presents  
18 no danger, while those against the installment of  
19 this cable can present their own studies that assert  
20 that, in fact, this cable is dangerous.

21 I wonder if those that could benefit  
22 most from this project, executives at Equinor,  
23 shareholders at Equinor, leaders in Albany, I wonder  
24 if they would be comfortable living in homes directly  
25 above a power cable of this magnitude.



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2 I think everyone in this room knows  
3 the answer to that question. I wonder if these same  
4 people would be comfortable sending their children to  
5 a school that is located on top of that cable route.  
6 I think everyone in this room knows the answer to  
7 that question.

8 I wonder if these same people would be  
9 comfortable living in a home that exists 150 yards  
10 from this substation like the one planned at Island  
11 Park. I think everyone in this room knows the answer  
12 to that question.

13 I wonder if these same people had a  
14 choice between two similarly priced homes, one along  
15 the route of a 345,000 volt power line and one that's  
16 two miles from that power line, which one would they  
17 buy? I think everyone in this room knows the answer  
18 to this question.

19 If we all know the answers to these  
20 questions, then why should we even consider Equinor  
21 studies that shows there's no risk. If the  
22 executives at Equinor and the leaders in Albany  
23 actually lived in a sleepy little beach town in which  
24 a multinational company wanted to run a 340,000 --  
25 45,000 volt cable line under their homes, I wonder if

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2 they would ask, why does it have to go through our  
3 town?

4 Is there an alternate route, one that  
5 doesn't implicate homeowners? Is your project really  
6 worth the risk? Is this whole -- from eastern Long  
7 Island to Long Beach to Brooklyn, a couple of  
8 thousand Empire State building sized windmills, 14  
9 miles off our beaches. Is this whole project really  
10 worth it?

11 According to the numbers, this whole -  
12 - this whole project will account for only 14 percent  
13 of the energy needs of New York State. Seriously, 14  
14 percent, like that guy said before, we could do  
15 solar, we could do natural gas, small nuclear, just,  
16 you know, we could do seven here, three here, four  
17 there, and this whole project goes away.

18 E.M.F. cables, E.M.F. substations,  
19 dead whales, complete upheaval of our ocean's  
20 ecosystem, the devaluation of our homes and  
21 businesses, declines in visitors and tourism. Five  
22 year disruption of our way of life while a cable is  
23 laid, an increase, yes, an increase in our electric  
24 bills on and on and on.

25 On so many fronts, this Equinor plan

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2 is incredibly ill conceived, this whole project is  
3 not worth the risk to the people who live here. So  
4 why are we being forced to accept this risk if the  
5 executives at Equinor or the leaders in Albany lived  
6 here, would they risk it?

7 I think everyone in this room knows  
8 the answer to that question. Thank you.

9 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

11 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
12 Steve Gawron followed by Jacqueline Lyle.

13 MR. GAWRON: Good evening --

14 A.L.J. MORENO: Evening.

15 MR. GAWRON: -- to Your Honors and the  
16 New York State P.S.C. Commission. My name is Steve  
17 Gawron, I speak for both myself and as a  
18 representative of the Island Park Civic Association  
19 of which we're a party to the Article 7 proceedings.  
20 Nice to meet you in person.

21 During the two public sessions back in  
22 March, there were several of us community members  
23 that requested that you take a ride down here and  
24 actually take a look at our neighborhoods and see how  
25 densely populated they are. Thank you for coming

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2 down here.

3 I certainly hope that while you're  
4 here you actually have a few minutes to spend some  
5 time driving around looking through our towns that  
6 this project will have a direct impact upon.

7 Towns that are caught actually between  
8 a rock and a hard place, and by this I mean Island  
9 Park -- the Island Park community in particular, is  
10 facing a huge school tax increase due to tax -- due  
11 to a tax setting court case that was recently settled  
12 very unfavorably, not to mention other financial  
13 strains that -- not to mention other financial  
14 strains that our community faces.

15 This project might actually offer some  
16 relief, yet we fear the unknown of the consequences  
17 of having these cables running through our towns or  
18 having a substation built right in our backyards.  
19 Please take a few minutes and actually drive the  
20 proposed cable route, then take some time to look at  
21 the area where they plan to build the substation in  
22 Island Park.

23 Take a good look at how closely it  
24 abuts right up against both residential area and a  
25 nursing home. Then when you go back up to your

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2 offices in Albany, please make sure you pull out the  
3 proposed maps and the diagrams and closely study the  
4 myriad of issues such as fire, security, noise,  
5 safety, that we're all concerned with. Things that  
6 you've all heard about here tonight.

7 Please make sure that if you decide to  
8 give the stamp of approval on this project that the  
9 builder will be held to the strictest standards  
10 possible and all protocols that will ensure our  
11 safety and our wellbeing.

12 I do not envy the task that is put in  
13 front of you, you guys, ladies, have a tremendous  
14 responsibility and a decision to make that will not  
15 only affect our communities here but potentially the  
16 lives of millions of New Yorkers.

17 At least with you being here, in the  
18 presence of the people tonight, you can look us in  
19 the face as you speak to us and also remember the  
20 looks of the fear in our eyes, and the trepidation in  
21 our voices that we have regarding this project, and  
22 for all offshore wind for that matter.

23 As a nonpartisan Commission, please do  
24 not allow politics, clout, or influence your decision  
25 making process. Thank you again for coming here,

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2 thank you for allowing the public to speak their  
3 minds, and I hope that you'll take a lot of what we  
4 said tonight into deep consideration when you make  
5 your final decision to either alter, modify and deny,  
6 and/or approve this application that's in front of  
7 you.

8 We, the people, must have the full  
9 faith and trust in your decision making process. And  
10 since I finished up a hair early, I would like to say  
11 one other thing and I don't want this to tarnish what  
12 I said here.

13 I'm kind of disappointed in your  
14 decision tonight, number one, not to afford the  
15 second session to have the same ability as the  
16 earlier session to speak, you know, the question and  
17 answer session. I know you said Equinor would go out  
18 in the hallway, the public could speak to them out  
19 there, that's great.

20 But then everybody doesn't get to hear  
21 and participate and learn, and hear questions and  
22 hear answers. Thank you very much.

23 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

24 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

25 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is

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2 Jacqueline Lyle followed by Jane Finnegan.

3 Jacqueline Lyle. Jane Finnegan.

4 Our next speaker is Sarah Nicholas  
5 followed by Thomas Baraka. Okay. Our next speaker  
6 is Veronica Dalton followed by Darlene Haut. If you  
7 could just let us know what your name is when you  
8 come up. Thank you.

9 MS. DALTON: Hi.

10 A.L.J. KERSEY: Hi.

11 MS. DALTON: I'm Veronica Dalton. I'm  
12 sorry. I'm not very comfortable speaking publicly.

13 A.L.J. MORENO: It's okay.

14 MS. DALTON: I'm sorry?

15 THE REPORTER: Hold the microphone,  
16 please.

17 MS. DALTON: So as I was saying, I'm  
18 not comfortable speaking publicly and I'm extremely  
19 nervous but I feel that this is so important that I  
20 have to say something.

21 A.L.J. MORENO: Uh-huh.

22 MS. DALTON: Like many, like most  
23 people here, I am opposed to it. I -- I also -- I  
24 live in Island Park. I've lived in Island Park for  
25 just over 20 years. I am a mom, first and foremost,

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2 two disabled children, and but I'm also a retired law  
3 enforcement.

4 So besides which there are many first  
5 responders in Long Beach, there are very many, most  
6 of them were down at 9/11. We were told that the air  
7 was safe and we still went in, and for that I -- I  
8 battled my -- I had my fight with cancer also.

9 So needless to say, when I heard that  
10 a substation was going to be within steps of my  
11 house, I was concerned, I have one son who had a  
12 history of seizures, he's better, I don't want him  
13 going -- getting cancer. I have another son who is  
14 autistic, he is doing much better.

15 But again, as a mother, you want to  
16 protect your kids. As a retired law enforcement, I  
17 want to protect -- I've protected strangers and I did  
18 what I had to do. Now, I'm asking the Commission to  
19 protect us, we are up against -- I feel like it's a  
20 David and Goliath situation but I went to Bridgewater  
21 and I talked to a scientist, right.

22 And I asked him, do you have cables  
23 running through your backyard? He wouldn't answer  
24 me. And I looked, do you have a wind turbine in your  
25 backyard? He wouldn't answer. Actually, from my



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2 understanding, they -- they've answered very few  
3 questions.

4 There was a professor from Farmingdale  
5 earlier, she said she likes Long Beach, she comes  
6 here for ice cream, that's very nice. My kids went  
7 to Long Beach High School. My kids have been on the  
8 track team, Long Beach, because we're connected, that  
9 we're this connected.

10 That if you wanted your kids to go to  
11 this school, or sports activity, I have friends, I  
12 spend more time in Long Beach than I do in Island  
13 Park, actually. But it's my choice obviously, I  
14 chose to live here. After 9/11, I wanted a safe  
15 place for my kids to live, right?

16 I tried to do what I had to do to  
17 protect them. I don't want it taken away, I don't  
18 want it taken away where I have to now choose their  
19 health and move somewhere else and run the risk of  
20 moving again because I don't know what I'm going to  
21 move to.

22 I don't want a cable that they're  
23 saying it's going to be one minute its five feet,  
24 then the next minute it's three feet down, which is  
25 it?

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2 I know in my backyard if we dig down,  
3 three feet we hit water, okay. We are constantly  
4 being flooded, we just -- just a couple of days ago  
5 water in our -- in our garage, I was the lucky one,  
6 that's all I had, a little bit of water.

7 Other people have water in their  
8 basements, you know, we're constantly going through  
9 this, we're used to doing the battle, we're used to  
10 building up again, right. But we cannot fight this  
11 battle if you're going to put that much power running  
12 through our residents.

13 They said before they have never done  
14 this before, they have never run through a  
15 residential neighborhood, then why do this here --  
16 why do this here? Not only that, but that substation  
17 is unmanned and I know from security reasons, the guy  
18 from Brooklyn who's supposed to respond, we will all  
19 burn before they come.

20 The fire department is not trained to  
21 deal with how to handle -- how to put out that fire.  
22 They have not been trained, they don't have the  
23 equipment to fight the battle. So you are tied --  
24 their hands are tied. They can't help us if they  
25 wanted to.

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2 This is all the things that we have to  
3 contend with and we're willing to fight, we're all  
4 willing to fight, we're here. I'm supposed to be  
5 doing something else but I'm here and I'm speaking to  
6 you and I hate speaking but we're going to do it.

7 We'll do what we have to do and we'll  
8 continue to fight, I -- Judge Moreno, I spoke to you  
9 during Article 7 on that online Zoom --

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Uh-huh.

11 MS. DALTON: -- and I invited you to  
12 come down and I asked you to please see -- please see  
13 that substation which is homes right behind it. It's  
14 dark now but I would be willing to take you right now  
15 in my car and drive you so you could see those homes  
16 --

17 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

18 MS. DALTON: -- and you could see that  
19 nursing home. I mean, literally I could pick  
20 something up and throw it, and that's how close it  
21 is, all right.

22 There used to be a restaurant, it was  
23 pops, it was music, we heard it, I can hear when Long  
24 Beach has a baseball game because -- because the  
25 water carries the sound --

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2 A.L.J. MORENO: Uh-huh.

3 MS. DALTON: -- so I can hear it, of  
4 course, I'm going to hear that substation, all right.  
5 Let alone who's getting sick and the cancers and  
6 everything. And again, going back to that professor  
7 who says we won't see those wind turbines, well, when  
8 you stand on the boardwalk on a clear day, we can see  
9 Jersey.

10 We can see the Empire State Building  
11 from the bayside, that's a lot further than the 13 or  
12 14 miles that they plan to put those turbines out,  
13 right. And each turbine is the size of the Chrysler  
14 Building, how could we not see that? But getting  
15 back to the cable, we don't want this, we have one  
16 evacuation route.

17 If they have construction for three to  
18 five years or more, that's our only way out with the  
19 flooding. So basically, approving this plan is  
20 saying, good luck, find your own way out. All  
21 taxpayers, we all are working hard, we're all trying  
22 to do what we have to do but it's almost like --  
23 approving this project would almost be like you're  
24 stacking it against us.

25 Not that I'm not saying that we won't

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2 continue the fight but let's make the -- the  
3 battlefield a little bit even as far as I'm  
4 concerned, you know, they're getting caught so many  
5 different ways. They're being fined constantly for -  
6 - for their practices, they're not telling the truth,  
7 they're getting caught left and right, and yet  
8 they're still being allowed to continue with this  
9 project?

10 Either, please reject it or at least  
11 stop it and look into what they're doing. It's  
12 whether or not they do or use an alternate route.  
13 I'd hate to think that the wetlands were more  
14 important than my son's life, or anyone's life in  
15 here.

16 You know, I like -- listen, I'm all  
17 for nature, I love being out by the beach and I love  
18 being by the water and I love -- I go for hikes, I  
19 take them up and down North Shore, I believe in that  
20 -- I believe in that.

21 But my thing is first humans --

22 A.L.J. MORENO: Uh-huh.

23 MS. DALTON: -- it has to be -- we  
24 have to come first --

25 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

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2 MS. DALTON: -- and then run the cable  
3 underneath the wetlands, they've done it everywhere  
4 else, they could do it here too. Thank you very  
5 much.

6 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.

7 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
8 Darlene Haut followed by --

9 A.L.J. MORENO: John Busweiler.

10 A.L.J. KERSEY: -- John Busweiler.

11 MS. HAUT: Darlene haut --

12 A.L.J. KERSEY: Darlene Haut?

13 MS. HAUT: Yeah.

14 A.L.J. KERSEY: Yes.

15 MS. HAUT: Okay.

16 A.L.J. KERSEY: Next. Followed by  
17 John Busweiler.

18 MS. HAUT: Got you, thank you.

19 A.L.J. KERSEY: Sure.

20 MS. HAUT: Good evening, Judges.

21 A.L.J. MORENO: Good evening.

22 A.L.J. KERSEY: Good evening.

23 MS. HAUT: I am Darlene Haut. I am  
24 here speaking as a resident. I live on Blackheath  
25 Road and my front yard is actually in Lido Beach, my

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2 backyard is in Long Beach. I'm also part of the  
3 Article 7 settlement negotiations and I represent the  
4 Lido Home Civic in those negotiations.

5 And I have to tell you, it doesn't  
6 feel like a negotiation at all.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Okay. I will just  
8 caution, just don't mention anything about the  
9 content of the negotiations.

10 MS. HAUT: Okay. It just feels like a  
11 discussion over wording, that's my comment. It does  
12 not feel like a negotiation, that's my feeling.

13 A.L.J. MORENO: Okay.

14 MS. HAUT: The U.S.A. is in a race to  
15 install offshore wind because of renewable goals put  
16 in place on a national and State level. We all want  
17 to wean off of fossil fuel but the collateral damage  
18 of the offshore wind expansion to meet the goals are  
19 not being fully considered.

20 We know offshore wind will not reduce  
21 energy bills and will cause tremendous disruption to  
22 our community. And although we're being told that  
23 the ocean impacts are manageable, nobody will know  
24 for sure for many years to come.

25 With so many wind farms in the -- in

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2 the works, the East Coast is on track to have  
3 irreparable and major changes. Unfortunately,  
4 current studies only look at the impact of one  
5 individual wind farm. Where are the studies that  
6 show the impact of all the wind farms in totality on  
7 our water quality, sea life, boating, safety, and  
8 fishing industry?

9 In Equinor's filings, the cable were  
10 routed to come to Long Beach. I live in Lido Beach  
11 and I asked Equinor at their Allegria community  
12 meeting, what would happen if you can't go to Long  
13 Beach and you need to use one of the alternate sites,  
14 such as Lido Beach.

15 They said they would need to start the  
16 regulatory process from the beginning. I am alarmed  
17 that more recent filings now show the cable is slated  
18 to go to Long Beach or Lido Beach. How did this  
19 happen? Does this mean that if they use what was  
20 formerly called an alternative site like Lido Beach,  
21 that now they don't have to start over the regulatory  
22 approval and they get fast tracked?

23 Will Lido Beach get the full  
24 opportunity to consider the impacts of the cable?  
25 All local communities are so afraid of the cable



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2 running through their neighborhoods. Again, why are  
3 we not zooming out and looking at a bigger picture?

4 In Equinor's alternative cable route  
5 study, they never looked at running its cable line to  
6 Jones Beach and continuing north up the Ocean parkway  
7 avoiding high density areas. Instead, they merely  
8 looked at Jones Beach and then a shortcut west  
9 through Freeport and determined that it was unfair to  
10 burden Freeport because it's an underserved area.

11 Also, Equinor should have included in  
12 their alternate route study using Anabaric Juno  
13 Express Cable that goes to Jones Beach. This  
14 proposed shared cable could serve Equinor as well as  
15 additional future wind farms for an overall safer,  
16 more economical solution on the whole.

17 Lastly, Equinor's alternative route  
18 study overlooked the simplest of cable solutions,  
19 which would be to use the cable line all -- already  
20 being laid down for the Equinor wind project going to  
21 Brooklyn. Why lay two cables when you could lay one?

22 We are not Europe. Europe does not  
23 get hurricanes like what we do and it is unknown if  
24 these wind turbines can withstand anything above a  
25 Cat 3. What happens if the wind farm is destroyed?

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2 Is Equinor responsible for the decommissioning or  
3 could they just walk away somehow?

4 We could quibble about the small  
5 regulations that will ultimately allow Equinor to  
6 build offshore wind in this high density area or we  
7 can -- or can't we ask more fundamental questions?

8 Is Equinor really building the safest  
9 and smartest project and are we approving this  
10 project too fast when there are just too many risk  
11 and unknowns? Thank you for your time.

12 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

13 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

14 Our next speaker is John Busweiler  
15 followed by Hal Waltman.

16 MR. BUSWEILER: Good evening.

17 A.L.J. KERSEY: Good evening.

18 A.L.J. MORENO: Good evening.

19 MR. BUSWEILER: Okay. Good evening, I  
20 was originally going to come up here just to -- I was  
21 here at the morning session and I wanted to relay for  
22 my neighbors an incident that I thought was very  
23 telling about Equinor.

24 Unfortunately, the decision to not  
25 allow questioning from the same neighbors has now

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2 made me think that maybe some of my questioning about  
3 Equinor has bled over to this proceeding.

4 But I'll go ahead and I'll read my  
5 prepared statement so that my neighbors might have an  
6 answer as to why the decision to cancel the question  
7 -- question portion of the proceedings occurred.  
8 They're very smart, I'll let them connect the dots.

9 Okay. The comment that I would like  
10 to make is regarding the applicant, Equinor's  
11 technical capabilities and or their corporate  
12 integrity.

13 It is related to an incident that you  
14 or all in audio and visual witnessed to in this  
15 morning's session. If you recall, the very first  
16 question to the applicant from a gentleman sitting  
17 right over there on the left-hand side that they were  
18 asked after giving their prepared slideshow was about  
19 the claim that Equinor made regarding the total  
20 amount of electrical capability -- capacity, excuse  
21 me, to be carried by the cables running through the  
22 streets, through our communities on their way to the  
23 first substation.

24 It was put to the Equinor's spokesman  
25 who had just before he gave his presentation,

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2 represented himself to be a qualified subject matter  
3 expert. And you would expect that as somebody who  
4 was the spokesman for Equinor.

5 The question that was asked of him was  
6 because he made the point that the line was only  
7 going to carry 345 kilo -- kilowatts of power. The  
8 gentleman pointed out that, well, your slide shows  
9 two lines. So would that in fact make the total  
10 amount of power going to the substation 690 and he  
11 said, and we can get the court reporter note, okay,  
12 and then, there was some back and forth when the man  
13 insisted that he was right, okay.

14 Silence. Question. Silence. He  
15 finally asked his technical expert after five minutes  
16 of silence and repeating the same answer. He finally  
17 got the tech guy from Equinor to stand up and  
18 basically say, yes, you are correct. The total  
19 amount of voltage going into the first substation is  
20 690, simple math.

21 So that leaves me with a question  
22 here. Is this a mistake of the head or is this the  
23 mistake of the heart? If the expert himself is not  
24 quite sure about the power going to the substation,  
25 then he is not technically qualified, his company is

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2 not technically qualified to run this project.

3 And if he was -- and he was -- and if  
4 he was trying to deceive us, okay, by not telling us  
5 the truth and hoping that his stalling and his non-  
6 answering would just basically go away, then they're  
7 not qualified by virtue of their business integrity  
8 to run this project.

9 So Equinor is either too ignorant to  
10 operate or too far below the board to be entrusted  
11 with a complex project of this magnitude with the  
12 inherent possible catastrophic consequences and  
13 should be disqualified on that basis alone.

14 We've heard about Equinor's business  
15 dealings before. They're well documented. Okay.  
16 This is who we're choosing to jump into bed with?

17 In closing, I would like to say that,  
18 while I understand the need for bureaucratic agencies  
19 within the government to process the routine, mundane  
20 day-to-day business of government, there are just  
21 some things that are too consequential to be cited --  
22 to be decided in this kind of a forum with too many  
23 unanswered questions and with such life changing  
24 consequences.

25 So for these and many other reasons,

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2 this decision to move forward should rest solely and  
3 only with the people who are in the line of fire.

4 The residents of Long Beach, Island Park, excuse me,  
5 and yeah, thank you, and Lido Park.

6 We are the ones who are in the line of  
7 fire. They don't get a vote to say what goes on in  
8 our community. Okay. And the Governor's office  
9 doesn't get to say what goes on in our community.  
10 That flag -- that flag that you're sitting under  
11 represents democracy not autocracy. Thank you.

12 A.L.J. MONERO: Thank you.

13 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
14 Hal Waltman followed by Jerry Rivers. Hal Waltman?  
15 Jerry Rivers to be followed by David Sochrian --  
16 Sochrian excuse me.

17 MR. RIVERS: Good evening.

18 A.L.J. KERSEY: Good evening.

19 MR. RIVERS: Good evening, everybody.

20 A.L.J. MONERO: Good evening.

21 A.L.J. KERSEY: Good evening.

22 MR. RIVERS: My name is Jerry Rivers.

23 I'm a senior environmental scientist for the North  
24 American Climate, Conservation, and Environment  
25 headquarters in -- in Roosevelt.

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2 I was born and raised in Long Island.

3 I love the beach. I love the wetlands. I used to go  
4 there when I was a young boy but the greatest -- the  
5 greatest threat of Long Island is climate change.

6 Climate change is destroying our lives  
7 and destroying our planet. It's also and contrasts  
8 with what we have now, which is extremely  
9 detrimental, and has put us to the brink of a climate  
10 crisis.

11 My recent experiments with climate  
12 impacts last -- a couple of weeks ago, we -- we had  
13 hundreds of years of rainfall amounts, we broke the  
14 record for the third time in recent years. We had  
15 massive smoke from Canada. Bunch of wildfires  
16 worldwide, massive hurricanes, massive heat waves  
17 killed millions of people across the planet in -- in  
18 five continents.

19 What -- what are you concerned -- what  
20 -- my concern about losing if we don't change -- if  
21 we don't take any action. I was at the United  
22 Nations a month -- a month ago speaking with world  
23 leaders from 200 countries to come up with a solution  
24 to end the fossil fuel sources to end the climate  
25 crisis right now and put clean sources of clean

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2 energy on the table and what we have concerned with  
3 we don't take any action what would happen to Long  
4 Island, sea level still rising in -- in Greenland.

5 It's contained -- continued to melt,  
6 once it's melting Long Island cease to exist in -- in  
7 -- in the world will be redrawn, the map of the world  
8 would be -- will be -- will be redrawn overall if we  
9 don't lead to transition to stop climate emissions  
10 that are needed now, what will happen to our  
11 descendants.

12 I do not repeat any of the anti-wind  
13 dis -- disinformation even to, you know, if you will,  
14 just highlight and reinforce the fake narrative that  
15 forces us to play on their terms which are not real  
16 the truth and all possessions are on the side of  
17 them.

18 I should -- we should create a new  
19 level for the discussion that people like wind and  
20 its benefits because they do just don't get their  
21 child screaming about it and social media does not  
22 amplify anyone who comes with an explanation.

23 Why are we doing this? Because  
24 climate change is raging in our communities and some  
25 have faced environmental degradation for years. We



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2 all stand to be underwater from it. Its impacts on  
3 visibly, more severe decades earlier than predicted.  
4 It is from the extraction, transports, refining and  
5 burning of fossil fuels into our atmosphere, compared  
6 to the devastation of fossil fuels and climate  
7 change, are wrecking over every corner of the entire  
8 ocean, right now.

9 Offshore wind is responsibility to  
10 develop with the safeguards and restriction is  
11 mandated for the environment. By comparison, it  
12 poses few real long terms harm, will help the  
13 escalating ocean devastation from fossil fuels and  
14 climate change.

15 Our -- our current fuels used to  
16 create electricity result in illness and harm to  
17 humans, wildlife, and marine life right now. And it  
18 is growing worse every day. It's not a choice  
19 between wind and nothing. It's choosing between the  
20 climate changing, extracted and pollution causing  
21 fuels, we are now using that cause of the harm in  
22 which we are -- used more than ever in the future or  
23 move to win in other renewable which or decrease the  
24 harms dramatically, that's the choice.

25 Also, wind is less harmful to wildlife

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2 per energy output versus the fossil fuels and  
3 pipelines that will be needed to be -- to build and  
4 use in mine and drilled instead the wind will cost  
5 much -- much less. We are replacing the dirty,  
6 expensive, bird killing, life-killing, climate-  
7 changing Barrett power plant with clean energy for  
8 the same electricity we use now -- electricity in our  
9 lives if not just the ability to get it from much  
10 lower impact resource.

11 Long Islanders know what climate  
12 change is and see its effects and being surrounded by  
13 water in the ways of storms, invasive melting climate  
14 impacts. This is directly because of burning fossil  
15 fuels, offshore wind will displace the need for them  
16 and their use.

17 A.L.J. MORENO: And Mr. Rivers, I  
18 apologize, but I would have to ask you to wrap up.

19 MR. RIVERS: All electricity is  
20 already safely transmitted with cables. They are  
21 everywhere now from the big Long Island sound cable  
22 to the Neptune cable which crossed much of Long  
23 Island right now to the ones of those in your house  
24 and there's nothing new.

25 I will leave -- I will leave to a

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2 better world for my children and my grandchildren.

3 Hopefully, they'll have a better future for

4 generations to come including everybody else here.

5 They have to have the future for generations to come

6 to for a healthy planet.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.

8 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next -- our next  
9 speaker is David Sochrian followed by Erica Okon.

10 David Sochrian. Erica Okon. Our next speaker is

11 Jenny Sobey. Jenny Sobey.

12 Our next speaker is Joe Levy. Joe  
13 Levy. Our next speaker is Charles Gary followed by  
14 Delia Kulukundis, sorry if I -- Kulukundis, I  
15 believe.

16 MR. GARY: All right. Can you hear  
17 me?

18 A.L.J. MORENO: Yes.

19 A.L.J. KERSEY: Yes.

20 MR. GARY: Yes? Okay. I don't think  
21 it is critical but I serve as a -- as a J.H.O. in my  
22 job. And we really keep track of the three minutes  
23 and people you're calling names, they're not here  
24 because it's just keep -- some people have been  
25 allowed to speak for like six, seven, eight minutes.

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2 So I just feel like maybe we should be  
3 a little strict so we can have a timely end to this  
4 meeting. In any event, my comments tonight, I know  
5 this hearing is about the siting of the cable. So  
6 I'm going to assume that the wind turbines are going  
7 to be sited where they are planned.

8 Of course, there are questions about  
9 the economic viability of this project. Recent  
10 Newsday articles have highlighted that. So perhaps  
11 this is all moot because with no project, there is no  
12 cables but we'll assume that the -- that the turbines  
13 are present.

14 The siting of the cable is obviously  
15 being run through, you know, highly dense residential  
16 communities. There are alternatives, however, that  
17 seem, you know, more reasonable perhaps in Jones  
18 Beach or through a wetland or, you know, several  
19 miles underwater out of -- out of -- out of you know,  
20 out of the way to the inland grid facility therein.

21 So I'll just suggest then since  
22 they're pretty obvious when you look at the map. One  
23 is Long Beach Road. Okay. There is -- I think  
24 there's no residential -- there's no residential  
25 dwellings on Long Beach Road, North of Park Avenue.

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2 A.L.J. MORENO: Again, please don't  
3 interrupt the speaker.

4 MR. GARY: The other -- the other  
5 suggestion I would have, which is also obvious is the  
6 Long Island Railroad right of way, you can take that  
7 all the way up through Island Park, through Long  
8 Beach, all the way to Barrett. There are obviously  
9 other issues with that being that it's located within  
10 an environmental justice community.

11 So we have political problems perhaps,  
12 but the Long Beach Road option seems the most viable,  
13 although it is a county road and the county is -- has  
14 different leadership, perhaps than in the Governor's  
15 office in terms of their commitment to wind energy.

16 The other issue I have with this  
17 project, is people are talking -- the people that are  
18 speaking in support of this project, are talking  
19 about the Barrett plant going away.

20 This project does not include the  
21 Barrett plant being decommissioned. It's not part of  
22 the environmental review. It's not part of the scope  
23 of work for Equinor. And therefore, if this project  
24 were to be built, you're going to have an active and  
25 operational wind farm and you're going to have an

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2 active and operational natural gas power plant there.

3 So the whole point of this green  
4 energy revolution is sort of mooted by the point  
5 that's -- by the -- by the fact that the existing  
6 power plant that it is meant to replace is not being  
7 decommissioned as part of the project.

8 So it becomes sort of this white  
9 elephant because what is the net positive? When  
10 there's no wind what's going to happen? The power  
11 plant is going to be running just like it is today.

12 What if something were to break or if  
13 there's cable maintenance, you hear about these cable  
14 maintenance issues on Long Island sound cables all  
15 the time. So what happens? The power plant is going  
16 to run.

17 This project is not -- this project  
18 cannot viably exist, forgetting about the economic  
19 subsidies which are going to be significant, cannot  
20 viably exist for the people of Long Island because  
21 without the presence of the natural gas facility, the  
22 Barrett plant, there is not going to be the  
23 consistent source of reliable energy that we  
24 obviously need and deserve.

25 But this project doesn't even talk of

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2 -- it does -- what is the environmental benefits.

3 There is no net positive because there is still going  
4 to be the Barrett plant and I feel -- I'm a resident  
5 of Long Beach but if I was in Island Park, I would be  
6 probably multitudes more frustrated about that point  
7 because I'm going to be stuck with the Barrett plant  
8 to the north and I'm going to be stuck with the  
9 substation to the south, and I'm going to have the  
10 high voltage cable running through my -- my village.

11 So I feel for them more than perhaps  
12 some of the people in Long Beach. Anyway, my time is  
13 up.

14 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

15 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

16 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
17 Delia Kulukundis followed by James Hyde.

18 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you, Hi, Delia.

19 MS. KULUKUNDIS: Hi. My name is Delia  
20 Kulukundis and I'm a volunteer with the grassroots  
21 climate group, 350 Brooklyn. Our organization is an  
22 independent local chapter of -- chapter affiliate of  
23 the nationwide climate organization, 350.org.

24 Our chapter has over 4,000 members and  
25 since 2015 we have worked to promote renewable

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2 energy, stop new fossil fuel development and promote  
3 clean air and a stable climate for all.

4 I'm here to voice my support for the  
5 Empire Wind project and its application for  
6 interconnection. We need as much renewable energy to  
7 plug into our grid as possible as quickly as  
8 possible. I travel out here to give testimony  
9 because the decisions made here affect all of us  
10 across the State, not just the residents of Long  
11 Beach.

12 I'm here because the current energy  
13 system is -- is not working. That system includes  
14 offshore oil drilling, leaky pipelines, fracked gas  
15 looters, and dirty power plants all along our rivers.

16 Right now the air is consistently more  
17 polluted in areas around every gas fired power plant  
18 in our region. Air pollution has real impacts. We  
19 see it in the higher rates of asthma and other  
20 respiratory diseases, and in neighborhoods like  
21 Astoria.

22 For years my organization has been  
23 working to close these polluting gas fired power  
24 plants and replace the energy they generate with  
25 renewables. That goal is finally in sight with the



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2 promise of offshore wind.

3 Offshore wind is especially useful for  
4 helping us close the most polluting peaker plants  
5 because offshore wind generates some of the highest  
6 levels of energy during the afternoons and evenings  
7 when the demand for energy for electricity is  
8 highest.

9 But meanwhile, as we're waiting for  
10 renewable energy projects to be approved, built and  
11 connected, organizations like mine have to  
12 continually fend off attempts from gas utilities like  
13 National Grid to repower -- quote, unquote, repower,  
14 old gas turbines and build new pipelines, compressor  
15 stations, liquefied natural gas tanks and vaporizers,  
16 which they always propose to build in disadvantaged  
17 communities.

18 When we found out that the Beacon Wind  
19 Project will plug into the N.Y.C. power grid in  
20 Astoria, we celebrated, knowing it would become  
21 easier to eventually shut down the gas fired power  
22 plants that are still there.

23 We felt similarly about Empire Wind  
24 One plugging into the Gowanus substation. By  
25 plugging into Long Island's power grid Empire Wind

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2 Two actually has a chance to help replace some of the  
3 energy generated by the Barrett power plant. One of  
4 the largest and most polluting power plants in the  
5 region.

6 A.L.J. MORENO: Please don't  
7 interrupt.

8 MS. KULUKUNDIS: That plant pollutes  
9 the air that we all share. We need offshore wind so  
10 that we can shut down offshore oil extraction so that  
11 we can stop buying fracked gas from Pennsylvania  
12 after we banned it in this State.

13 Gas that pollutes -- that gas is  
14 polluting the sea by leaking from the pipelines that  
15 carry across New York Harbor and it pollutes the air  
16 all the way back to the fields where it was cracked  
17 and flared in the first place.

18 So as this Commission decides whether  
19 to approve Empire Wind's application for transmission  
20 and interconnection, I ask you to consider the harms  
21 that continue to be done to my community. If this  
22 project is not approved or if this project is  
23 delayed.

24 A.L.J. MORENO: Again, please don't  
25 interrupt the speakers. Thank you.

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2 MS. KULUKUNDIS: Please approve this  
3 application without delay. Thank you.

4 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

5 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Do you  
6 remember how they pronounce the name, James?

7 A.L.J. MORENO: James Haut.

8 A.L.J. KERSEY: James Haut followed by  
9 George Purcell or George -- looks like George  
10 Percell.

11 MR. PUVALL: Hello, my name is George  
12 Puvall and I'm the Executive Director of L.I. Energy.  
13 We are on this barrier island and we have fought for  
14 environmental causes for almost 10 years.

15 We started by helping shut down the  
16 L.N.G. port that was promised off of our shore. We  
17 moved to making Long Beach the first place in Nassau  
18 County to get rid of plastic bags.

19 How many people were with us for those  
20 campaigns? Well, I just want to say a few things  
21 here about in general. We support offshore wind.  
22 It's not a decision of just having a wind farm for no  
23 reason. There are reasons why we need it.

24 The Barrett power plant right now is  
25 obsolete. You have a choice, you can build a new

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2 gigantic power plant in Oceanside or we can have  
3 offshore wind. Either way, we're going to have to  
4 keep the lights on somehow.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Excuse me, one moment,  
6 sir. I understand that people may have differing  
7 viewpoints but please do not interrupt the speakers.  
8 It's very disrespectful. Please continue.

9 MR. PUVALL: Thank you. So it's not a  
10 choice between wind and nothing. We need to make  
11 responsible choices for our future, for our  
12 children's future. Climate change is the issue of  
13 our time and there -- the reason that it seems to  
14 people that environmental groups are checked out on  
15 this process is because it's not a conspiracy.

16 We all know that climate change is the  
17 number one issue getting to the process that stops  
18 the things that are creating climate change is the  
19 number one important thing that we need to see done.  
20 And having said that, we want to see a very well  
21 regulated and a very well watched process and build,  
22 and maintenance, and continuation.

23 I'm not here to speak for Equinor.  
24 I'm here to speak for our environment and the good of  
25 our future. Thank you.

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2 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

3 A.L.J. MONERO: Thank you.

4 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
5 James Kelly followed by Kellie McCarthy. James  
6 Kelly. Kellie McCarthy.

7 A.L.J. MONERO: She's coming.

8 MS. MCCARTHY: Hi.

9 A.L.J. KERSEY: Hello.

10 A.L.J. MONERO: Hi, there.

11 MS. MCCARTHY: I'm from Oceanside.

12 A.L.J. MONERO: I'm sorry. Could you  
13 just pull it just a tiny bit closer to you? Thank  
14 you.

15 MS. MCCARTHY: The first I heard about  
16 this project I found a classified ad in the back of  
17 the Herald about the cables running, you know, down  
18 Mott Street. It's -- that area where they want to  
19 put the substation in Oceanside is a complete flood  
20 zone.

21 When it is flooded, there's jet skis  
22 people ride in that area, you have Lawson Hill, and  
23 then, below it, that's where they want to put the  
24 substation which is a complete flood zone.

25 You also have across Lawson Boulevard

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2 and Mott is a Oceanside Cove which houses seniors --  
3 it's a senior living, senior homes and it also is a  
4 community. There's also Ocean Lee, that's another  
5 community right there, and then, there's Ocean  
6 Harbor.

7           They built the Costco across the  
8 street, I don't know if they'll stay even if this  
9 project goes through. I do know, you know, I -- I was  
10 opposed to it when I found out it was even going  
11 through Long Beach, I felt bad for the people of Long  
12 Beach.

13           And then, when I saw the classified ad  
14 that it was even coming to Oceanside. The People's  
15 running -- I can't imagine waking up and having them  
16 20 feet from my home. You know, we all have had  
17 friends and family who were down at the Trade Center  
18 cleaning up and were again told the air was clean.

19           You can go work down there and I can't  
20 tell you how many funerals I've been to, you know,  
21 close -- close family friends that have died from  
22 09/11 injuries, illnesses.

23           So for us to totally trust that  
24 someone says these are okay, I mean, it's common  
25 sense, you know, could you put your faith in that? I

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2 couldn't anymore, you know, there's no way and even  
3 for me in Oceanside having that -- that -- that  
4 substation, and if I saw a picture of one where there  
5 are columns and they have, you know, wires, going  
6 back and forth to avoid being struck by lightning, I  
7 mean, we all hear when a transformer blows up how  
8 explosive that is. I can't imagine if that  
9 substation ever gets hit by lightning.

10 And it will -- it will flood -- I  
11 mean, in Oceanside, we just had probably a fifth  
12 water main break but Long Beach Road was shut down.  
13 We've always had them on Lawson Boulevard. I mean,  
14 it's just -- it's just common sense and I just am  
15 here.

16 I oppose this, my family opposes it  
17 and I'm trying to get the word out more in Oceanside.  
18 There really wasn't much -- I mean, there was a  
19 meeting that I went to and that's how I found out  
20 about this meeting. So thank you and I oppose it.

21 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

22 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

23 A.L.J. KERSEY: Our next speaker is  
24 Theresa -- Theresa McSpedon -- Theresa McSpedon  
25 followed by Thomas Lismore.

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2 MS. MCSPEDON: Hi.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Hi.

4 A.L.J. MORENO: Hi, there.

5 MS. MCSPEDON: Good evening.

6 A.L.J. KERSEY: Good evening.

7 MS. MCSPEDON: My name is Theresa  
8 McSpedon, I live in Island Park, 1003 California  
9 Place North. I live on a small canal. The water is  
10 across the street from my house. I've been here for  
11 32 years and I've raised four children.

12 I am here, wasn't going to speak, I  
13 want to thank everyone before me who was opposed,  
14 they said it all. I am here to pull on your  
15 heartstrings. I truly believe that everyone here is  
16 for -- everyone here is all for green energy.  
17 However, not 240 wind turbines in our backyard.

18 Our backyard, Island Park, Oceanside,  
19 Long Beach is the beach. Our small beach communities  
20 and we are not benefiting. You have heard all the  
21 downfall so eloquently said by everyone here before  
22 me and I thank everyone for that. I am begging you  
23 to not allow this project to happen.

24 So to end my time, I live, like I  
25 said, in Island Park. I just can't picture myself, I



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2 want you to picture yourself with my beach chair and  
3 my cooler going down to the beach and looking at 240  
4 beautiful wind turbines just 13 feet -- 13 -- right  
5 out -- right here.

6 My boyfriend is a fisherman. I live  
7 in a block with four commercial fishermen, older  
8 gentlemen, I am here representing my neighbors and my  
9 family.

10 To finish, I am here for my newly  
11 married 32-year-old daughter, who just bought a  
12 \$550,000 home in Island Park, along with four of her  
13 very best girlfriends, all in Island Park, whose  
14 families live here, where they all grew up.

15 I wanted to tell her not to buy her  
16 new home. She just bought it. She just moved in. I  
17 wanted all of these young adults to be here tonight  
18 but I am praying that all of you will make my  
19 decision to not stop my daughter from buying her new  
20 home a viable one because you will not allow this  
21 horrific project to happen.

22 And I thank everyone before me again,  
23 who was opposed. They said everything I agreed with,  
24 please say no to this and allow my children to live  
25 in this amazing community that we all love and honor.

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2 Thank you.

3 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

4 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you. Our next  
5 speaker is Thomas Lismore.

6 MR. LISMORE: Good evening. Thank you  
7 for being here. I've lived in Long Beach for 30  
8 years. My wife's family has lived here for 50 years.  
9 My father-in-law built the Pinetown houses. So we're  
10 here.

11 A.L.J. MORENO: Apologies. Sorry  
12 about that.

13 MR. LISMORE: When these folks from  
14 Equinor give public presentations, which I would call  
15 dog and pony shows. There is a woman there who has a  
16 PhD in some form of biology and I have no question  
17 that she is a reputable scientist. She is also a  
18 marketer for the company and she makes comments  
19 about her ability to do necrologies, autopsies on the  
20 animals.

21 A.L.J. MORENO: I understand. Uh-huh.

22 MR. LISMORE: And it's not just whales  
23 we're talking about it's also porpoises, it's also  
24 lots of other animals. And in my opinion, she is  
25 presenting herself as a scientist, which to me she is

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2 trained as. I completely grant that. But she is  
3 here or at these dog and pony shows as a marketeer.  
4 She is a seller.

5 And in my opinion, you know, this  
6 afternoon someone said we need the wind turbines  
7 because we'll be free of billionaire oilmen, right?  
8 We aren't. She works for billionaire oilmen, who are  
9 now hustling a new global oligopoly under the name of  
10 wind turbines.

11 They take information from the same  
12 website which I read. Not only do they want 240 of  
13 these things but the integrated plan calls for about  
14 2,500 on the East Coast, similar amounts on the West  
15 Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, of things that have been  
16 half rejected now in Germany, where they're going  
17 back to coal, they're using brown coal.

18 And these things are the Empire State  
19 Building. They're as big as the Empire State  
20 Building and approximately half of that. So let's  
21 say 40 -- let's say 40 stories are propellers and as  
22 was mentioned this afternoon, propellers are made of  
23 a plastic and part of the bonding process is a toxin  
24 that a Swedish ecological group said is the worst  
25 toxin we know, short of nuclear power.

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2 And that toxin is in the blade and as  
3 the blade rotates, now again, something as high as  
4 the Empire State Building with blades that are being  
5 friction with the wind, and the blades are bleeding  
6 this toxin as dust, and that dust winds up in the Eco  
7 chain, including in our bellies but certainly in the  
8 fish bellies.

9 Now, part of the science, as I hear it  
10 from Equinor is that we have been so nice recently to  
11 the whales, that the whales are living large. And  
12 they're out there fat and they're getting hit by  
13 ships but the fact is that no one does a necropsy, an  
14 autopsy on the ears of the whales, or the inner brain  
15 of the whales.

16 And for all we know, and there's some  
17 good science there, people are working on it. For  
18 all we know, the sonar that's being used is torturing  
19 the whales and their heads are getting so blown up by  
20 the noise that they commit suicide. They commit  
21 biocide and run themselves into ships.

22 We don't know that. So people ought  
23 to slow down and think about this for a while. Thank  
24 you.

25 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

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2 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: I want to remind  
4 members of the public that they may submit comments,  
5 public comments throughout these proceedings by the  
6 other means described earlier and in the notice of  
7 public statement hearing issued on September 20th,  
8 2023.

9 We want to thank everyone for their  
10 time and their attention this -- this evening.

11 A.L.J. MORENO: Hold on a second.  
12 Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. DONOVAN: I do have one point I  
14 wasn't able to make that I feel that's unique that  
15 has not been made.

16 A.L.J. MORENO: Sure.

17 MS. DONOVAN: Again, Kristen Donovan,  
18 15 (unintelligible) Island Park. I just want to say  
19 that -- that in Island Park, the only firemen are  
20 volunteers. It is a very small house. They also are  
21 our garbage men. They are our village employees.

22 It is a very small community of -- of  
23 civic people who are doing any of this work. So God  
24 forbid there is any tragedy that happens. We are not  
25 equipped. They are not equipped to get to put --

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2 help, right?

3 Long Beach is going to be on the other  
4 side of the bridge if something happens, you're  
5 talking about a potential, you know, you have talked  
6 about chemical -- chemical electrical fire that's  
7 going to burn on our grounds near an elementary  
8 school, near our only food -- food -- our food store.

9 It is a really big deal that we don't  
10 have a firehouse that's going to be able to deal with  
11 a situation like this. There's only one egress out  
12 of that building. And it's only one road, it's a  
13 small access road. It is not deep enough and safe  
14 enough for trucks to get through.

15 We're in a flood zone, they're talking  
16 about building this high or 15 feet high. So they  
17 can mitigate our flood zone because they're looking  
18 to build on three feet above the flood zone but if  
19 there's four feet of water, the road itself is  
20 impassable.

21 We aren't -- they're not going to be  
22 able to -- nobody's going to be able to get to them.  
23 I was here during Sandy. The Coast Guard came in on  
24 their boat onto the landing of the railroad station  
25 and that's how they were harboring people in and out

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2 of here using the -- the firehouse as a rescue  
3 station because we're so low where they're talking  
4 about it is going to go underwater.

5 These guys are talking about flooding  
6 and global warming, okay, but we're still talking  
7 about the flood level going up higher. So all this  
8 stuff that they're talking about building, National  
9 Grids, people working in 2022 says they're not --  
10 nobody should be building anything electrical that's  
11 under -- above -- under three feet below sea level or  
12 above sea level.

13 And they also talk about those --  
14 those docks. They have to be put four feet  
15 underwater, but like I mean, underground, but like  
16 you just heard other people say when you dig three  
17 feet into our yard, there's water.

18 So they're talking about building  
19 these concrete bunkers that are supposed to be 25  
20 feet wide because of the -- the distance of the cable  
21 to make sure that the rebound of the electricity that  
22 they generate doesn't continue to capitulate, you  
23 know, multiply, that's the easier word, right? And  
24 then, make it worse because they're talking about the  
25 load of those -- those wires.

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2 That's what they can -- can contend --  
3 that they can -- can carry. It's not what they're  
4 actually able to carry. What's coming in could be a  
5 much higher voltage and when that goes in, that's  
6 when they have to start to like power down or power  
7 it up and stuff like that. So they're just talking  
8 about what the amperage of the capability is.  
9 They're not talking about the actual flow.

10 So you're talking, you know, a real  
11 risk factor and they never spoke, not once about what  
12 the conductor is that's going to cool those wires.  
13 Now, those are supposed to be fan, watered with all  
14 different kinds of applications, though, there's a --  
15 starts with a W.

16 Sorry. Wisconsin. Wisconsin  
17 Powerplant. They have a whole line on -- on how  
18 these things are supposed to be put in the ground and  
19 cooled because they generate heat and they never once  
20 talked about the heat factor, and what that's going  
21 to do to the, you know, like the -- the viability of  
22 the cable. So there's a lot of things they're not  
23 telling us, I'm sorry, thank you.

24 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

25 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. And as



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2 Judge Kersey was just mentioning, we are at the end  
3 of the speaker cards that we have. So we thank  
4 everyone very much for taking the time today to be  
5 here and to share your comments with us and also for  
6 your patience with us and for staying to hear all of  
7 your -- your peers and your community.

8 So we really appreciate your time and  
9 all of your comments here today. Thank you very  
10 much.

11 FROM THE FLOOR: Thank you.

12 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

13 FROM THE FLOOR: Thank you.

14 A.L.J. MORENO: Have a good evening  
15 everyone. We'll go off the record.

16 (The hearing concluded at 9:04 p.m.)  
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2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, HANNAH BELAIR, do hereby certify that the foregoing was  
4 reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place, as  
5 stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that the  
6 foregoing typewritten transcription consisting of pages 1  
7 through 121, is a true record of all proceedings had at  
8 the hearing.

9                           IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
10 subscribed my name, this the 18th day of October, 2023.

11  
12 HANNAH BELAIR, Reporter

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