

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

From: Don Schaefer <send2ds@gmail.com>
To: Brendan Mccahill/R1/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/14/2010 03:37 PM
Subject: Cape Wind air quality comments

Mr. MacCahill,

Because significant air quality issues are one component of the Cape Wind project, I submit the following comments. I would hope that marine life quality and biological preservation issues fall under "Environmental Protection" purview as well. Healthy oceans are as vitally important as healthy air.

In addition to the many NOx compounds that will be released to the atmosphere during the Cape Wind build process, one has to consider what of noxious or biological nature will be dug up and "activated" in the 130 - 90 ft pits the project will "unearth". What's the composition of that material? Should it be distributed in the tides (which is inevitable)? Are there bio hazards there that are best left undisturbed? Are there dormant organisms in that "waste" that should not be distributed throughout the Sound and beyond?

Consider, also, the 130 - 10 ton fiberglass propellers involved in Cape Wind. Although not directly affecting Nantucket Sound air quality, what is the estimated volume of VOC's released at their point of manufacture? What of the diesel emissions of the ships and trucks transporting the 130 enormous turbine engines from their point of manufacture in Germany to, and including, installation in Nantucket Sound?

Finally, after installation, what are the controls on repair and maintenance of the fiberglass props, the structural steel towers needing constant repainting, and the need to regularly change the cooling oil in the turbine engines? And what care do you really think will be taken in removing this industrial plant from Nantucket Sound at the end of its 20-plus year life? We all know what happens at land-based industrial sites. I'm sure less care will be exercised at an ocean-based industrial plant, as the waste and toxins can be "distributed" with the tide and lost to immediate accountability (as evidenced by a long, careless marine industrial record, up to and including our current BP disaster).

Cape Wind's installation and operation will do irreversible damage to a vital marine resource under normal operation. There will inevitably be "mistakes" and "spills" during its 20-plus years of operation. We don't need that headache or expense. Instead, we need to take positive, aggressive steps to restore our oceans, as we need for air quality, now more than ever.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Don Schaefer
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