



## **Oregon Natural Resource Industries**

<https://onri.us/>

<https://oregonstrongertogether.com/>

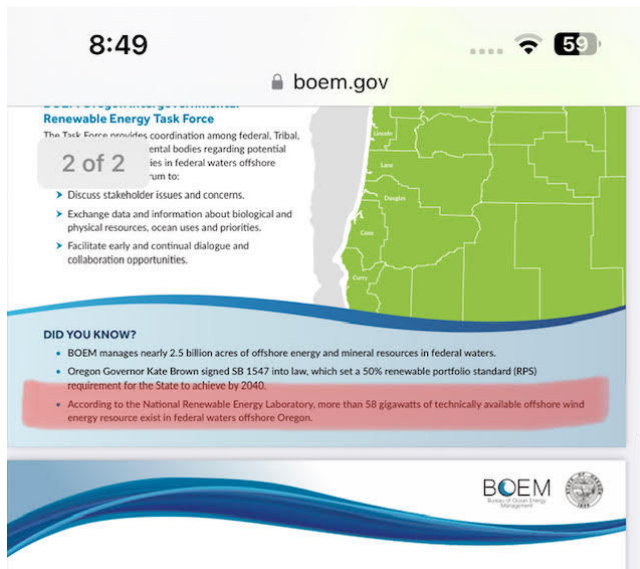
### **NO WIND FARMS OFF OREGON'S COAST**

I'm Jen Hamaker, I serve as President of Oregon Natural Resource Industries (ONRI). We are a member owned 501c6, and our mission is to support, defend, and protect natural resource jobs, families, communities, culture, and businesses. We oppose BOEM's proposed offshore wind farms.

BOEM's proposed wind farm plan is moving way too fast, and without regard to our fishing fleet, our seafood processors, our coastal security, our marine ecosystems and habitat, our businesses, our beautiful ocean views, and those of us who live along our coast.

We feel that the meetings held in Gold Beach, Coos Bay, and Brookings, were just to check their boxes. No one cared to listen to our concerns. No one stopped to answer our questions. People who do not live amongst us, who don't even live on the west coast, and who do not have a vested interest in our communities and or our way of life were dictating to us what they plan to do that will greatly impact us, our livelihoods, and our communities, into our future.

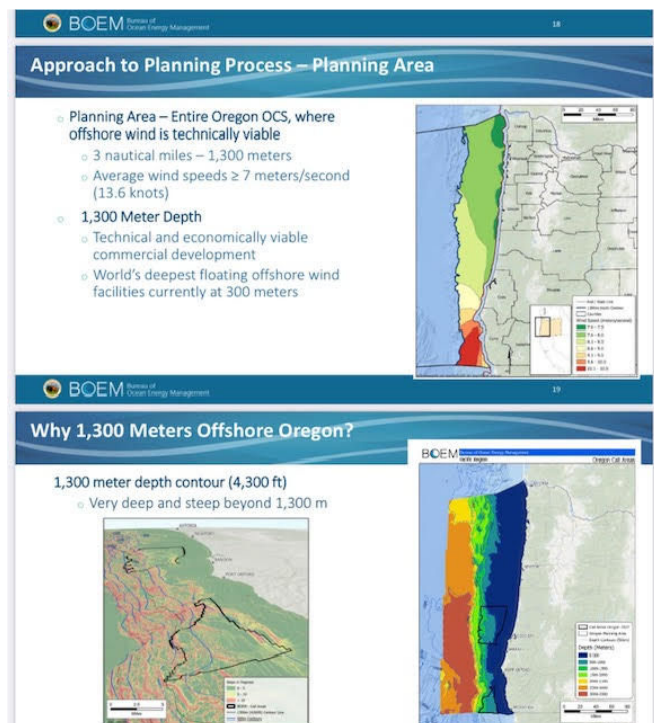
The proposed wind turbines are projected to produce 3 gigawatts of Direct Current at MAXIMUM capacity potential. The operational reality is about 40% of maximum capacity which is about 1 gigawatt. Coos Bay uses about 10.6 gigawatts, and Brookings uses 3.5 gigawatts. It does not make sense to move forward, risking our environment and communities, for a possible return of 1 gigawatt. Is there something we're missing?

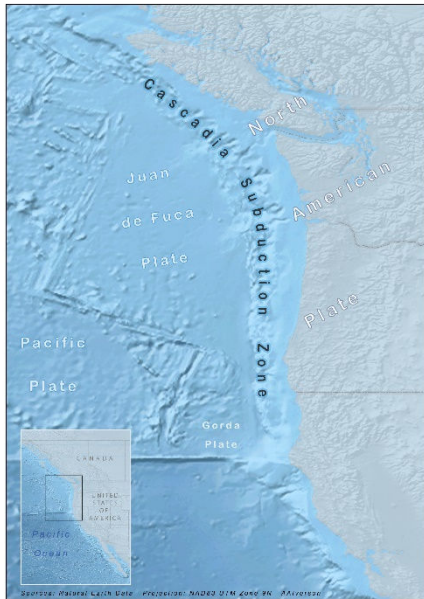


Maybe the highlighted area is the answer to our question, "Is there something we're missing?" Investors are drooling over this, willing to move entire offices and people from one part of the world to Oregon to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Peter Cogwell, Deep Blue Pacific Wind's Government and External Affairs Director, said "What is unique about Oregon is the world class resource off the Oregon coast, you

combine that with Oregon's historic support for clean energy policies and decarbonizing our electric supplies, and there is a lot to like to offshore wind and how it fits into that environment." If this is representative of how these big companies, the federal government, and investors see our coast, they are missing what we see and why we live along the coast. The Oregon Coast is enchanting and majestic, not an opportunity to make money and push an agenda while destroying our way of life... for 1 gigawatt.

This next picture is from BOEM's September 18, 2023 meeting, stating that the world's deepest floating offshore wind facilities are at 300 feet depth. The proposed wind farms off the Oregon Coast will be at 1300 feet depth. That's 1000 feet deeper than the world's deepest wind turbines. This technology is new, and the unintended consequences are real. Adding another 1000 feet of water between the floating platform and the cable that returns the energy to shore and we have another real concern. This plan does not bode well for Oregon's Coast and our future.





Furthermore, Oregon has the Cascadia Fault just offshore. This fault is a very long, sloping subduction zone where the Explorer, Juan de Fuca, and Gorda plates slide below the much larger continental North American Plate. The North American Plate is the Earth's second largest tectonic plate, behind the Pacific Plate (which borders the plate to the west). Is it wise to be drilling huge floating platforms to this plate? Rough weather, which the Oregon Coast is known for, could cause jerking and pulling with every wave that hits the platforms. The Cascadia fault is capable of producing 9.0+ magnitude

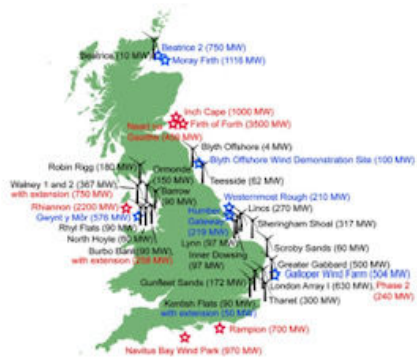
earthquakes and tsunamis that could reach 100 feet. This is a concern

<https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2020/december/offshore-wind-farms-onshore-precipitation/#:~:text=While%20offshore%20wind%20projects%20provide,precipitation%20at%20nearby%20onshore%20locations.>

This study shows a correlation between wind farms that affect onshore wind and precipitation, causing drought conditions onshore. We are already in a drought. What unintended consequences would less rain and wind have on our coastal climate and environment?

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Frank-Thomsen/publication/228653581\\_Effects\\_of\\_Offshore\\_Wind\\_Farm\\_Noise\\_on\\_Marine\\_Mammals\\_and\\_Fish/links/548856140cf289302e309045/Effects-of-Offshore-Wind-Farm-Noise-on-Marine-Mammals-and-Fish.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Frank-Thomsen/publication/228653581_Effects_of_Offshore_Wind_Farm_Noise_on_Marine_Mammals_and_Fish/links/548856140cf289302e309045/Effects-of-Offshore-Wind-Farm-Noise-on-Marine-Mammals-and-Fish.pdf)

The above link is to a study that has determined that sea mammals, salmon, cod and other marine species are impacted by the underwater noise generated during the construction and operation of wind turbines as evidenced at the UK's 17 wind farms. What would this do to Oregon's returning salmon? Will they even try to return? (Map of wind farm studied to right.)



Offshore wind farms around the U.K., July 2014. This includes wind farms in operation (black wind turbines), those consented and under development (blue stars), and in the proposal and planning stages (red stars).

BOEM's offshore wind farm is a massive project, with more than 200 wind turbines standing hundreds of feet above the ocean. Another hurdle for foreign investors and international companies that build these wind turbines in US waters is the 100-year-old law called the Jones Act.

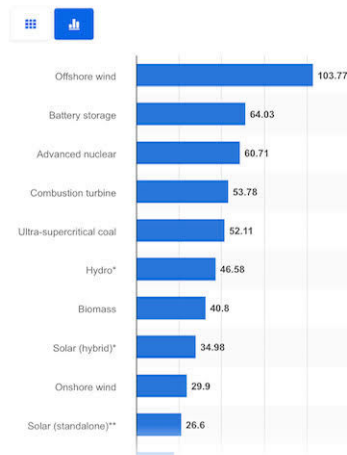
The Jones Act, passed by Congress in 1920, says that only U.S.-flagged ships can move cargo from one point in the United States to another. The ships must have been built in the U.S. and be crewed by Americans. The offshore wind industry uses big, specialized ships to assemble the turbines miles out at sea, but there is not a single U.S.-flagged ship right now that can do that work.

Jones Act explained:

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/charlotte/news/2023/04/03/the-jones-act--how-a-100-year-old-law-complicates-offshore-wind-projects>

Energy & Environment > Energy

Estimated levelized capital costs of electricity for new power plants in the United States with operation start in 2027, by energy source  
(in U.S. dollars per megawatt hour)



Offshore wind energy is still a new technology and is the most expensive to produce (as shown on graph to left). The initial investment is shockingly enormous, and so is the ongoing maintenance. The soaring cost of materials, particularly for steel, as well as costs of other key services, like specialized vessels to install the turbines, have jumped sharply. With rising interest rates debt is getting more expensive too. Who pays for these expenses? The ratepayers and the taxpayers of Oregon.

Our questions about how much electricity rates would jump went unanswered. So, we asked the internet. The average impact for billpayers is an estimated 2.5% increase. This does not include the cost of underproduction, \$billions in impairments due to supply delays, high interest rates, and a lack of new tax credits, that similar projects are experiencing on the East Coast. Ratepayers of the wind farms in England saw a more than 50% increase in their electricity bills, and became all too familiar with rolling blackouts during bad weather, and wind farms on the east Coast are either paying tens of millions of dollars to exit contracts or renegotiating their contracts with 54% price increases for power from several projects. Investors get tax credits



between 30%-50%. This information is concerning. We do not want this to happen to us!

<https://gcaptain.com/states-beg-biden-to-bolster-offshore-wind-while-projects-flounder/>

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/new-york-clean-energy-contracts-change-prices-orsted-equinor-nyserda-psc/692415/>

There is a "Feed in Tariff" clause incorporated into the contract with Federal and State governments that **guarantees investors be compensated at above market price**. Additionally, the investor will pass on costs to the ratepayers when bringing the power onshore, upgrading electrical infrastructure to accommodate increased loading, and installing smart technology to allow for the wind generation to be integrated with the national grid (DC to AC). And finally, the taxpayer/ratepayer will be fiscally responsible for any costs associated with salvaging storm related damages, and underproduction of generation.

Please use the link provided below for more info on Feed in Tariffs.

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/feed-in-tariff.asp>

In 2002, a combination of low water levels and warm temperatures caused a bacterial outbreak that killed more than 34,000 fish. That propelled Native American tribes to campaign for removal of the dams. After much negotiation, federal regulators approved a plan last year to remove the dams. All four dams are being removed based on that study. So, if we can remove 4 dams that all provide electricity, and water for farmers, Tribes, and fish based on one study that showed 34,000 fish not making it back up to spawn or out to sea, then HOW are we willing to let our fish be guinea pigs for a giant electrical wind farm? If we shut down billions of dollars in logging operations based on endangered sea going birds and poor salmon numbers, then how can we put these massive Bird Blenders in the Sky?

Hydroelectric power is the largest source of electricity generated in Oregon. Hydroelectric power typically provides more than half of Oregon's in-state total electricity net generation. Hydroelectricity is considered 'green' energy. Yet, we are tearing down our dams to save salmon. Another Cost Oregonians are going to be impacted by, taxpayers and ratepayers are splitting the cost of dam removals in Oregon. How many salmon will be

impacted by the wind farms? At the same time we are tearing down our dams, will need to replace that energy production, especially since Oregon is pushing electric cars that require electricity to operate. Wind farms that produce 1 gigawatt of energy is NOT the answer. The harm of this proposal outweighs the benefits by far. Let's keep our dams that make green-energy (which are already built and operating) and sink the offshore wind farms.

The Federal Government's subsidies and policies have aligned, but supply chain delays, inflation, increased cost of debt, increased cost of steel, etc are causing challenges for offshore wind businesses. They're renegotiating their contracts - causing more increased costs to ratepayers.

<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/why-us-offshore-wind-industry-is-doldrums-2023-09-06/>

Financial viability for offshore wind energy to volatile.

<https://www.marinelink.com/news/serious-a-problem-cost-issue-us-offshore-507736>

Increasing risk of stalling wind farm projects. Increased costs of offshore wind projects threaten State's ability to make purchasing decisions. Failed projects...etc.

<https://gcaptain.com/states-beq-biden-to-bolster-offshore-wind-while-projects-flounder/>

Here is another link explaining the sudden skyrocketing cost of offshore wind:

[https://insideclimatenews.org/news/14092023/inside-clean-energy-offshore-wind-projects-rising-interest-rates/?utm\\_source=InsideClimate+News&utm\\_campaign=2e855c819c-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2023\\_09\\_16\\_01\\_00&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_29c928ffb5-2e855c819c-329222237](https://insideclimatenews.org/news/14092023/inside-clean-energy-offshore-wind-projects-rising-interest-rates/?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=2e855c819c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_09_16_01_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-2e855c819c-329222237)

This 104 page draft oil spill response plan written by Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind LLC. for construction of 2 offshore wind farms off the East Coast brings another point of concern. Their vessels carry more than 42,000 gallons of oil and/or fuel to and from floating wind turbines.

[https://tethys.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Appendix\\_I-D\\_Draft\\_OSRP.pdf](https://tethys.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Appendix_I-D_Draft_OSRP.pdf)

These are just a snippet of the problems, issues, and concerns that need to be addressed and answered. Oregonians deserve the right to have these concerns addressed, our questions answered, and at this large of an expense to ALL OREGONIANS, we deserve the right to vote.

This is NOT a good plan for Oregon's Coastal Communities! We've already had our forests shut down which provided family wage jobs. Our state forests were recently given away and made into the world's largest research forest and decoupled from revenue producing timber harvest. The Shutter prison that provided over 100 good paying jobs with health care was also given away to accommodate the research forest students. We've had our mining industry crippled and shut down, costing jobs. We are currently seeing our agricultural industry being crippled and shut down by new state and federal regulations, faster than we can see them coming. Our seafood processors have been crippled, shutting down more than 90 percent of those jobs. Now our economy relies heavily on tourism, which pays minimum wage. The last industry we have along the areas where the proposed wind farms are is fishing, commercial and recreational. These ugly wind turbines and all the impacts will further cripple our coastal communities, and all Oregonians will see tax increases. Please do not proceed forward with the proposed wind farms! This proposal is putting our cultural, environmental, and socioeconomic well-being in danger, as evidenced by the East Coast and foreign wind farm projects.

Sincerely and with grave concern,  
Jen Hamaker  
President  
Oregon Natural Resource Industries  
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