



NEWS RELEASE

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Littoral Society Issues Minority Report within Blue Ribbon Wind Panel Final Report *Calls for Greater Conservation before Opening Ocean to Industrial Wind Farms*

SANDY HOOK—The American Littoral Society has produced a “minority report” as part of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Offshore Wind Turbine Development. Tim Dillingham, the Society’s Executive Director, was appointed by Governor Richard Codey to serve as a public member of the panel in 2004.

The Society’s report is included within the overall Panel Final Report and states that New Jersey should pursue energy conservation before pursuing new ocean-based energy generation technologies. This finding is based on the potential negative impacts to ocean marine life and traditional uses such as fishing that would come from any significant level of offshore wind turbine development.

Further, based on the research and public testimony received by the Panel over the last 15 months, the Society concluded offshore wind’s potential to significantly address energy and energy-related environmental issues is limited by the following: 1) the scale, nature and severity of present environmental problems; 2) by the need to protect valuable coastal resources; and 3) the technology’s inherent operational inefficiencies.

“The state should more fully evaluate and pursue alternatives to new generation” said Dillingham, “This effort should include great investments in conservation, energy efficiency and demand management.” The Panel’s findings of fact identified that significant opportunities for energy efficiency and savings exist within New Jersey, estimated to exceed 4000 Megawatts (equivalent to approximately eight mid-sized power plants).

The overall Panel Final Report identified that potential impacts to coastal natural resources and ocean uses could be significant. This is linked to the fact that the inefficiency of wind turbines require that large numbers – and by extension large amounts of ocean space – be built in order to provide any appreciable amount of energy. This large space requirement increases the likelihood of conflict with living resources such as migratory birds and marine mammals, and traditional ocean uses such as commercial fishing. Various estimates of energy production indicate that hundreds to thousands of individual wind turbines could be required. “Offshore wind raises the question of whether New Jersey wants to fill the ocean with industrial structures, or preserve it for other uses and living resources” stated Dillingham.

Critical examination reveals that the sought-after benefits of wind power—particularly emissions avoidance—may also be limited. Studies from Europe, where off-shore wind turbines are operating today, suggest that these facilities have little, if any, broad effect on the use of other sources of generation.

Finally, the Society's report criticized the failure of the Final Report of the Panel to identify a real source of funding for scientific research that it recommended as critical, and for proposing a "test project" that exceeds the size of many European facilities in scale.

The final Offshore Wind Panel Report and the Minority Report can be downloaded at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/>.

About the American Littoral Society

The American Littoral Society is a membership-based, coastal conservation group headquartered on Sandy Hook, in Highlands, New Jersey. Since 1961, it has empowered people to care for the coast through advocacy, education, and conservation. The Society promotes the study and conservation of marine life and habitat and defends the coast from those who would do it harm. The name, *Littoral*, means *of or near a shore or coastal region*. For more information, visit www.littoralsociety.org.

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