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4 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

5 LONG ISLAND OFFSHORE WIND PARK PROJECT

6 PUBLIC EIS SCOPING MEETING

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8 -----X

9 July 10, 2006
7:00 p.m.

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11 500 Great East Neck Rd.
W. Babylon, NY

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14 MINUTES OF MEETING

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17 PANEL MEMBERS:

18 DOUG SLITOR

19 MAUREEN BORNHOLDT

20 TIM REDDING

21 THOMAS W. BJERSTEDT, Ph.D.

22 GLENN B. HOLCOMB

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24 Kristina Hoffman

25 Court Reporter

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MR. SLITOR: Please, folks,

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take your seats. Also please

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remember to sign in if you want to

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speak. If you haven't signed in up

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front at the front desk, will you

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please sign in.

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Thank you very much for coming

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tonight. This is the Long Island

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Offshore Wind Park proposal; it is

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the scoping meeting for this. I

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would like to thank you all for

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coming. We have a pretty good

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turnout tonight; we have a number of

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speakers that have signed up.

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I would like to go through a

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few things to get this meeting

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started. First off, my name is Doug

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Slitor; I am the project manager for

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the Minerals Management Service. We

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are the agency that oversees this

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project. We are the federal

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regulators who oversee this project.

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We have a panel up here

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tonight; Maureen Bornholdt, Tim

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Redding also from the Minerals Management Service, Dr. Tom Bjerstedt. We have a court reporter to take the testimony of everybody that comes to the microphone. Our facilitator tonight is Glenn Holcomb from U.S. Geological Survey.

First off, I would like to reiterate what the purpose of this meeting is. This meeting is to hear you folks, and it is for the purpose of defining the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement. We are here to listen to you; what your concerns are; what you believe the issues are.

This is part of the process that we refer to as NEPA, which is the acronym for the National Environmental Policy Act.

The format of the meeting tonight is I will give a brief presentation on who we are, so you understand how we came to be in

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charge of this particular proposal.
The elected officials of your
communities are given the privilege
of speaking first, and then the
general public follows on a
first-come-first-serve basis.

I want to reiterate this is
not an interactive dialogue. It is
not an opportunity for an interactive
dialogue with the MMS officials here.
We are here in a listening capacity.
If you have questions about the
timing or the process itself, we can
certainly answer those, but we don't
have the answers as far as the
proposal is concerned. It is a
proposal and that is why we are here
tonight. It is the beginning stages
of this.

First off, the Department of
Interior, we are within the
Department of Interior, the Minerals
Management Service. And I know many
of you don't know who we are. We are

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concerned primarily with offshore oil and gas leasing and this is predominantly in the Gulf of Mexico. We also have facilities in California and one in Alaska, but the Atlantic Coast does not have any. However, it is an organization that has been around for a good long while.

As you can see from the slide we have 8,500 leases; 47 million acres are leased; there are 4,000 facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, oil and gas-producing facilities; also 42,000 people offshore. So we have been working in this capacity for approximately 50 years. Although our agency is relatively young, it was formed from Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Geological Survey.

First off, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Army Corps of Engineers, who did a fine job in really filling the void. Proposals started to be talked about,

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they actually came in and the Army Corps of Engineers stepped up and filled the void in the legislation by starting to process within the guidelines of their statutory authority, the Cape Wind in Massachusetts and down here, the Long Island proposals.

MMS came to this by Congress recognizing the fact that the Minerals Management Service has the expertise in terms of multiple use planning. We have been doing this for offshore oil and gas. We have a broad authority already in place, the O.C.S. Lands Act, which is kind of a cradle-to-grave approach to access of offshore lands all the way through the construction, the production and finally the decommission. So we have the technical and other biological resources to address these issues.

The Energy Policy Act, which was passed August 8, 2005, gave the

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2 department the authority to do this;
3 it was handed to us. And with that
4 there were a few things that we
5 needed to do. We need to figure out
6 a means to access, and we are in the
7 throes of doing this type of
8 activity. We will also be addressing
9 the entire life cycle of projects and
10 determining what is a fair return to
11 the nation.

12 The second bullet speaks to
13 the applicants that were already in
14 process when this began. And what it
15 acknowledges is that since they had
16 submitted applications to a federal
17 agency, that they don't have to
18 resubmit their information; but that
19 does not mean that they don't have to
20 submit additional information.

21 Our scope of authority is
22 quite broad and we require additional
23 information. We have already
24 required additional information of
25 the applicant. They have submitted

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it and they will have more to submit in the future. It is just the nature of what we have.

The structure for all of this again is the National Environmental Policy Act. It provides a structure for us to assess proposals from entities, government entities, that want to put facilities on the outer continental shelf. The outer continental shelf being three miles and beyond of the Atlantic Coast.

There are also a host of other laws that the applicants have to subscribe to and including ROCS Lands Act, there is clean air, clean water and endangered species; there are a number of laws that have their fingers in this type of thing. So there are quite a few regulations that are already in place to address many, many of the issues that may come up during this process.

Just a slide here to show you

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what is involved in an EIS. If you are unfamiliar with them, I know many of you are, I will give you a second just to read those.

We are here today because of scoping though. Your comments today will help us define the issues that will be covered and help us define the scope and the extent of the EIS. We ask for input from the states, federal agencies, local governments, tribes, industry, public interest groups and the public.

Tonight we will receive your comments orally. You can also submit them on the Internet and in writing, so there are three ways. The Internet is probably the best way to get your comments to us if you don't get an opportunity to speak this evening. The Internet is the best way that you can get them on-line quickly to us.

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information we are looking for; data on resources, potential impacts, possible mitigation measures, and alternatives that should be considered.

The actual proposal, I think it is a good thing that we are all here tonight -- it is a good crowd -- that we go over what the proposal actually is at this particular point. This is kind of a nuts and bolts look at it, a structural look at it.

Right now we have a proposal for 140-megawatt offshore turbine field. Forty turbines would be involved, spaced anywhere from a third to a half mile apart.

The tower height is approximately 260 feet. The rotor diameters are 364 feet, revolving at five to 13 revolutions per minute. It produces a power in the eight to 60 miles-per-hour range. The monopiles will be sunk approximately

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180 feet into the sea bed. There will be 34.5 kilovolt cables that connect the turbines to the substation, and from there the 138 kilovolt cable will come ashore to the existing Sterling substation in West Amityville.

This next slide shows the proposed project map. All of you are familiar with this, I am sure. It is an array; it is not a linear picket fence approach to the configuration. You can see some, at least I hope you can see the mileage indicators from the wind park to shore. The red line being the main cable that goes to shore.

This is based upon the data that we currently have available to us now. There are also maps on the wall that I know some of you have seen. There is one on the back, two on each side, and one outside.

In terms of the towers

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themselves, they are 3.6 megawatt wind turbine generators, again on top of a 260-foot tower. The diameter of the monopile is approximately 19 feet; three blades each being about 182 feet long. At its lowest point the blade will be approximately 80 feet above the water, at low water. And at the highest point it will be about 442 feet above the water. Each will have ship and navigation lights.

I know it is difficult for some of you to see, but there is a small service platform with a ladder that the company uses for maintenance.

Some of the other space use issues that have been identified are on this map. We have artificial reefs, numerous fishing areas, fish trap areas, shipping traffic lanes, military warning areas, cable areas, ocean dump sites, and pipeline areas. There is a lot going on out there.

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Here are some pictures from a
wind park construction from Europe.

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It gives you a feel for at least the

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process that would be involved. It

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requires an onshore staging area.

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The project is comprised of

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steel jackets that are pile driven

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into the sediment. There is also an

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anchor foundation jacket. This is

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quite similar to many of the

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structures that we deal with in the

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oil and gas world. It is installed

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using a jacked-up rig with a crane.

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In the middle bottom picture

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they are mounting the hub of the

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turbine or the nacelle on top, and

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then the blades are finally attached.

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The electrical cables, two of

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them, a smaller diameter one being

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the one that connects the turbines to

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the substation that is offshore.

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They are gathered there at that

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substation. And then the larger one

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will take the 138 kilovolts and

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transport it to the Sterling
substation.

 This is the EIS schedule. The
scoping will conclude on August 21st.
The Draft EIS should come out in
April 2007. The comment period on
that will be approximately 60 days.
We will publish a Final EIS in
February 2008, and a month later
there should be a record of decision
regarding this proposal.

 There is public input such as
this throughout. There is a variety
of means for public to engage in this
process. We also will be working
with other federal agencies and state
agency representatives, many of which
are here tonight. There will be a
number that are in the cooperating
agency status. We intend to have one
EIS that addresses all of our needs.
We have overlapping authorities so we
will be working closely together.

 Again, just to remind you,

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these are the things that we are

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looking for; data on resources,

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potential impacts, possible

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mitigation and alternatives.

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I would like to thank you all

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for coming. We are going to receive

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verbal testimony now. Again, the

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best and most efficient way is to use

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the Internet, but now it is going to

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be time to hear from you folks. I

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would like to turn this over to Glenn

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Holcomb, the facilitator for this

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evening.

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MR. HOLCOMB: Good evening.

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Welcome to the meeting. As Doug

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said, this is a listening session and

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we have a lot of people here, so we

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are going to try to get you through

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as quickly as you can so everybody

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who wants to speak can have a chance

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to speak.

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So in order to get everybody

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through as quickly as we can we will

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go over some ground rules for

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speaking. First, the public officials will be speaking to us and then when it is your turn to speak, of course you know you had to submit a card if you wished to speak. If you have any written comments or statements, please submit them to our reporter so she can catch it all. There is very limited time and there is not enough time to go over too much stuff.

When it is your turn to speak, please stand and state your name and affiliation clearly so the reporter can record it. One person speaks at a time. Everyone will speak in order. No one can criticize another. Discussions are about perspective, not about personalities.

Questions may be asked from the panel if they need to clarify something that you said so they get a better idea of what you are saying. Listen actively and be respectful of

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others when they are speaking. Speak from facts or from your own experiences instead of generalizing, so that they know exactly what you are talking about because again you have limited time. Practice timely attendance, and honor the time limits; three minutes for each speaker.

I will go ahead and call the elected officials up first and then I will call you up in order as you have filled out a card. What I would like to do just to keep things moving is I would like to call four people at a time, maybe two on each microphone, and I will let you know which one is going to speak. We will have kind of two on standby if you will, just so we can keep people moving. As I announce the speaker I will call another name to come down and be on standby after that person. That is what we are going to attempt to do

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anyway.

So first I would like to call up Richard Kessel from LIPA.

MR. KESSEL: Behave. Quiet. That is terrible. Let's all respect one another. We are all entitled to our views, let's all respect one another.

MR. HOLCOMB: I am going to time everybody. First I will start with green. When you have a minute left I will flash a yellow card, and then red means stop. So are you ready?

MR. KESSEL: Yes. Good evening. My name is Richard Kessel; I am Chairman of the Long Island Power Authority. I want to thank you, MMS, for coming here this evening. And I also want to thank all of the people here this evening, whether you are for or against the project or whether you want to learn the facts.

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I want to make it very clear, although I believe very strongly in this project I also believe everyone should be heard. And LIPA supports a full Environmental Impact Statement so that all the arguments, pro and con can be heard, and every question is answered.

This project was chosen because it is critical for Long Island and this country. If we really want to reduce our dependence on oil and get away from the oil companies and OPEC, and begin to be free and energy independent, then this project is critical.

Let me just indicate several things as to why this project is important for Long Island, for the region and for the country. Number one, it will reduce our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels, which are crippling the economy of Long Island, New York, the Northeast and United

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States.

Number two, it will provide for a clean environment; emission-free wind energy.

Number three, over time as oil begins to continue to climb -- and today oil is at about \$75 a barrel. When we first started talking about this project it was under \$40 a barrel. By the time this project is built it will be cheaper to purchase energy from this project than from any of the other projects or plants that currently exist on Long Island.

Finally, it is important for Homeland Security to make sure that we are secure, to make sure that we aren't dependent on other countries to decide our future.

Three recommendations that I would like to make. Number one, that there be a full environmental impact process. We are prepared to answer any and all questions about this

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project to MMS and to the public. I recognize, and we all recognize, that the aesthetics issue is an important issue. I understand that most of the opposition comes from that. We think aesthetics ought to be looked at very closely. It is an important argument, but it ought to be balanced against what is important for our energy future on Long Island.

As I have always said it is not a windmill or no windmill, it is the choice of a windmill or stacks from another power plant that we are going to have to build somewhere on the South Shore because of the increased demand for electricity.

Finally, I think it is important; these hearings are wonderful. I think they ought to be held across Long Island. I would urge MMS to conduct at least two more scoping sessions in other parts of Long Island, including one on the

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East End and one on the North Shore,
because I believe the ocean belongs
to all of Long Island.

I thank you and look forward
to working with you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Next I would
like to call up Supervisor Steve
Bellone.

SUPERVISOR BELLONE: Good
evening. I am -- despite the smiley
face I am going to ask for a little
patience. I will come close to that
time, but I am speaking tonight not
as an individual but as a
representative of 215,000 residents
in the Town of Babylon.

Thank you.

The construction and operation
of 40 wind turbine generator towers
offshore of our beaches raises
numerous concerns including economic,
environmental and aesthetic issues.
The public must be assured that all
aspects and potential impacts of this

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project are thoroughly reviewed before any determinations are made. There is no question in my mind that it is critical for our nation's future that we reduce our dependence on oil and make use of renewable energy sources.

I commend LIPA and my friend Rich Kessel for his clean energy initiative and for promoting clean energy on Long Island. And I salute the environmental organizations on Long Island, like Citizens Campaign for the Environment, The Neighborhood Network, Renewable Energy Long Island, who have been fighting a lonely battle on this issue for many years now.

I have been proud to work with these organizations on Babylon's clean energy initiatives, and I can say Babylon has been a leader on this issue. In 2005 the town adopted the most comprehensive clean energy

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action program of any municipality on Long Island, utilizing wind power, buying diesel fuel, solar energy. And we are the only town on Long Island to purchase hybrids for 100 percent of our passenger vehicle fleet.

The question then is not whether we need to reduce our dependence on oil, on fossil fuels, and to do more to protect our environment; the question is whether windmills that rise 44 stories out of the Atlantic Ocean just 3.7 miles off of our coastline is the best alternative.

The town of Babylon has some of the most beautiful ocean beaches anywhere in the world. They are our greatest natural resource. Much of our economy and quality of life is attached to these beaches. And quality of life is a hard thing to define in an Environmental Impact

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Statement.

What is a good quality of life? Why is it that we choose to live on Long Island despite the high taxes, despite the high cost of housing, despite high electric rates -- no offense, Rich -- despite the traffic that we all face every day. We do so because despite the negatives Long Island is a great place to live, and one of the major components of that, I believe, is the open spaces we have protected including our beautiful beaches and our precious coastline.

We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on Long Island to protect open space. Why? I would submit that we preserve these beautiful spaces because they contribute to a greater quality of life for all of us.

Babylon residents have long supported the purchase of open space

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in other areas of Suffolk County with our tax dollars, because we understand intuitively that having open spaces, that having farms on Long Island is an important part of our quality of life as well.

How much would we have to pay today to preserve the miles of oceanfront property that constitute Jones Beach, Robert Moses Beach, Gilgo, Overlook, Cedar and Tobay Beaches. And this is not open space that is isolated or distant from people. This is open space that is visited by millions on a regular basis, because it is one of the rare spots on the South Shore of Long Island that is not privately owned.

The natural, undisturbed, tranquil environment is what draws people to live and recreate at our beaches. The potential for noise and the visual impact alone may contribute to a change in people's

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choice of where to relax. The EIS must examine these potential impacts on our economy and our quality of life.

The EIS must also vigorously explore alternatives to this project. Some would say that we need to be pursuing every alternative because the threat of global warming is that great, because the threat to our national security is that great. I happen to believe that this is true, and in an ideal world that is exactly what we would be doing and what we should be doing.

Unfortunately, the reality is far different. We are aggressively pursuing this windmill project while other clean energy initiatives are simply being ignored or are taking a backseat. That is a fact.

What are the alternatives that we should be pursuing? We should be repowering the dirty existing power

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plants that provide much of our power on Long Island. I think Long Islanders would be want to know just how much pollution is spewing out of these massive archaic plants.

I will try to put it into perspective. If we were to repower these plants or, in other words, upgrade the plants with new technology so that they meet modern environmental standards, we could almost double Long Island's current energy capacity without building a single new power plant.

Repowering could also reduce our reliance on fossil fuels because the plants would be so much more efficient and we would dramatically reduce the toxins that are currently spewing into our air on a daily basis, affecting our health and causing global warming.

In Babylon this is what we commonly refer to as a no-brainer.

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The EIS should examine this alternative and study why this is not Long Island's most urgent clean energy initiative right now. The EIS must also conduct a cost benefit analysis to accurately determine what ratepayers will be paying for the energy produced by the windmills. This is important because if rate payers are going to pay a premium for this energy, perhaps they would rather invest that money now into helping to repower these plants.

Another clean energy alternative that has not been pursued on Long Island is green building. Earlier this summer I spoke at the Long Island Builders Institute, the largest organization representing residential home builders on Long Island. And the thrust of my message to them was that we must pursue green building. This represents the greatest untapped resource of clean

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energy on Long Island, bar none.

In addition, there are also rapidly developing technologies that would allow windmills be placed in deep ocean water beyond the horizon, as well as technologies that would harness tidal movements and wave action. The EIS should explore these developing technologies as alternatives to this project.

In closing, someone tried to frame this as a stark choice between this windmill project, or more power plants. This is a false dichotomy that serves only to undermine a rational, balanced discussion, a discussion that is very important for Long Island's future.

This project, or power plants, are not our only choices. There are many alternatives that must be explored in this EIS, and perhaps in doing so we will find that we actually have much common ground.

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Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Next I would like to call Assemblyman Marc Alessi.

ASSEMBLYMAN ALESSI: Thank you. My name is Assemblyman Marc Alessi; I represent the First Assembly District, which encompasses northeastern Brookhaven town, Riverhead, Southold and Shelter Island. I represent half of the residents that Supervisor Bellone represents, so I am trying to do this in half the time.

I agree that a thorough review of this proposal is warranted. And many residents on Long Island know me to be a frequent LIPA critic. Today I am here to praise them for finally taking a look at a viable form of alternative energy.

I have criticized them on their fuel surcharge and lack of review for that fuel surcharge. However, I don't think you could

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complain about a fuel surcharge
without taking a real look at wind
power, wherever we deem to site it.

 This is one of the most
exciting forms of alternative energy
that is emerging today, and I think
whether it is a hundred years from
now or 150 years from now, when
society at that time is taking a look
back at what was the turning point
when we moved away from those old oil
and gas firing power plants that
destroyed our health, that projects
like this will be that turning point.

 The success of this project
will be a major step forward, not
only for Long Island. The debate, I
also agree is not this wind project
versus another power plant on Long
Island. I think the debate is what
do we want in our future?

 Do we want clean energy that
produces no emissions, that doesn't
affect our health in an adverse way,

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that is actually cheaper than our current methodology.

I was told when I first began asking these questions about six months ago in terms of how viable is this option, I was told wind power would be cheaper than a natural gas-fired power plant when oil reached \$74 a barrel. I was just informed it reached \$75 a barrel. I find that to be very exciting in that, like I said, this won't just impact Long Island. This will have a tremendous impact on New York State and our economy.

This will have a tremendous impact on the United States. And you can argue because we are one of the world's super powers, when we do finally step forward and start looking at offshore wind power, which opens up a world of opportunity, we can double our generated capacity nationally with offshore winds.

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In the future we are looking at wind that is undetectable, out of sight and out of mind.

Doubling our nation's generating capacity with complete clean and renewable energy, lessening our dependence on foreign fuel; that is the future I want. So we have to look at the economic impacts; it is cheaper. We have to look at the environmental impacts both pro and con. Like I said, when I support a project I don't believe it should just be pushed through, we need to do the rigorous environmental review.

We should take a look at the health impact. We have one of the highest cancer rates on Long Island. A lot of people are blaming that on some of our power plants. We have some of the oldest and dirtiest power plants on Long Island. I believe those should be repowered too.

I don't think wind energy is

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going to take over in the next 20 years and deplete our complete supply, but I think again we have to keep our eye out there.

I dropped my daughter off to my parents' house today so they could babysit her so I can attend here tonight. Once I dropped her off I thought to myself, yes, I am going to this hearing to represent my district; but I am also going to make it a personal statement, and that is I am thinking about my daughter and her children and their children. I want to leave them a better world when I leave.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Next up is Senator Owen Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I am New York State Senator Owen H. Johnson, Chairman of the Finance Committee and also Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine

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District. I represent the Fourth Senate District, encompassing portions of the Towns of Babylon and Islip on the South Shore of Long Island, which would be impacted by construction of this proposed offshore wind park. I commend LIPA and Chairman Kessel for supporting alternative sources of energy, and I applaud their goal of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and the impact their use has on our environment.

During my tenure in the New York State Senate I have secured passage of laws to exempt the purchase and installation of solar energy systems equipment from state sales and use taxes; increased in the amount of personal income tax credit New Yorkers can receive in the purchase and installation of solar energy equipment and expanded existing law to include other

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components such as those that use solar energy to heat water, and provided homeowners with property easements guaranteeing property owners continued legal access to the sun for the purposes of solar hot water and photovoltaic electricity generation.

I have spent the better part of last year examining the proposal by, LIPA and Florida Power and Light to construct a 140-megawatt (MV) wind park off the South Shore. And wind power in general. And I am left with serious question and concerns over whether the myriad costs associated with this project are justified by its purported benefits, and whether those benefits will even be achieved.

I have heard much about the promise of wind power as clean, free source of renewable electricity that will reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels. And reduce

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the greenhouse gases and other emissions being released into the environment. Unfortunately, the experience in places that have substantial wind energy production such as a Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom proves just the opposite.

The claims that the wind parks generate enough electricity to offset significant amounts of air emissions every year are dependent on its ability to replace existing sources of electric generation. Experience proves, however, that while electricity produced by wind provides a modest increase in the overall supply of electricity, due to the very nature of wind power it is in no way a replacement of existing supply, meaning conventional power plants must be kept running or at the very least on standby, in order to meet this demand at any given time,

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calling into question the promises of reductions in greenhouse gas and other pollution emissions.

For example, Denmark, which is often cited as the shining example of what can be accomplished with wind power, has over 6,000 wind turbines that produced electricity equal to 19 percent of what the country used in 2002, yet has not been able to shut down one single conventional power plant.

In fact, Denmark had to explore over 70 percent of its wind production in 2004 at rates that were far lower than the cost of producing the power, and frequently found itself having to import power in order to meet peak demand. What's more, the Danish Government's National Environmental Research Institute reported that in 2003 greenhouse gas emissions in Denmark actually increased 7.3 percent over

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the previous year's levels.

We are told that this proposed wind park will provide Long Island with 140 megawatts of additional power, enough to provide power to about 44,000 homes. Unfortunately this level of output can only be achieved during 100 percent ideal conditions which rarely, if ever, occur. In reality, the electricity generated by the wind park will be far less.

For example, throughout Europe, wind turbines produced on average less than 20 percent of their rated capacity. In Denmark, the figure was 19 percent in 2003. In the U.K. in 2003 it was 24.1 percent. The average in Germany for 1998-2003 was 14.7 percent. In the U.S. as a whole, usable output from wind generation for 2002 was a mere 12.7 percent of capacity. In California the average is 20 percent. The

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Searsburg plant in Vermont averages 21 percent and is declining every year.

What's more, the turbines themselves consume electricity, whether they are producing any or not, which will even further reduce the net benefit of the wind park. It has also been shown that a buildup of salt on offshore turbine blades, as can be expected in this case, can reduce the power generated by 20 percent to 30 percent.

I also have many questions about the actual cost to the ratepayers of Long Island of the power from this wind park. Without knowing the actual costs of construction, which has been estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars, we cannot know the cost per kilowatt hour of the electricity LIPA will be required to purchase from the wind park. How will this

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cost compare to the cost of
electricity from existing plants.
The investor-owned electric companies
throughout the rest of New York State
currently provide their customers
with the option to purchase green
power, including that generated from
wind.

 However, the cost of this
power is always more than the cost of
power from traditional sources. Will
the same be the case here?

 It should also be noted that,
despite having the highest percentage
of wind-produced electricity in the
world, Denmark also has electricity
prices that are nearly 100 percent
higher than elsewhere in Europe.

 What's more, the location of
the proposed wind park several miles
offshore will greatly increase the
costs not only of construction, but
also of maintaining the park. While
I recognize that this will be the

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responsibility of Florida Power & Light, will Long Island's ratepayers be in any way insulated from these increased costs, or will they be reflected in the cost of the electricity produced by the wind park which Long Islanders will be contractually required to purchase.

Aside from all of these concerns with the economic benefits of this project, there are also a whole host of associated environmental concerns as well, first and foremost being the impact on our valuable marine resources. According to the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, in 2001 half of all of New York's landed squid were caught in the area proposed for the wind park.

What's more, the existence of the turbines in this location raises serious questions about the continued ability of New York's trawler fleet,

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which is responsible for the vast majority of the squid catch, to cast their nets in and around the area. What's more, the turbines themselves operate noisily producing a low frequency hum and corresponding thumping sound. What impact will these undersea noises and vibrations have upon fish and marine mammals?

In addition, construction of the wind park will also necessitate the running of a high-voltage transmission cable to connect the wind park to the mainland. How much of a disturbance will construction of this cable have on shellfish beds in the Great South Bay?

What effect will the electromagnetic field created by the cable once in operation have?

How will the cable, itself, be protected from being accidentally damaged, which would knock the entire park off line?

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What's more, each turbine contains large quantities of motor oil and other fluids that pose great risks to the environment if released. What will be done to ensure that none of these fluids leak into the water in the event of a malfunction or accident, or even in the course of normal operation?

The release of hundreds of gallons of oil into the water would be catastrophic to our precious natural resources, and also to those who depend on those resources for their livelihood.

There is also much to be said about the visual impact construction of this wind park will have. Long Island's South Shore is truly a natural treasure that has been cherished by generations of Long Islanders and others alike. Countless people are drawn here exactly because of the scenic beauty

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of our ocean beaches, a beauty that will be negatively impacted by the construction of 40, 400-foot wind turbines. As the current generation of people living and working on Long Island, we have a responsibility and an obligation to ensure the availability of this precious resource for future generations.

 This year, I secured passage of the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act. This will create a Council to Guide New York to and ecosystem-based approach to managing our coastal resources. One of the reasons I sponsored this act is because of the many energy-related proposals which will deny fisherman, access to traditional fishing grounds, deny boaters access to open water and deny beachgoers access to a view of an unspoiled ocean.

 I would like the Council to

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create a planning process that considers which areas are appropriate for such developments and which are not. I feel that this is one area where it is not appropriate.

Are the total costs and negative impacts of this project outweighed by the benefits? Can the promised benefits of this project even be realistically expected? Will the ratepayers of Long Island be in any way insulated from the costs related to the inherent volatility of wind power?

Because of the questionable economic and environmental benefits of wind power, Denmark, Germany, Spain and Japan, to name just a few, have recently been canceling new or scaling back existing wind projects, and also reducing the enormous government subsidies necessary to make wind power viable.

In light of these actions by

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countries with far more experience with wind power, is it wise of us to embark down this road? Can the money that will be invested in this wind park be better spent in other ways that would more effectively achieve our goals of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and improving the quality of our air?

What will the actual and true impacts on Long Island's marine resources be, and will there be any protections afforded to the numerous people who depend on them? These questions should and must be answered before this project is allowed to move forward.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Minerals Management Service and the United States Department of Interior for the opportunity to express my concerns, and I look forward to receiving responses to the questions I have raised here tonight.

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MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you,
Senator. I would like to invite
Mayor Peter Imbert to speak next.

THE AUDIENCE: When is the
public going to speak at the public
hearing?

THE AUDIENCE: Let my mayor
speak.

MR. HOLCOMB: After the public
officials.

THE AUDIENCE: Can they take
three minutes like the rest of us?

MAYOR IMBERT: I am the mayor
of Amityville. I represent 10,000
residents, a vast majority are
against this project. It is directly
in front of our village, our
mainland, as well as our beaches. I
want to thank you for giving me the
opportunity to represent our
constituents.

First, Long Island should not
be a test ground for unproven
offshore windmills. The LIPA

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ratepayer has been quiet far too long.

Second, it is incomprehensible to me that the federal government will quarantine miles of beach for a single nest, yet fast-track 400-foot-high wind turbines three miles offshore, which will become a nightmare.

Third, as Senator Johnson said, the Wall Street Journal ran a front page article on February 9, 2006, about Denmark's clean energy initiative, be it offshore windmills. After ten years they decided to stop subsidizing wind power as it is draining our economy. Twenty percent of the country's power comes from wind and they concede it is far too high a price.

Why are we willing to approve a fast-track of such an enormous project which yields so little proposed energy for 44,000 homes and

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gamble on so many unknowns?

Four, once this project is built we are stuck with it for at least 20 years. Technology is changing so fast the project could become a dinosaur before it is even completed.

Fifth, Chairman Kessel serves with the pleasure of Republican governor. It is a good chance we can have a Democratic governor in November. This project could be shelved unless the next governor agrees with LIPA.

Lastly, I support global energy; however, the cost of the project outweighs the benefits. My solution will be a super fast-track more underground cables to the national grid where we can tap into hydroelectric power, which is a clean energy initiative like New Jersey.

Thank you very much.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I

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would like to invite Council Member David Bishop up, please.

COUNCILMAN BISHOP: Good evening. I am David Bishop. I am a town councilman, Town of Babylon. For 13 years I was a Suffolk County legislator, and for four of those years I served as the chairman of the environmental committee, where I worked every day with many of the proponents of this project to protect Long Island's environment.

I think that everyone in this room, and frankly in this nation is for safe and renewable energy; but because those stakes are so high it is important that we have a rational process. This process frankly is not rational, and the impact that they yield -- (Inaudible)

Let's talk for a minute about the process. With no disrespect to the actual humans in the agency, this agency was selected by the energy

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industry. And it was selected in an energy bill, which systematically sought to cut out public involvement. The decision that would be made here by this agency will cut out the state and cut out the local governments, which are accountable to voters; and in an elitist fashion move it to an agency which is insulated from public dialogue, and that is wrong.

 This agency has no experience, not just with windmills but with issues of this type. Not only that, it is my understanding that this agency has no office east of the Mississippi River. I think that that is highly troubling.

 It is probably easier -- you know what, it is easier to site this giant windmill complex three miles off in the ocean than it would be to construct a single two-family home in the Town of Babylon. That is because when we want to construct in the Town

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of Babylon there are agencies which measure cost benefit, the cost to the community versus the benefit of the project. I am not sure this is the case in this process.

Now this is a scoping session and I hope that the voice of the public can be heard, and that the scope of the agency chooses to take is wise, and I would offer these specific areas to look at; viability of alternative sites. You look at a wind map of Long Island offshore and you see it is windier to the east. Of course those folks may have a few more bucks than in Babylon.

The economic prudence in the context of an overall energy policy. LIPA is a public authority, like unregulated monopolies it operates outside a lot of government scrutiny. Who is going to stand there to make sure that this proposal makes sense for our overall energy policy?

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Noise; it is a matter of controversy. I am not sure what the final verdict is, but will these 42-story windmills have a noise impact on the coastal communities?

Should it be proven first? I think there should be a smaller-scale demonstration project before we go to a full scale city off of our coastline.

Finally, what will be the economic impact on Long Island? As the Supervisor said tourism is a major industry. The coast is an intangible asset, that it cannot be measured and -- well, it could be measured perhaps in our home values, and what will this do to those? It is important for all of this to be considered.

I want to leave with a story that I think everyone in this room who is a native New Yorker has experienced. When I was a child my

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mother took me to Tobay Beach, one of the beaches that would be affected. And we stood at the water's edge and she pointed out at the horizon and said you know what is next, she said it was Europe. Of course we are facing south, it is actually North Carolina, which is also a New York tradition.

I would hate to have the next generations say see what is out there, it is an energy facility, much like the Gulf of Mexico.

It is something special that we have on Long Island, and there should be a cost benefit analysis conducted by some agency somewhere to determine where it goes that would be appropriate.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I would like to invite Suffolk County Legislator Wayne Horsley down, the last of the elected officials to

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 speak.

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 LEGISLATOR HORSLEY: Good

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 evening, by the way, to the

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 committee. I will be forwarding

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 scoping questions in a separate

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 cover.

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 Across the nation Long Island

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 is known for many things, but it is

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 famous for two things that come to

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 mind and that is of course this is

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 the nation's best beaches and also

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 Long Island's high cost of living.

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 Out of concern for these two subjects

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 I appear before you today.

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 It goes without saying that

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 Long Island has a serene seascape,

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 and to disturb a natural masterpiece

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 like the Great South Bay would be a

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 crime against nature. As a matter of

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 fact, in 2006 a national survey said

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 only Hawaii had more beaches in the

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 top ten best beaches in this world.

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 Therefore, for those of you

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 who are here today pleading for the

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protection of the environment and our beaches I hear you. Jones Beach and Robert Moses Beach are the public crown jewels of the New York State parks system. And that is what makes our life livable and bearable on Long Island. This cause is a noble one.

However, the environmental concern on a grander national, global scale must be accountable for. NEPA is not a blank check for ecological accountability. America consumes an estimated 22 million gallons of oil daily, or roughly one-third of the global daily consumption of oil, and yet we only represent three percent of the world's petroleum reserves. It is evident that we are living on borrowed time and the clock is ticking.

If we are going to continue our role as a leading world power we must hold ourselves accountable for our actions. If we wish to sustain

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the Long Island quality of life we must be responsible for future generations.

In this case the renewable energy portfolio makes sense, and I will support renewable energy. However, before pledging needlessly into the development of renewable energy projects in a sparsely regulated sector on the outer continental shelf of the world's best beaches there are a number of things we must consider beyond aesthetics.

Eminent among our considerations must be the overall cost benefit ratio. Will our investment equal our return? A conservative 2005 estimate places this windmill park construction at 400 million dollars, plus a transmission cable construction cost at a minimum of 40 million dollars. We know these prices will increase due to rising labor and construction

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costs, so this is a big deal.

Moreover, the Suffolk County Budget Review Office suggests lifetime costs of the project, which I don't hold them to necessarily, will reach past 1.5 billion dollars, a cost that will in whole or in part be passed on to LIPA ratepayers. Added to the future cost is the fact that renewable energy remains ancient in the United States. The result is enhanced production costs.

In this case there is no experience in technologies, no established industrial base that will manufacture, ship, install and operate the facilities. As the first offshore wind park in the United States, the first, the LIPA proposal will be subject to important technical expertise, products and shipping. The existence of foreign variables lends to inflation and further complicates a complicated

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process.

All this, and I have said nothing of who will bear the responsibility of decommissioning these windmills when they are ready to expire, according to the current proposal LIPA will be entirely responsible for the decommissioning of the offshore windmill park. Understand this decommissioning is passed onto future ratepayers, like the decommissioning of the Shoreham nuclear plant.

When Shoreham was decommissioned associated expenses were incorporated into our monthly ratepayers' bills, which are still evident today. I ask what for?

THE AUDIENCE: We got a lot out of that.

LEGISLATOR HORSLEY: LIPA's own statistics demonstrate the wind park's peak capacity to be 140 megawatts with an average summer

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capacity of 30 megawatts. In a region where it is common to require 6,000 megawatts of daily capacity, the wind park would contribute less than three percent of our energy needs on Long Island.

Before investing so heavily in uncharted waters, and I use that term loosely, it may prove wise if all parties involved took a step back to look at the alternative methods and alternative sites for bridging the renewable energy divide. Specifically, what alternative sites has LIPA evaluated, and what alternative action plans is LIPA willing to consider?

These are among the questions I submit formally to the Minerals Management Service tonight, hoping that LIPA may respond to them more accurately. It is my belief there is a more balanced piecemeal approach to produce energy to Long Island than a

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gaudy approach.

I find it much easier to be supportive of a renewable energy project that made sense, a project that did not cost so much both financially and ecologically; did not overburden our future taxpayers, our future ratepayers into the future.

I think this is a project we should all consider wisely. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: I will open it up for public comment. I know you have been waiting patiently.

What I would like to do is call four people down at a time. I will give you the name of who is going to be speaking first and three on standby. As I introduce the next speaker I will ask another person to stand down.

Our first speaker will be Robert Karrer. Behind him I would like to ask Wally D'Amato, and Marie

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Domenici.

The first speaker will be
Mr. Karrer.

MR. KARRER: My concerns
include but are not limited to cost
benefits, aesthetics, environmental
safety pursuant to National
Environment Policy Act guidelines. I
will focus on risk assessment and
potential degradation of military and
civilian radar navigation systems in
proximity of wind turbines.

Be advised that the federal
register of June 19, 2006 FCE series
locate the proposed eight square mile
industrial power plant site southwest
of Jones Island. In fact it is
southeast. Is this LIPA or an
indication of the ineptness of the
partner petitioner?

The proposed site is in close
proximity to six civilian airports,
at the nearest at 6.4 miles, the
furthest is 35 miles. JFK

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International is 17.5 miles away.
Three miles in either direction are
two active ocean inlets. Less than
two miles to the southeast are the
commercial maritime shipping lanes
funneling into harbors in Manhattan
and north.

Can the New York Metro region,
with its concentration of traffic
sustain this proposal? The
Department of Defense, Federal
Aviation Administration, Homeland
Security and Coast Guard have
indicated concerns.

Around the nation the FAA and
the Department of Defense oppose
construction permits for land base
wind turbines because of interference
problems with radar. When will these
concerns be answered and made public?

In a letter dated August 18,
2005, U.S. Coast Guard requested from
the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to
require the applicant to complete a

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navigational risk assessment.
Quoting the Coast Guard, the assessment should address mainly the potential impact on national safety, search and rescue operations, communications, radar and positioning systems. Has this been accomplished and what are the results?

Citizens expect those responsible at LIPA to be concerned with well-being, safety and security of the people, and provide the highest standards of scientific inquiry and scrutiny. In light of the intense flight habits of commercial and recreational maritime traffic and population density, does current scientific evidence support a risk free conclusion?

With our concern with terror, drugs and resecuring our borders and coast lines, will our surveillance capability be compromised by interference created by the proposed

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structures?

Our nation's vast coastline
immense civil, military
infrastructure require conducting a
full navigational risk assessment.
The New York Metropolitan Region
calls for most stringent scientific
analysis, with the findings and
conclusion as a model for the entire
nation. Is this the time or location
for a fast-track rationale?

MR. HOLCOMB: Please state
your name and affiliation. And I
would like to have Gordian Raacke
come down as a standby.

MR. D'AMATO: Good evening.
My name is Wally D'Amato. I am
president of the Nassau Shore
Association of Massapequa,
representing approximately 1,600
families.

I am here in hopes of gaining
knowledge of why a project of this
magnitude is being considered. LIPA

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and Florida Power and Light proposed an offshore project with potential to reach 500 million dollars or more through LIPA ratepayers. Why aren't other forms of alternative energy being considered?

FALA Direct Marketing up in Farmingdale, is one of the largest privately-owned solar systems in the United States producing one megawatt of energy. FALA's system was built in 2003 with an approximate cost of six million dollars. Why haven't other areas of Long Island been considered for solar applications?

For example, farmland that can no longer produce crops cost effectively. Brown fields that stand stagnant throughout Long Island, or Grumman properties at Calverton of 2,900 acres, or the Bethpage with 110 acres.

Solar manufacturing on Long Island could be very beneficial. A

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property such as Grumman/Calverton site includes more than one million square feet of industrial space, a sizable area for the production of photovoltaic -- PB cells.

Manufacturing, installing and building solar on Long Island will create employment opportunities for Long Islanders; electricians, laborers, contractors and roofers. New York, by the way, has over 20 solar installers and dealers throughout the state.

Mass production of land-based solar energy, dollar for dollar, appears to be more cost effective than the proposed wind project generating 140 megawatts of power for 500 million or more; one megawatt of solar for six million, 100 megawatts of solar 60 million, 200 megawatts for 120 million. This is a prime example of more power for less money.

We all know that during the

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summer months Long Island demands more energy. Solar-generated power operates well within the daily utility load because of power available when it is needed most, during daylight hours. There are also government incentive programs for such applications.

According to the Advanced Energy Group Solar 4 Power, the most productive hours of sunlight are between nine a.m. and three p.m. During the summer months New York averages five sun hours and during the winter months New York averages three sun hours.

According to the Wind Energy Resource Atlas of the United States, upper air wind speeds are stronger in the winter than any other season over most of the United States. In spring upper air flow is weaker. In summer upper air wind speeds diminishes and wind power is at its lowest. In fall

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upper air wind speed increases as
fall proceeds toward winter.

In closing U.S. Department of
Energy Solar Energy Technology notes:
The earth receives more energy from
the sun in just one hour than the
world uses in one year. So I ask
you, please show me where and how
wind power is more conducive than
solar power.

Good night.

MR. HOLCOMB: Ellen Redmond,
come up for standby, please.

MS. DOMENICI: Good evening.
My name is Marie Domenici; I am here
not for any other reason than as a
resident of the planet. The reason I
am here tonight is not to offend
anyone who may have different
opinions on whether or not a wind
park is appropriate for Long Island,
nor do I profess to be an expert on
the environment.

I want to share with you an

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exchange of ideas and hope the information shared this evening will prompt dialogue and help open the lines of communication.

We have used wind power for thousands of years to propel boats across the water, grind grain into flour, and pump water from the ground. Today we have the technology to harness wind power to help meet the enormous energy demands of modern civilization. In fact, over the last five years wind power has become the world's fastest developing energy source, growing at an annual rate of 39 percent.

Burning fossil fuel is responsible for global warming. Using energy more efficiently and moving to renewable energy, whether it is wind, solar, or geothermal, would significantly reduce our emissions of heat traveling gases.

The United States currently

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produces 70 percent of the
electricity from fossil fuels such as
coal, natural gas, and oil, but only
two percent from renewable resources.

The burning of fossil fuels
releases large amounts of carbon
dioxide into the atmosphere, which is
the leading cause of global warming.
Including its share of our
electricity generated from renewable
resources we found the most efficient
ways to reduce global warming
emissions.

The following information is
to make you aware of what you don't
know can hurt you. The old saying
ignorance is bliss in this case is an
oxymoron.

Perhaps some of us in this
room might think nuclear power should
take care of all of our energy needs.
Let me share with you some
information regarding this industry.

Did you know there are over 66

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aging nuclear power plants in the United States alone. Throughout the world there are over 120 ancient power plants, with the largest concentration of nuclear power plants along the Eastern Seaboard. And in Europe the biggest concentration of nuclear power plants is in the Mediterranean.

Did you know with the building of the power plants there was no one architectural footprint that was used, so in the event of a nuclear occurrence at any one of those 66 power plants in the United States, we cannot prevent the problem from showing up in the remaining plants. When, not if, a nuclear occurrence takes place, no one will be safe in the ravages of a nuclear fallout. One cannot live far enough away from a nuclear power plant.

Last year alone there were three nuclear occurrences at Hillstep

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Nuclear Power Plant, which is located just nine miles across the Long Island Sound. And I guarantee you most of you have not heard a word about it. Scary but true.

I want to relay something very, very important, so let me skip to the important part. There are six good reasons why we should consider putting a wind park off the shores of Long Island. Tinpoint Nuclear Power Plant sits on 239 acres on Haverstraw, New York. Millstone sits on 500 acres in Connecticut. Seabrook sits on 889 acres. So there are many reasons why I can continue to talk here, but my time is up. What I am trying to say if we have to build a nuclear power plant on Long Island, whose backyard should that go in?

Lastly, growing up as a kid nobody we knew died of cancer. Our parents didn't die of cancer and our

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children didn't die of cancer, but today everyone is dying of cancer. It is because fossil fuels is bad for all of us.

I would like to continue but I don't want to take up other people's time.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I would like to invite Yerina Mugica to come down on standby.

MR. RAACKE: Hi. I am Gordian Raacke, executive director of Renewable Energy of Long Island. We are a not-for-profit organization advocating for use of clean, renewable energy sources here on Long Island.

We support the idea of an offshore wind park for Long Island, and a whole lot of other things such as solar. I have solar panels on my home and they are great by the way. However, we can only support such a project if it is done -- we said this

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all along -- if it is done in an environmentally acceptable manner, protecting our valuable marine life and coastal and ocean ecosystems, minimizing impacts on local migratory bird populations, and avoiding unnecessary visual and noise impacts.

During the environmental review process, and this is why I am excited that this process is finally beginning, because I have been at this since 1999 and certainly doesn't seem like fast-track, but during the environmental review process we must assess the potential negative impacts; all of the ones mentioned here today and the ones which will be submitted for the record.

We must also weigh them against significant positive environmental impacts and public benefits that are typical for renewable energy projects when compared to conventional electricity.

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We believe in order to meet a substantial portion of our energy demand, we can't just do it all by solar, we need all of the above including wind. We must accelerate the development of larger scale renewable energy projects which are commercially viable today.

We also recognize that renewable energy infrastructure must be located close to where the load is. Frankly that means for now these things are going to be visible, because we are going to be there using that power.

So if we just want to talk the talk, that is one thing; but if you want to walk the walk on renewable energy, and are serious about bringing renewable energy into the mainstream we must overcome shortsighted, n o t i n m y b a c k y a r d attitudes in favor of policies that serve the broader

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public interests.

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The Long Island Offshore Wind Park will allow us a clean, domestic, renewable energy resource right here at our doorstep. It will help us reduce pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and will keep more money in the local economy. I would rather keep my oil wells here on Long Island and in the US than sending it to OPEC countries.

I just want to tell you that while we are waiting for offshore deep water technologies, we need to move forward with the first project. Like this or the Cape Cod project could be the very first project in the United States.

I have had the opportunity to go to Denmark a few years back and see one of those offshore wind parks over there. And I don't know, contrary to what some other people -- I don't know whether they have

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actually been there or not, but they love it. I went around with my little video camera and interviewed people in the street and stopped the ones that spoke English and said, is anything wrong with this --
(Inaudible)

We will be submitting formal comments in writing. Thank you for the opportunities.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you.

MS. REDMOND: Good evening.
My name is Ellen Redmond. I am director of External Affairs for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1049. We represent approximately 2,500 members in the electric and gas industry here on Long Island, of which approximately 1,850 work for KeySpan and LIPA.

Local 1049 members certainly recognize the importance of providing clean, reliable energy to the almost

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1.1 million electricity consumers on Long Island. And Local 1049 members work extremely hard to ensure that our homes and businesses when we get home at the end of the day those lights go on, and they are there 24/7.

We also recognize the importance of moving away from our dependence on foreign suppliers, and the need to add additional sources of energy. When I say add, I mean add. Let's not disregard the base load energy that is provided by our power plants here on Long Island; they are an essential part of meeting our needs, and our needs grow every single day.

With this in mind we also would support moving towards cleaner sources of energy. But, we would like to keep an open mind in this process. Recognizing that newer technologies today have been tried

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and true, we would ask that there be an open mind on everybody involved as this process goes on, just as we will keep an open mind ourselves.

Thank you for listening to us tonight.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Yerina Mugica is next. I would like to invite Mike Dvorak to come down.

MS. MUGICA: Good evening. My name is Yerina Mugica; I am pleased to offer the following testimony on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Counsel. NIDC is national environmental organization located in New York City, with over 1.2 million members and activists nationally.

Combating global warming and protecting the marine environment are two of NIDC's priorities. The development of appropriate site and environment sustainable, renewable energy technologies in the United States is important to achieving both

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of those goals, especially given the devastating consequences marine environments are likely to suffer from continuing unchecked global warming.

NIDC supports the environmentally responsible development of Long Island significant untouched offshore wind resources because of the potential environmental and economic benefits that such development offers, in the form of reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lower levels of local and regional air pollution, and a more diversified energy portfolio.

At the same time NIDFC requires that any such development be conducted in an environmentally sustainable manner without compromising the unique remaining ecosystems that thrive off Long Island's coasts.

We look forward to the

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opportunity that the EIS causes to
conduct a comprehensive environmental
review of the proposed project to
evaluate any environmental risks it
might impose, including potential
impacts on coastal and marine life
habitats; the safety of local and
migratory bird populations; visual
impacts as well as noise.

However, no form of power
generation is without some
environmental impacts. And the
impacts of offshore wind are orders
of magnitude less severe than those
associated with oil and gas
extraction and related activities
already taking place in
federally-controlled waters off our
nation's coasts.

Therefore, this EIS should
also address the substantial
near-term and long-term environmental
benefits that the proposed wind
facility may provide to allow a

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balanced assessment of the project.
Particularly in comparison to other
forms of electricity generation from
which Long Islanders would likely
derive their power if this project
did not go forward.

NIDC looks forward to working
with MMS to bring such clean,
renewable energy sources to Long
Island, and the rest of the nation in
an environmentally responsible manner
while preserving our irreplaceable
resources.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I
would like to invite Ethan Podell to
speak next; and Marc Clejan please
stand by. I apologize if I butcher
somebody's name too badly.

MR. PODELL: I am Ethan
Podell. I am a cofounder of New York
Chapter of Environmental
Entrepreneurs, or E2. E-2 is a
national group of some 700 national

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business people from 26 states, who believe in protecting the environment while building economic prosperity.

E-2 serves as a business voice for the environment advocating for the economic benefits of good environmental policy by seeking reasoned, market-based solutions to environmental issues. E-2 works at the local, state and national level through the entirely volunteer efforts of its members. We are a bipartisan organization.

E-2 members have created some 800 companies, 42,000 jobs, and those among us in the investment community manage 20 billion dollars in private equity capital that will be invested in new companies in the coming years. From a jobs-creation perspective wind power is much to be commended.

Renewable energy projects have been shown to create twice as many jobs of megawatts of power produced

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as traditional fossil fuel power projects.

E-2 supports the environmentally sustainable development of offshore wind energy for Long Island. Offshore wind has potential for making a meaningful contribution to the mix of renewable sources of energy, which we as a nation must develop quickly.

We are serious about implementing a long-term rational and stable solution to that posed by our consumption of energy. Generating more energy from renewable sources like wind is essential to reducing air pollution, including emission of greenhouse gases linked to global warming, which is predicted to have a devastating set of consequences for Long Island's coastal communities.

The proposed Long Island wind project will not only reduce the pollution risk results for burning

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fossil fuels to create electricity,
but may also help to diversify Long
Island's power supply, which is now
almost exclusively dependent on
fossil fuel and subject to the
powerful price volatility, which
characterizes current oil and gas
markets.

We also support conducting
environmental review of the project
to make sure it fully and adequately
protects natural marine resources,
and plant and animal species located
in the area where the project is
slated to take place. This review
should consider such factors as
impacts of the project on local and
migratory bird populations, fish,
marine animals, and other wildlife.

The EIS should consider
available mitigation measures and
acquire them as appropriate.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: I would like to

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invite Mike Dvorak to speak, please.
And I would like to invite Nick
Aburel to come down, please. Thank
you.

MR. DVORAK: Hi, everyone. My
name is Mike Dvorak; I am from
Stanford University in Palo Alto,
California. I am a graduate student
in the environmental engineering
department there, where we study
economic, societal/environmental
impacts.

This is actually my first time
in West Babylon and Long Island in
fact, but I took a cab from the train
station to the school here and I was
pleasantly surprised to find a
windmill in front of the sign
welcoming me to West Babylon.

Then I noticed a company
across the street Sunshine Plus, a
solar panel provider. I thought to
myself what a great place Babylon
must be with all of these renewable

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energy options throughout. Long Island has an even larger energy choice to make. Global warming will be the most significant problem to face my generation and my childrens' generation. Carbon dioxide emissions from dirty coal and natural gas carbon power plants will continue to warm our plant unless we change the way we make our power.

Renewable energy like the wind-powered Long Island Offshore Wind Park can provide to 44,000 homes, could reduce these carbon dioxide emissions to zero. Not only that, 40 wind turbines will protect Long Island from dramatic price hikes in their electric bill, like those suffered in California a few years ago.

Energy use is increasing everywhere in the U.S. Most Americans don't have a choice, but Long Islanders do fortunately. You

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have the opportunity to create a legacy of clean energy that your children and my children will thank you for. By supporting the Long Island Offshore Wind Park you can probably tell your children and future generations that you took a stand for the environment and their prosperity, and probably end up saving a few dollars on your energy bill too.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Marc Clejan is next, and I would like to invite Laurie Farber to be on standby.

MR. CLEJAN: I am here speaking as a Long Islander. I am very much attached to the coastline and I consider it one of the most important local treasures. I am also an water sports enthusiast, surfer and sailor. Thus, it is safe to say that I don't want to see anyone spoil this wonderful coastline of ours.

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 However, I am also a very concerned citizen and I am concerned about many things; global warming, potential for rising water levels, beach erosion, flooding, storm damage, and increased hurricane strength, and what all of these risks can do to our precious coastline.

 I am also a businessman concerned about the rising cost of fuels, and the fact that we are all addicted to them. I am a concerned father, worried about terrorism and the idea of sending our children to war to fight for oil.

 What kind of world are we going to leave our children? All of these concerns make it clear to me that we must support this offshore wind project, and I hope you will consider all of these issues as you perform your Environmental Impact Statement. Clearly this project will resolve all of the major concerns I

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mentioned. The only possible negative is the slight damage to our coastline view, which is a seemingly minuscule price to pay for so many critical rewards.

Long Island has a chance to step up and be a leader in the world and do something truly meaningful right here. Now is our time to act. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Richard Moore, come down on standby, please.

MR. ALBUKREK: Good evening. My name is Nick Albukrek; I live in New York City, but I run a solar installation business in Long Island. I have come here to support offshore wind project in Long Island.

I come from Europe, and as many of you know, many countries in Europe have adopted wind energy. I have personally witnessed that the communities that have wind farms are actually proud of what they have and

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how they contribute to a healthier environment.

I also see from my business that people really want to do something to fight global warming and become energy-dependent. Ever since I started my business with my partner Mark, who just spoke, less than a year ago, our phones are ringing off the hook and we cannot keep up with the demand.

Solar energy alone is not enough. We need all the different components of renewable energy to work together to present a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Here is the chance for Long Island to become a leader in the country and we should not waste that.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I would like to invite A.J. Aleano to come down on standby.

MS. FARBER: My name is Laurie

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Farber. Contrary to what many people here may think tonight we are not here for a cheerleading session, we are here to help define the content of the Environmental Impact Statement.

A couple of weeks ago I led an activity with kids about food chains, where I told them they were representing plants and animals that couldn't be here. That is why I am here tonight, to represent plants and animals that can't speak for themselves.

I am concerned about the neotropical migrants that are already hurting from massive habitat destruction in both the summer and winter; the fish and the fish-eating birds; the whales, and the plankton. I am here to be assured they are considered in the decision of whether this is the right project in the right place.

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I am sure you will hear people tonight dismiss concerns about birds. I spent 20 years handling birds near the Fire Island Lighthouse. By the time I was a senior in college I had already handled thousands more birds than my ornithology professor.

I know what our coastal migrations are like. They depend on the weather. They can be phenomenally heavy one day and very scant the next. I know some birds, like the Blackpoll warbler, head straight off our beaches over the open ocean in the fall. Our coast is unlike any other place that may have been studied -- we are perpendicular to the direction of the migrations.

A friend and colleague who taught ornithology and maritime history a few semesters for Southampton College, on a sailing ship that traveled up and down the coast between Maine and the

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Carribbean, wrote to me that "On board the ship I often saw exhausted small birds. Sometimes flocks land on the schooner to rest and recoup before resuming their journeys.

"I particularly recall a little fly catcher that came aboard and stayed for several days until the supply of insects ended."

Are there birds off our coast? I would say so. I am here to insist that FPL do everything the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has requested. And I mean everything, just the way the Fish and Wildlife Service has asked it be done. I know they are asking for three years of radar studies. I don't care if this delays the project, the science must be done right.

I am here to insist that this U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' suggestions about lighting be followed. I know that light can lure

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the birds in. I want to be sure that less impacting routes for the transmission cable are seriously considered.

I am here to ask that the USGS be consulted about the possibility of penetrating the freshwater -- (Inaudible) -- beneath the barrier beach, and what impacts might occur to that freshwater supply.

I am here to ask that the USGS and the Army Corps of Engineers be consulted about any impacts on the processes along our shore and any sand and current movements further offshore.

I am here to ask that the behavior of fish-eating birds off our shores be examined for possible impacts, as well as the movement of fish and marine mammals. And, I am here to ask for an evaluation of how this project would replace current uses of fossil fuel instead of adding

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additional power to the grid.

I am hoping that real science and looking at the real potential impacts can give us a real solid decision. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: I would like to invite Andy Vourlos.

MR. MOORE: My name Richard Moore; I live on the South Shore of Long Island, and I have been following the wind farm projects the last couple of years. I have also been going to Jones Beach for over 50 years, and I love Jones Beach and Robert Moses Park, and don't want to see them destroyed.

Last year at one these wind park meetings, LIPA said the reason the wind park site was chosen is that the technology was not available to place it further out. And the chosen site was the only one that made sense. Less than six months later I see a proposal coming forward where a

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larger wind farm is being proposed more than 20 miles offshore.

MMS is charged with looking at alternative sites. I think they should look at the possibility of moving this further out in the ocean so it is not seen from the shore. I don't want to see our beaches destroyed by this industrial plant.

Also, at the meeting last year they said they would be releasing data on the LIPA rate increase that this wind farm would cause us. I have not seen one thing coming out of LIPA, all I see are promises. I think MMS should make sure when they do the financial analysis they look at the impact of rate increases on Long Islanders that this wind farm is going to cost.

Finally, the mention of the noise of these wind turbines. In addition to the noise of the wind turbines there are going to be 40 fog

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horns. These fog horns are needed because this is close to the shipping lanes. The question I have is what is the sound of these -- when you combine the fog horns and swishing of the windmills, what is the noise level going to be?

Are we going to be able to hear it here in West Babylon? Is it going to be that loud? Nobody has done an analysis on that. Anyway, those are the comments I wanted to make. Thank you very much.

MR. HOLCOMB: Next up is A.J. Alearno. I would like to invite William Lauder to come up and speak.

MR. ALEARNO: My name is Tony Alfano; we have been residents at Gilgo Beach for about 60 years, and I am talking about my wife.

We have heard a lot of talk tonight about pollution and everyone's concern about it and certainly we share that. Long

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Islanders have been saddled with unbelievably high electric rates, which LIPA has no problem passing on because of many reasons, part of which are fuel.

Secondly, we operate through KeySpan many inefficient old and polluting plants while LIPA spends untold thousands, if not millions, of dollars pushing a proposal which will produce about one percent of Long Island's energy. We are playing games in not considering a proposal, which was made by Dr. Matthew Cordero, a professor at C.W. Post Long Island University, to repower only three of the current plants in the KeySpan/LIPA system. Cordero's memorandum of January 2005 is available on many Web sites, and in fact if you need a copy we will get you one.

There is absolutely no question that current wind power is

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not as cheap or cheaper than fossil fuels. We have three elements by way of federal and state subsidy: Number one, a wind plant could be written off in six years through accelerated depreciation.

Number two, credit them for the first ten years of operation. And number three, green credits and also taxpayer funds are available.

Just getting for one moment to repowering the plants. If we are so concerned about pollution how about these statistics. Nitrous oxide will be reduced at Northport, Port Jefferson in a range of 92 percent. Sulfur dioxide from 98 to 88 percent. Carbon dioxide from 84 to 86 percent, and particulates from 51 to 85 percent.

This is sheer nonsense ladies and gentlemen. We want a study. We would like some alternative energy, but not a pipe dream that has come

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from Mr. Kessel's mind. Thank you
very much.

MR. HOLCOMB: I would like to
invite Andy Vourlos, and Mary
Santoli.

THE AUDIENCE: I have an
engineer.

MR. VOURLOS: You can all be
thankful, I reduced it to just the
top line here. You guys are
challenged big time because you are
dealing with Long Island here. I
have been here all my life. You will
be taken to task to do it.

Just so everyone has an
understanding where I am coming from,
I am 37. I have been in school most
of my life and working full time most
of my life. I have an engineering
background and most recently master's
in energy management from New York
Tech. And one of my good friends who
graduated with me is working on this
project.

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I am here only because I support renewable energy. I believe it is bold and daring to go this route, whether it is at this location or whether it is elsewhere.

What I reduced this down to is a few key words that keep coming up, because everyone is going to hear the same thing tonight.

The issue of cost always comes up. It is an entirely up-front cost and it is millions. You know what, energy is always going to cost a lot of money just by the world growing. So do you put money into renewable now or do you wait until oil is \$200 a barrel and China is buying most of it to power their economy? At what point do you say we have to do something else?

Aesthetics keeps coming up. My parents took me to Jones Beach all my life. Whether I look at the open ocean now or I see something that is

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generating electricity through wind,
I don't think that is such a bad
thing. But there are those who will
differ and everyone is entitled to
that. It is something the MMS is
going to have to look at big time.

Nature; someone brought up
ecological concerns. Sure that will
have an impact. So will the power
plants running now. I compare the
power plants running on Long Island
now to my father's '66 Corvette that
he bought 40 years ago that burns
more oil than gas, but he loves it
and he is attached to it, but
eventually you do move on. We are
going to restore it; but hey, you
have to move on.

You certainly have the right
crowd here to make you folks aware
that whatever you do decide you will
have the input of these great people.

I did go into major debt last
year. I bought a house and now I am

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a mortgage payer, ratepayer,
taxpayer. Right now I owe somebody
money. I bet you do too. Thank you
very much for hearing me.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I
would like to invite William T.
Lauder to speak and Jam Calgano to
come down on standby, please.

MR. LAUDER: My name is
William T. Lauder, resident of
Amityville, former supervisor of the
Town of Babylon. I have been active
in politics and civil affairs for
over 50 years.

I want to say that I am
confident that this is the biggest
boondoggle that I have yet to see.
Much has been said by our elected
officials and they have pretty well
touched upon all the salient points,
and so have many of our speakers, so
there isn't too much really left to
say.

I would just like to point out

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and underscore a couple of things.
One is in particular that the need
for energy on Long Island is not
here, it is at the East End which is
developing. In fact, the engineering
report of the applicant here clearly
states that that is the case. And
also, that Montauk Point is really
the ideal place to put these
windmills if we must have them.

The only people who are really
going to benefit from this is FPL.
The problem with that is that we do
not know any of the details of the
contractor or agreement between LIPA
and FPL. We all do know, at least I
know that whatever the estimated cost
of this boondoggle is, and I think it
was banged around 400 million, it
will be double before it is done.
Any respectful politician will tell
you that.

The question is who is going
to pay the other 400 million? It

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definitely has to be passed on to somebody and I suspect that the contract that FPL has with LIPA protects LIPA. LIPA is so anxious to get into this, it is a feel good kind of enterprise with LIPA. I think that is a concern that should really be paid attention to.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I would like to invite Marian Conway Santoli to speak next, and Neal Lewis to come down on standby, please.

MS. SANTOLI: Hi. I am a doctoral student in public policy, but I am here as a Lindenhurst mother.

In reading the June 19th MMS Notice of Intent, I notice that one of the considerations for the windmill project is the no action alternative. I have to insist that the time has run out on that fallback option. The government utilizes the

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no action alternative far too often.
It is the coward's answer to the
difficult question, and is no longer
a viable resource in a world where
people in production and global
warming not only affects our
lifestyle but our lives.

All that needs to be said has
been said by more qualified people
than me. I wanted to just indicate
two things about windmills. Keep in
mind that 40 windmills will save
40,000 tons of coal every year, plus
the emissions that the coal puts out.
While we are picturing that view of
the South Shore with the windmills,
think that the wind power does not
have to be dug up, refined, or
governed by Wall Street.

Then picture a coal plant
which is where LIPA gets so much
power now. If you turn away from the
power plant the emissions are still
in the air nearby; the smell, the

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taste, the sight, affecting my asthma
and the rest of the planet.

Repowered power plants still
require coal. That coal comes from
mountaintopping in the Appalachians,
which is the permanent desecration
and obscene destruction of an entire
mountain. The remains of coal
production is piled where runoff
destroys creeks and kills. Emissions
from burning coal adds to global
warming.

Meanwhile, there are windmills
and there is the sun. Hopefully our
brilliant children and their children
will develop technology to the point
that solar power is convenient, cheap
and at our fingertips. At such time
windmills if built can be quietly
dismantled and removed leaving no
permanent damage. There is no way to
repair a coal mine. No way to bring
back a mountain top.

Now West Virginia may not be

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our concern, but the air, ground and water being irrefutably damaged is not just somewhere else.

My daughters deserve my best efforts at providing a world with renewable energy and no carbon emissions. A thorough EIS must be accomplished and viable alternatives considered; wind and sun. This is the time to do something, not the no action alternative.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: I have asked to announce the number of the speaker. This is number 16, Jim Calcagno.

I would like to ask Peter Ford to come down on standby, please.

MR. CALCAGNO: Hello. I am a lifetime Deer Park resident. I believe wind parks are beautiful. Not only are they aesthetically magnificent, I would be proud to look out at these noninvasive melding of advanced human technology and some

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powerful natural forces.

We put up with the hideous mesh of utility poles and wires without complaint. In 10 years, 20 years maybe we will have pumping stations off our coastline like so many other places in our country. With advanced drilling technology you just may be drilling off our shores because there is no place else to look for fossil fuels, and that would be ugly.

Buckminster Fuller may be our greatest inventor and design engineer. He strongly promoted wind power more than 60 years ago up until his death in 1982. He reminded us that half of the earth's surface faces the sun for 12 hours, and then faces deep dark cold space for another 12 hours, creating turbulence on our atmosphere.

This is wind and powered by the sun. Stick something up into

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that turbulence and we tap into all the power we ever need. Every 100 square miles has enough air and wind to supply all of our areas energy needs. He showed us also that all of the earth's land masses could be connected in an electrical grid with the sleeping dark side of the planet supplying its unused energy to the awake, active side.

The most exciting part of wind-generating energy is that this can give us an unlimited supply of fuel for our vehicles. Sending electricity through water splits the molecules into hydrogen and oxygen. When you burn the hydrogen while recombining it with oxygen you get exactly the amount of energy used to split the water and the only exhaust burning is pure water. You can't beat that.

So you have unlimited supply of sun energy, which creates

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unlimited supply of wind-generated electricity, which can create an unlimited supply of fuel from our unlimited supply of water, and so it is basically free.

It may be expensive now because technology is new, but just like pumping water to our homes for practically no cost, the same essentially can be done with energy. Compared to the cost of extracting and transporting, and using fossil fuels and its terrible byproducts it is practically free.

I say put wind turbines in the water, on the land, in your backyards, on top of every rooftop, on top of hundreds of thousands of utility light poles we have on Long Island, and we don't need any fossil fuels ever.

This is the next level of consciousness. It is that important. It can supply power to all the people

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everywhere, and you know what kind of problems that would solve.

Normally we bad-mouth power companies for all sorts of reasons. I can't believe I heard LIPA was spearheading this movement. I applaud them for the effort, and instead of paying them for dangerous dirty fuel I would rather pay them for clean unlimited power.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Neal Lewis to speak next, and Kevin MacLeod to come down on standby, please.

MR. LEWIS: Good evening. My name is Neal Lewis, executive director of The Neighborhood Network. The reasons environmentalists support clean renewable sources of energy are many. This project, if it ever gets approved and built, will immediately offset electric generation from power plants that burn oil and gas, and therefore it will reduce emissions

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coming out of smokestacks. Emissions we all breathe. Emissions like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulates. These chemicals cause asthma episodes, shortness of breath, reduce lung capacity, and have been associated with such things as lung cancer and heart attacks.

Another major motivator for environmentalists is the most serious issue confronting the planet today, and that is global warming, which is causing sea level to rise and increased storm severity and frequency. This project would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by some 235,000 tons of CO2 every year, which is a very big amount. It is equivalent to avoiding 500,000 car miles every year. It is of course carbon dioxide emissions that are accelerating global warming and causing a climbing crisis.

I urge everyone who has taken

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the time to come here tonight to also
take the time to see the movie
"Inconvenient Truth." In order to
have a healthy debate about this
proposal and concerns being raised
about this proposal we should all
start with an awareness of the
inconvenient and yet undeniable truth
about the climbing crisis confronting
our planet.

Today is a great day because
today is the day we begin to get past
the claims and counterclaims. The
misinformation, although there is
still plenty of that here today, but
today is the day we begin to get past
the misinformation and finally get
down to the facts and get down to the
science.

The EIS that begins today
needs to be comprehensive, highly
professional, and scientifically
rigorous. Our goal is nothing short
of doing the EIS that will set a

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national model. The scope of this EIS should include many of the points that are raised and I will also begin with the basics:

Will wind electricity offset air pollution from power plants? Some people today don't think that very basic fact is in fact true. So we need to start with the basics and the Scope EIS must include such basics.

What is the worldwide experience with wind technology? Some people speaking tonight present themselves as experts on the European wind experience. We need researchers from MMS to set the record straight on what is happening with Europe.

The EIS must address the claims of noise, vibrations, marine life impacts, sharks, family pets; some of these particularly and highly unlikely claims that have been made and repeated and repeated and taken

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on a life of their own need to be set straight by this EIS.

A significant portion of the EIS needs to deal with the main and really only issue presented by the project, which is the view impact. People who oppose this project have strong points of view about the view impact. I would encourage this EIS to address the issue scientifically.

I will pick up on that point next time. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Number 18, Peter Ford to speak next. Dan Zaweski to come down.

MR. FORD: Good evening. My name is Peter Ford and I am a director with FPL Energy, the applicant in this case. I would like to thank the MMS for holding these hearings, and I would especially like to thank all of you for taking your evening out to learn more about the project and express your views and

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concerns about the project.

FPL Energy owns and operates the largest fleet of wind turbines in the United States, with over 6,200 turbines operating in 15 states. We have a long track record as a leader in wind energy, both in terms of the development and construction as well as ongoing operations.

Although there are currently no offshore wind projects operating in the United States, offshore wind technology has been deployed in Europe for over 15 years with over 900 megawatts of offshore projects operating safely across Europe. This summer alone, three projects are being built off of the English, Dutch and Swedish coasts.

FPL Energy is very focused on the needs of its customers. The Long Island Power Authority issued a competitive Request For Proposals to develop, build, own and operate an

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offshore wind project within a 52 nautical-square-mile region from the western tip of Fire Island to Long Beach.

The combination of our extensive wind experience and desire to meet a valuable customer's need, we submitted a competitive proposal on May 1, 2004 for 140 megawatt Long Island Offshore Wind Project. FPL Energy was subsequently selected by LIPA to develop the project.

FPL Energy supports the siting process and decision that was undertaken by LIPA to identify a suitable region for this project. The key factors for a viable project location include: Wind resource, acceptable water depths, absence of existing infrastructure, vicinity to an electrical grid interconnection, and most importantly the minimization of negative environmental impacts.

These were the primary factors

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that led us to a cluster design layout which minimizes the visual impact to the eight-square-mile project site. This location also keeps the project a sufficient distance away from the shipping lane coming into the Port of New York, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

We encourage the MMS to review the siting processes used by LIPA and FPL as part of its alternative siting assessment. We also recommend that the EIS process evaluate the environmental impacts of existing offshore wind facilities in Europe. These projects provide an excellent background for potential impacts and benefits of this type of renewable energy technology.

In closing, FPL Energy is very sensitive to the concerns and issues of this community. The project has conducted over 180 outreach meetings and have discussed this project with

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many governmental agencies and
elected officials. We welcome the
public comments to this important
process, and we look forward to
continuing this dialogue and
evaluation.

Thank you all for
participating tonight and adding your
voice to this important process.

MR. HOLCOMB: Number 19, Kevin
MacLeod. And I ask Walter Arnold to
come down on standby, please.

MR. MacLEOD: My name is Kevin
MacLeod, and I am a solar energy
contractor and a lobbyist for
renewable energy industry here.

The question I think we have
here with us on Long Island is how
are we willing to meet our energy
needs within the next decade? Are we
going to do it by nuclear; I guess
not. Are we going to do it by
conservation and retooling our power
plants; maybe. How about building

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other power plants? I don't know; it doesn't look like we want that around here either.

What about wind energy? Well, it seems like a lot of people are against that also, including our politicians.

How about solar energy? I want to ask this question to our elected officials that are still here. Owen, you don't have to answer this question because you are a great supporter of the industry already.

What about incentives for the homeowners here on Long Island, tax incentives that will make it affordable for all the people here to be able to put solar panels on their houses? I think that would be an answer to the problem.

What about supporting legislation that would put commercial metering in New York State, that will allow Long Island businesses and New

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York State businesses to be able to put solar energy on the top of their roofs and have their meters go backwards also? We are having so much resistance against this Upstate; how about supporting legislation like that?

I will say this. At least LIPA is willing to forego the State Law and voluntarily implement that program on their own. I at least thank them for that.

Besides being a renewable energy installer here on Long Island, I am also a meteorologist. I have to tell you this; greenhouse warming and global warming is a reality here. Within the next couple of years Long Island can expect a Category 3 or 4 hurricane. The bottom line is if we get one of these storms during high tide and full moon, there is going to be nothing left south of Sunrise Highway here. That is the reality.

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So what I think we need to do here is look at all these programs, maybe a combination of everything, and invest our time and incentives here so we can reduce our global greenhouse warming here and do something before it is too late for all of us here on Long Island.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I would like to invite Number 20, Dan Zaweski to come down to speak, and Philip Healey on standby.

MR. ZAWESKI: Good evening. My name is Dan Zaweski and I am director of energy efficiency and distributed generation programs for Long Island Power Authority. I also serve as the Authority's project manager for the proposed offshore wind park.

LIPA is a nonprofit municipal electrical utility which owns retail electric transmission and

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distribution system on Long Island, and provides electrical service to over 1.1 million customers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and the Rockaway peninsula in Queens. In terms of customers served, LIPA is the third largest municipal electric facility in the nation and the sixth largest in terms of electricity delivered.

Now pursuant to Section 1020 of the New York State Public Authorities Law, LIPA was charged to "utilize to the fullest extent practicable, all economical means of conservation, and technologies that rely on renewable energy resources, cogeneration and improvements in energy efficiency, which will benefit the interests of the ratepayers of the service area."

Since our inception in 1999 through year-end 2005, LIPA's Clean Energy Initiative has spent over 229

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million dollars on energy efficiency programs and the promotion for renewable/clean generations. These efforts have had the result of reducing overall peak capacity by 150 megawatts, reducing 385,000 megawatt hours of energy consumption in 2005.

Despite these efforts, overall consumption of energy on Long Island continues to grow. By 2010 LIPA estimates that its overall energy requirements will increase by more than six percent or 1,342,000 megawatt hours more than they are today. Similarly our peak capacity requirements are scheduled to increase by nearly an additional seven percent of 355 megawatts more than they are today.

Moreover, LIPA's commitment to comply with the spirit of the New York State Renewable Portfolio Standard, which seeks to have 25 percent of all energy retailed in New

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York State come from resources by 2013, will require that LIPA procure approximately 1,150,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy in 2010. This project will help LIPA achieve nearly 40 percent of that goal.

Given the high percentage of LIPA's energy mix, which comes from plants fueled by either oil or natural gas, this project offers the potential for LIPA to begin to diversify its energy resource portfolio to other nonfossil and noncarbon dioxide-emitting resources. Additionally, unlike fossil-based generation which can be heavily impacted by both volatile fluctuations in the price of the fuel commodity, and also the potential for disruption in supply, this project offers LIPA the benefit of long-term price stability which will come from it, as well as the elimination of outside control factors on its supply

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of fuel.

We believe that given the current state of various forms of renewable resource technologies available, Long Island's population density and open space programs, this project offers the best option to begin diversifying the portfolio of electric supply resources for Long Island ratepayers.

Additionally, as noted in our existing Energy Plan, this project helps meet a portion of the overall increase in supply that LIPA will need to procure to meet future energy demand. This project should not be viewed as a single option but rather in the context of diversified energy strategy, which also includes the development of other traditional fossil fueled plants, increased energy efficiency efforts, and the development of new transmission cables which combined offer LIPA a

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means by which to support future energy demand on Long Island.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and look forward to a full and public vetting of the both environmental benefits and impacts of this project.

MR. ARNOLD: I am Walter Arnold; I am director of the Save Jones Beach Committee. I would like to formally protest for the record fast-tracking of this process. Subject to this review should be a full cost benefit analysis. The last review by LIPA and FPL, the answer to the question of cost benefit analysis was that it was not subject to that review. Without analysis of the cost how can we know the benefits of this project?

Some items of concern; number one, tourism. Ten million plus people visit Tobay, Jones Beach, Robert Moses, Cedar, Gilgo Beach.

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What is going to be the impact to that with an electric turbine factory?

Fishing; 100 million dollars of income comes from Cedar Beach, which is the east part of this project, to Jones Beach -- Department of Commerce numbers in 2003 of New York State. The fishermen feel they know we cannot fish in this particular range. What is the impact there?

Property value. West Islip to Freeport in excess of 100 million dollars plus in real estate. In an English law ruling that property value was impacted 20 percent because of a nearby wind farm. How will that affect Long Island towns' ability to raise taxes?

Boating. Boating in this area is a hundred million plus industry. The people in a boat they go out, fish all day. If they don't catch a

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fish, just to be on the Great South Bay and relax.

And to have turbulence of wind turbine, reflection, blades, flickering, it is hypnotism, it is a whole bunch of interference. They are going to go to the next area.

FPL and LIPA has stated this project has no impact. It is completely benign. What if they are wrong? This must be determined before this project is allowed to proceed. Thank you very much.

MR. HOLCOMB: Is Philip Healey in the audience? Is he here? We are getting some cancellations so please bear with us.

I would like to invite Charles Hersh to speak; is that you?

MR. HERSH: Yes.

MR. HOLCOMB: And George Kravis come down and be on standby, please.

MR. HERSH: I am Charles

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Hersh; I am an electrical engineer and resident of Amityville. I must say we have pretty good politicians, they hit the right thing. Repowering is a lot better than this wind farm. In fact, I feel the wind farm is a piece of junk.

What can I say? At 20 miles per hour we do get 140 megawatts. I have to admit that. At 16 miles per hour you only get 71 megawatts. At ten miles per hour you get 17 and a half megawatts. You lose your power very fast. Keep in mind when the wind speed is half you have more to power. That is reality of life.

This thing is not going to do much. And really, LIPA should be concentrating on repowering and forgetting about this piece of junk. I don't know what else to tell you. I would vote for Owen Johnson and Steve Bellone and Wayne Horsley because they know what they are

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doing.

Really, people get into this trap of thinking about renewables. You could do more by conservation. One aspect of conservation is being more efficient. This is what you do. If you kept building wind farms you could only replace about 20 percent of the fossil fuels because guess what, the wind comes and goes.

You could replace 40 percent of your fossil fuel, by doing this repowering; and carbon dioxide emissions by 85 percent. I think that makes a lot more sense.

I just don't have anything else to say.

MR. HOLCOMB: Is George Kravis or Kevin Harvey here? No? Rick Carrier, Number 26. I would like to invite Bruce Bailey to come down on standby, please.

MR. HARVEY: Hi. Good evening. My name is Kevin Harvey; I

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am here on behalf of Advanced Solar Power, and the executive director of Renewable Energy of Long Island.

I would like to make note of the absence of the kids in the audience tonight and the fact that we should keep the kids in mind when we talk about renewable energy in the future.

One thing I notice is that we take great care in what our kids do daily. You put a bike helmet on them, you put sunscreen on them, we even screen their friends, but we are not putting enough effort in screening the air the kids are going to breathe in the future. So we should take an active part in having a more productive future for the kids. Thanks.

MR. HOLCOMB: I would like to invite Number 26, Rick Carrier to come down and speak. And Kathryn Creagan can come down on standby,

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please.

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MR. CARRIER: My name is Rick

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Carrier. I am 81 years old and when

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I was 18 I hit Normandy Beach. My

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specialty was mining demolitions and

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I knew everything about sand and

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water and beaches. I was here in

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this -- Maureen, welcome. I met

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Maureen in Washington with my program

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there.

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My program that I am doing,

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how many of you people -- I tell you

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I see the energy situation in America

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right now is like a noose around my

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neck. Every day I am climbing those

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13 steps, and I feel like sooner or

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later we are all going to drop

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through that trap door and strangle.

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How many of you people are fed

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up with the energy situation we have

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right now in America? Nobody? Oh,

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come on. How about the price of gas,

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are you happy about that? No.

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Nobody.

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Well, the program that I am proposing embodies all of us. I originally filed for 555 square miles out on the continental shelf to do the following. To start up a demonstration site for renewable without doing damage whatsoever to any of the environment. That was in 1962.

Right now, today, I realized that the surface is not the place to do it. Underneath the water is the place to do it, because that is where it belongs. We've got currents down there which has a density of ten times, 20 times more than wind. The turbines working down there traveling at the exact same speed of the currents moving in and out. Basically sit on them, I can sit on one of the blades and rotate around and not even know it, so nothing will be harmed by the turbine blade moving at the same speed of the tide and

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current.

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That turbine blade is

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connected to a hydraulic pressure

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that turns the hydraulic turbine,

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which is quiet, you can't even hear

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it run. What it is doing is making

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electricity and that electricity is

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splitting the seawater down at 150

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feet into hydrogen and oxygen, and

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storing them into a 40-inch hydrogen

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pipe.

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That pipe comes to shore over

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New Jersey and is mixed with natural

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gas, and it feeds into a whole

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natural gas pipeline system, to your

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homes with a fuel cell in them, and

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that fuel cell will provide you with

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all the power you need in

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electricity.

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And you never again have to

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use a drop of fuel in your home, and

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the cost would be about a third of

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what you are paying right now for

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everything else. That is the plan

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and I am writing a book right now
"End the Oil Crunch in 46 Months."
That is exactly the same time from
December 7th, 1941 when we got hit at
Pearl Harbor and September 2, 1945,
when General MacArthur took the
surrender under the Japanese, 46
months.

And in that period of time we
came up with the atom bomb and we
came up with everything we needed and
had the biggest army, and we whipped
three major enemies.

That is what I am saying we
can do now. In that period of time
we can have all of America off of oil
permanently by using seawater,
underwater currents, and making it
into hydrogen and putting it into the
pipeline with natural gas.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Is Bruce Bailey
here? And I would like to invite
Coke Coakley to come down and be on

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standby, please.

MR. BAILEY: Good evening.

My name is Bruce Bailey and I am a principal of DWS Truant, a company that provides renewable energy consulting services to utilities, government agencies and developers, both nationally and internationally.

For the past several years my firm has assisted LIPA in assessing the feasibility of offshore wind energy technology. This work included the evaluation of viable -- studying opportunities in the waters surrounding Long Island.

The offshore waters were selected in part because of a lack of contiguous land area on Long Island that would be needed for a commercial wind project of the same proposed size. It would take some 8,000 acres of open land for this project, something that is not available. And the wind resources is much lower on

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lands, thus reducing the amount of power in the same size project.

I would like to briefly describe the parameters used to screen these waters to identify potential sites for a commercially viable wind energy project. Several criteria were used to recommend a general site area, including strength to wind resource, water depth, distance to shore, location of shipping lanes, location of high concentration bird areas, and the proximity to the existing transmission system.

To define offshore areas and experiencing strong winds, a color-coded evaluated wind map was produced using historical geological data from the surrounding region. The map indicated that the strong resources needed to achieve commercial viability, which must average at least 18 miles per hour at

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the center of a wind turbine's rotor, were available to the east and south of Long Island, but not to the north which is a more sheltered environment.

The water depth during offshore wind turbines foundation technology, must be built in waters shallower than 60 or 70 feet. There is no deeper foundation of technology commercially available today, and that is including the U.S. Department of Energy do not anticipate such technology being available for ten to 15 years.

Therefore, for the purposes of the initial site screening we focused on a 70-foot contour to define the maximum water depth. We acquired depth data, superimposed this information on a previous map, and new results were then mapped showing a much narrower band and potential study opportunities running along the

1
2 South Shore, or in and around the
3 eastern tips of the South Fork of
4 Long Island.

5 The next series of solutions
6 dealt with view shed screening,
7 shipping lanes, and bird
8 concentration areas. All waters
9 within two and a half miles offshore
10 were limited to limit view shed
11 impacts. Additionally, designated
12 shipping lanes including a
13 half-nautical-mile buffer were also
14 excluded. And additionally, a
15 three-nautical-mile radius and
16 ten-mile radius around Montauk Point
17 were excluded as high concentration
18 bird areas.

19 All of these exclusions were
20 applied to a previous map with
21 results showing an area primarily
22 defined to the offshore waters south
23 of Nassau County and southwestern
24 Suffolk County.

25 Lastly, the remaining area was

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screened to retain only those portions large enough to support a 100 megawatt or larger wind farm, and also will be within reasonable proximity to an acceptable connection point on Long Island's transmission grid, thus minimizing the need for any significant transmission reinforcements.

The remaining offshore areas, about 52 square nautical miles in size, was the subject area included in LIPA's requests for proposals included in January 2003.

The end results in the site screening exercise were presented in two public records in 2002 and 2003. The results are posted on a number of Web sites and discussed in a number of public meetings.

Thank you for your attention.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you.

Number 28, Kathryn Creagan. And I would like to invite Roy Stoecker,

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come up on standby, please.

MS. CREAGAN: Hello everyone.

My name is Kathryn Creagan, and I am an environmental study major about to graduate from Stony Brook University.

I have learned so much over the years and one thing that has become apparent is there will always be some things in this world I just don't understand. When I was younger I would attribute all of these things to age and experience, thinking when I am older it would all make sense.

I put my faith wholeheartedly in more mature generations, assuming they knew more about the world and therefore they would make best decisions for us all. Now that I am older I know unfortunately this is not always the case. Politics, economics, and many times selfishness and trivial issues stand in the way of what is right.

Although disheartening, seeing

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the issues for what it is empowers
and compels me to become involved in
what I think is important. The
offshore wind farm is one of the most
important and groundbreaking things
to ever come to Long Island in my
lifetime.

The promise of clean, safe,
renewable energy produced within our
own border is in front of our eyes.
The blatant logic is it cannot be
ignored no matter how hard we try.

As long as the world keeps
turning there will still be wind.
You cannot say the same thing for any
type of fossil fuels. It boggles the
mind after hundreds of years and
trillions of dollars, we are still
scurrying to find the tiniest
fraction of remaining oil ravaging
any environment.

After it is all gone what are
we left with? Barren million dollar
refineries and oil wells, an

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environment in critical condition,
and no excuse for younger generations
but apathy and ignorance.

The answer is right here in
front of us; the first step in new
direction; something we can all be
proud to have been a part of. Please
don't let my children grow up and
wonder why we didn't take the
simplest steps towards renewable
energy and environmental
responsibility when we had the
chance.

Please don't force me to
someday look back into their eyes and
have to explain why we passed such a
tormented world on to them, while we
would have so many chances to do
something today. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I
would like to invite Coke Coakley to
speak, please. And I would like to
invite Lara Dakwar come down for
standby, please.

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MR. COAKLEY: Good evening.

My name is it Coke Coakley; I am the project's environmental manager for FPL Energy. I am here tonight to discuss several key scoping issues associated with the project and to address the Environmental Impact Statement and NEPA process. We fully understand the importance of these issues and their potential impact to the environment and community.

From the beginning of our involvement of this project, we have undertaken extensive studies to determine baseline conditions of the project area that have helped us to identify, understand and mitigate potential impacts that may occur.

We have also visited numerous offshore wind parks in Europe, some of which have been operating since 1991, and reviewed the extensive environmental studies that have been carried out on them to further

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understand what actually happened
with some of their impacts.

First, bird issues are a very
important topic for any wind project.
Beginning in March of 2004, we
initiated a boat and aerial survey
program covering the regional wind
park area. These survey methods were
reviewed by various state and federal
agencies, which also participated in
several offshore surveys.

The results of these 57 boat
surveys and seven aerial surveys have
been provided to interested agencies
for their review. In addition,
marine radar was installed at a
barrier beach location, providing
bird activity for the fall of 2005,
and winter and spring of 2006.

A boat radar program at the
project site was also undertaken.
Regional bird migration data will be
obtained over a five-year period from
a NEXRAD station in Brookhaven. All

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this data needs to be incorporated into a comprehensive risk assessment analysis.

Second, visual and noise impacts are understandable concern for the shoreline residents and visitors. With respect to visual resources, the project has prepared several photo simulations from various locations under different weather conditions, for example, cold clear days and hazy summer days. These photo simulations follow strict regulatory guidelines for proper visual representation of the project.

We expect that additional sites are also incorporated into the EIS based on the outcome of the scoping process.

As for noise issues, being heard along the shoreline along with operational noise information from the wind turbine manufacturers; these noise readings will use standard

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noise models to determine if any noise will be perceived at shore locations.

Third, sea floor habitat assessments of the wind park have been undertaken. All potential turbine tower locations were reviewed using appropriate field survey techniques including sediment sampling and photos and video at the bottom.

Fourth, fishing is an important activity in this region for both recreational and commercial interests. We ask that no restrictions be placed on these activities within the park and the Coast Guard agreed. The towers will provide valuable artificial reef habitat that will likely result in increased fish populations. The project is continuing to evaluate fishery issues associated with the wind park.

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Finally, other potential impacts including cultural resources, recreational beach use, transportation and navigation, telecommunication and socioeconomics need to be evaluated.

We encourage MMS to review and consider the impacts of these same issues in Europe as a result of over 15 years of offshore operating experience. Several years of European research have addressed the pre and postconstruction environmental impacts of some 18 projects or more being currently developed and installed.

In closing, the project encourages and welcomes all public comments on all potential concerns and is committed to addressing these concerns in a forthright manner. The project would also like to thank MMS for sponsoring these meetings and all of you in the audience for providing

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input to ensure that the project is thoroughly evaluated.

We appreciate the opportunity to make the comments tonight.

MR. HOLCOMB: I would like to invite Number 30, Roy Stoecker to come down and speak. And Michael Powell to come down on standby.

MR. STOECKER: Good evening. My name is Roy Stoecker. The first thing I would like to do is thank the audience for remaining with us three and a half hours and counting. It is a lot.

Why am I here? I am the founder of a Long Island-based environmental consulting firm. I grew up on Oak Beach. I was born out there in 1944. I am past director for five years of the Town of Babylon Environmental Conservation Commission. I have done a lot of pro bono work. So I have a long history here. I live in Babylon

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Village at present.

What are we here for? This is an EIS process. What does an EIS process mean? It means data. That is what I would like to address for the next two minutes. I am going to be mercifully brief.

Surprisingly, although you hear a lot that gee, there is so much out there that we don't know about, that actually isn't the case. There is a very good data set that sits out in the Atlantic Ocean. The Army Corps of Engineers for the last ten years have been collecting data all the way from Democratic Point out to -- (Inaudible)

Remember global warming; that is all part of it. Very extensive studies. The DEC, State Department of Environmental Conservation has programs further west than the New York City, DEC has a number of ongoing environmental programs, which

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my firm is involved.

So we have a basic data set that sits offshore. What about the Bay? When we were brought into this project we were charged with looking for the best route to bring the cables from the mainland of Long Island out to the wind farm. We chose four routes; one on land, three in the water. The three in the water we placed all in existing channels so we wouldn't have to go through clam beds, submerged vegetation, anything like that.

Then what; then we went out and conducted studies over a period of two years. We looked at A, submerged vegetation or grass beds. We wanted to avoid grass beds.

We looked at wildlife, associated wildlife in the study area. We looked very heavily at commercial. We raked each one of the routes on three separate occasions

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throughout the year, and we collected all this data and put it into a database.

What else did we do? We looked at the intertidal wetlands, boundaries of the wetlands that surround the marsh islands. Then we looked and we went over the barrier island and we looked at primarily the outer channel, because the cable will not be trenched across the barrier island, it will be drilled underneath it.

We looked at the birds, everything else that was out on the beach. All of this has gone into a large database that is available to MMS. Of course, it is going to be made available. We have not made conclusions on it, we have not done the impact analyses. That is the point of the EIS.

I am really sorry, folks. I would like to leave one final note,

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and that is that the EIS should look at a holistic approach to this. It is not just the construction of this wind farm, it is the associated environmental impacts of avoiding burning coal, burning oil, mining mountaintops, all of that. It should be a large scale encompassing approach.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: I would like to invite Lara Dakwar to come down and speak.

MS. DAKWAR: As all of you sit here patiently listening to what everyone has to say, all I can say is I don't understand. I don't understand how you can possibly be against wind power. It is clean, efficient, pollution-free energy. It reduces our dependence on foreign fuels. Wind power is an abundant natural resource and it is just at our fingertips.

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Town Supervisor Bellone says he supports clean energy. You can't support clean energy and not support wind power. You can't have it both ways.

All I know is the facts. The population is 6.5 billion and growing. We need energy. You can't continue to pollute and still have clean beaches without developing renewables.

I am a 21-year-old college student with a majority of my life ahead of me. We need to do something to protect the earth. We need to do something to protect our younger ones. I am thinking of the future of my four-year-old sister and someday the future of my children.

History can be made right here right now. We have to open up our eyes and our minds to see that something so amazing, so beautiful and so efficient, should be powered

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in our homes.

Why are you saying no to a healthier life for our generations to come. Forty-four thousand homes powered by wind; now that is a step in the right direction.

I love living on Long Island and I love the beaches. I will raise my family on Long Island and my family will raise their family on Long Island. And you know what else? I want a wind park in my backyard.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I would like to invite Number 32, Mike Howell to speak next. And Sister Jeanne Clark, if you come down on standby.

MR. HOWELL: Hello. My name is Mike Howell and I am a construction worker. Basically America needs an energy independence. It is very crucial with these uncertain times.

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Global warming is a reality.
Depending yourselves on foreign
powers for energy is ludicrous.
America, once the dominating leader
in the world, is now slave to oil.
Germany basically is the engineering
capital of the world. If they don't
know -- if they haven't figured out
any problems with wind power then why
should we be concerned about it?

Europe leads the world in
alternative energy. Why is America
reluctant to accept the clean,
overabundant source of energy which
has no side effects, no pollution, no
harm to our seas, to our land, no
nuclear waste. More and more of
other countries of the world have
become energy independent of fossil
and nuclear fuels. America is not
one of them. This should change.

All alternative energies are
here just fighting among themselves,
they should join together because

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together they will overcome the energy crisis that we have right now instead of dealing with foreign oil and foreign gas and anything that has to do with fossil fuel because all it does is pollute.

Families today spend thousands of dollars saving and creating a future for their children with education, clothes, places to live, but global warming never entered into the picture. Clean environmental technologies can make a future for your kids and mine, so that future generations can look back and say that yes, they cared about the future of their kids. Don't let greed rule America's future. Support offshore wind.

MR. HOLCOMB: Next I would like to invite Number 33, Margaret -- you are passing? So Sister Jeanne Clark. And I would like to ask Beth Fiteni to come down on standby,

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please.

SISTER CLARK: My name is Sister Jeanne Clark, I am a Dominican Sister and I live in Amityville. Our congregation has its mother house in Amityville since 1876, so we have a long history of being present on this island.

I am here tonight representing an organization called Homecoming, Coming Home to Long Island. Homecoming's mission is to connect people to a new way to this Island, to where we live. A way which includes not only the human community, but all the living systems and all the species who share this island with us.

We also believe that the earth cannot be saved in pieces, and it is the responsibility of every region of the globe to do the work necessary in their region so that all life can flourish. I am here tonight to speak

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in favor of the wind farm being proposed. I could say many things to support this project, but I will limit myself to two main reasons.

I believe it is a moral and ethical thing to do. And I believe it is a tremendous sign of hope for the future of the young of every species living here on Long Island.

It is the moral and ethical thing to do because we know that the earth is warming in large part because of our use of fossil fuel. It is our responsibility to initiate new ways of generating power in a sustainable, clean and secure way.

Our very lives depend on this and depend on making this shift. I believe this proposed wind farm is a sign of hope that we are beginning to live up to our responsibilities. This use of wind will reduce Long Island's almost complete dependence on fossil fuel, and that is a sign of

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hope.

As to the future. This project is the beginning of a way of acting which recognizes that energy policies must be locally based and good for the local economy. Must be independent of foreign oil, a resource that is diminishing and will not be available to the young as they go into the future. And must be nonpolluting in order to ensure the health of those now living and those who will live here long after we are gone.

We are at a crossroads at the present time. We cannot continue to go down the same path we have traveled in the past. A path that without our knowing it has led to much destruction of life on the planet; or we can choose a new path where the human and natural world go together into the future, using wind and sun to provide energy that is

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renewable, safe, nonpolluting and good for the economy of all life.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Is Number 36, Adrienne Esposito, in the audience?

I would like to invite Maureen Murphy to come down to be on standby, please.

MS. ESPOSITO: Good evening. My name is Adrienne Esposito; I am the executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. Citizens Campaign the Environment is a statewide organization. It has a long history of protecting the marine environment, drinking water, as well as the public's health.

It is with our following mission that I offer this statement and these impacts that we would like studied in the scoping process and in the EIS. We will be submitting a much more detailed written statement to you before the deadline into the

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public comment period.

First off, in order to have a fair and comprehensive review of the offshore wind farm we believe that we need to have a discussion in the document, in the EIS, about what are the consequences to Long Island and our nation of not shifting away from foreign fossil fuels.

Specifically what we think the scoping document needs to have an evaluation of is what is the impact, what will the impact be to Long Island when sea level rise occurs over the next 20 to 50 years. One thing it seems that we have lost sight of is that we are an island. No one will be more impacted by sea level rise than us here, particularly those who live on the South Shore of Long Island, including myself.

The second thing is what will the impact be to Long Island with the increased intensification of

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hurricanes? What will the destruction be to our economy, to our lifestyle, and our ability to actually live here and enjoy the beaches that we love?

The last one is, but not limited to, the loss of wetlands as sea level rises. Wetlands that we need to prevent flooding to the mainland, that we need to act as nursing grounds for our fish industry and our shellfish harvesting industry, which is critical to our lifestyle, our maritime culture and to our economy here on Long Island.

Also, we feel that this scoping document needs to discuss the benefits of the displacement of carbon dioxide emissions. For instance, it is 235,000 tons per year of carbon dioxide emissions will be displaced. That is 5.7 billion tons of carbon dioxide over 20 years. What are the ecological benefits to

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this type of displacement?

According to Scientific America, the March 2006 edition, one-third of all carbon that is produced from burning fossil fuels is now becoming deposited in our ocean waterways. This deposition has increased the acidity levels in our marine environment.

I am quoting from this science document. "Repercussions to the marine life may be enormous."

Long Island loves our beaches and our bays. There is no getting around that. We have always loved them, we always will. Protecting our beaches and bays goes far beyond protecting the view. Protecting our beaches and bays goes to the heart of the matter of working to counter the global climate change crisis that is now upon us.

Working to protect our beaches means that we need to make sure we

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have beaches in 20 to 30 to 40 to 50 years from now. Working to protect our beaches means that we need to start the process to stop the intensification of hurricanes, and reduce ocean water temperatures so we can live here on Long Island.

And working to protect our beaches means we need to stop the desecration of our oceans and we need to stop the increase of mercury deposition in our fish so we can actually eat what we harvest from our marine environment.

Thank you very much.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I would like to invite Kasey Jacobs to come down.

THE AUDIENCE: There are a lot of people that want to speak and stay, not just employees of LIPA who are being paid to speak tonight.

MR. HOLCOMB: Everybody is speaking in order the way they signed

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up.

MS. MURPHY: Maureen Dolan
Murphy with Citizens Campaign for the
Environment. CC believes that MMS
should study the benefits and impacts
and the air quality that the offshore
wind park may have as compared to oil
are natural gas plants that would
generate the same amount of
electricity.

The offshore wind farm will
generate zero harmful emissions as
compared to a fossil fuel power plant
that would release the sulfur
dioxide, nitrogen oxide, both
components of smog and carbon
dioxide. All three are greenhouse
gases, contributors of global
warming.

In addition, fossil
fuel-generating plants emit
particulate matter, which is
well-established to cause respiratory
ailments including asthma, heart

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failure, and breathing difficulties.

 This comparative assessment should include both the benefits and impacts to the surrounding environment and to public health. The EIS needs to include the amount of pollutants that will be displaced by 44,000 homes using clean wind energy.

 In the course of 20 years it is estimated that 97,080 tons of nitrogen oxide and 4,420 tons of sulfur dioxide would be displaced. Nassau and Suffolk County do not meet federal air quality standards for ozone and fine particulate matter. Ozone is the main ingredient in smog.

 High levels of ozone can result in chest pain, congestion and coughing. The EPA estimates that ten to 20 percent of all summertime respiratory-related hospital visits in the Northeast U.S. are associated with ozone pollution. Children are

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at most risk from this type of pollution because they breathe more air per pound than adults and their respiratory systems are still developing.

Fine particulate matter has been linked with premature death, heart attacks. A very recent study found that high levels of fine particulate matter in air causes the same risks for lung cancer as a nonsmoker faces living with a smoker.

The EIS should include an evaluation on how and if the offshore wind park can be part of Nassau and Suffolk's plan to come into compliance with mandatory federal health standards. The EIS should include an evaluation on positive health benefits that would be achieved by generating energy that does not contribute to dangerous pollutants such as ozone, smog and particulate matter.

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We need to begin to change our energy from harmful, dirty, polluting fossil fuels to clean, emission-free, renewable energy sources improving our quality of life.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Is Kasey Jacobs here? And I would like to invite Paul Hill to come down here on standby, please.

MS. JACOBS: Good evening. My name is Kasey Jacobs; I represent Citizens Campaign for the Environment. The Environmental Impact Statement should include the potential benefits of the wind turbine as well as construction of supporting marine communities such as artificial reefs. Studies in Europe, particularly Denmark, have shown seabed foundations have created artificial reefs that attract various species and colonize and provide a haven for deep ocean and fish populations. These studies shall be

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evaluated in the EIS process.

The foundations of offshore wind turbines can function as an artificial community. The impact on the fish farm can be proven either through increased productivity or simply through attraction. The EIS should evaluate the impact wind turbines can have on fisheries. Codfish are attracted to underwater structures and therefore the wind park can become a new resource for fishermen.

A wind conference in November of 2004 concluded that Danish wind farms have actually benefitted the local environment because the birds were simply flying over or around the wind turbines and using the artificial reefs as a new source of food.

The EIS should also look at the potential for increased tourism in the area. For instance in

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Denmark, studies indicated they have experienced a 25 percent increase in tourism generated by the wind turbines that are scattered around the country in harbors and offshore.

Popular beachside vacation spots show no losses in revenues and businesses continue to thrive. The wind farms should regularly attract over 150,000 visitors every year.

In the U.S. scores of people would love to take charter boats out to see a majestic turbine. But also scuba diving trips could be a big hit. I have been a diver since 2001 and since then I have dove the South Shore of Long Island numerous times for recreational and research purposes. I note that I am not the only diver on Long Island who would be thrilled to have a new place to see the wonders in the local marine life, especially at a wind park. What a unique experience that will

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be.

In summary, the Environmental Impact Statement needs to analyze the potential for artificial reefs, impacts on marine life, the impacts on fishing, and also the possibility of increased tourism.

Thank you.

MR. HILL: My name is Paul Hill. I am a Babylon Village resident and also a board member of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. I am not a LIPA employee or KeySpan employee or employee of any company in any way related to any utility activity, except for the fact that for the last 25 years I have spent my time attempting to hold utility companies accountable for their practices.

Today I am here to support the offshore wind plant. I feel personally that it would be irresponsible of us as residents and

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as keepers of our planet and
nurturers of future generations to
take any other course.

Our failure to connect the
pollution of the fossil
fuel-generating industry with the
potential benefits of this offshore
plan is irresponsible. Fossil
electric fuel-generating facilities
are responsible for generating
massive quantities of sulfur dioxide,
nitrogen oxide, and particulate
matter among other things.

The top fifty SO₂ polluters,
sulfur dioxide polluters in our
nation are electric utility plants.
Ninety-eight of the top 100 nitrogen
oxide-generating facilities in our
country are our electric utility
plants. The third highest producer
of particulates in our country are
electric utility plants.

We see generated from these
plants 15 million tons of sulfur

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dioxide, which we all know destroy life in our lakes. Nine million tons of nitrogen oxide, which nitrogen oxide is the second highest contributor to nitrogen deposits in the Long Island Sound, and one of the highest contributors to nitrogen deposits in the South Shore Estuary.

Another pollutant coming from fixed fossil fuel plants, mainly coal plants, is mercury. Power plants are the single largest source of mercury pollution. Two of the highest carriers of mercury in the world are sharks and tuna. It is difficult to say we don't want to have these windmills in our backyard when we have already the results of polluting power plants in our backyard and all around us every day.

Just recently in Babylon we saw the Suffolk County Executive attempted to put on line a sludge burning facility in Babylon, which

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was radically opposed by the Babylon residents citing pollution as the primary reason. One of the major pollutants focused on in the literature generated by the citizens of Babylon was mercury poisoning.

There are 200,000 pounds of mercury emitted from power plants each year; 100,000 nationwide into the air; 80,000 pounds through fly ash, bottom ash; and 20,000 pounds generated from coal cleaning. Just to give you a perspective it takes 1/70th of a teaspoon of mercury to pollute 25 square acres of open waterway.

This project is the first necessary step to replacing the pollutants with clean --

THE AUDIENCE: Time's up.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you.

Robert Frankum. How about Daniel Daniel Karpen? Robert Frankum?

MR. FRANKUM: Yes.

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Hi. My name is Robert Frankum. I am here not as -- I have no technical knowledge of the issue, nor do I have any statistics; maybe you will be grateful for that. However, I am here as a homeowner. I love living on Long Island and I hope to be able to maintain my residence in Huntington until my dying day.

I would like to make a couple of statements and ask a question. I hope I get some answers to questions, but that is not the format. I understand.

Anyway, the statements that I read in the website said that FPL is the contractor, but it said that the actual contractors had not been chosen yet, that was still up in the air. I would hope that FPL would hire local contractors. That would be stipulated in the contract with LIPA, that local labor was used for that.

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Also, I would like to comment
that I am a green -- (Inaudible)

Although I have no technical
knowledge, I think my friends could
say I have a pretty good aesthetic
knowledge. I have seen windmills in
many places; in California, in France
and I believe I saw them in China. I
think they are beautiful. They look
like -- they are wonderful when you
come over the hills in Central
California. They are like a group of
ballet personalities performing.

Now I am a green consumer. I
get 100 percent wind energy through
LIPA. That energy is generated by
community energy Upstate. I pay
extra money for that because I
believe in green consumerism.
However, I am socked with the fuel
surcharges. I think that is
completely unjust since I am buying
100 percent wind energy and I am
paying fuel surcharges.

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Now my bottom line question, I would like an answer to this question by LIPA. Are they going to do the same thing to the people who receive -- if and when this project goes through, are they going to -- are the receivers of this wind energy from this project going to be victimized in the same way? Are they going to be subjected to fossil fuel surcharges?

THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

MR. FRANKUM: I am not a cynical person generally, but I wonder if I am getting wind energy at all. I am not an auditor; I can't see the books.

I have to stop. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Daniel Karpen.

MR. KARPEN: My name is Daniel Karpen. I reside at 3 Harbor Hill Road of Huntington. I am an inventor and professional engineer. I am an inventor of the true view headlights,

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and I do energy conservation engineering.

I have sent proposals to 40 school districts for them to put up their own wind turbines and study proposals, so that they can for their own use to eliminate the LIPA bill as a proponent of the school budget that would keep taxes down. So far not a single school district has accepted a study proposal from me.

In today's Newsday I am quoted as favoring the immediate installation of wind turbines at LIPA and KeySpan power plant sites. Installation of 23 megawatt machines could provide an additional 60 megawatts of badly needed power. This work could be done immediately without going through an EIS from the MMS. All you need is a building permit from the town and a possible zoning board of appeals hearing to lift any height restrictions.

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I have not taken a public position on this project. If LIPA were to use the plan, 4.5 megawatt wind turbine machinery being developed in Denmark instead of 3.5 megawatt machines now planned, they would need nine fewer machines, possibly cutting the total cost of the project.

As an energy conservation engineer, I invented a technology called full spectrum pulverized lighting, that reduces use of electricity by 60 to 80 percent. A copy of an article on this technology is being provided for the public record of this hearing.

Full spectrum pulverized lighting, if fully implemented in Long Island buildings, could reduce the peak demand on Long Island by 500 megawatts. Eleven thousand wind turbines stand. Putting some wind turbines in power plant sites would

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cost 40 to 50 percent less than putting them offshore because the expensive GL technical engineering, and the interconnects would be much simpler, much faster and much doable.

In fact, I made this suggestion at a KeySpan stockholders meeting as I own 20 shares of stock in KeySpan. That is what I call an admission ticket to the looney theater. So far KeySpan hasn't yet, or LIPA hasn't taken up my suggestion. But if I was chairman of the board of Keyspan or LIPA I would do that.

And if Richard Kessel wants to resign, the governor of the state can appoint me as the new head of LIPA. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: I would like to see Donna Periconi. And I would like to invite Irvin Smith to come down to be on standby, please.

MS. PERICONI: My name is

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Donna Periconi. I am a resident of
Brightwaters in the Town of Islip,
and I am the president of the Chamber
of Commerce of greater Bay Shore.

I am not an employee of LIPA.
I have spent most of my life trying
to do good things to improve my
community. I would like to talk to
the members of the MMS and
familiarize you with certain things
that have to be discussed.

First of all I am a wife, I am
a mother, I am a grandmother, and I
want my grandsons to see a horizon
without blades. I want them to know
what it is to live on the South Shore
of Long Island with the most
beautiful beach in the world. We are
talking about Jones Beach, and I
don't know whether you are familiar
with this parcel.

It is our American Riviera.
It is the crown jewel of all of New
York State parks. It is the

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architectural and recreational triumph of one man, Robert Moses, who wanted New Yorkers to have the experience of going away, of taking a cruise, of going to a resort just by going to Jones Beach.

So in 1929 it opened; 2,413 acres with turreted back houses; a still water bay; two pools, one saltwater, the other freshwater; handball; shuffle board courts; golf course; softball diamonds; picnic areas; fishing docks and rowboats; a wide winding boardwalk with trash baskets hidden in ventilator funnels to emulate a ship; and we have six and a half miles of Atlantic Ocean beaches.

It is the finest public ocean, beach and park in the world on the State and National Register of Historic Places. I ask you how can a place so special be used as an experiment by LIPA and the FPL?

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LIPA and friends attended our chamber meeting in March and we listened attentively. They are projecting a two percent savings as a result of using 40 turbines. Two percent savings of energy. We are not talking about ten percent. We are not talking about 15 percent. We decided this small amount of energy is not worth our coastal landscape.

Ten million New Yorkers and their out-of-town guests visit Jones Beach and Robert Moses State Park every year, ten million people a year. I just want to quote from Robert Kennedy, Jr. --

THE AUDIENCE: Time.

MS. PERICONI: I will end with the words of Robert Kennedy, Jr., perhaps the most renowned environmentalist in the country, who opposed to Cape Wind project in Massachusetts. He said and I quote, "As an environmentalist I support

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wind power, including wind power on the high seas, but I do believe some places should be off limits to any sort of industrial development. I wouldn't build a wind farm in Yosemite National Park nor would I build one on Nantucket Sound." And nor should you build one off Jones Beach. I thank you.

MR. SMITH: I've lived in West Babylon all my life except when I was in the Navy. When I was a boy farmers on Long Island had windmills to pump their water, but they were on land. I believe in using wind for power, but on land.

I was at a West Babylon taxpayers meeting. I told them when my brother and I and other folks in the fire department used to go out to Montauk to go fishing in the fall, September, for bass and codfish, when we left West Babylon there wouldn't be wind out there. This would be at

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three o'clock in the morning. And by the time we got out to Montauk it was really blowing. And Dave Bishop mentioned and William Lauder mentioned the same thing, the further east you go the more wind you get.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know to build out on the water is going to cost you a heck of a lot more money than it is to build on land.

That is all it is I have to say.

MR. HOLCOMB: State your name, please.

MS. BARRETT: It is Minna Barrett. I was going to take a position tonight, but I really want to speak as a citizen of Long Island and of the United States. I have two main points that I am going to make because most of the other points were made tonight.

I think that there is

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obviously a lot of different perspectives here, and that is what is important about democracy, that is why we are here. I think you as representatives of the federal government have a very important job. That is to ensure that 100 percent of this Environmental Impact Statement represents the absolute ultimate of excellent science, and that it includes every element of everyone's concerns here tonight. It argues the pros and cons of every single position and every element of the science.

Now I want to say I have been involved in the environmental movement for a very long period of time. Some of you, most of you from the local communities know me very well, but I have many experiences on Long Island where the federal government has come in to do the Environmental Impact Statement, and

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excuse what I am about to say,
screwed the people of Long Island
completely; Brookhaven National
Laboratory and the Shoreham Nuclear
Power Plants.

It behooves you to create an
Environmental Impact Statement, which
when people read they not only see
their position represented but come
to understand the other person's
position and come to be won over to
the position that is accurate; 100
percent accurate because that is the
democracy of renewable energy.

Without that we have nothing.
We have to take every step we can to
complete a comprehensive plan for
renewable energy. I don't see
Richard Kessel here right now. We
need to have -- there were many
wonderful examples of renewable
energy here tonight, all of which we
the people can benefit from
completely, including perhaps the

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offshore wind power.

It behooves you as representatives of the federal government to represent us completely. That is what we are paying our tax dollars for.

I just want to bring up Robert Kennedy, because I think he is important. I have a tremendous problem trusting the current government on the issue of being honest about environmental impact statements and the environment. Read "Crimes Against Nature" if you respect Robert Kennedy.

So you had better deliver to us a comprehensive, complete and honest picture of every element that matters about this, including what will happen to the birds and whether or not they will be better off with petroleum pollution or wind power turbines spinning; every single element.

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Now my next statement is to we the people. Whoever is here I want you to carry this home to a hundred people you know and all the people who came here and didn't sit through this and left. The ultimate real final issue about energy and our dependence lies with us; not with them, not with LIPA, but with us.

If you don't go home tonight and look at every single light bulb in every single socket in your house and change it to a low compact fluorescent, and do everything you can to get out of an SUV and get into an efficient automobile, and do everything you can to get into energy efficient appliances, you have nobody to blame for things you don't like but yourselves. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Michael Forese.

MR. FORESE: My name is Michael Forese; I live in Long Beach, Long Island. I have a degree in

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electrical engineering and I have worked for a utility and telecommunications company.

I have been researching renewable energy for several years. I am a resident of Long Beach and I live approximately a hundred feet from the shoreline with an ocean view. I certainly hope I will have a view of this great symbol of energy independence from my home. And if I don't, I can only hope the waters off Long Beach will be the next site for the next wind project.

In Long Beach we too, feel we have some of the finest beaches in the world, along with the great people in these nearby communities here. I have a much different opinion of what constitutes a spoiled beach. It sounds like a majority of people in this room feel that wind turbines 3.7 miles away and the size of your fingernail as you look at the

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horizon means a spoiled beach.

My fear is the continued use of fossil fuels and natural gas-fired plants will continue to emit sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide to contribute to acid rain, smog and global warming. It is a fact that warmer oceans will continue to cause more severe storms. These storms are a much greater concern to me living a hundred feet from the Atlantic Ocean, and I know many, many people in these areas should feel the same way about that greater fear.

This comparative assessment must include the full concept of these types of events. Why would we look to green power, existing power plants or solar as an alternative to a perfectly good nonpolluting form of energy? In addition, we should be looking at these projects in addition to this project and not instead of.

I don't think the property

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values, my property value or yours, will be negatively impacted by the very presence of wind turbines. If they were, I wouldn't be so short-sighted as to consider that and that alone in this project and my opinion of it.

So, what I can ask you to do is do your own research, make your own decisions. Don't just jump on the bandwagon because you heard this or that, or you want to be part of a crowd that you don't really know where their motives are.

Once again, a full impact analysis would help everyone's decision. And I think we have to look to -- when we look to the economics of this we immediately say 450 million dollars; yes, that is a big number. But you have to look at what we are paying today and more importantly what we will be paying as oil prices go higher, as natural gas

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prices go higher.

Eighty years ago when we did hydro everybody said why would we -- just because it is a renewable resource why would we build hydro and pay more for electricity? Now hydro is the cheapest form of electricity, and I am sure that is what we will find with wind power if we do it.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: We are up to Number 48. I would like to ask Peter Quinn to come down and be on standby, please.

MR. MANISCALCO: My name is Pete Maniscalco, and I am here as a grandfather of five grandchildren. I guess pretty much what has been said, I don't want to reiterate, but in today's Newsday I would like to make us aware that on Sunday evening Tom Brokaw is going to have a documentary at 12 o'clock on Discovery Channel on global warming.

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I think those of us who are old enough -- and certainly I spent my entire adult life as an environmental activists. I would just like to mention things that have been in the news recently about the polar bears that have been dying because they can't swim because of the ice melting; forest fires in the west triggered by global climate change. Global warming is a part of that, that the climate is changing.

Suffolk County, we have the second worst ozone in the state of New York according to the American Lung Association. And I think all of us are aware that the Allstate Insurance Company is leaving Suffolk County because they fear the intensity of the storms that are coming here.

So I think we are at a time of change. And I look out here and I see you young people. It disturbs me

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a great deal because when I think of my grandchildren I see you guys, and I see the people that are sacrificed in wars for oil; the people who die in those wars are you guys. It is rich white men who make these decisions, who force us into a fossil fuel economy, and it is your blood that pays for that. That is a shame on the United States of America from my point of view. It is a shame on me and my generation. If anything, I would apologize to you because no one should do that to you.

I would encourage you young people to stand up and be heard, and to fight for your lives, and to advocate for what is in your best interest and the interest of your families to come, because at the present time there aren't many adults doing that.

You have listened to everything that has been said here

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tonight and it gets into a kind of
semantical argument. This is not
about semantics. It is about human
life and about the lives of the
creatures on this planet. If we are
going to survive as a species -- this
is about the earth surviving. If we
are going to survive you have to
change.

 If you don't like windmills
then we have to see people dying in
wars, we have to see animals dying,
and all kinds of devastation. Let's
have the courage to go forward
together and do what is right. Each
one of us can only do something very
small, will seem actually
insignificant, but let's do it.

 Let's save your lives and the
lives of many of the creatures on
this planet.

 MR. HOLCOMB: I would like to
invite Peter Quinn up to speak.

 MR. QUINN: Good evening. My

1
2 name is Peter Quinn; I am a longtime
3 energy and environmental advocate for
4 over 30-something years. I view the
5 energy issue as a matter of control
6 and tokenism. Control, as I look at
7 the 2005 energy law, where the oil,
8 natural gas, coal and nuclear
9 industries took huge subsidies while
10 the bill contained almost nothing for
11 renewable energy.

12 So if we are stuck, rather
13 than being able to move forward on
14 renewables and energy efficiency it
15 should be understood from that
16 perspective.

17 At the same time back in 1992
18 they passed Order 636 to create cheap
19 costs for energy and competition.
20 What happened? The oil industry, the
21 nuclear industry and Wall Street and
22 the auto industry, determined to keep
23 the level of standard miles per
24 gallon low, and they circled the
25 wagons and they prevented us from

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getting the kind of renewable energy we all sought for years.

 If we look at those who advocated repowering you should understand that it is going to cost 200 and 300 million dollars to do one generating plant, and take two summers to do it. So that is one plant out of action.

 When you think of the cost of wind power, 440 million I heard this evening? That is nothing compared to what we are already paying. When they arranged the takeover deal with LILCO eight years ago, they stuck us with over 7.2 million dollars in principle and the interest was nearly three times that.

 We are currently paying in our bills every year for debt service and amortization 500 million dollars a year. Now over eight years that has come to four billion dollars, which has gone to bond holders, to Wall

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Street brokers, and financial institutions for which we haven't gotten a single kilowatt of electricity.

So when people tell me that this project costs 440 million dollars, and in no doubt it would be bonded, it may run close to a billion dollars, it is still preferable to paying what this year LIPA is paying for fossil fuels and purchased power, over two billion dollars this year.

In contrast, they are spending 28.8 million on energy efficiency according to their clean energy initiative in their budget. So weigh those two things and understand that we've got to go in another direction.

I have been an advocate for solar power for many years, and I would urge LIPA -- I will finish with this one thought.

LIPA agreed in 1999 to do 10,000 solar roofs. Now we are in

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2006, they have done fewer than 600.
Now there is the tochanism for you.
They have three years to go and they
have to do solar roofs. If they
offered those to ratepayers at eight
to ten dollars a watt, people would
change their energy destiny tomorrow.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. I
would like to invite Number 50 to
speak, and Marianne Zacharia to come
down on standby, please.

MR. FAZIO: Good evening. I
am Ernie Fazio. I am Chairman of the
Long Island Mid-Suffolk Business
Action. I put on 42 forums a year.
Out of those 42, eight to ten of them
are on energy and they include
repowering, building of new plants,
and demand site management and new
technologies. All of those things
are part of a great matrix that we
have to work on.

The wind is only one part of

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it. It is an important part. There is no magic bullets. There is nobody that is going to create a system where we have all of the answers. One of the beautiful things about fossil fuel burning is that it packs a tremendous amount of energy into a very small package.

Think about your automobile getting 20 miles to the gallon. That is a tremendous amount of energy that one parcel gives you. We can't think like that anymore. It is over. It is literally over.

We have to start thinking in terms of solar, wind, and demand site management is a big feature. If we can probably reduce energy just by efficiencies and using energy properly by 50 percent. This is not the end all and the be all of what we have to do, but it is part of it. It is part of it, indeed. I have no doubt about that.

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Wind energy, when Mike LoGrande put up a windmill in the Town of Islip, I think it was in 1972, the projected cost of that wind energy was 35 cents. And we were concerned about oil in those days as we are today; but that was an economic failure.

Wind energy today is not an economic failure; it is an economic success. As one speaker pointed out, the price of oil had to go to 74 dollars a barrel before -- I think it is Mark Alessi said, it was 74 dollars a barrel before it becomes viable. It is already past that. And if anybody thinks it is going to be going down for any period of time, anytime soon, they are dreaming. It isn't going to happen that way.

It is going to be more expensive. And as we make these investments as I did many years ago -- and I built a very

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energy-efficient house -- it cost me more money than the guy who would have built it otherwise, but I now benefit by that investment 25 years later. We will continue to make a better deal on wind energy.

And another thing about wind energy. There is new technologies in wind. When that happens we will be able to replace them on these stanchions. I already asked this question, by the way, to the manufacturers. We will be able to take a 3.5 megawatt and put a six megawatt on there someday when they make them compact enough to do that, and they will be able to reap an even bigger benefit.

This is a good deal. Thank you. Again.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. We are up to Number 51.

MS. ZACHARIA: Thank you everybody. My name is Marianne

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Zacharia, and I am a board member of Renewable Energy Long Island. Each year the American Lung Association releases a State of Air Report, which releases information on air quality throughout the United States. The latest report was released in April of 2006, and it showed that Long Island's air has once again received a grade of F for ozone air pollution, also known as smog.

In 2005 Long Island had 27 high ozone days. The New York Metropolitan region ranked ninth among 25 most ozone-polluted states in U.S. cities, putting thousands of people in existing lung disease, as well as the most vulnerable young and elderly residents at significant health risks.

The largest stationary source of ozone air pollution is fossil burning fuel plants. We need to do all we can do to reduce our

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independence on fossil fuels as a power source and to look for alternatives, sustainable clean energy sources.

The proposed Long Island Offshore Wind Project is a small but a significant step toward achieving that goal. This 140 megawatt wind project will help lead us closer to meeting the New York State goal of the 25 percent alternative energy standard for green energy sources by 2013. We need to release ourselves from our strong dependence on foreign oil and do all we can to develop more and more clean, sustainable energy projects.

Let's move forward with a complete Environmental Impact Study, and I think what everybody had to offer today was very important for everybody to listen to. We really need to study this very, very well.

Keep in mind the health and

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well-being of our communities that
are continuously at risk as long as
we stand still and do nothing to
reduce our usage of fossil fuel.
Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you.
Number 52, Jason Babbie. Is Number
53 here, Jayne Johnes? Can you
please come down on standby.

MR. BABBIE: Good evening. My
name is Jason Babbie, I am a senior
environmental policy analyst for New
York Public Industry Research Group.

We supported LIPA putting out
the RFP for this and we think that
that is a good thing. We support
this going to the next stage of
analysis.

From the very beginning we
called on LIPA for energy efficiency
and repowering. We will continue to
do that, but that is not a part of
what this proceeding is today. Today
we are calling on MMS to do the

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scoping process. I would like to put my questions to that.

I think that given the new responsibility in the latest law there is a large burden on your agency because of the new laws. So I think it is incumbent that you go above and beyond what is being called on today.

There are two areas on noise. I think it is particularly important to take a look at; one of which is noise on marine life; the other is noise as it travels in and on water. Studies that I looked at said basically at a thousand feet wind turbine sounds like a brand new refrigerator, but that is on land; we need to understand those issues on water.

For bird migration we should be looking at turbine placement as well as operational time limitations; there are ways to continue to address

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that.

And the economics; it is important to look at the decrease in pollution from the number of respiratory problems as we already heard; cancer, lung cancer and of course global warming, and the sea level rise. It is about air quality days with more hot ozone, and of course the severe weather events as they pertain to Long Island to be part of that cost benefit analysis.

It is also important to take a look at stable or constant price of wind when we look at the energy market.

Looking at LIPA's assumptions when it first looked at what areas would be good for alternative sites. The issue of property taxes has come up. Studies that I have seen show no effect on land base. I do note we have to look abroad to see if there are impacts on those offshore

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properties.

You have a lot of work ahead of you. I look forward to seeing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to see the process conclusive.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Jane Johnes. And I would like to ask Rick Shalvoy to come up and be on standby, please.

MS. JOHNES: My name is Jane Johnes, and I live in Babylon. I have never come to anything like this before, but I had to get involved because I love my beaches and I love the way they look. I think they are beautiful and I don't think a power plant should be in our state parks.

We are all for renewable energy. I am certainly for it, but you know, here tonight and a lot of people have spoken to it, it just seems like there is a lot of business involved here and there is a lot of money involved here. And I don't

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think 40 windmills are going to solve all the environmental problems we have.

And it just seems like there is a lot of money there and private interests, and I really wonder who stands to benefit from this. That is it.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Next up is Number 54, Rick Shalvoy. I would like to ask Mark Serotoff to come up for standby, please.

MR. SHALVOY: Good evening. I think it is still evening, I don't think we are after midnight yet. My name is Rick Shalvoy; I am founder and director of The Row For a Cure Cancer Research Foundation.

My qualifications are not too extensive. I was born in Nassau County and I have spent the last 54 years living in various communities on the South Shore of Long Island in both Nassau and Suffolk counties; but

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I refuse to reveal my age even though I was born 54 years ago.

In 1969 I went to work at Jones Beach and Robert Moses State Park as an ocean lifeguard and after 37 years it gets to be a habit. I am still doing that during the summertime.

About ten years ago I began an event called Row For a Cure. It is a 350 mile circumnavigation of the outer shoreline of Long Island in a 19-foot ocean lifeboat to raise funds for cancer research. Row For a Cure Cancer Research Foundation does not conduct cancer research; we raise funds to support cancer research.

I must tell you that when I began this event I was pretty familiar with wind. I have become much more familiar with wind since I started it, as well as being familiar with this geological gem that we call Long Island, particularly the waters

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in the areas that have been discussed
this evening.

Now I don't intend to
reiterate some of the comments that
have been made this evening regarding
the relationship between our
incidence of cancer on Long Island
and the polluting emissions on many,
many of which are spewed forth from
the smokestacks of our power plants.

Too many points really are
here to be made in the three-minute
period, so what I have done is I have
thrown away my talking points and I
would like to speak to a few of the
points that have already been raised.

I have a tremendous amount of
respect for you, Steve Bellone. I do
respectfully disagree with you
regarding the repowering issue. We
should not be looking to repower
these plants, we should be looking to
shut them down.

Wayne Horsley is another

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gentleman I have a great deal of respect for. He made a good point and said that only three percent of our energy generation needs will be served by these turbines in the field we have discussed. That is not the issue in my mind.

The issue is that it provides us with a source of energy that can be used to do many things. Right now we are planning to just dump it into the formula, 44,000 homes \$400. It could be used at some point to manage the hydrogen fuel that would be the future of our energy needs.

This is my last point. David Bishop, I know you are a good friend of mine. The people who are speaking tonight, most of them are gone now. A lot of them were applauding the people who made negative comments about the project.

David said the winds blow stronger in the east and these same

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people were applauding. To me that means we like this wind farm to be built, just don't build it in my backyard.

I submit to the MMS that is not a good reason to build it.

MR. HOLCOMB: Number 56, Mark Serotoff. And Gregory Walbrecht to come down on standby, please.

THE AUDIENCE: He is gone.

MR. HOLCOMB: Can I get Jim Papa.

MR. SEROTTOFF: The Sustainable Energy Alliance of Long Island, comprising over 30 neighborhood civic, environmental, and faith-based organizations, and over a hundred thousand members wholeheartedly support the Long Island Offshore Windmill Park.

Energy demand increases 100 to 200 megawatts annually on Long Island and an offshore wind park is needed along with other measure to meet

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demand. The project offers numerous benefits. Locally-based generation which increase system reliability; less reliance on imported foreign oil; zero pollution; job creation; tax benefits to host jurisdictions; and benefits to the local economy by avoiding off-island power importation.

Global warming is fact. Ocean levels are rising and weather events are intensifying. Power generations such as this that produces no global warming gas is needed. The Long Island region is DEC certified as a quote, "severe nonattainment region for ozone."

This pollution is causing circulatory and respiratory illness. Other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion are carcinogens. The offshore wind park will provide the generations with no emissions that can harm public health. If one child

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or senior citizen is spared from
asthma, bronchitis, or cancer then
the offshore wind park and others
must be built as soon as possible.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you.

Mr. Papa, and Rita Barsky to come
down on standby, please.

MR. PAPA: I am going to
preface my comments by saying I have
been a South Shore resident my whole
life; surfer for over 30 years,
clammer.

I am currently a professor of
English, and my scholar areas are
environmental and American history.
I look at this project situated
historically. You have to realize
from the 1840's on Americans have
considered places put aside, places
with natural beauty or unique
aspects, and we have chosen to put
them aside.

Frederick Law Olmsted, who was

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responsible for Central Park,
Brooklyn's Prospect Park. There is a
long intellectual forest behind the
idea that in America we put places
aside for people to have some contact
with nature and the natural world
away from industry and commerce. And
once we set these places aside they
are invaluable. They are not simply
for the generations that creates
them, but for generations to come who
we will never see.

We have few places like this,
but luckily -- in the 1880's, in the
period of Robert Down, (Phonetic)
long before Greenpeace, long before
Earth Day, in 1872 we had our first
national park Yellowstone Park. It
was created less than ten years after
the end of the Civil War.

In the midst of reconstructing
this country with blood still on the
ground recognizing the value of
putting aside two million acres in

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Wyoming.

Closer to home, many people will never reach Wyoming, never reach the Grand Canyon, they have Jones Beach. They can go down and see wildlife, vast mystery, beauty, awe. That lesson alone leads people to love and cherish the earth and want to protect it.

I say to the MMS, progressive ideals in this country are under attack. A lot of things we thought were good for people which we all take benefit from now, defined work weel, et cetera, they were hard fought in political battles by people who didn't want us to have them. And FPL doesn't want us to have our park anymore at all.

I am an environmentalist. When you allow corporate intrusion and industrialization into your parks it is the beginning of the end, because nothing will be safe and you

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would lose them.

And you know what, we will be healthy then. But I will tell you then in the Koran it says "if I have two loaves of bread I would sell one and buy hyacinths because they would feed my soul." There are things that matter that don't have prices and our parks are one of them.

Find another place and another way or you will have nothing.

MR. HOLCOMB: Is Eric Licht here? Number 60 and Number 62, David Sibek to be on standby, please.

MR. LICHT: Eric Licht; I am a resident of Babylon. When I came in here there were six or seven points up on the board that the MMS was looking to get at tonight. I would like to speak about two of them. One of them is my personal input, public input, and the other is the alternatives.

I personally feel that the

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benefits of this project do not justify the sacrifice of beaches. If the rewards of the project were greater, if I was told that one-third of our power or energy would come from this project I would be more supportive of it; but two percent can be got anywhere.

If this project goes through there apparently is a huge federal monetary benefit for LIPA and FPL, and that benefit could probably be used for better alternatives, such as solar power, updating generation plants, conservation. Eliminating Daylight Savings time would eliminate two percent of our power use.

That is all I have to say.

MR. HOLCOMB: Is David Sibek here? Is Peter Hellermann here, Number 63? Donna Banek? Thomas Vanderberg on standby, please.

MS. BANEK: I am Donna Banek, a resident of Amityville, West

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Amityville to be exact, so this project definitely has impact on not only myself but my neighbors. I am also a science educator and I know the value of renewable energy.

I teach the value of renewable energy and I teach my children the value of choice. My youngest students debate responsible choices not for 2006 or 2008 or 2020, but for far into their future. I make them look through a crystal ball. They are unavailable to speak tonight. Is it still night?

As a scientist and educator pose certain questions. How many barrels of oil can be saved over a 20-year period if we are enabled to purchase solar power at a reasonable cost? If we develop advanced mass transit -- I am not asking for better mass transit, I am asking to advance our mass transit system here on Long Island; if we supply 4,000 homes with

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solar energy that we talked about;
how will our delicate ecosystems be
preserved?

 Last night my husband and I
took a ride along Jones Beach and
Robert Moses, and it was a beautiful
full moon. I am sure it is still out
there tonight. I saw an interesting
sign that said turtle nesting area
and I said am I in Florida; no, I
don't think so. So I don't know if
it was a joke or not. And I also
think that we should look at
repowering some of our power plants.

 Somehow, I know I had to do it
when I moved into my home, I took a
look at what we had. I believe that
conservation is an old-fashioned word
that needs to be renewed. Thank you.

 MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Is
Thomas Vanderberg here? How about
Walter Gafforio? Number 68, Patricia
DiStasio? Number 69, Cynthia Guise?
We are dwindling down here.

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Number 70, Glenn Nugent. And if Cesar Malaga is here I would like to ask him to come down on standby, please.

MR. NUGENT: Good evening. I thank you for listening to us this evening. You have a difficult job in front of you. I am from Amityville. I feel very fortunate to live in the area I live in. I spent the evening on Saturday night with my family, my wife and two small children out in my sailboat out at West Gilgo. Again, I feel very fortunate to be able to do that.

I have a great respect for wind. I know how strong it is, how powerful it can be. We have to take things into perspective. If we lose our beaches, as has been said by many fine speakers this evening, they will never come back. That view will never be the same after they construct 44, 400-some-odd-foot

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structures some three miles offshore.
For two percent of what we may, and I
question the science on this, what we
may get out of it, it certainly isn't
worth it.

So many people enjoy the Great
South Bay. My boat, boats in general
are known as holes in the water you
throw your money into. That is the
way I envision the 44 windmills that
we are going to construct.

We heard this evening people
complaining about the fact that we
are still paying for Shoreham. And
we have also heard people say this
evening how we have to look forward
and take care of our next
generations. They are going to be
paying for this 20 years from now and
they are going to be saying what were
they thinking?

So you obviously know where I
am coming from on this and I
challenge you to do the EIS; take a

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look at everything.

I saw something in Newsday this morning that is quite disturbing. It is according to Mr. Kessel that LIPA has not yet finalized its power purchase agreement with FPL. He spoke in front of Amityville and spent a couple of hours one evening adamantly, and quite admirably defending the project.

At that time he said they were close to finalizing the power purchase agreement. It is beyond reason to me how he can't speak to what we are going to be paying for this energy. We are prepared to hear the truth. They have it; they are not giving it. I hope that you get that and you can weigh it in your decision.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you.

MR. MALAGA: Cesar Malaga. I

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have attended many meetings with LIPA. One thing is many of us do not need the power here in the west end of Suffolk. All the construction is out East. There is a boom of construction out East. They are building mansions with 20 and 30 rooms, and that is where they need the power.

I indicated to Mr. Kessel many times at the meetings, all those homeowners that are building homes there, they should have their own power. They cannot afford to have their own power there. We do not need it here.

We put those windmills out there to provide power at the East End. You have to provide the power where they need it. To build it out here it will cost great amount of money to transport power from here to out East. You should build on land not sea.

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Another thing is this. I had trouble in East Germany. I went from Berlin up to Russia and I saw lots of windmills out there. Many of them were working, many of them were not working. Some people like it, some people don't like it. The government subsidized those. Now they are not building any more. Why? Because they are not efficient.

So if they are not building more why are we going to build here? One thing that all of you should be aware of is that solar power, right now solar power is very much improved. Many people who have solar power sell their electricity to LIPA. If most of the homes have solar power we don't need windmills and we decrease usage from LIPA, buying power from LIPA, selling our power back to LIPA.

So solar panels can provide more than windmills can provide

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because windmills -- there are many questions that aren't answered. They are not answering any questions. How much is it going to cost us in the future? How much are we going to pay for it?

Our grandchildren or great-grandchildren will be paying for this, that is one thing. They will be paying. We need solar panels. No one is telling us what it is going to cost. Not the effect of environment our quality of life; you should worry about that. Marine life, so many things are left unanswered.

So I would suggest rather than building windmills we should be concentrating and put out East solar panels to provide the power to the people who need it. I travel to East Hampton, Southampton, Riverhead; the farmland disappeared. Where they are building these big mansions is where

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they need the power.

 Pretty soon the East End will not be a beautiful place to see, it will be homes after homes after homes. If you have a chance you can travel out East to big mansions. Those are the people that need the power, we don't need the power out here. Thank you.

 MR. HOLCOMB: I can't read this name at all, Number 73. Number 75, Edward Andersen. Number 76, Grace Kelly McGovern. Number 77, Diana Fratello. Number 78, George Pettengill.

 MR. PETTENGILL: Good evening, or almost good morning. Thank you for your patience. To me this is one of the exercises in democracy that I value the most. I am going to speak in favor of the proposal, but I learned a great deal from those people who spoke against it. They educated me to things that I need

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further to think about to understand
it more comprehensively. So you have
some job to listen to what everybody
has had to say. Wind power, yes or
no.

My name is George Pettengill;
I live in Dix Hills. When we were
kids we knew the reason that Holland
could grow food 20 feet below sea
level. The ocean was pumped out by
windmills. Or if we lived anywhere
near an American farm we could see
windmills pumping water to irrigate
fields.

Update to 2006. Nowadays
windmills make electricity.
Windmills are all over California and
bring in about \$3,000 per year to the
landowners. If we have windmills off
the South Shore of Long Island we
won't have to pay that \$3,000 per
windmill because the ocean is not
private property.

Did you know that the Statue

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of Liberty and its torch are powered by New York Harbor wind? Well, we might say to ourselves the local power authority might fight the idea of windmills competing with fuel sources, but not on Long Island. Would you believe the sponsor of the windmill proposal is none other than our electrical power company LIPA, Long Island Power Authority?

Will the windmills make sounds that are heard onshore? They report that the windmills will be too far out to be heard on the shorefront. How will we put the dollar value on getting oil from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Dubai or Alaska?

There are two sources of energy I know of which do not pollute our air, earth, water, leave dangerous byproducts or add to global warming; they are wind and sun. Long Island can become a leader and an example to our nation and others,

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instead of saying we will do it because others have done it. We need to step out and have examples in our country today. Things that will inspire us and encourage us to believe more deeply in our nation.

Sunlight can be turned into electricity making America self-reliant again if this beginning is followed by many, many more like it. We are seeing more and more New York City builders take advantage of this as more and more homeowners are on Long Island.

My time is up, but I would hope that in the long run such plans actually may improve our beaches by ending the black sand mix with oil, clumps that stick to your feet and may need turpentine to take that oil off when you get home. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Number 79, Number 80, Number 81, Number 82, Number 83, Number 84, Number 85,

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Number 86, Arlene Hinman.

MS. HINMAN: A long wait and all the important people are already gone. One item never brought up was fuel cells. Way back in 2000 there was a bout going on between KeySpan and LIPA. They were experimenting with it. And nothing ever came out of it, but I held onto the darn article and I brought it to attention to a supervisor in LIPA that worked out of Melville offices named Joe Bellona.

When I gave him the article he researched for me and he sent me information on that they weren't testing this out. But I have an article here that says here, "natural gas fuel cell has potential as cleaner power." No one ever brought it up. Always wind power.

What happened to fuel cells that they were trying to do this in 2000 and nobody ever did anything

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about it?

They fought on this and they had on here that that fuel cell gas and hydrogen react chemically to produce electricity, water, heat and virtually no pollutants. The energy experts have mixed reactions to the study, but one was skeptical that the Northwest experiments done in the controlled laboratory settings could be applied to daily use.

Now why hasn't anybody ever been put into this instead of only thinking of wind turbines? Why not fuel cells? Natural gas and we have plenty of that on the Island, and KeySpan owns that.

I feel that if they look into that we would have a better source and it wouldn't be that we have to do anything to the environment.

That is my input on that.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. John

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Gaare.

MR. GAARE: I didn't think I would get a chance to speak tonight. I am a South Shore resident and I am a schoolteacher. I applaud LIPA for starting this situation. We do need renewable energy.

Thank you for your patience up here. You heard an earful. But the way I see it is that if we are going to do this, do it right. This is a tradeoff. You have pollutants emitting BOC's and carbon and mercury versus polluting the environment and ocean; noise pollution, view of the vista, a national park.

It comes down to what do you like? What do you want to do? Is it going to save us 20 years from now; probably not.

The thing I don't understand is if we are going to do this and we have to, let's do it right. Let's get energy power plant instead of off

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the shore beaches that will not produce but maybe two percent of energy and cost millions and millions of dollars and possibly wreck the environment out there, let's get a power plant somewhere else.

I don't have the answer that will produce some energy, more than maybe two percent at a consistent rate, that will maybe save some money for the taxpayers on Long Island. It is just not viable in this environment. It is not cost effective. It is not shutting down any fossil fuel plants. It is not going to save the environment, the air, anything significant. And to lose the environment out there, it just doesn't seem worthwhile.

That is all I have to say. I am very opposed to this. Keep up the good work. Good luck.

MR. HOLCOMB: Number 92, Fredrick Kamerer. Diane Ives.

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MR. KAMERER: I am Fredrick
Kamerer. Good evening. All I have
to do is tell you that I live and
work on Long Island, right here in
Amityville and Babylon. I fished the
entire South Shore from Fire Island
Inlet to Jones Beach Inlet, right
through the area which you are going
to open this plant.

It is very strange that you
could call this the wind park because
it is not a fun thing that you are
going to approve. It is not a park,
it is not an amusement center; it is
a facility to produce electricity.

I am sure if you go through
your archives you will find out that
somewhere somebody is generating
enough electricity, is generating
enough power to power all Long Island
that would offset the amount of money
it will cost to build these
windmills.

You are going to destroy the

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beaches because the first time you put a boring tool or a shovel, and to make no bones about it, when they start bringing in the ships and dredgers and tugs, and all the other pipes included in the construction of these windmills, those beaches will be closed from Jones Beach to Fire Island inlet probably up to Ocean Beach, because the currents on Long Island run from east to west continuously.

The tide doesn't go in and out and up and down like you would suspect. They go east to west. Once you start to disturb the sea bed, which I believe the DEC should be in control of, you are going to wipe out all of the beaches on the South Shore on Long Island for a lousy two percent of dollars.

Yes, wind power is a necessary thing. Why doesn't Mr. Kessel go down there and put those wind

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generators up in the Pine Barrens?
It is dollars. This whole deal is
about dollars. The ocean is free
rein.

You can get these wind
generators out there and run the
cables, and do the welding and the
oil leaks and all the other crap that
goes with building these things.
Once they get them into the ocean
what makes you think we are so smart
that we can't get another hurricane
to take them out, and throws them
right back in your face and have the
biggest scrap yard right off the
shore the Long Island? It happened
in Louisiana, it can happen here in
Long Island.

Mr. Kessel is one who can
attest to that. He is already
warning us about being prepared for a
hurricane; make yourself the
generator list. It is not unfeasible
that we can get hit with a Hurricane

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4 or 5 and take out every wind generator that you put in that ocean and make it a big mess for somebody to clean up. Then the cost factor will escalate and escalate until we just can't pay for it anymore.

I don't know who is getting the money to do this. He is in cahoots with somebody who is eventually going to finance this thing, and we are the taxpayers that are going to pay for it and it is too high a cost to pay. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Number 103 Steven Fleischer.

MR. FLEISCHER: Hello. I hope I can compose myself and make some good points to you.

The environmental movement on Long Island pretty much started with Shoreham. Now Shoreham was a nuclear power plant that people felt should it go into effect, should things go wrong how could you evacuate people?

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How could you get them out of here?

But in all actuality nobody really cares about Long Island, in evacuating Long Island; 9/11 proved that because when they shut down Long Island there has been since that time no way, no plan, no intent in any way for anyone to evacuate this island should any form of disaster ever come. So let's forget anyone, any politician, any public official being concerned about the safety of Long Island people. It is not there.

The other thing that was wrong with the power plant was the labor. People were worried about who was building these things. Well, some of the greatest labor of the world has been in developments that this Industrial Age has created came from Long Island Metropolitan area. Some of the greatest minds have been from this particular area. But they didn't like the labor, for whatever

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reason, that built so much of this nation. They didn't like it in Shoreham, so they got you scared with that.

Now if they put in this wind park there will be no Long Island labor that builds this. There is nothing here -- there is no dynamics here that is going to help sustain or increase any kind of wind parks. It all comes from somewhere else.

My own personal knowledge of the way things are built by large corporations is that they take people, their people from wherever they are, fly them in and install whatever they are doing and put it into the ground. Whatever the project is it is people from somewhere else, their people. No one is going to do that on Long Island. No one is going to build that thing.

So what really is the problem is you take this room -- what is it

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about 60 degrees for how many people?
I am freezing. We are wasting energy
like mad. Why are we doing that?
How many places are like that? Look
at the lights here. We should ban,
outlaw the incandescent bulb. If we
did that -- we are in debt to Thomas
Edison who has been paid long ago.

 This room, how much savings
could be done by having different
kind of lighting in here? We could
save a fortune on the power we have.
We don't have to lose our beaches and
habitat that is so great. I think we
are wasting an effort.

 I thought we wasted money with
Shoreham. We will waste money here.
Don't touch the coastline of Long
Island. Thank you.

 MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you.
Tracy DePaul.

 MS. DePAUL: I kind of forgot
what I wanted to say already. I live
in Lindenhurst. I grew up in the

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projects in New York City. My father came to take me to Jones Beach. I could not believe the incredible beauty that was available to me, the project kid.

I live out here now. I cannot describe how incredibly gorgeous it is here, the public beaches. If you ruin the beaches with the turbines -- I understand the alternative energy. I know the sky is falling. There seems to be a debate. I know you need alternative energy. A lot of people said wind is an abundant resource. Our coastline is not an abundant resource if we build the plants off the shore.

My husband and I go fishing. The currents -- I teach one of the Coast Guard's children for home care. I spoke to him. He is very concerned about the saves he is going to have to do with these currents around the platform.

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I don't think it is a benign park situation. I am not too sure the cost benefit analysis will bear out. I understand the need for alternative energy; I know the sky is falling, but if we take away the beaches where is the ex-project girl, where do we go. Out to the Hamptons; we are not allowed out there.

Once we ruin our landscape it is ruined forever. I can't imagine putting antennas in Central Park. I can't imagine. Where are those stupid piping plover when we need them? Where are they now?

It is just amazing how much restriction was on piping plovers. It doesn't seem to be that kind of restriction applies to this situation. I don't know why, I don't know what it is.

My daughter was here. I had to take her home because she had to watch her sister. She is a surfer.

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She is worried about the currents and what will happen to the jetties and the shoreline.

I live out here, I fish out here. I would really, really hate to see our coastal landscape blighted. I do understand the need for alternative energy. I am not too sure this is the place for it.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you.

James Marron.

MR. MARRON: My name is Jim Marron, a resident of Babylon. I have been told that I am an old dinosaur. I am 75 years old. I don't own a computer. I don't own a charge card; never had one and never will have one.

We talk about foreign fuel. We get oil out of Alaska, but the oil goes to Japan. I have sat here tonight and listened to all kinds of statistics and figures from politicians and from environmental

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groups. But no one has mentioned
ration.

You won't hear it from the
federal government or anybody, why?
It is politically incorrect. We have
had it in the Second World War, ABC
stamps. I guess this was not
politically correct. It worked out
then why we can't do it again?

We don't have to be as strict
with it as we had in the Second World
War. P.S., we won the war. The
Middle East would be pleading for you
to buy their oil because we would be
saving so much oil. If everybody
just saved ten gallons of gasoline a
week they would be pleading with you
to buy their oil, but nobody wants to
give up all these measures.

They want to have computers.
Even the houses, the construction
today, everybody is building a bigger
house. It is going to take more fuel
to heat it. You don't see just a

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plain old ranch house, a one-level ranch house; everything is two and three stories high. The further east you go the bigger the houses get. I don't know how these people can afford the dollars to heat these homes.

Just try and cut back. And take this to the politicians in the government, try to put in some kind of ration. Because people are not going to ration themselves. Just like you tell your children to do something, if you don't tell them to do it they are going to do it. So get after the government and tell them hey, how about some rationing here.

If a person is commuting; okay, we can deal with that. If a man needs fuel for his business, we can deal with that; but at least we will be cutting back. Just cut back ten gallons a week. My God, you

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would save billions of gallons. That is all I have to say. Thank you for your time.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. John Watt.

MR. WATT: My name is John Watt from Babylon. Renewable energy is important and desirable. Most people most likely designed this to eliminate pollution caused by burning fossil fuel and reduce dependency on foreign oil. My main concern on this project though, is why and how it is built.

Is this project being fast tracked to offer good PR and photo ops for upcoming elections? Will we as taxpayers and ratepayers bear the burdens of mismanagement and corruption equal to that of some of Long Island's most notable monuments of arrogance?

The Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, the Southwest Sewer District

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in the '70's, and more recently the renewed effort to rebuild the incinerator at the Bergen Point plant to burn sewage sludge. Are the needs of Long Islanders going to be met or are we just going to be feeding the financial bottom line of another private business not even located on Long Island?

Maybe the answer is to cut out some of the construction so that we don't need so much energy. We won't need to build these plants; we won't need to add sewage treatment plants; we won't need to worry about where our freshwater is going to come from. Slow down construction.

Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Erin Relley.

MS. RELLEY: My name is Erin Relley from Patchogue. This is kind of a hard question for you guys to answer. I don't know if you can

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possibly figure this into your Environmental Impact Statement, but I would like to know what the value is of taking pride in our decisions?

Taking a power plant we looked at, that we chose at one point not to discern the costs of our decisions to the rest of the planet, chose to do things that don't cause cancer, the huge impact on the human life on the planet. And that one that we are going to put right out in front and say to the young people of tomorrow.

There has been a lot of talk about young people of tomorrow. I would like to be able to show my kids that is an energy system we can be proud of. It is right out there. It is right in front where we can see it. It is not harming anyone. We can look at it and say not only is it a first step, but Long Island did it first. It is the first one of its kind out in the ocean.

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The people in Palm Springs take a lot of pride in what they did. They also get a lot of tourism dollars in from those facilities. I don't think people in Port Jeff with the smokestacks feel that same level of pride. I don't think that people who live around any of our large scale energy projects on Long Island do.

I don't know of another large scale energy project that we can take pride in. I think this is one of them and I think it is one that we can afford Long Island a lot, tax dollars, notoriety and give us pride in some of our energy decisions for things we can do ourselves. We can lead the country and show other people that it is possible.

What is the impact of showing other people that it is possible and having people follow us of doing the exact same thing, of reducing the

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benefits on foreign energy? What is the benefit of being there first?

Are we going to instead look at this ten years later and say we could have done that first and we didn't? I don't want to do that. I don't want my kids to do that, and have them say what was mom thinking? She let another set of stacks go up down on the shores down in Amityville.

I would rather have blades out on the ocean where they are not harming anyone. And we can teach people lessons about taking responsibility for our decisions and internalizing our costs and burying them ourselves.

That may not be an environmental impact, but a social impact. It may be rhetorical, but I think it is important.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. Alan Kohler.

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MR. KOHLER: I believe I may be the last, if not close to it. Local guy, no affiliations. Alan Kohler. In the '60's when it was proposed it was 400 million dollar project and that project we all know became a four billion dollar project. There are numbers bandied around here, 140 megawatts, 40,000 homes.

We had our elected officials who thankfully were here telling us that the experience of the countries over in Europe, who are currently using this, are that these facilities are operating roughly 20 percent. They are 140 megawatt projections that you see in the literature is 107 percent. If we take that into our homes and cut that down we are looking at 8,000 homes.

I believe it is all demographics, but Long Island has about 700,000 homes. So the amount of square miles that you are

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affecting by servicing 800,000 homes,
I wonder if it wouldn't be better to
spend that 400 million dollars and
lets extrapolate that out two, three,
four times to your Shoreham dollars.
But let's take that 400 million
dollars and guarantee that 40,000
homes will get \$10,000 worth of solar
energy, and now we have accomplished
exactly what we are looking for.

That is pretty much what I
have to say. I am still on the go
side. Thank you for this forum.
Let's hope it is a good decision.

MR. HOLCOMB: Number 115.
Number 116, Juan Marte.

MR. MARTE: Juan-Carlos Marte.
I live on Long Island. I have heard
a lot of ridiculous comments today,
especially about the view that the
windmills will have on our beaches.
I love the beach. I go to the beach
every weekend and my favorite part of
the beach is the water. I love going

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in the water. And with all the pollution going in and out it is just getting dirtier and dirtier.

With wind power there won't be as much pollution in the water. I would rather see a clear ocean with windmills than a black water and power plants all over the place making our energy. I mean we are the richest area in the country in terms of wind and we still get 90 percent of our energy from other countries.

I don't know about you guys, but I think that is a shame. Now is the time for us to speak up and do what we've got to do, because if we don't do it now then when is anybody going to make a move? It is basically now or never, that is all it comes down to. I hope that everybody else feels the same way.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you. We have two left. Jessica Stern, is she still here?

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MS. STERN: I am Jessica, I am with Citizens Campaign for the Environment. And being able to stand up here and speak and make a difference for my future is so empowering because it is not the future of the people that work for the companies that have polluted our earth for years and put us in the global warming state that we are in right now.

It is my future and my kids' future, and when I have kids I don't want them in a state that is under water, in a war for the last drops of water left. We should have had windmills and clean energy sources years ago. Places like Europe, California, Texas, already have this and we don't. Doesn't that embarrass you?

We should have wind power. As great as it is to hear excuses and do nothing and dig ourselves deeper in

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the hole we dug ourselves, I believe it is better to save ourselves and build the offshore wind park.

Thank you so much.

MR. HOLCOMB: Tom Stutman.

MR. STUTMAN: Hello. My name is Tom Stutman. I live in Amityville and I surf on the South Shore. I heard a lot of comments about the aesthetic value of the windmills. I surf there every day that I can. It has been my livelihood since I started high school, and it is basically my escape from reality.

I think that looking at windmills won't bother me at all. Basically I think it is really ignorant and irresponsible to talk about aesthetics. Basically we need a transition right now to clean energy.

Fossil fuels are pretty much killing us. A simple analogy is that quitting fossil fuels is like

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quitting cigarettes. If you don't quit cigarettes then you die. All right.

MR. HOLCOMB: Last but not least is speaker Number 119.

MR. de PASQUALE: My name is Doun de Pasquale. I spent most of my entire life on Long Island and most of that time spent on the South Shore Long Island beaches. My biggest fear is global warming and it should be a concern of everybody.

The fact is that the financial burden of the windmills I don't think would be competitive with the power. You have existing power plants with today's newer technology would be much more effective costwise to everybody now and years to come.

My other fears are migrating fish, what impact these windmills will have on that. Migrating birds. The fact that the windmills are so close to the shipping lane. These

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ships are large and take quite a long time to come to a stop. And if there were an accident or storm it will wipe out the whole field with one ship.

Who knows what that will cost us? I don't think that these windmills are a solution for us at the present time. I know they say they have them in Texas, California out West, they are in areas where you can't see them. The beauty of Jones Beach and Oak Beach that will be in view of these windmills would pay for it. That would affect tourism, fishing and anything else along with that.

That is pretty much all I have to say. Thank you.

MR. HOLCOMB: That is the last speaker.

MR. SLITOR: I would like to thank you all for coming tonight, sharing all of your views, your

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comments. We appreciate hearing all of this. We learned a lot tonight.

We are going to have another meeting tomorrow at Massapequa High School. Again, I commend you for surviving here.

THE AUDIENCE: I was supposed to say something.

MR. SLITOR: Come on down.

MR. HOLCOMB: State your name please.

MR. RHODY: My name is Tyler Rhody. I am no one special, just a 22-year-old, open-minded person thinking about the future. I am also worried about the future.

First off, I don't know why everyone is so closed-minded to these turbines because they hate LIPA or something, but LIPA is not your enemy. The government that runs this country and oil companies are definitely the biggest crooks.

THE AUDIENCE: Pay the rates;

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you will know if LIPA was your enemy.

MR. RHODY: I don't pay rates.

I am not worried about LIPA that I am so closed-minded that I think about energy bills.

I heard the terms destroy our beaches and our beaches will be sabotaged and all this craziness. Are you guys that selfish that you can't sacrifice like a little toothpick out on the horizon for your kids' future? Keep consuming oil like we do and it is going to run out, and we have no other alternative.

The point is, you know, the same people that are opposing this, I wouldn't be surprised if you guys promote drilling in Alaska, or maybe the --

THE AUDIENCE: We oppose both.

MR. RHODY: So maybe you should just open up your mind a little to this because it is not that

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terrible. It is not like we are putting the turbines on the beach. You will still be able to go to the beach. And don't boats sail in the water too; does that corrupt your view?

THE AUDIENCE: Cargo tankers.

MR. RHODY: Seriously.

Everyone is being closed-minded for whatever reason, whether it is dollars. That is not what we need to be thinking about. We need to be looking towards the future, and what we are going to do in the future if we don't start taking a step in the right direction.

It is just ridiculous because of whatever reason, rates, that people just don't want to have a wind farm put there, or you think your beach is going to be destroyed? I am appalled.

I don't remember what else I wanted to say, but that just that

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stupid. Everyone have a great night.
Thanks. I appreciate it.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I know I had
an opportunity to speak, but I want
to say one more thing before we all
leave. Seventy-five percent of the
manufacturing on Long Island left us.
Now where did it all go? It all went
to China.

Now what concern did the
Chinese have about environment or
regulations? Absolutely nothing.
What do they give us in return? The
Asian long-horned beetle.

What about the trees that have
been destroyed locally by insects and
vermin of all types that has come off
through container ships from Asian
manufacturing, where we have no
environmental ability to fight back.
These pests that are coming in
through the manufacturing. That we
are not doing here, we are perfectly
capable of doing.

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Thank you very much.

MR. HOLCOMB: Thank you all
for hanging in there. We really
learned your positions. We all
learned a lot here.

Thank you and have a good
night.

(Time noted: 12:00 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, Kristina Hoffman, a Notary
Public in and for the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this ____ day of _____,
2006.

Kristina Hoffman