The Offshore Wind Round-Up

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IN THIS ISSUE

Please note that The Offshore Wind Round-Up
will pause publication in March 2025 and resume in April

SWEDEN'S CONCERNS ABOUT OFFSHORE WIND FARMS INTERFERING WITH MILITARY DEFENSE SYSTEM

A statement mentioning **Sweden's decision last month to block thirteen offshore wind projects** in the Baltic Sea was included in a recent article in *The Sandpaper* and the statement generated several questions.

The article appeared in the November 20 issue under the headline "Uncertainty About Radar Interference Changes Wind Plans."

What did Sweden do? *From Barron's Agence France Presse November 4, with original spelling left unchanged:*

> Sweden's government said on [November 4] it was blocking the construction of 13 offshore wind farms in the Baltic Sea, after the country's military said they could negatively impact defence capabilities.
>
> Climate Minister Romina Pourmokhtari told a press conference that construction permits for the planned wind farms were denied because they "would have an unacceptable impact on defence interests".
>
> All 13 projects were planned in areas off Sweden's Baltic Sea coast.
>
> The decision follows a study by the Swedish Armed Forces, which was published by public broadcaster SVT last week, which showed that the projects could significantly disrupt sensors used by the military.

The towers and rotating blades of the wind turbines emit radar echoes and generate other forms of interference.

"In this serious security situation that Sweden is now in, the interests of defence need to carry extra weight," Defence Minister Pal Jonson told reporters.

Jonson said offshore wind farms could disrupt military radars and delay the detection of incoming cruise missiles, cutting the warning time from two minutes to 60 seconds.

The minister added that the relative closeness of the "highly militarised" Russian exclave of Kaliningrad had been "central in the assessment."

Access the full article from Barron's by clicking on this link

https://www.barrons.com/news/sweden-blocks-13-offshore-wind-farms-over-defence-concerns

Regarding the point in the last paragraph above, context was provided in an article published November 13 in *New Energy World*, the magazine of the Energy Institute.[1] The original spelling remains intact:

> Defense Minister Pål Jonson emphasised the importance of defense considerations given heightened security anxieties in the Baltic region following Russia's incursion into Ukraine in early 2022, which led both Sweden and neighbouring Finland to join the NATO political and military alliance – Finland became a full member in April 2023 and Sweden in March 2024.

Is radar interference a new problem? No, it is not. *From an article in* Defense News[2] *published November 11 2024:*

> Governments and private companies have been aware of the issue for decades, with the topic first being presented to the U.S. Congress in 2006. Considerable research has occurred in both the U.S. and U.K.…."

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[1] *From the website of the Energy Institute*: "EI Knowledge, Insights and Research is the centre for energy knowledge at the EI. We provide accurate and balanced energy information to support your work or studies. We also carry out our own research and engage EI members to create new sources of information and inform energy policy.

We are continuously updating to our resources and aim to cover topics across the energy system. This curation and creation of new resources is overseen by the Energy Advisory Panel (EAP). The EAP is made up of senior EI members and stakeholders whose collective expertise covers the breadth of the energy system." https://knowledge.energyinst.org/menu/about

[2] *From the website of Defense News*: "Founded in 1986, Defense News is the authoritative, independent, professional news source for the world's defense decision-makers.
In print and online, we provide the global defense community with the latest news and analysis on programs, policy, business and technology. Our bureaus and reporters around the world set the standard for accuracy, credibility and timeliness in defense reporting."
https://www.defensenews.com/about-us/

> "Radar interference can impede air traffic control, weather forecasting, homeland security, and national defense missions," U.S. Department of Energy spokesperson wrote in an email to Defense News, while also stressing that "the vast majority of wind projects … pose no significant impacts to radar missions."
>
> "Most potential conflicts are dealt with through minor and routine mitigation measures in the federal project evaluation process," the Department of Energy said in a statement.

How do the offshore wind turbines interfere with radar? What actually happens?

From the same Defense News *article, "Why Sweden nixed new wind farms for fear of missing Russian missiles"*:

> There are a number of ways that wind turbines, and especially large groups of them, can mess with the readings from a radar system. For one, they can show up on the screen because, just like any other object, they bounce back the electromagnetic waves that radar relies on….
>
> With the wingtips rotating at a speed of up to 370 kilometers per hour (around 230 mph), they move fast enough for doppler radars to sense them as moving objects, resulting in a false positive on an operator's screen….

The article points out that radar systems vary greatly and mentions other potential interferences in different systems.

Access the full Defense News article by clicking on this link
https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2024/11/11/

***Has Sweden cancelled all its offshore wind projects*?** No, it has not. *From the same* New Energy World article from above:

> Despite halting the proposed 13 offshore wind projects in the Baltic Sea, the Swedish government says it still wants to develop wind and solar energy. As evidence of this, it also announced that it had given the green light for the Poseidon floating offshore wind farm in southern Skagerrak (leading to the North Sea) on the west coast of Sweden.

Access the full Energy Institute article by clicking on this link
https://knowledge.energyinst.org/new-energy-world/article?id=139168

UPDATE ON STATUS OF RECENT SAVE LBI LAWSUITS

In the October 2024 *Offshore Wind Round Up*, it was reported that on September 13, Save LBI had filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of New Jersey against Atlantic Shores South, asking the court to require Atlantic Shores South to complete a full airborne noise assessment and pilot project before the project can proceed.

As of December 6, the Legal Interventions tab of the Save LBI website lists the status of this action as "Upon Project Approval."

- On September 30, 2024 Save LBI notified two federal agencies of its intent to sue under the Endangered Species Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. The notices gave the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 60 days to resolve issues raised in the filings before litigation is pursued.

As of December 6, the Legal Interventions tab of the Save LBI website lists the status of these actions as "Upon Project Approval."

- On October 15, Save LBI filed a petition with the Environmental Appeals Board challenging the issuance of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's issuance of an Outer Continental Shelf permit under the Clean Air Act. Atlantic Shores filed its response to the Save LBI's petition on November 5.

As of December 6, the status of this action does not seem to be listed on the Legal Interventions tab of the Save LBI website. Click on this link to go to the Legal Interventions tab on the Save LBI website.

EXPANSION OF ACOUSTIC MONITORING PROGRAM IN OFFSHORE WIND OPERATIONS

- ***What is required.*** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ("BOEM") requires all offshore wind lessees to conduct **long-term passive acoustic monitoring** ("PAM") on their lease areas to measure sound levels and monitor for the presence of vocalizing marine species like whales and dolphins.

- ***Expansion of current program.*** A **new initiative called POWERON** expands BOEM's recently established Passive Acoustic Monitoring Network in the Atlantic Ocean, which BOEM launched with $5.8M of funding from the 2022 **Inflation Reduction Act** to study the potential impacts of offshore wind facility operations on baleen whales.

- ***POWERON's objectives.*** POWERON (Partnership for an Offshore Wind Energy Regional Observation Network) is designed to **maximize the quality and consistency of scientific data** collected in lease areas while conserving and optimizing resources and protecting biodiversity.

With this new program, lessees can make annual contributions to POWERON to have their long-term **PAM requirements fulfilled** by an approved third party.

For example, BOEM already has in place an interagency agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northeast Fisheries Science Center to conduct PAM in the Atlantic Ocean off southern New England. BOEM recently signed a contract with the Regional

Wildlife Science Collaborative to conduct other POWERON monitoring along the eastern seaboard.

Advantages to conducting monitoring through POWERON. *Per the BOEM's October 29 press release:*

- Data consistency: Research will use similar instrument types, consistent calibration, and standard methods for data processing, which will lead to more robust results.
- Conserving/optimizing resources: POWERON can pool resources among partners, such as refurbishing instruments on neighboring lease areas on the same expedition to save on the costs of vessel time.
- Comprehensive data sets: Data collected from different locations and across multiple areas will be processed together to tell a more complete story about the presence, behavior, and movements of whales through these areas.
- Annual POWERON contributions will cover the cost of instrumentation, vessel time, data processing, and analysis conducted by authorized third parties. Contributions will also cover the costs of archiving data at a public passive acoustic data repository hosted by the National Centers for Environmental Information.

Access the full BOEM October 29 press release by clicking on this link
https://www.boem.gov/newsroom/press-releases/boem-announces-poweron-acoustic-monitoring-program-offshore-wind-projects

THE ROUND-UPS

This Offshore Wind Round-Up was prepared by a group of writers and researchers from Long Beach Island, New Jersey. The first Round-Up first appeared in May 2022 and it has been published every month except two since its debut.

***Round**-Ups endeavor to periodically provide a **review of recent research efforts** in which the effects of offshore wind farms have been studied. In addition, they occasionally offer factual, **clarifying information**, in response to readers' questions and suggestions.*

***Research** included in Round-Ups points you in the direction of the science and assumes **no point of view** one way or the other about the presence of offshore wind farms off our shore. Likewise, clarifications are provided without editorial comment; they are there for you to consider so you can **draw your own conclusions**.*

***Questions** about the content of Round-Ups and **suggestions** for future topics can be directed to RoundUpLBI@gmail.com. The Round-Up research and writing team welcomes questions and comments.*

***Round**-Ups are **distributed** to the voting representatives of the eleven member organizations of the Joint Council of Taxpayers Associations of LBI (JCTA). The board members of each member association collectively make their own decisions about how and when this information will be distributed to its members and/or the community. Most often, taxpayer associations use their regular communication platforms, such as newsletters, website postings and/or social media, to make Round-Ups **available to the public**.*