

Skipjack Wind Farm FAQs

How many offshore wind projects are planned off Maryland's coast?

Two. Maryland's Public Service Commission (MD PSC) awarded Offshore Renewable Energy Credits (ORECs) to two separate companies, U.S. Wind, Inc., and Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind, in May 2017 under docket 9431.

What is the Skipjack Wind Farm?

The Skipjack Wind Farm is the smaller of the two offshore wind farms off the coast of Maryland. It is being developed by Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind, America's leading offshore wind company. Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind also developed America's first offshore wind farm, the Block Island Wind Farm off the coast of Block Island, RI. Once operational, the Skipjack Wind Farm will generate enough energy to power 35,000 homes.

How far from the Maryland coast is the Skipjack Wind Farm?

The Skipjack Wind Farm will be located over 19 miles from the Maryland-Delaware border and 26 miles from the Ocean City pier.

What about the Delaware coast?

At its closest distance, the Skipjack Wind Farm will be approximately 17 miles off the Delaware shore.

Why is it located off the Maryland-Delaware coast?

After significant public and stakeholder input, these locations (called "Wind Energy Areas") were chosen by the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). There are other Wind Energy Areas along the northeast coast. Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind acquired the lease from the previous leaseholder in 2015.

Have you determined the size of the Skipjack Wind Farm turbines?

Yes. Subject to final agreed and signed contract and all required project approvals, Ørsted will deploy the GE Haliade-X 12MW wind turbines for the Skipjack Wind Farm.

How many jobs will be created from Skipjack's development and operation?

The Skipjack Wind Farm will create nearly 1,400 local jobs. This includes 913 jobs (measured in Full-time Equivalents) during the development/construction phase and 484 jobs during the operating period.

What's the overall economic benefit to Maryland?

The Skipjack Wind Farm represents a significant economic investment in Maryland. Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind will spend at least 34% of the project's total capital expenditures in Maryland, which is expected to be over \$200 million, and contribute \$6 million to the Maryland Offshore Wind Business Development Fund, which benefits the local economy. Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind will also invest a combined \$38 million in in-state port and fabrication facilities to help establish Maryland as a regional hub for offshore wind construction.

What government agencies have final approval for the Skipjack Wind Farm?

The construction and operations of the Skipjack Wind farm will require more than a dozen permits, consents and approvals from a variety of federal and state agencies. The lead federal agency is the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). BOEM will conduct a federal review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, which includes a public comment period and input from a number of federal (US Coast Guard, NOAA, EPA), state, and local agencies. Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind hopes that the review will result in approval of their permits.

Is there any impact on ocean fisheries?

Independent research shows offshore wind and fishing can coexist. University of Maryland-Eastern Shore professor Bradley Stevens has written, "The hard structures that form the bases of the turbines will be ideal locations for coral, mussels and other sea life to grow, which will attract and support large numbers of black sea bass. Wind turbines could actually be a boon to local fisheries...This is a win-win situation for both man and fish." (Daily Times, 6/3/18).

How will the power make it from the wind farm to shore?

Skipjack Wind Farm will deliver its energy to a point on the existing regional electric transmission system (PJM) at a point on the Delmarva Peninsula using one or more submarine electric power cables. We are surveying and studying several locations in both Maryland and Delaware.

How will the power cable impact the beach?

Skipjack plans to horizontally directionally drill (HDD) under the beach. Our transmission cable will be safely buried deep below the beach. This process allows us to avoid impact to the beach.

Who is paying for this?

Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind will pay for 100% of the cost of building, operating and maintaining the Skipjack Wind farm. In May 2017, the MD PSC authorized both the Skipjack Wind Farm and US Wind to sell their output to Maryland ratepayers. Details of the PSC's review and approval are documented as part of Docket 9431, which is publicly available online at:

<https://www.psc.state.md.us/search-results/?keyword=9431&x.x=0&x.y=0&search=all&search=case>

In Order Number 88192, the PSC authorized Skipjack to sell its output at a price of \$0.17 per kilowatt-hour in the project's first year of operation.

What is the impact to ratepayers?

The Skipjack Wind Farm will be paid only for the energy it actually produces and delivers to the grid on the Delmarva peninsula. There will be no cost to ratepayers until the project is operational. The PSC has estimated that, once operational, the Skipjack project will cost each Maryland residential ratepayer an additional \$0.43 per month.

How can I learn more about the Skipjack Wind Farm?

Visit skipjackwindfarm.com for more information and follow the project's progress on Facebook & Twitter @OrstedUS. You can also review the project's review and approval by the Maryland PSC at:

<https://www.psc.state.md.us/search-results/?keyword=9431&x.x=0&x.y=0&search=all&search=case>