

Claims vs. Facts

Claim

"The project will land its 230,000-volt electric cable on Beach Lane beach and then run 460,000- volt lines throughout Wainscott"

Fact

- The project consists of a single underground 138-kilovolt transmission line 4.3 miles in length from Wainscott Beach to the East Hampton Substation located off Cove Hollow Rd
- The onshore cable route follows Beach Ln, to Wainscott Main St, to Sayre's Path to Wainscott Stone Rd to Wainscott Northwest Rd for roughly 2 miles. It then follows the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) corridor for approximately 2 miles more.
- The line is sized to accommodate only power from South Fork Wind. Permit and real estate restrictions prevent changes to the line voltage or project size, which will not exceed 15 turbines or 132 MW.

Claim

"The installation of the project's infrastructure on land and in the water will permanently alter an already fragile, eroding beach and community"

Fact

Sea-to-Shore Transition

- The transmission cable will be set deep under the parking lot, beach and nearshore area at Wainscott Beach using a construction method called Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). This technology avoids disturbance of the beach and ensures the cable will be set at a precise depth that protects it from erosion over the life of the project.
- The permits and easements require a minimum cable burial depth of 30 feet of cover over the cable at Wainscott Beach, a requirement which must also account for seasonal or storm-induced sand movement.

Onshore

- Once installed, the only visible evidence of the underground infrastructure will be manhole covers at approximately 2,000-foot intervals and fully-repaved roads along the route.
- Construction of the underground cable will be limited to the time period between October 1 and May 15, with the bulk of the work completed by April 15.

*** Each "claim" is a direct excerpt from material produced by the Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott.**

Claim

"Running high-power electrical wires (think overhead power lines under your feet) have significant impacts on us and our children"

Fact

- The magnetic field, even directly above the cable in the road, will be similar to the levels found in close proximity to typical household appliances such as hair dryers, refrigerators or vacuum cleaners.
- The electric field from the wind farm's power cable will be blocked by its sheathing and the ground.
- New York State has a policy limiting the EMF (electromagnetic fields) from new transmission lines to levels produced by existing transmission lines, i.e., to maintain the status quo (NYPSC, 1990). The South Fork Export Cable must comply with this policy.
- Submarine power cables just like South Fork Wind's are common: They are located today under Jones Beach, the Long Island Sound, between Greenport and Shelter Island, and to connect the islands of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Block Island to the mainlands, to name a few. Additionally, both Ørsted and Eversource have landed submarine power cables in residential areas for several projects.

Claim

"One of the three alternative routes independently developed (Atlantic Avenue) eliminates and/or significantly reduces nearly all issues."

Fact

- Each of the proposed "independently developed alternative routes" are longer onshore than the route from Wainscott by a minimum of 1 mile and as many as 6 miles, or 25% to 400%.
- Each of the proposed alternative routes contemplates burying the underground duct bank along the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) between Cove Hollow Road and Amagansett. Numerous sections of the LIRR corridor are too steep or congested to accommodate the cable installation and would require routing outside of the LIRR corridor.
- The presence of existing overhead transmission lines along this section of the LIRR right-of-way also poses construction limitations for a cable route within the railroad corridor. This constraint would necessitate expanding the construction footprint into abutting properties, crossing the railroad tracks in multiple locations, and it would require electrical outages of the existing overhead lines to allow for safe working conditions during construction. The timing of available or allowable outages on these lines combined with other corridor constructability constraints would extend the duration of construction, requiring upwards of 18 months to complete for the shortest proposed alternative route from Atlantic Beach in Amagansett.
- By contrast, the sections of LIRR corridor between Wainscott Northwest Road and the East Hampton Substation do not contain existing overhead transmission lines or other types of congestion that exist between Amagansett and Cove Hollow Road. Construction of the entire onshore cable route from Beach Lane is estimated to require approximately 9–12 months.
- Notably, the alternatives analysis that identifies these longer routes as less impactful does not count as "impacted abutters" the residential properties adjacent to the railroad tracks – only properties along the state or locally-owned roads – a glaring misrepresentation. There are more total residential properties along the alternative routes than along the route from Wainscott Beach.

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