

## **Transcript – Wind Over Water**

**Written by Ole Tangen Jr.**

Cape Cod, Massachusetts, a sandy peninsula jutting 70 miles into the North Atlantic. Its fragile coastal landscape a collection of dunes, drifts and barrier islands perpetually shaped by wind and waves. A tourism enclave, Cape Cod boasts some of the most pristine beaches in America.

Beginning in October 2002, a series of public meetings were held on Cape Cod.

***On Camera:** Megan Amsler, Cape and Island Self-Reliance. Spiro Mitrokostas Cape Cod Technology Council.*

Community and Business leaders from all over the region were present.

***On Camera:** ...came up about again, where and why Nantucket Sound.*

They were there to address a firestorm of controversy polarizing this generally quiet coastal community.

***On Camera:** ...my job is education, specifically renewable energy education.*

The subject: a proposal to build the Cape Wind Project, America's first offshore wind farm.

**James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):** Six miles off the coast of Hyannis there is an awesome, inexhaustible supply of wind.

James Gordon is the President of Cape Wind Associates, the company attempting to build the Cape Wind Project.

**James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):** Unlike gas or oil or coal, which you can truck, barge or pipe, Mother Nature dictates where you put a wind farm. You have to go where the wind resources are.

The proposed location for the project is Horseshoe Shoals, a shallow section of Nantucket Sound. Situated five miles off the Southern Coast of Cape Cod, the shoal lies directly in between the Cape mainland and the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

**James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):** So we researched that site for a long time and we found that is was an optimal site to produce electricity because primarily Horseshoe shoals is a very shallow area – a lot of boats avoid Horseshoe Shoal because it is so shallow. It is protected so there are not the treacherous sea conditions out there that you would find out in the open ocean. And it has reasonable proximity to the Cape mainland.

These aerial shots are from the only large-scale wind facility in the world, located off the coast of Denmark. The 700 million dollar Cape Wind Project calls for one hundred and thirty turbines, similar to those seen here, spaced out over an area of 24 square miles. These massive turbines will tower 426 feet over the sound - with a total wingspan of 328 feet. The 420-megawatt facility could become Cape Cod's primary energy source, supplying three-quarters of the energy needs for the region's 250,000 year-round residents.

**Isaac Rosen (Director of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound):** Environmental degradation and I believe this will cause environmental degradation in the name of environmental protection is ludicrous to me.

Isaac Rosen is the Executive Director of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, the citizen organization campaigning against the Cape Wind Project.

**Isaac Rosen (Director of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound):** The Alliance started last fall about a year ago when it became clear that this project was real and we started seeing folks in suits throwing around a lot of money. Most people then thought that it was ridiculous, no one would dare industrialize Nantucket Sound.

The Alliance believes that a facility of this scope will have an adverse effect on both the ecosystem in the Sound and the economy of the surrounding communities. According to Rosen, the Cape Wind proposal is an example of a private developer attempting to profit from a public resource.

**Isaac Rosen (Director of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound):** The developers are going into Nantucket Sound, onto Horseshoe Shoals simply because it is in federal waters where there are no federal regulations governing development there. And they know that if they were in state waters there would likely be shot down by the far more restrictive zoning laws that we have in the Commonwealth. And they would certainly not want to do it on land because they would be hard pressed to get permitted for 40-story skyscrapers on Cape Cod. And even if they were, then they would have to pay property taxes which they don't want to do.

Does the Cape Wind Project pose a direct threat to the economy of Cape Cod and the ecology of Nantucket Sound?

Or is the Cape Wind Project an ambitious step toward shifting some of our country's power supply from polluting fossil fuels to renewable wind energy?

***On Camera Prof. James Manwell (University of Massachusetts Amherst):** The first question everybody asks is why, why would we even consider this? And the reason is, is that there is a lot of wind off the coast of Massachusetts.*

For centuries, windmills like this replica have been used to harness the energy of the wind to grind corn or pump water. The modern Wind turbine was largely developed in the United States in the 1970s, to convert wind energy into electricity. But these turbines proved too expensive and interest in the technology dwindled.

But Danish and German engineers reinvigorated this age-old technology. And over the past two decades, wind has emerged as the most viable renewable energy source. Today wind technology is a five billion dollar industry that is growing at a rate of almost 40 percent a year.

In the United States, wind currently makes up less than one percent of the nation's power supply. However it is the country's fastest growing energy source with an increasing number of wind farms being built in rural areas.

But because of the size and visibility of such facilities, wind farm developers have met resistance in bringing wind energy to populated areas. One solution was to move these facilities offshore.

Recent advances in wind technology, have led to increasingly larger and more efficient turbines. This new generation of turbine is better suited for the rigors of offshore environments, where winds are significantly stronger and more consistent.

Turbines, like those proposed for the Cape Wind Project, are manufactured on land and shipped out to the build site. Once on location / each tower is lifted into place atop a monopole driven deep into the sea floor. Next the nacelle – or the heart of the turbine – is hoisted onto the tower followed by the blades. Once the turbines are operational, they are monitored and managed from a single control room onshore.

The offshore facility at Horns Rev, is located eight miles off the west coast of Denmark. Built in part by the Danish government and energy company Elsam, the facility's 80 turbines currently generate about two percent of the country's energy needs. With Denmark hailing the project as a success, other countries including Britain, Ireland and Germany are moving forward with plans to develop similar facilities off their shores.

**James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):** I think now is a time that we have to transform to a sustainable energy and environmental future by increasing the production of renewable energy in Massachusetts and New England.

Before the Cape Wind project can be built, it must first pass a lengthy application process headed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

**Karen Adams (Project Manager United States Army Corps of Engineers):** With respect to the Corps' regulatory program, we are the agency that oversees the waterways and we regulate any non-Corps of Engineers' activities in the Nation's waterways.

Adams points out that because of the intense public interest surrounding the project, the Corps of Engineers held a number of public meetings to determine what the major concerns over the project were.

***On Camera: Karen Adams (Project Manager United States Army Corps of Engineers):** And one of the reasons there meeting are so important is because we are getting a much better understanding of the issues.*

**Karen Adams (Project Manager United States Army Corps of Engineers):** Shortly after we received the application in November of 2001, we realized that this project was very different from any thing that we had seen before and the fact that it would be precedent setting played a lot in the decision to do an EIS.

Because of the scope of the project, the Corps of Engineers, along with seventeen other federal, state and local agencies, are working on an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS, an analysis of the possible environmental impacts of the wind farm.

**James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):** We are in a federal environmental impact statement as well as a Massachusetts environmental impact report under the National Environmental Policy Act. So that there is a clear road map and precedent on how to permit structures in the navigable waters and we are following that.

But does the Corps of Engineers even have the jurisdiction to evaluate a type of structure not specifically addressed under the current federal guidelines governing offshore development? Many, including the Alliance, do not think so.

**Isaac Rosen (Director of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound):** Because Congress has not authorized such a use for the ocean that the Army Corps of Engineers is basically left dangling all by itself. So not only do we consider that to represent a gross inadequacy in that it basically condones the illegal land grab of Nantucket Sound. But it also puts the Corps of Engineers in a awkward position of having to regulate something that I think it does not want to.

Since plans for the project were announced, numerous environmental groups have scrutinized the Cape Wind proposal. Many have since come out in support of both the project and the process in place to evaluate it.

Kert Davies is the Research Director at Greenpeace USA, one of the organizations supporting the project.

**Kert Davies (Research Director Greenpeace):** Wind power in general in Europe has been a tremendous success story. There is more wind energy installed in Europe than there is in the United States at this point. And one analogy, Germany alone has more wind energy installed that the US and North Dakota has more wind potential than German, North Dakota alone. So we are behind the curve, we are losing the race on clean energy.

Davies and his colleagues have enthusiastically embraced wind energy. Greenpeace has been promoting the expansion of this new technology through an extensive public service campaign. Davies views wind energy as the most promising means to offset some of the 2.5 billion tons of pollution emitted by fossil fuel plants each year.

**Kert Davies (Research Director Greenpeace):** The most convincing argument that we should move ahead with this project is that we do not have time on global warming. We're late and we have to do everything we can yesterday to install clean, green, renewable energy that does not emit greenhouse gases and helps to wean us off of fossil fuels.

But other environmental and conservation groups have come out against the proposed wind farm arguing that the Cape Wind Project could pose a direct threat to wildlife in the Sound.

**Lindsey Counsell (Executive Director of Three Bays Preservation):** My initial reaction about a year ago October was somewhat amazement that a project of that magnitude would be proposed for an inshore water.

Lindsey Counsell is the Executive Director of Three Bays Preservation, one of a coalition of local groups campaigning against the project.

**Lindsey Counsell (Executive Director of Three Bays Preservation):** I do not think that there has been a thorough review of the marine seal and dolphins and things that use that area and what I have found in my research into the project is how little information there is about Nantucket Sound and Horseshoe Shoals. We know a lot about the habitats around the periphery of it, but in terms of who is using what resources out there for the animals we do not really have a lot of data on that.

Also voicing concern are Cape Cod's Commercial Fishermen. Numbering in the hundreds, this close-knit group believes that no one understands what is best for Nantucket Sound better than the anglers who fish its waters.

Ernie Eldridge is a weir fisherman whose family has been fishing the waters off Cape Cod for twelve generations.

**Ernie Eldridge (Cape Cod Fisherman):** We fish for squid, mackerel, scup, fluke, sea bass, almost anything that swims we catch it if it's in the sound.

He and his fellow fishermen are concerned that if the Cape Wind Project is built it will permanently alter the ecosystem in the Sound and could devastate what is already a struggling industry.

**Ernie Eldridge (Cape Cod Fisherman):** We feel that the turbines are going to make changes in the habitat here in the Sound. That there will be changes made and we have a concern that this is going to change the patterns of how the fish migrate through here.

With only one similar wind farm operational in the world, experts are unsure what effect if any such facilities have on wildlife and fishing. In Denmark, studies are currently underway at the Horns Rev site. According to initial reports, no conclusive evidence has been found that such projects pose a significant threat to the seabed or wildlife in the area.

**Lindsey Counsell (Executive Director of Three Bays Preservation):** Basically, Cape Wind with its installation of these 130 turbines could radically alter the habitat out there for the fish, the birds and other animals that use the area and make a major change where there is a shift away from the use of that area.

**Kert Davies (Research Director Greenpeace):** We feel that the benefits of solving global warming through renewable energy outweigh the environmental risks of this project that we can foresee. If something comes up in the environmental impact statement that needs more study, I am all for it but as present the risk of environmental catastrophe due to global warming and the local effects of air pollution from our current power supply are terrible and we have to do everything we can on the side of clean power to prevent those impacts.

Back on land, a growing concern over the region's largest employer is also stirring debate.

Cape Cod's unusual geography and strategic location has made it one of the top ten tourist destinations in America - attracting an estimated six million visitors to the region each summer.

**Alice Fardy (Owner Oceanview Motel):** My guests cannot believe that there is an organization or a company that would like to do this to Cape Cod's natural resources.

Alice Fardy owns and operates the Oceanview Motel. Located on Craigville Beach, the motel overlooks the proposed location of the wind farm.

**Alice Fardy (Owner Oceanview Motel):** So it is going to take up 28 square miles. They are going to be staggered so from this location looking out its going to pretty much look like a fence out there.

Fardy believes that the sight of 130 wind turbines will destroy the natural landscape of the Sound and drive visitors away from Cape Cod.

These simulations made for Cape Wind depict what they believe the view of the facility will be from various sites on Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

**James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):** If somebody was standing on the beach and looking out on the horizon, and they wanted to understand what the visual impact of the wind turbine will be, this is what it would be, this is approximately seven miles and that represents Hyannis and you can see that the wind turbine will look like a tiny mast and it is less than one-half inch off the horizon.

**Alice Fardy (Owner Oceanview Motel):** They are trying to protect a natural resource but on the same token they are destroying another natural resource. I have not heard anyone on Cape Cod that is against clean energy. Everyone I talk to would love clean energy. We just don't want it in our most valuable natural resource that brings people to the Cape to sustain us to give us some income.

In April 2003, union and marine trade organizations held a rally in support of the Cape Wind Project on the steps of the Massachusetts Statehouse. These industries are hopeful that the wind farm will bring scores of *new* jobs to the Cape.

***On Camera: James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):*** I would like to now introduce Steve Dolan, representative from the New England Regional Council of Carpenters.

***On Camera: Steve Dolan (Representative Carpenters Union):*** Good morning, my name is Steve Dolan, I am a resident of Cape Cod, I also represent the Carpenters, Bill rights and pile drivers that are going to be constructing this project. What is important about this project is not only the jobs but they are jobs that pay a living wage and also jobs that provide training.

The prospect of clean, renewable energy, coupled with the potential for new jobs, convinced Matthew Patrick, a State Representative from Cape Cod, to come out early in support of the Cape Wind.

***Rep. Matthew Patrick (State Representative Cape Cod):*** A lot critics, a lot of people in my district have criticized this because they are afraid of the way it is going to look. It is five miles away from the nearest habitation. If we start eliminating projects because people are afraid of the way they are going to look when they are five miles away, we are not going to have any wind farms in New England.

**Rep. Matthew Patrick (State Representative Cape Cod):** Companies like shell oil and British Petroleum have said that by the year 2030, 30% of the world's electricity will come from wind turbines. I think it is the next boom in technology that is going drive the economies of hopefully our nation and probably the world.

Large corporations like General Electric are buying into renewable wind technology. Patrick argues that the Cape Wind Project could bolster the economy of the Cape and catapult the region to the forefront of the offshore wind industry.

**Rep. Matthew Patrick (State Representative Cape Cod):** And we on the Cape can be leaders in that area. We could be training students to fill those niches, of all those jobs that are going to be needed to maintain them to site them to manage that electricity.

But not every politician with ties to Cape Cod supports the wind farm.

United States Congressman William Delahunt, whose district includes Cape Cod, is campaigning for a moratorium on the development of offshore wind facilities until more rigorous federal regulations governing such facilities are adopted.

Joining him is Senator Edward Kennedy. Despite being a long-time supporter of renewable energy, Kennedy has strongly criticized the Cape Wind Project citing a lack of federal protections for communities neighboring such facilities.

Many people have questioned the motives of the esteemed Senator. Located just outside of Hyannis Harbor, the famed Kennedy Compound overlooks the proposed site for the wind farm.

Even Walter Cronkite the retired CBS News Correspondent found himself caught in the middle of the debate. Cronkite, who summers on Martha's Vineyard, came out early against the Cape Wind Project and became the poster-boy for the Alliance after starring in this television ad criticizing the wind farm. However, the famed newsman later withdrew from his earlier position calling it premature.

This intense debate reached a boiling point when the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound was nominated as one of the recipients of the 2002 Dirty Dozen Award.

***On Camera: Matthew Wilson (Director Toxic Action Center):*** *The sixth annual 2002 Dirty Dozen Awards honors polluters, facilities and organizations which have over the past year distinguished themselves for both the threat they pose to public health and the environment.*

***On Camera: Ed Mangifico (Cape Cod Resident):*** *This group is trying to stop by any means necessary a process that could lead to positive change in reducing our dependency on polluting fossil fuel energy.*

***On Camera: Matthew Wilson (Director Toxic Action Center):*** *And actually someone from the Alliance has come here I guess to accept the award. So we would like to give you the award.*

***On Camera: Isaac Rosen (Director Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound):*** *Can we wait a moment on that. Can I sit down and talk and then we can exchange awards.*

***On Camera: Ed Mangifico (Cape Cod Resident):*** *Well first we are going to present you with the award.*

***On Camera: Isaac Rosen (Director Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound):*** *Well I have an award for you too.*

***On Camera: Ed Mangifico (Cape Cod Resident):*** *Well you can do that. But we are going to give you an award right now. This is your award from the Toxic Action Center, the 2002 Dirty Dozen Award to the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound and we I think have clearly indicated that we hope that the Alliance*

*will back off, stop using misleading information and distraction thus allow the regular regulatory process to proceed to determine the appropriateness of this proposal. Thank you very much.*

***On Camera: Isaac Rosen (Director Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound):*** *What I would like to do is to present you with this award. It says promoting the corporate land grab of Nantucket Sound given to organizations that buy into developer's public relations spin and applaud the for profit industrialization of our nation's public natural resources. Presented to the Toxic Action Center, December 3, 2002 on behalf of the millions of people who cherish the unspoiled beauty of Nantucket Sound.*

***On Camera: Ed Mangifico (Cape Cod Resident):*** *Well I think we appreciate that because I think you have just proven everything we just said.*

The Toxic Action Center and many on the Cape maintain that the Alliance is being funded largely by wealthy individuals, whose waterfront homes overlook the proposed site.

**James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):** I think that a lot of the opposition really consists of oceanfront property owners that when the project was first announced there was a visceral reaction to putting wind turbines into Nantucket Sound.

**Isaac Rosen (Director of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound):** When they try to all us a bunch of rich NIMBYs that is just the public relations arm of the developer's organization, that's the game that they play. Are the fishermen NIMBYs, are the environmental groups NIMBYs, the Chambers of Commerce NUMBYs, the municipalities NIMBYs? No, of course not. They just recognize that there are just some places that should not be built on, some places that should not be ruined for the private financial gain of a developer.

As the debate resumed, the Corps of Engineers continued their evaluation of the project, as Cape Cod prepared for yet another summer season.

***News Report (WBZ4 News Boston):***

***Reporter One:*** *Tonight prime shellfishing areas along southwest coast and Cape Cod are under the gun.*

***Reporter Two:*** *Investigators know that the oil spilled from a gash in the hull of the barge, but tonight Coast Guard officials are trying to determine how the accident happened in the first place.*

Before dawn on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003, an oil barge heading north to the Cape Cod Canal ran aground, leaking approximately 100,000 gallons of heavy oil into Buzzards Bay.

Located just west of Nantucket Sound, Buzzards Bay lies between Cape Cod and Southeastern Massachusetts. Before it was over, gobs of oil had washed up on over 40 miles of beaches, from Horseshoe Beach, south of New Bedford to Woods Hole on the Cape. Hundreds of workers were needed to shovel up the thousands of gallons that washed ashore, while profitable shell fishing beds in the Bay were closed.

**Rep. Matthew Patrick (State Representative Cape Cod):** I think that has focused a lot of attention back on the wind farm and a lot of people have said Jeez, you know maybe we should consider the wind farm, supporting it because this oil was going to the power plant on Cape Cod.

The destination of Barge 120 was the Canal Power plant. Built on the banks of the Cape Cod Canal, this oil burning plant is currently the only power plant on the Cape.

The oil spill in Buzzards Bay brought the topic of energy supply back into the dialogue surrounding the proposed wind farm.

**James Gordon (President Cape Wind Associates):** I think that there is a great future for offshore wind in America and I think it is something that will be a big part of our renewable energy portfolio as we move forward.

With so much riding on the project, the ultimate outcome will no doubt serve as a landmark verdict in the development of renewable wind energy in America.

**Lindsey Counsell (Executive Director of Three Bays Preservation):** A failure here in Nantucket Sound would be a fatal blow to wind power. There will be, there is wind power in our future, without a doubt. Where is the question and what type of standards need to be in place to ensure that it is successful. And I think that the sooner we get to that, the sooner we can begin to permit projects in the right locations.

In Washington proponents and opponents alike are working to address many of the concerns surrounding the Cape Wind Project including the creation of federal standards for the regulation of offshore wind farms.

Their efforts are an attempt to address some of the major issues surrounding offshore renewable energy development including the adoption of federal siting standards and a framework for competitive bidding and leasing fees, provisions absent from the current regulatory program.

**Kert Davies (Research Director Greenpeace):** You can do both. You can start to develop a framework to decide where and how we do offshore wind projects and onshore wind projects for that matter, at the same time you are moving ahead and trying to produce some of them because you learn by doing.

Today, with wind emerging as a viable alternative to coal and oil, America is now in a better position to decide whether to embrace new energy technologies like offshore wind or continue our dependence on polluting fossil fuels.

But for Cape Cod, the first community in America faced with the prospect of living next door to an offshore wind facility, making this decision has proven to be a challenging endeavor.

***On Screen:** Isaac Rosen stepped down as the Executive Director of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound in November 2003.*

***On Screen:** The US Army Corps of Engineers is still evaluating the permit application for the Cape Wind Project. A final decision is not expected until 2005*

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