

May 23, 2023 | STAC Subcommittee Kickoff

Attendees: Mark Nardi (Subcommittee Chair, STAC Member, USGS MD-DE-DC Water Science Center), Bart Wilson (Geomorphologist, FWS), , Lesley Baggett (Environmental Consultant, AKRF), Doug Janiec (STAC Vice Chair/Restoration Ecologist, Sovereign Consulting), David Krantz (Oceanographer and Coastal Geologist, University of Toledo), Taylor Krolik (EPA R3 Standards and Coordination, Delaware State Representative), Kelly Somers (EPA Region 3), Meghan Noe Fellows (Director of Science and Restoration, CIB)

Not in attendance: Natalie Motley (EPA)

Introductions: Mark welcomed the team, identified that Breck would not be able to join us due to workload conflicts

Kelly Somers, EPA Region 3, supporting staff

Taylor Krolik, EPA Region 3, new team member

Mark Nardi (USGS), Chair of Subcommittee and member of aquaculture community

Bart Willson (USFWS), Coastal Resilience, mapping, resource mapping in the INland Bays

Doug Janic (Sovereign), Coastal Restoration, STAC-Vice Chair

Dave Krantz (University of Toledo), Coastal Geologist, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia inland bays

Lesley Baggett (AKRF), EIS, Benthic Ecologist

Approach:

The goal of today's meeting is to identify knowledge gaps and possible questions in preparation for June 6 2:00-3:30 meeting with US Wind scientific staff.

The whole group participated in brainstorming questions; and shared knowledge:

Will both companies use the same tie-into the grid? It would seem to cause less damage to install all need infrastructure at once

Why are there two companies? Are they coming from the same area or multiple lease locations? Looks to be multiple lease locations.

Which lease areas are we looking at? Are these the ones off Maryland? Or Delaware?

Offshore terminal/trunkline from offshore to export connecting on shore to minimize disturbance?

Which route through the Bays; did they model the other types of installation methods? Did they model the type actually used in the location?

Is 17 miles too long for directional drilling? Yes, too expensive? 3 miles is considered a maximum. Pit and coffer dams could be very impactful. Did they model the sediments of the pit and coffer dams for the directional drilling, or just use one sediment model?

The Dagsboro shoreline has rivetment and thin marsh band, where they come in is very important for understanding the extent of impact - would they consider cutting the beach directly if that would have less of an impact?

What is the background turbidity, establish context for understanding impact - across typical conditions; vs. what they are doing. Should they monitor during construction.

Whereat monitoring program? Online portal:

<https://cema.udel.edu/applications/waterquality/> (data may only be on line to 2016, but likely goes back to 1998)

<https://udel.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=7df4ac47efe54a93added1c2e7221d14&extent=-75.6497,38.3655,-74.5332,38.8623>

Data from research programs - Wozniak?

Scaling the sediment generations - a good northeaster might generate 2x the amount of sediment that will last longer.

Is TSS (sediment) from upland inputs? Or resuspension? Mostly resuspension, Or inputs from Delaware Bay sucked in through the inlet.

What existing monitoring programs from the Wind companies - are they held to precondition monitoring? Fisheries, bird, bat, benthic - preconstruction, dedicate money for post-construction monitoring.

Some states require more money than others re: environmental monitoring
Did US Wind do anything beyond particle size in sediment analysis?

Other existing data: Power plant area study (by Bart); legacy sediment - cycling of mercury, nutrients, arsenic, heavy metals

What is the footprint of the construction impacts - 500 m wide 1-3 m deep., up to 4 cables, spacing 10-30 meters between cables (3x water depth); dynamic mixing is usually 6- 8 inches

Potential maintenance dredging; channel realignments could be constrained or restricted beyond using existing channels.

Need to respond to maintain during large events

How frequent is maintenance? Run something along the cable

What is their Sea Level Rise plan - recurring issue over the next 50+ years

What is the timing and duration of expected work? Time of year restrictions for fish or birds?

What about horseshoe crabs?

What about recreational blue crab fishery? Overwinter habitat disturbance? Will be in EIS/separate economic report?

Next Steps:

Identify key questions for US Wind by June 2, 2023 in shared document [here](#).