The following is a list of questions submitted at the 3/20/23 Offshore Wind Panel Discussion with a focus on industry or proposal specific topics.
This section of questions was forwarded to representatives from Orsted and SouthCoast Wind for whom specific questions might apply.
Their responses are below.

Q1: Please disclose all direct and indirect money, donations, direct and indirect from Ørsted to non-profits.

A from Orsted representative: You can find information about some of Orsted's partnerships and our sponsorship policy here: https://orsted.com/en/about-us/about-orsted/partnerships

Q2: We worry that once the turbines have outlasted their utility that they will stay in place and deteriorate. Once Ørsted releases legal and financial liability to Revolution Wind there will be inadequate assets to decommission the turbines and remake them. Please tell us how much Revolution Wind has or plans to have set aside to decommission and with what financial instruments?

A from Orsted representative: At the end of its useful life, the project will be decommissioned, and the wind turbines removed. The permits we need to build the project require that we establish a funding mechanism to pay for the decommissioning of the project. Orsted has unique experience in this, having decommissioned Vindeby, the world's first offshore wind farm, in 2017.

Q3: *Offshore wind is only now starting to be decommissioned in Europe, how do you get your carbon cost estimates?*

A from SouthCoast Wind representative: Emissions modeling is a required component of the offshore wind permitting process, specifically in the submission of a given project's Construction & Operations Plan to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and OCS Air Permit application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In short, emissions modeling is a factor of the types of equipment planned to be used, the duration, and the location of the activity. The modeling is then reviewed by BOEM and EPA for accuracy and content as a part of the Federal review and decision-making processes.
A from Orsted representative: Offshore wind provides clean, renewable energy that increases the amount and availability of renewable energy, displacing fossil fuels. This has a direct positive impact on mitigating the effects of climate change.

Manufacturing and constructing offshore wind turbines does produce some emissions. But these are very small in comparison to emissions from fossil fuels – and vastly outweighed by the emissions saved by using offshore wind instead of fossil fuels. On track to be carbon-neutral in our power generation by 2025, Orsted wants to cut supply chain emissions in half by 2032 and then down to net-zero emissions by 2040.

Q4: *It is now 10 years later… Is the field carbon neutral yet?*

A from SouthCoast Wind representative: The rate at which a given project offsets GHG emissions is dependent on a variety of factors such as the type and quantity of materials used in project components, recycling rates/methods of those materials at the end of the project life, and electricity yield over the lifetime of the wind energy system.
The most widely accepted method of assessing the true carbon footprint of various electricity sources are Life Cycle Assessment studies (LCAs), which enable cradle-to-grave emissions comparisons of different technologies. The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) recently published a report that analyzed more than 3000 LCAs of varying electricity sources. The results of that study found that offshore wind energy typically has lower lifecycle emissions than most other renewable and conventional energy sources.

Q5: *Who is fixing the broken ones? (They do break, don't they?)*

A from SouthCoast Wind represenatative: SouthCoast Wind has committed to erecting an Operations and Maintenance facility in Southern New England to cover operations, maintenance, and repair of project components. This facility will host approximately 360 full-time employees, of which at least 75% will be locally based. More information on the SouthCoast Wind O&M facility can be found here.
A from Orsted representative: For the life of a project, one or more turbines will be taken offline for maintenance and repairs. We conduct maintenance and repairs during the summer months when winds aren't as strong, making it safer and easier for the crew doing the work. Ratepayers do not pay for the cost of repairs or maintenance. The developer pays for all of the cost of building, operating and maintaining, and decommissioning of the project.

Q6: Why is there no transparency on the direct jobs going to RI? Why did Ørsted promise 100s of jobs in CT (New London Port) but only deliver 10s? (NREL Report) The jobs that are created, how long is employment guaranteed? How can we understand the numbers developers are promising related to jobs?

A from Orsted representative: Orsted is delivering jobs to Rhode Island, as evidenced by the activity underway at Rhode Island's ports, our utilization of the local supply chain companies and shipbuilders, and our growing presence at our offices at Quonset and in Providence.

In Connecticut, workers are on site daily at the New London State Pier readying the site for staging and assembly work. Once operational, workers will be on site for the staging and assembly of our South Fork, Revolution and Sunrise Wind projects.

Job estimates come from modeling that also demonstrate the economic benefits associated with the project. Modeling the jobs and economic impacts helps the developer estimate the workforce and project needs over its lifetime. Developers provide these estimates during the bid and permitting processes to allow states, utilities, and regulators to also understand a project's economic impacts.

The estimates include direct, indirect and induced jobs and other economic impacts across projects phases, including (but often not limited to) project development, construction, and operations & maintenance.

The length of employment is dependent on the scope. Additionally, jobs are not limited to those who work for Orsted. They could work for a supplier or be self-employed.

Q7: In Ørsted's environmental impact statement, as in other offshore wind company's EIs, they state that there will be NO impact on climate change from the energy produced by its turbines + if that is so why risk any negative impacts on the environment?

A from Orsted Representative: BOEM issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Revolution Wind in August 2022. The DEIS is a federal analysis of the environmental impacts of a project. It is a draft document that helps to inform the project design before BOEM issues the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

BOEM posted the Revolution Wind DEIS on their website so stakeholders could review and provide public comment. BOEM held 5 public meetings, both in person and virtual, in September and October 2022. The project continues to work with BOEM, state and federal agencies, and stakeholders throughout the review process. Questions on this document and process would be best directed to BOEM.

Q8: If the project is a "no brainer" why is everyone trying to sell their interest in Revolution wind?

A from Orsted representative: Eversource's strategic review does not indicate a loss of confidence in the US offshore wind market. As Eversource has said, the capital is required to finance their regulated core business. Orsted remains committed to our partners and projects.

Q9: *Is <developer> going to backstop or guarantee any costs for taking any turbines out? (If not, who pays?)*

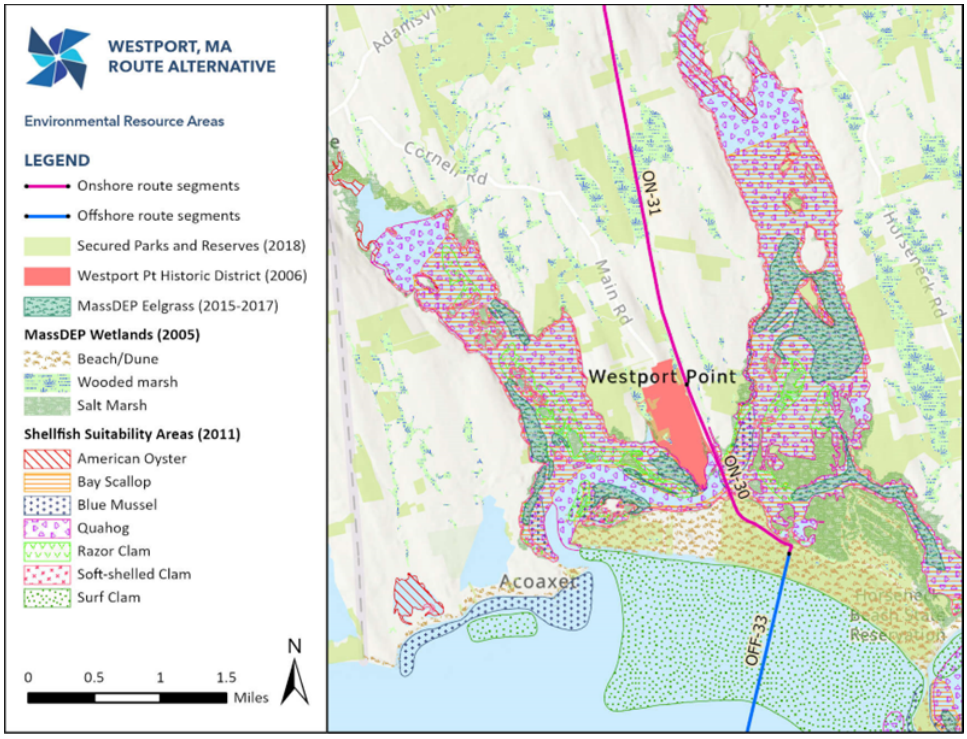
A from Southcoast Wind representative: As a part of the Federal permitting process for offshore wind energy, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has established regulatory requirements for the decommissioning of offshore wind projects, including the removal of project infrastructure at the end of the project's useful life.

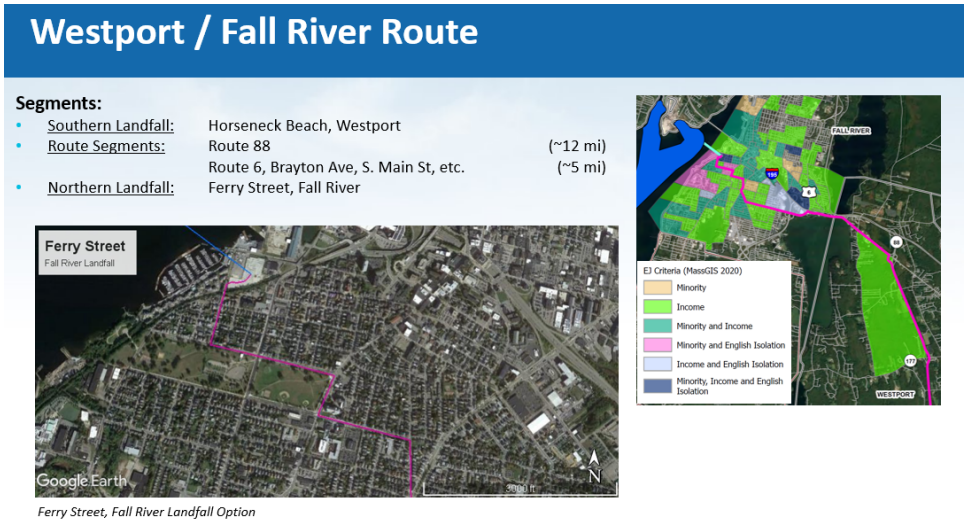
Among these requirements are offshore lease obligations that require offshore wind developers to establish Decommissioning Funds. Prior to the start of construction, SouthCoast Wind (and all other offshore wind developers in US waters) will be required to submit a bond (or other form of financial assurance) that would be held by the US government, to cover the cost of decommissioning the entire project.

A from Orsted representative: At the end of its useful life, the project will be decommissioned, and the wind turbines removed. The permits we need to build the project require that we establish a funding mechanism to pay for the decommissioning of the project. Orsted has unique experience in this, having decommissioned Vindeby, the world's first offshore wind farm, in 2017. (editor's note- response taken from question 2)

Q10: *How come these cables are going up the Sakonnet River instead of Route 88 in Mass?*

A from SouthCoast Wind representative: As a part of the project design process, SouthCoast Wind analyzed more than a dozen potential routes to the electric grid interconnection at Brayton Point, including several onshore routes through southern Massachusetts and the East Bay, as well as routes to the east and west of Aquidneck Island, and the western passage of Narragansett Bay. Many of these alternative routes were ruled out due to factors such as potential conflict with Naval activities, sensitive ecosystems, historically significant areas, and socio-economic concerns (e.g. environmental justice areas, high-density residential areas, etc.), the details of which can be found in SouthCoast Wind's RI Energy Facilities Siting Board application. The proposed route, via the Sakonnet River, has been identified as the rational route to minimize disruption, both environmentally and socioeconomically.
Cable routing through Westport via Rt 88 was thoroughly investigated as a part of the project design process, but ultimately revealed a number of challenges that make the route infeasible. To summarize, some of the obstacles faced in Westport include: Insufficient space for cable laying vessels and equipment, high density of sensitive coastal barrier systems (e.g. eelgrass and shellfish habitat), high energy dynamic coastline with mobile sediments around the mouth of the Westport River, conflict with historic districts in Westport and dense Environmental Justice populations further up the route in Fall River, and an increase of nearly 8x onshore routing distance in comparison to the proposed route, much of which along the heavily trafficked route 88. For further detail on the Westport route analysis, please refer to this recording of SouthCoast Wind's recent presentation in Portsmouth (discussion of route alternatives, and Westport in particular, begin around the 15-minute mark). Additionally, below are a few relevant images from the Westport route analysis which may also be of interest.





Ferry Street, Fall River Landfall Option

Q11: *Generic climate change claims are meaningless. How much carbon based power will this project actually displace?*

A from SouthCoast Wind representative: The SouthCoast Wind project is anticipated to eliminate more than 4 million metric tons of greenhouse gases per year, equivalent to annually offsetting the emissions from burning 4.4 billion pounds of coal, or the emissions generated by 10 averaged-sized natural gas power plants.

Q12: *The Government's own Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates the cost of electricity entering service from offshore wind in 2027 will be 4 times as expensive as solar,*

geothermal, onshore wind and natural gas. Does that mean that RI electrical rates will drastically increase?

A from SouthCoast Wind representative: Proposed offshore wind energy power purchase agreements (PPAs) are submitted to the State through a competitive bidding process. The State then individually reviews each proposal, and exclusively selects contracts deemed economically and socially beneficial to the State, maintaining the right to reject any/all proposals deemed unfavorable. Additionally, offshore wind energy PPAs typically utilize a fixed price structure, meaning that once a project is built, unlike most conventional energy sources, the electricity price defined in these agreements will not fluctuate over time in response to economic stressors such as inflation, supply chain challenges, increased demand, etc.. Currently, Rhode Island's only commercial-scale offshore wind energy contract, with Revolution Wind, is forecasted to yield net savings of $90 million — or about 50 cents a month for the typical ratepayer.

Q13: *What are the tax advantages to a town where underground cables are installed? Cables/duct system cost in excess of $7m/mile- Is this taxable?*

A from SouthCoast Wind representative: There are a variety of taxes and fees that may be applicable for local cable siting, dependent upon the details of a given cable route and relevant landholding authorities (e.g. State-owned, v.s. town-owned or private land). Real Estate Taxes and Personal Property Taxes are two examples of local tax revenue that may be relevant to a town hosting offshore wind transmission infrastructure. A town may also choose to seek out payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) or host community agreements (HCAs) as additional/supplemental forms of local revenue associated with infrastructure siting.