

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION**

**NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND
OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS**

FIRST NOTICE

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) received an air quality permit application from US Wind, Inc. on November 30, 2023 (electronically), and hardcopies received on December 7, 2023 for the construction and operation of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project (the Project) consisting of up to 121 wind turbine generators (WTG), up to four (4) offshore substations (OSS), and one (1) meteorological tower (Met Tower). The proposed project will be located approximately 10 nautical miles (NM) off the coast of Worcester County, Maryland on the outer continental shelf (OCS). The application consists of an air quality permit-to-construct application, an application for a New Source Review (NSR) Approval, and an application for a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Approval.

Pursuant to Section 1-604, of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department has made a tentative determination that the Permit-to-Construct, NSR Approval, and PSD Approval can be issued. A final determination on issuance of the permit and approvals will only be made after review of all pertinent information presented at the public hearing or received in written comments. Copies of the Department's tentative determination, the application, the draft permit and approval conditions, and other supporting documents are available for public inspection on the Department's website here:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/permits/AirManagementPermits/Pages/U.-S.-Wind-Maryland-Offshore-Wind-Project.aspx>

In accordance with HB 1200/Ch. 588 of 2022, the applicant provided an environmental justice (EJ) Score for the census tract in which the project is located using the MDE EJ Screening Tool. The EJ Score, expressed as a statewide percentile, was shown to be 17.29, which the Department has verified. This score considers three demographic indicators, minority population above 50%, poverty rate above 25% and limited English proficiency above 15%, to identify underserved communities, and multiple environmental health indicators to identify overburdened communities. The Department's review of the environmental and socioeconomic indicators contributing to that EJ score is included in the tentative determination that is available for public inspection.

The issuance of the Permit-to-Construct, NSR Approval, and PSD Approval will be the subject of a Public Hearing to be held on January 7, 2025 (inclement weather date: January 9, 2025) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ocean City Convention Center, Room 215, located at 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842.

Persons who wish to make a statement concerning this application at the hearing are requested to provide the Department with a copy of their statement. In lieu of oral statements at the hearing, written comments may be submitted at the time of the hearing or to the Department no later than 30 days from the date of this notice or within 5 days after the hearing, whichever is later.

Interested persons may request an extension to the public comment period. The extension request must be submitted in writing and must be received by the Department no later than 30 days from the date of this notice or within 5 days after the hearing, whichever is later. The public comment period may only be extended one time for a 60-day period.

All requests for an extension to the public comment period and all written comments should be directed to the attention of Ms. Shannon Heafey by email to shannon.heafey@maryland.gov or by mail to the Air and Radiation Administration, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

The Department will provide an interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired persons provided that a request is made for such service at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing. Further information may be obtained by calling Ms. Shannon Heafey at 410-537-4433.

Christopher R. Hoagland, Director
Air and Radiation Administration