



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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BY CERTIFIED AND ELECTRONIC MAIL (rebecca.l.tepper@mass.gov)

Secretary Rebecca L. Tepper
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Re: Wind Turbine Debris from Vineyard Wind

Dear Secretary Tepper,

As Town Manager of the Town of Barnstable, I am writing on behalf of the Town and its residents to express some of the concerns many of us share regarding the recent failure of the wind turbine at the Vineyard Wind 1 offshore wind farm. As you know, the wind farm is located in federal waters off the coast of Massachusetts, and the onshore facilities for the Vineyard Wind project are located within the Town of Barnstable. Following the failure of the turbine blade, debris initially landed on the beaches of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Now, however, turbine debris has made its way to public beaches in Bristol County and Barnstable County, with debris scattered upon beaches in multiple towns on Cape Cod, including the Town of Barnstable.

As I am sure you are aware, Vineyard Wind has been undertaking debris recovery efforts. As part of their debris recovery efforts, Vineyard Wind has published on its website a hard-to-find phone number and web link for reporting debris. These resources may be found within a link to the "Special Statement From Vineyard Wind on Nantucket Recovery Efforts" even though debris has made its way to various other distant locations. As a result, it may not even occur to those seeking information on how to report found debris that they should be looking under something headed "Nantucket Recovery Efforts." We have heard from residents of challenges in using the Vineyard Wind reporting system, including the need to navigate several webpages to finally land on a webpage with 19 different reporting options, none of which clearly indicate debris reporting. Town Councilors also have expressed difficulties they have experienced firsthand in reporting debris. Furthermore, some residents have informed me that when they called the Vineyard Wind reporting phone number, they were told to deliver the identified pieces of debris to Town Hall! If true, we don't understand why those working for Vineyard Wind would suggest involving the Town in Vineyard Wind's debris collection efforts. Nor does it make any sense to ask that residents handle debris, particularly since Vineyard Wind

has recommended that residents not touch debris and when their own contractors are wearing hazmat suits when collecting debris.

Further, I have heard from many residents asking about the public health and safety risks of the debris washing up on Town beaches, what happens with the debris collected by Vineyard Wind, what state agency or agencies are overseeing matters in connection with Vineyard Wind's debris recovery efforts, and what orders have those agencies issued to Vineyard Wind. I do not have any answers for our residents but have told them I would write to you because we presume the Commonwealth is exercising jurisdiction and not leaving these matters to Vineyard Wind to handle at its own discretion without any oversight.

With that, on behalf of the Town, I ask the following:

- What state agency has jurisdiction over turbine debris washing up on public beaches? We do not know whether this would be, for example, the EFSB, MassDEP or another agency. What orders have been issued by state agencies to Vineyard Wind? If the Commonwealth does not believe it has jurisdiction over this pollution, kindly explain why, and also who does have jurisdiction?
- What happens with debris once it has been identified? Who determines whether the debris is from the failed Vineyard Wind turbine blade or another source? How is the debris tracked and cataloged? For example, does a system exist to record and track each location where turbine blade debris has been found and the quantities identified? If so, how does the public access this information – does a website exist? What state agency oversight exists of this data collection and tracking?
- What are the public safety risks for residents using a public beach on which turbine blade debris is located? As mentioned, Vineyard Wind's contractors have worn hazmat suits while collecting debris. Knowing this, residents have asked about the safety and health risks, including whether they can sustain short- or long-term injury from coming in contact with debris, such as stepping upon a piece while barefoot, or inhaling tiny pieces of airborne debris?

I appreciate your prompt attention to this letter. Our residents remain very concerned and are understandably seeking answers to their questions. I am sure you agree that it is critically important that they receive reliable, timely information. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Mark S. Ellis
Town Manager

cc: Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll
State Senator Julian Cyr
State Representative Kip Diggs
State Representative Steven Xiarhos
Town Council President Felicia Penn
Karen Nober, Barnstable Town Attorney