The Town of Barnstable
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Mark S. Ells, Town Manager
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M. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager
andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us

November 19, 2025

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

Re: Vineyard Wind, EFSB 17-05/DPU 18-18/18-19
Attached report from Save Greater Dowses Beach

Dear Secretary Tepper:

On February 20 and August 15, 2025, I wrote on behalf of the Town to you, with a copy to Director Andrew Greene at the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB), to express concerns and to relay the public's interest in electromagnetic field (EMF) readings from electric transmission cables under Covell's Beach in Centerville and to ask that certain measures, as outlined in my previous correspondence, be considered. In my February correspondence, I asked whether the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) could implement a routine EMF monitoring protocol so that the public and the Town could understand what is, or is not, happening at Covell's Beach. Having not received a response to my February correspondence, I followed up with my August letter, in which I also asked that the EEA and the EFSB consider additional conditions due to the evolving considerations of, and the public interest in, the potential health and safety impacts of EMF, as recognized in the more recent EFSB approval of the Park City Wind project. I have attached a copy of my February 20 and April 15 correspondence.

Since I did not receive a response to either correspondence, I am following up now on both requests. I have attached a report shared this week with the Town Council that was prepared by Save Greater Dowses Beach (SGDB), a local citizens group that has been involved in issues regarding offshore wind projects in the Town, including particularly EMF. The report addresses, among other things, what SGDB characterizes as concerning levels of EMF in the parking lot at Covell's Beach.

The Town asks that, in addition to providing a response to my prior correspondence, EEA and its agencies, including the EFSB, review and take appropriate action on the substance of SGDB's report and provide the Town with an update on your findings and planned actions. Because the Town has no jurisdiction over the Vineyard Wind project, and because presumably the EFSB has expertise in these public health and safety issues, we continue to believe that a review by EEA and its agencies would allow for a response to the residents' concerns. We believe that a

considered and thoughtful response would be in everyone's interest for assuring the safe use and enjoyment of Covell's Beach.

I appreciate your attention to this letter and look forward to your timely response. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Mark S. Ells
Town Manager

Attachments

cc: Governor Maura Healey
Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll
Kate R. Cook, Chief of Staff
Andrew Greene, Director, EFSB
Joan Foster Evans, General Counsel, EFSB
State Senator Julian Cyr
State Representative Kip Diggs
State Representative Steven Xiarhos
Town Council President Craig A. Tamash
Karen L. Nober, Barnstable Town Attorney

To: Mr. Craig Tamash
President, Barnstable Town Council

From: Susanne H. Conley
Chair, Save Greater Dowses Beach

Date: November 18, 2025

Re: Save Greater Dowses Beach EMF Monitoring Project

Dear President Tamash:

I ask that the following document be provided to all Town Councilors prior to the November 20, 2025 Town Council meeting. This is a comprehensive report on the Save Greater Dowses Beach (SGDB) EMF Monitoring Project conducted at Covell's Beach in Centerville. Sections of this report include:

1. The EMF Monitoring Project
2. Modeled EMF in Siting and Permitting
3. Initial EMF Readings in Spring 2024
4. Preliminary Results of SGDB EMF Monitoring Project, Phase 1
5. Questions for the Town Council
6. Exhibits

1. The SGDB EMF Monitoring Project

The grassroots citizens' group I Chair, Save Greater Dowses Beach (SGDB), has been monitoring levels of electro-magnetic field (EMF) emanating from the two operational 400 megawatt extra high voltage offshore wind (OSW) cables installed at Covell's Beach in Centerville. We are doing so not as experts on EMF — but in the tradition of citizens who fight to protect themselves and their environment when we feel government fails to do so. Our goal is to get the state and federal governments to step in and take a serious look at the possible impacts on human health and safety from EMF exposure due to onshore OSW infrastructure. Phase 1 of SGDB's monitoring project will conclude in late December. Phase 2 will commence in January 2026 with additional monitoring locations and enhanced documentation.

2. Modeled EMF in Siting and Permitting

From the very beginning of our opposition to offshore wind cable landings on Barnstable's recreational beaches, our group worried about what high levels of EMF from the OSW cables would mean to the residents of our town. A review of the project's application for approval with the Massachusetts Energy Facility Siting Board indicates that Vineyard Wind modeled future EMF from their cable landings at two locations only. These were 1) at the middle of Covell's Beach and 2) at the most landward edge of the beach, adjacent to the parking lot (Exhibit 1). The developer explained their modeling was conservative as it assumed 100% nameplate capacity of generation; that is, all 62 proposed turbines spinning steadily and producing 800 megawatts of electricity. The developer informed the EFSB that EMF in milligauss (mG) at the two locations would be 3.6mG in the first and 21.1 mG at the second. A complete review of the record indicates no modeling of EMF levels in the beach parking lot or along the 5.3 mile duct bank that would carry the cables to the project's substation on Independence Drive. We are unaware of any additional publicly released assessment that occurred as part of the siting and permitting process.[i]

3. Initial EMF Readings in Spring 2024

The Town's website indicates that EMF readings were taken at Covell's Beach in spring 2024 and reported to the town's administration (Exhibit 2). At the time, Vineyard Wind was operating 3 turbines out of a planned 62. These actual (not modeled) EMF levels were recorded on the beach, in the parking lot, and over the four splicing vaults installed for the "north" and "south" cables. This study established "transect locations" for EMF readings on the beach and in the parking lot. EMF on the beach were expectedly low given the depth of the cable trenches. Recorded values in the parking lot, especially over and near the splicing vaults *were* elevated, with a maximum of 30.4 mG.

4. Preliminary Results of SGDB EMF Monitoring Project Phase 1

Members of SGDB, after conducting careful research, education, and planning, began an EMF monitoring project in late June, 2025. SGDB members who take readings all use the GQ Electronics GQ Multi-Field EMF Meter (for more information www.GQElectronicsLLC.com). Prior to taking readings at Covell's, the devices are "calibrated" by reading household EMF, specifically that measured in kitchen settings. These values are recorded in the project dataset under the heading "CAL" in the far left column, and all indicated a typical level of EMF at 0.5 mg to 1.7 mG. This level of EMF is considered "ambient," and is also typical in outdoor environments. At Covell's Beach, SGDB replicated, as closely as possible, the transect locations indicated in the spring 2024 EMF reading project but added three locations along the 5.3 mile Vineyard Wind duct bank route. This underground cable system leaves the Covell's beach parking lot, traverses a portion of Craigville Beach Road, to Strawberry Hill Road, to Wequaquet Lane, to a segment of Phinney's Lane, to all of Attucks Lane, and to most of Independence Drive, terminating at the Vineyard Wind substation near Village Green.
The data we have compiled to date can be seen in Exhibit 4. Our initial conclusions are as follows:

a. Vineyard Wind's "modeling" of EMF from their proposed project was entirely insufficient and should have caused the EFSB to insist on a far more robust assessment as part of the siting and permitting process.
b. While EMF on the lower beach, from the wrack line to the mid-point of the strand, is undetectable or no greater than ambient levels, EMF increases to slightly or moderately elevated at the top of the beach, in the middle of the parking lot, and to *extremely* high levels in the two most northerly ranks of parking spaces (adjacent to the dune line). High

levels can be recorded along the entire 5.3 mile length of the Vineyard Wind duct bank. Exhibit 4 shows elevated levels in the parking lot and along the duct bank on the far right of the grid (red numbers). Regular monitoring and "spot check" readings have also shown EMF as high as **212mg**, a level indicated as dangerous by the EMF meters used in our project, and, we believe, unanticipated by either the EFSB or the town. We note that throughout our efforts, the number of turbines that were operational was as low as 9 and as many as 21.[ii] We understand that EMF increases with the strength of electrical current transmission and are thus convinced that the developer's so-called "conservative modeling" based on a 62 turbine nameplate output was disingenuous at best. One third of the number of operational turbines has produced EMF far in excess of what was cited by the developer in their application to EFSB.

I include photographs of the EMF meters when registering elevated as well as very high values during our visits to Covell's Beach (Exhibit 5). Notably, when driving along the duct bank, we note EMF "spikes" that can exceed 110 mg or more; these occur randomly and are interspersed with elevated levels along the entire route.

c. At no point in time were the consequences of Vineyard Wind's infrastructure adequately considered by state agencies, and while the town has little control over energy facility siting and permitting, allowance of cable landings at Covell's despite Article 97 protections, was, in our opinion, ill-advised.
d. Avangrid Renewables, which is part owner of the Vineyard Wind project, persists in planning to put similar infrastructure at two more recreational beach parking lots in Barnstable and to construct approximately 15 more miles of duct bank under town and state roadways. Given our findings, we see this as unacceptable and will pursue the matter at the federal level especially in light of the current state administration's unsatisfactory response to the Town Manager's attempts to bring attention to the EMF issue as it relates to OSW cables Thus, we see involvement of the federal Departments of the Interior and Human Health and Safety as the next logical step.[iii]

5. Questions for the Town Council

a. The webpage for Town Council includes, at the top, a "Wind Resources Update" graphic and link. Is this appropriate, especially as updates seem lacking? Should the Council insist that the scheduled, promised monitoring of EMF based on the progress of the Vineyard Wind project be followed? Should results be made available to the people of Barnstable? Can the Council ask town administration to clarify if such assessment should be made, as promised, based on turbine installation or turbine operation (there's a difference)?
b. Should the Town Council request from the state and from New England Wind 1 and New England Wind 2 a good faith moratorium on further cable landings at Craigville Beach and Dowses Beach until a full assessment of the EMF issue is completed?
c. Should all abutters be made fully aware of the levels of 24/7, elevated EMF in their residential neighborhoods? Should the town compensate abutters, using property tax revenue paid by the project, for an involuntary conversion of their parcels to high voltage adjacency?
d. Given the extremely high EMF in the most northerly third of the Covell's Beach parking lot, should the town restrict parking in that area? Should the gate shack used during the summer season be moved away from where the north and south cables join in the duct bank to ensure the health and safety of the beach attendants?

e. The "Wind Resources" webpage indicates that the town contracted with a New York company named "Elexana, LLC" to monitor EMF from OSW cable landings. Has this company done any work monitoring EMF for the town? If so, can their findings be made public?[iv]

6. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. ***A screenshot from the Energy FacilitiesSiting and Permitting docket for Vineyard Wind.***

EFSB 17-05/D.P.U. 18-18/18-19
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the Company to verify cable burial and suggested continuous monitoring mechanisms, or more frequent geophysical surveys (id.). The Company also modeled magnetic field levels at the Covell's Beach landfall, where the two cables come ashore separated by a horizontal distance of approximately 65 feet (RR-FSB-19; RR-EFSB-41).88 The Company modeled the magnetic fields at two locations for each cable: the middle of Covell's Beach, i.e., halfway between the most seaward and most landward edges of the beach (with a depth of 22 feet from the top of the Offshore Cable conduits to the beach surface) and at the landward edge of the beach abutting the parking lot (with a depth of 8.5 feet) (RR-EFSB-19; RR-EFSB-41). The Company reported maximum modeled magnetic fields of 3.6 and 21.1 mG, respectively, directly at the ground surface above the Offshore Cable conduit for the middle and landward edge beach locations (RR-EFSB-41). Modeled magnetic fields drop off with lateral distance from the cables, falling to 2.5 and 4.7 mG, respectively, for the middle and landward Covell's Beach locations, at 20 feet from the centerlines (id.).89

Exhibit 2. ***Link to Barnstable eNews "Wind Resources" website showing town-reported EMF readings from spring 2024.***

https://barnstableenews.com/wind-resources/

Exhibit 3. ***Card accompanying the GQ Multi-field EMF meters.***

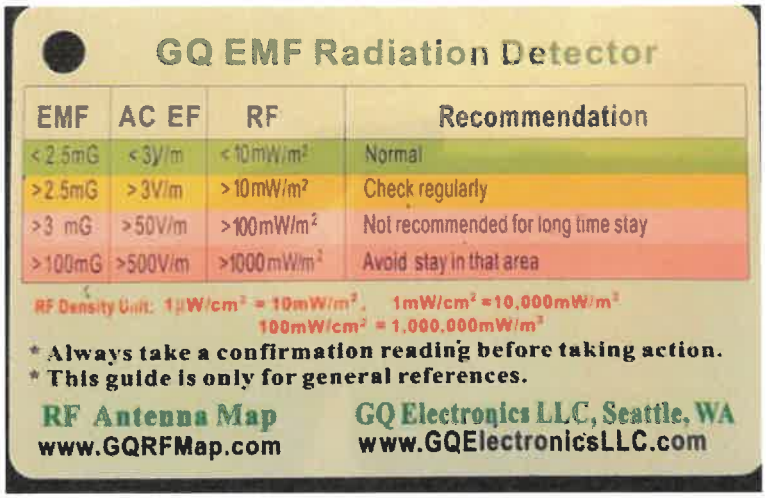

Exhibit 4. ***SGDB EMF Monitoring Dataset (to date), Phase 1.***

EMF READINGS Weekly Results: June 2025 — December 2025

WEEK OF	CAL	B1 N M	B1 S M	B1 N G	B1 S G	B2 N M	B2 S M	B2 N G	B2 S G	B3 N M	B3 S M	B3 N G	B3 S G	P1 N M	P1 S M	P1 N G	P1 S G	P2 N M	P2 S M	P2 N G	P2 S G	P3 N M	P3 S M	P3 N G	P3 S G	PL4	R1	R2
6/29	1.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.9	5.1	9.0	8.6	9.9	20.0	29.0	12.1
7/6	1.5	NR	NR	NR	NR	1.1	NR	1.4	NR	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.5	1.8	3.7	3.0	5.3	2.7	3.7	3.3	51.2	30.0	71.4	15.8	33.0	30.0	11.6
7/20	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.2	3.1	1.7	3.3	2.1	4.3	4.1	4.6	4.3	5.6	3.7	4.6	4.3	7.0	71.7	8.6	74.9	37.6	100.1	45.6
7/27	1.0	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	2.1	1.7	2.3	2.1	3.3	5.0	4.5	4.6	2.8	4.5	3.6	7.5	6.9	62.5	16.0	52.5	3.9	8.1	5.6
8/3	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	3.2	3.1	2.8	3.3	2.7	1.5	2.8	1.7	5.7	70.4	5.7	51.1	28.6	54.0	32.0
8/10	1.2	NR	NR	NR	NR	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.4	0.7	1.8	2.1	3.1	2.8	4.0	2.8	4.0	2.5	3.3	2.8	5.2	5.9	39.4	7.2	67.6	19.8	29.7	11.5
8/17	1.5	1.4	1.5	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	3.3	3.0	6.2	2.6	8.4	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.5	5.1	36.0	150.9	57.0	211.0	95.7	57.0	40.0
8/24	0.5	0.8	NR	0.6	NR	1.2	1.0	1.0	NR	1.5	NR	1.6	NR	3.6	2.5	7.5	3.8	2.3	2.8	0.6	4.3	51.9	12.6	138.1	14.6	52.0	42.0	10.0
8/31	0.5	0.6	NR	0.6	NR	1.2	1.0	1.6	NR	3.6	2.5	7.5	3.8	2.3	2.8	7.5	3.8	2.3	2.8	4.3	3.3	51.9	12.6	138.1	14.6	52.0	42.0	12.0
9/6	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	4.0	2.9	1.2	1.5	6.7	2.0	4.0	3.1	4.3	3.5	4.7	5.3	8.2	1.2	9.3	1.3	67.0	26.0	153.0	27.0	29.0	51.4	10.1
9/14	1.5	NR	NR	NR	NR	1.0	0.3	0.8	NR	1.5	0.	1.9	2.2	3.5	1.8	2.6	9.1	4.5	2.0	8.4	2.2	27.2	7.1	70.1	14.5	24.5	28.9	14.5
9/21	1.5	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	0.6	NR	2.3	2.4	3.1	3.3	2.5	2.7	4.8	3.3	3.5	2.2	8.0	2.3	53.0	17.0	158.0	24.0	24.0	13.3	10.0
9/28	1.7	NR	NR	NR	NR	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.1	3.7	3.0	2.3	3.0	3.0	3.3	39.0	17.0	59.0	25.0	5.0	40.0	18.0
10/5	1.5	0.3	2.0	2.1	0.5	0.3	2.4	2.8	0.4	0.5	2.3	2.5	0.5	2.2	0.5	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.0	4.3	2.3	39.0	17.0	59.0	15.0	25.0	77.0	6.1
10/12	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.9	3.8	3.2	3.7	3.8	4.1	5.6	7.7	6.9	6.3	6.1	8.9	9.8	39.0	52.4	116.3	95.0	17.7	19.7	14.8
10/19	1.0	NR	NR	NR	NR	2.0	2.1	2.9	2.0	3.9	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.1	5.6	7.7	6.8	7.0	6.2	9.0	11.0	45.6	62.0	126.3	95.0	17.7	29.7	17.0
10/26	1.5	1.1	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.9	0.9	2.6	3.2	2.0	4.3	4.0	3.5	5.5	6.1	3.8	2.3	4.8	2.8	50.0	51.0	60.0	82.0	56.0	7.9	7.1
11/2	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.9	1.7	2.2	1.8	3.7	3.5	4.8	4.7	5.9	5.6	8.3	7.9	6.5	7.2	8.3	8.7	76.1	98.2	89.7	303.9	24.5	34.9	25.4
11/9	0.4	NR	NR	NR	NR	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.4	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.0	4.5	3.1	5.5	33.2	34.4	67.3	79.7	15.5	7.3	40.0
11/16	0.6	NR	NR	NR	NR	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.3	2.4	2.0	3.6	1.8	2.7	3.1	2.6	3.4	5.3	4.7	5.2	6.2	49.2	52.3	77.2	72.0	19.7	9.2	4.7
11/23																												
11/30																												
12/7																												
12/14																												
12/21																												
12/28																												

CODES
N = North cable
S = South cable
M = EMF recorded at 1 meter above grade
G= EMF recorded at ground level
CAL = Pre-readings EMF meter calibration
B = Beach
P = Parking Lot
R = Road
NR = No Reading

MEASUREMENTS TAKEN IN MILLIGAUSS (mG)

TRANSECTS (27 total)
B1 = Beach High Water
B2 = Beach Middle
B3 = Beach Edge of Parking Lot
P1 = Parking Lot Beach Edge
P2 = Parking Lot Middle
P3 = Parking Lot over Vault Covers
P4 = Parking Lot over Duct Bank near Exit
R1 = Intersection Craigville Beach Road and Strawberry Hill Road
R2 = Independence Drive Near Village Green

Exhibit 5. ***Photographs showing high EMF readings in the north section of the Covell's parking lot.***

ground level

1 meter above ground level

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[i] The first level navigation of the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board says this: "The EFSB serves ... Communities and residents by ensuring that approved facilities have minimized environmental impacts such as: air emissions, noise, traffic, waste, **electric and magnetic fields**, wetlands and water quality degradation, visual intrusions and risks to public health and safety."

[ii] We monitor the number of turbines operational via visual reports from the southside of Nantucket, using high-powered optical instruments used from the mainland and with corroborating reports from commercial fishermen. We are skeptical about recent claims made by Vineyard Wind about the number of turbines currently operational.

[iii] A recent report indicates that federal HHS is planning to review the possible human health and safety issues related to OSW, with special attention to EMF.

[iv] The website for Elexana, LLC urges consumers to purchase an EMF meter to monitor EMF levels in their homes. While our group has been criticized for "playing scientist," I note 1) that use of these meters is not difficult for the average person, and 2) SGDB is fortunate to have engineers, an environmental consultant, and two physicians on our steering committee.

The Town of Barnstable
Office of Town Manager

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Citizens' Resource Line: 508.862.4925

Mark S. Ells, Town Manager
mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us

M. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager
andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us

August 15, 2025

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

Andrew Greene, Director
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station, 3rd floor
Boston, MA 021010

Re: Vineyard Wind, EFSB 17-05/DPU 18-18/18-19

Dear Secretary Tepper and Director Greene:

On February 20, 2025, I wrote on behalf of the Town and its residents to Secretary Tepper, with a copy to Director Greene, to express concerns and the public's interest in electromagnetic field (EMF) readings from electric transmission cables under Covell's Beach in Centerville. In that correspondence, I inquired regarding the possibility of whether the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) could implement a routine monitoring protocol so that the public and the Town could understand what is, or is not, happening at Covell's Beach. The Town hoped that a review by EEA and its agencies would allow for a response to the residents' concerns, which would be in everyone's interest for assuring the safe use and enjoyment of Covell's Beach. I have attached a copy of my February 20 correspondence. Because I did not receive a response to that correspondence, I am following up now on that request.

Since the Vineyard Wind project was approved in May 2019 by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB), the public's interest has grown regarding EMF from transmission cables and its potential for public health and safety impacts, including at public recreational beaches such as Craigville and Covell's Beaches. A little over four and half years after the EFSB approved the Vineyard Wind project, the EFSB engaged in a more robust consideration of EMF in its December 15, 2023, decision approving the Park City Wind project (EFSB 20-01/DPU 20-56/20-57). While the EFSB's Vineyard Wind decision did not contain any onshore conditions regarding EMF, its Park City Wind approval included Condition I, which requires:

> Given the public interest in the potential health and safety risks from magnetic fields, the Siting Board directs the Company to provide a compliance filing within 100 days of each of the following milestones, for informational purposes, that shall demonstrate that the actual magnetic fields at the Craigville Beach landfall site are consistent with the modeled results it has presented in this proceeding: (a) after first energization; (b) when the facility is capable of producing 400 megawatts; and (c) full commercial operation. For this Condition, "full commercial operation" shall mean the date when the PCW Energy Facility is installed and capable of delivering approximately 800 MW of energy.

Further, under its required Condition T filing, Park City Wind agreed to:

> In addition to complying with the requirements of Condition I, Park City Wind will perform additional magnetic field monitoring along the Onshore Cables and the western property line of the Onshore Substation when the monitoring required under Condition I occurs: (a) after first energization; (b) when the facility is capable of producing 400 megawatts; and (c) full commercial operation, as "full commercial operation" is defined in Condition I. Further, Park City Wind has agreed that, following "full commercial operation," it will perform magnetic field monitoring of the Onshore Cables and the western property line of the Onshore Substation once per year for three years, and then once every five years. Monitoring of the Onshore Cables will occur at one-mile intervals.

We recognize that the Park City Wind conditions follow a greater awareness and consideration of public health and safety concerns. Because the Town has no jurisdiction over these aspects of the Vineyard Wind project, the Town asks that EEA and the EFSB make these Park City Wind conditions equally applicable to the Vineyard Wind project. We believe good cause exists for EEA and the EFSB doing so due to the evolving considerations of EMF and the public interest in potential health and safety impacts, as recognized by the EFSB in its Park City Wind approval. Implementing these basic conditions would be in everyone's interest for the safe use and enjoyment of Covell's Beach and other public property used by the Vineyard Wind project.

I appreciate your attention to this letter. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Mark S. Ells
Town Manager

Attachment

cc: Governor Maura Healey
Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll
Joan Foster Evans, General Counsel, EFSB
State Senator Julian Cyr
State Representative Kip Diggs
State Representative Steven Xiarhos
Town Council President Craig A. Tamash
Karen L. Nober, Barnstable Town Attorney

Smith, Tracey

Subject: FW: EFSB 17-05; Vineyard Wind 1 - Magnetic Field Information

From: Ells, Mark
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:09 AM
To: 'Rebecca.L.Tepper@mass.gov' <Rebecca.L.Tepper@mass.gov>
Cc: 'Andrew.Greene@mass.gov' <Andrew.Greene@mass.gov>; 'dpu.efiling@mass.gov' <dpu.efiling@mass.gov>
Subject: FW: EFSB 17-05; Vineyard Wind 1 - Magnetic Field Information

Dear Secretary Tepper,

Please see below my request submitted to Vineyard Wind on February 3, 2025, along with Vineyard Wind's reply of February 10.

I wrote recently to Vineyard Wind after I became aware of posts on social media discussing electromagnetic field (EMF) readings at Covell's Beach. Some of these posts, which were called to my attention by residents, included photographs of hand-held EMF monitoring devices showing readings in the range of 190 milliGauss (mG) at ground level in the parking lot at Covell's Beach. The 190 mG reading appears to diverge from Vineyard Wind's modeling filed with the Siting Board and referred to in the Siting Board's decision for the Vineyard Wind project. Likewise, this reading differs very much from the 3-5 mG reading for the parking lot referred to in the June 28, 2024, letter addressed to me by EEA Undersecretary Michael Judge and DPU Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein. The social media posts have raised health concerns among some residents for their safe use of Covells Beach, particularly where the EMF reading involves the electric current from only one operational turbine. Residents have expressed concern about what might happen when the project is fully operational. Due to these concerns, I reached out to Vineyard Wind, asked for a response and hoped that they could speak to the matter.

Unfortunately, Vineyard Wind's response did not address the substance of the Town's request and mostly suggested referring the public to older data that they posted early last year on their website. That suggestion does nothing to address the present concerns raised by some residents. Since Vineyard Wind didn't address the concerns raised, we turn to your office for assistance because, unlike the Town, EEA and its agencies have jurisdiction over the project. I respectfully ask that EEA review why these higher EMF readings were registered when such low levels of electricity are flowing under Covell's Beach and what this may mean as more turbines are brought online. I understand that the individuals taking these readings may not be experts, and we do not know the reliability or calibration of the devices being used. Nonetheless, this is the information being presented, and we are not aware of any other recent data that can speak to the matter. Perhaps EEA or Vineyard Wind could implement a routine monitoring protocol to understand what is, or is not, happening at Covell's Beach. We hope that a review by EEA and its agencies will allow for a response to the residents' concerns, which would be in everyone's interest for assuring the safe use and enjoyment of Covell's Beach. I appreciate your office's attention to this matter. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Mark S. Ells
Barnstable Town Manager

From: Steve Tadros <STadros@vineyardwind.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:07 PM
To: Ells, Mark <Mark.Ells@town.barnstable.ma.us>
Cc: Craig Gilvarg <cgilvarg@vineyardwind.com>; Michael Clayton <mclayton@vineyardwind.com>; Dana Rebeiro <drebeiro@vineyardwind.com>; JOHNSON, PATRICK <patrick.johnson@avangrid.com>; Clyburn, Andy <andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us>
Subject: RE: Vineyard Wind 1 - Magnetic Field Information

Town Manager Ells,

Thank you for your reply.

As previously stated, the project conducted magnetic field monitoring in June 2024 with a qualified, professional consultant, with representatives from the Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on site during the exercise. At that time, there were three turbines operating, producing roughly 35 MW of power. We posted this data online for the public to access, and we stand behind the validity of this data and the methods by which it was collected.

Currently, Vineyard Wind has one turbine in operation. We cannot speak to the accuracy of the readings you reference, as we cannot verify that the equipment used was legitimate or properly calibrated. We would recommend referring the public to the data collected and made publicly available via the Vineyard Wind website in June.

Best,
Steve

Steven Tadros
C: 508.439.2934
VINEYARD WIND

From: Ells, Mark <Mark.Ells@town.barnstable.ma.us>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 2:03 PM
To: Steve Tadros <STadros@vineyardwind.com>
Cc: Craig Gilvarg <cgilvarg@vineyardwind.com>; Michael Clayton <mclayton@vineyardwind.com>; Dana Rebeiro <drebeiro@vineyardwind.com>; JOHNSON, PATRICK <patrick.johnson@avangrid.com>; Clyburn, Andy <andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us>
Subject: RE: Vineyard Wind 1 - Magnetic Field Information

Dear Mr. Tadros,

Recent posts on social media have been discussing electromagnetic field (EMF) readings at Covell's Beach. Some of these posts have included photographs of hand-held EMF monitoring devices showing readings in the range of 190 milliGauss (mG) at ground level in the parking lot at Covell's Beach.

Vineyard Wind's modeling filed with the Siting Board, and upon which the Siting Board's decision was made, represents EMF levels that are a small fraction of the EMF levels being shown in the photographs on social media. We understand that the Siting Board decision states that Vineyard Wind reported maximum modeled EMF at ground level above the cables at 43.6 mG at landfall, 3.6 mG in the middle of the beach, 21.1 mG at the landward edge of Covell's Beach abutting the parking lot, and 32.5 - 52.1 mG directly above duct banks, with those levels dropping off rapidly when moving laterally away from the cables. The June 28, 2024, letter from EEA Undersecretary Michael Judge and DPU

Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein notes that the ICNIRP 2,000 mG exposure limit guideline is nearly 95 times greater than the highest modeled EMF levels at Covell's Beach.

All of this information indicates that a 190 mG EMF reading should not occur at Covell's Beach under any conditions, including with every turbine operating at maximum output in the range of 800 MW. Yet, residents are sharing these readings for an output in the range of 0.6 MW (flowing outbound when the turbines aren't running) or up to 13 MW for the single turbine that may be online. Accordingly, I ask that Vineyard Wind review and explain why such high EMF readings are being registered for such low levels of electricity flowing under Covell's Beach and what this means as more turbines are brought online.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,
Mark S Ells
Barnstable Town Manager