



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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March 23, 2026

Michael Judge, Undersecretary of Energy
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Re: Covell's Beach, Barnstable

Dear Undersecretary Judge:

Thank you for your letter of February 5, 2026. The Town appreciates the review by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ("EEA") of the report, dated January 11, 2026, prepared and shared by Save Greater Dowses Beach regarding electromagnetic fields (EMF) at Covell's Beach and its parking lot in connection with the Vineyard Wind project. We hope that your letter will be part of an ongoing conversation regarding the public's ability to safely access and use Covell's Beach, which is a popular and important public recreational beach enjoyed by the Town's residents, visitors and tourists from the Commonwealth and far beyond.

In that regard, we ask that EEA remain engaged on this topic, at least until Vineyard Wind is fully operational for some time, due to the public health and safety concerns expressed by Town residents. While we appreciate the work of local citizen groups, we do not believe those efforts are a substitute for oversight by the Commonwealth, due to the state's technical expertise and jurisdiction in these matters. The Town asks that EEA continue to review and provide periodic written updates to the Town regarding EMF, so that we could share that information with our residents and the public.

The Town asks that EEA directly undertake, or facilitate the project proponent undertaking, a review of EMF at Covell's Beach, including its parking lot, when Vineyard Wind is producing 400 megawatts of electricity and again at the project's full commercial operation and at other reasonable intervals. We believe these milestones are reasonable because they align with those in the Energy Facilities Siting Board's approval of the New England Wind 1 project (f/k/a Park City Wind). The Town believes EEA's continuing involvement and such periodic reviews will help assure residents that Covell's Beach is a safe recreational resource for use by the public, including by those using pacemakers and other sensitive medical devices.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. S. Ellis', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mark S. Ellis
Town Manager

cc: State Senator Julian Cyr
State Representative Kip A. Diggs
State Representative Steven G. Xiarhos
Town Council President Craig A. Tamash
Karen L. Nober, Barnstable Town Attorney