

WIND TESTIMONY of Michael Skelly June 28, 2023

Hi, I am Michael Skelly.

I live in Bordentown NJ and for about 40 years our family had a unit in Island House at 9100 Atlantic Avenue in Margate NJ near Lucy the Elephant. Island House is the brown brick high-rise building next to Lucy the Elephant in some of the pictures in the DEIS.

I am here today as a resident of New Jersey and a member of the Environmental Justice Task Force of UU Faith Action of New Jersey.

I am here to comment on the Atlantic Shores project EIS and particularly to

Speak against Alternative A and in favor of Alternative B. I speak in favor of the Atlantic Shores project described in the DEIS going forward without delay, using the Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures described in the DEIS.

I would like these remarks to supplement those that I made in connection with this process on Monday, June 26, 2023, and reserve the right to provide further written comments in keeping with the public notices.

My main point for today:

Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote our Seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. In our Seventh Principle, we specifically support and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We live out these Seven Principles in our daily lives. My participation in this process is part of that.

At the hearing on Monday, and in the public discourse leading up to the hearing, comments by others implied or stated directly that there is information missing from the DEIS or insufficient information in the DEIS to support sound scientific judgments and informed decision making on the environmental impact of this project in some areas. On the surface this seemed very troubling, so I went back into the EIS and Checked.

One example, raised by others, was whether there is sufficient information regarding potential impacts on marine mammals such as whales. This is an area of deep interest for us as well. However, I found that at Appendix E section E.1.2.6 Marine Mammals pages E-4 through E-6, while the information available may be limited it was sufficient for BOEM to make sound scientific judgments and provide informed decisions on this project.

BOEM also found that the benefit from additional difficult and exorbitantly expensive studies would not actually change or improve the informative value for the public or decision-makers. If monitoring studies post-construction-start had been one of the project action alternatives offered, we would have supported that for the benefit of future or entirely different projects.

In light of the foregoing, the greatest risk to the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part is Alternate A, no action.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of the Atlantic Shores project described in the DEIS going forward without delay, using the Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures described in the DEIS for myself and for UU Faith Action NJ.

Thanks to the Applicant for the thorough EIS and for BOEM's expertise and analysis.

Good evening.