

Article 1

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Business, Finance & Technology

WIND POWER; Dutch company proposes offshore turbines for Martha's Vineyard

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A new proposal for a deep-water wind farm off the coast of Martha's Vineyard was met with enthusiasm last week from opponents of a current wind power proposal. The new plan would employ turbines further out to sea and out of sight from the shore.

Blue H, a subsidiary of a Dutch company, announced last week its plan to build 120 floating wind turbines in deep water 23 miles from shore. The company also sought government approval to install a test turbine, the first step in what would likely be a lengthy process for the unproven technology.

"I don't think they can get a large-scale operation going in two to three years, but the first step is to get a single experimental turbine up," said Walt Musial, principal engineer for ocean renewable energy at Colorado's National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

The existing plan, proposed by Cape Wind, has already received a favorable draft environmental review for its project and hopes to secure final federal environmental approval early next year (Greenwire, Jan. 14).

Because of uncertainties surrounding floating wind turbines, which are modeled after deep-sea oil rigs, experts and wind energy advocates consider the **Blue H** plan as a hopeful but faraway option.

"I wouldn't see [**Blue H**] as a competitor [to Cape Wind] at the moment," said James F. Manwell, director of the Renewable Energy Research Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (Ebbert/Daley, Boston Globe, March 15). -- JV

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