

Article 1

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By The Associated Press

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A summary of the proposed offshore wind projects in the United States:

MASSACHUSETTS:

--Cape Wind Associates proposed a 130-turbine project in 2001 to be located five miles offshore in Nantucket Sound. The wind farm, which would cost more than \$1 billion, would generate 75 percent of the electricity needs for the Cape, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Politicians and residents have tried hard to block the 420-megawatt project, arguing it would hurt the fishing and tourism industries and marine views. Cape Wind hopes the wind farm will be operational by the end of 2011.

--**Blue H** USA has proposed a deep-water wind project that would place 120 wind turbines 23 miles off the coast of Martha's Vineyard. Massachusetts' congressional delegation recently urged the federal government to approve a lease for the 420-megawatt project. The deep-water technology is largely untested.

DELAWARE:

--After rate caps on electricity prices for Delmarva Power customers were lifted in 2006, the state requested proposals for projects that would provide stable-priced energy, reduce environmental impacts and adopt new and emerging technologies. In June, Delmarva Power agreed to buy up to 200 megawatts of electricity for 25 years from a proposed wind project located about 11.5 miles offshore. The project would consist of between 60 and 200 turbines and generate between 200 and 600 megawatts. The average Delmarva customer would pay \$0.70 more a month on average over 25 years, according to a July report from an independent consultant hired by the state. That number is significantly lower than initially predicted, in part because of projected increase in natural gas prices and compliance costs for reducing carbon dioxide pollution, the report said. At 450-megawatt capacity, the project would cost about \$1.5 billion. The project developer, Bluewater Wind, expects to provide electricity by 2012.

MARYLAND:

--Gov. Martin O'Malley said in July that he supports Delaware's Bluewater project. If Maryland were to buy power from the Bluewater wind farm, the company would need to build a larger park, which would make the project more viable. Bluewater said it is currently working with Maryland officials to investigate potential electricity buyers.

RHODE ISLAND:

--The state announced in April it was soliciting bids for an offshore wind farm with a 450-megawatt capacity -- enough to generate about 15 percent of the state's total electricity use. The state received seven bids and is expected to make a decision this fall.

NEW JERSEY:

--The state imposed a 15-month freeze on offshore wind projects in 2004 after a 350-megawatt project was proposed off the state's coast. A panel concluded in 2006 that the state should consider launching a limited and carefully monitored offshore test project. Five companies have submitted bids for a 350-megawatt project. The state is expected to choose a bidder this fall.

NEW YORK:

--A 2003 plan to install 40 wind turbines about 3.5 miles off the Long Island coast met significant opposition over concerns about the environmental and visual impact, and rising cost estimates. The project, which would have had a 140-megawatt capacity, was scrapped in 2007.

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