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Fellow Wainscott community member,

I hope this note finds you and all your loved ones safe and healthy. Wainscott itself is not untouched by these darker times, including the sad news about the passing of long-time community member and advocate Rick Del Mastro and the impact on the livelihood of many of our neighbors.

Amidst this unprecedented impact on our lives and community, Ørsted and its allies continue to pursue their sub-scale energy project in bad faith and with indifference to the best interests of the community. All this comes despite further evidence that Ørsted ignored routes that are viable and less impactful for the entire East Hampton community.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Since I wrote you in early March:

1. Ørsted heartlessly tried to rush the state's approval process in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic (we were gratified the administrative judge sided with our position over Deepwater's tone-deaf position);
2. Without prior notice on its agenda, the majority of the Town Board and Trustees voted to allow Ørsted to prematurely conduct test drilling in Wainscott, including two 100-foot test bores at the beach and 400+ pits throughout the hamlet;
3. We also have now determined that a residential landfall in Wainscott would be an *unprecedented* action by Ørsted and its majority owner: Neither Ørsted, nor wind power pioneer Denmark has ever landed a major offshore wind sea-to-shore power cable in a residential neighborhood in their home country, choosing industrial areas or relatively uninhabited areas (e.g., parks, farmland, golf courses) instead; and
4. Neither the Town Board, nor the Town Trustees have ever hired any independent technical or engineering experts to evaluate Ørsted's self-serving assertions about its \$1.5+ billion project.

FURTHER DETAILS

After Ørsted reneged on its May 2019 commitments to the Wainscott community to pursue, in good faith, alternative routes for its high-powered electric cables from its proposed windfarm, the company suddenly sought in February to renew premature testing *only* in Wainscott.

1. Ørsted heartlessly tried to rush the state’s approval process in spite of the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic

- We submitted a motion to delay the next phase of the Article VII process (litigation) given the unprecedented medical, social, financial and business impact of Covid-19 and the inability of our experts to do further field work;
- Since a longer timeline would negatively impact the financial returns of its project, a tone-deaf Ørsted insisted that a 30-day delay (i.e., until only June 15) would be sufficient (even though Governor Cuomo had as early as March 7 declared a *State Disaster Emergency* – Executive Order 202 – and had already extended the “New York State on Pause” Order until April 15 by that time and the federal government had already extended the social distancing guidelines until April 30, suggesting they may extend into June). The sycophantic Ørsted allies, *Win With Wind*, simply parroted the company’s talking points;
- We were grateful when the administrative judge, Anthony Belsito, agreed with our position and [issued a public ruling on April 8](#) setting a much later date – August 7 for the submission of written testimony and September 30 for live testimony to commence; and
- The Long Island Power Authority and PSEG continue to withhold important information from our experts and attorneys that would allow us to further prove that less-impactful sites exist. On April 10, [we filed a public motion to compel](#) in order to stop LIPA and PSEG from stonewalling the community

2. Without prior notice on its agenda, the majority of the Town Board and Trustees voted in early March to allow Ørsted to prematurely conduct test drilling in Wainscott, including two 100-foot test bores at the beach and 400+ pits throughout the hamlet

- Despite advocating for good government practices, Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc and certain members of the Town Board continue to operate without transparency about the South Fork Wind Farm. For the third time in the last 13 months, the Town Board voted on an Ørsted-related matter without posting the matter on their official agenda as required;
- A majority of the Town Board on March 5 then allowed Ørsted to proceed with geological and archaeological sampling on Wainscott Beach and throughout Wainscott before April 30 (Ørsted announced its plans were subsequently temporarily suspended due to Governor Cuomo’s emergency orders);
- The Town also ignored our common-sense recommendations that their permission to Ørsted require parallel sampling of the soils and groundwater by Town-hired independent experts, rather than continuing to rely on the determination by the company (who also said in the past they would not conduct

such sampling and even if they did would not release the results of such sampling); and

- Moreover, Ørsted has still not requested permission to conduct similar sampling tests at the 1,755-acre Hither Hills State Park, the company's own alternative site. All this despite assurances from Ørsted more than a year ago to Supervisor Van Scoyoc, who confirmed on [February 7, 2019, that "the Hither Hills route is being tested in a similar way."](#) The lack of parallel testing further demonstrates that Ørsted is truly not developing an alternative as required by New York State law in an attempt to force a residential route that maximizes its profit, rather than meet statutory requirements for 'minimum adverse environmental impact'

3. We also have now determined that a residential landfall in Wainscott would be an unprecedented action by Ørsted and its majority owner

- Neither Ørsted, nor wind power pioneer Denmark has ever landed a major offshore wind sea-to-shore power cable in a residential neighborhood in their home country, choosing industrial areas or relatively uninhabited areas (e.g., parks, farmland, golf courses) instead
 - Denmark – one of the leaders in wind power – does not have any major windfarm that lands in a residential community. All 13 fully commissioned major offshore windfarms – as well as two planned farms – in Denmark make landfall and have their sea-to-shore transition vaults in industrial areas or relatively uninhabited areas (e.g., parks, farmland);
 - Neither Ørsted, nor any other operator in Denmark, burdens a residential neighborhood like Denmark and Ørsted is planning for Wainscott ¹
- Said differently: A landfall site in Wainscott would be *unprecedented* and completely inconsistent with Ørsted and its majority owner's practices in their home country. Our community deserves to be treated by Ørsted exactly as they do their own Danish citizens. Given how much respect Ørsted's proponents have for Denmark's leadership on wind power, we believe this proves that a Wainscott landing site should now be completely off the table when less-impactful alternatives have been uncovered

4. Neither the Town Board, nor the Town Trustees have hired any independent technical expert to evaluate Ørsted's self-serving assertions

- We continue to be the *only* party (not including the state agencies) who has hired independent experts
- Neither the East Hampton Town Board, nor the East Hampton Trustees (each of whom is seeking money from Ørsted) have hired any environmental engineers. Instead, they rely solely on Ørsted's self-interested assertions. The Town Board's and Trustee's failure to hire independent technical advisors for a \$1.5+ billion project that will be the first ever offshore wind farm in New York State is inexplicable

¹ This is virtually the same throughout Europe for Ørsted

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE NOW

1. Ensure you and all family members have signed the petition ([click here](#))
2. Register to vote in Wainscott to ensure our voices are respected ([click here](#))
3. Contribute to the *Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott, Inc.*, a non-partisan 501(c)(4) non-profit. We value any amount! P.O. Box 816, Wainscott, N.Y. 11975

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It is now a fact that the majority of the Town Board and Trustees have betrayed the Wainscott community by pursuing their own agenda (e.g., seeking to trade our hamlet's rural beauty for Ørsted's money), failing to retain independent experts, ignoring the new information developed through the Public Service Commission process and burnishing their own political legacy regardless of the consequences to the residents of Wainscott.

We are wishing you a safe and healthy spring. Warmest regards,

Gouri Edlich

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