

New London, Wind Energy

Feds Hit Pause on Ørsted's Revolution Wind for Unspecified National Security Claims

— Brian Scott-Smith, 8.23.2025



The view of South Fork Wind from the deck of Cecelia Ann (CT Examiner)

WASHINGTON DC – The Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management sent a shock wave through the offshore wind industry on Friday when it issued a stop work order to the Danish energy giant Ørsted on its installation of Revolution Wind 15 miles off the coast of Rhode Island.

The **order** by BOEM Acting Director Matthew Giacona cites unspecified concerns of national security and the prevention and interference of reasonable uses for the country's exclusive economic zone.

“You may not resume activities until BOEM informs you that BOEM has completed its necessary review. If you fail to comply with the terms of this order, BOEM may take additional corrective action as appropriate,” warned Giacona.

The stop order comes at a pivotal moment for the project, which Ørsted says is about 80% complete with 45 of 65 planned turbines installed.

In a **statement**, the company said it would address the issues with the expectation of completing the installation.

“Ørsted is evaluating all options to resolve the matter expeditiously. This includes engagement with relevant permitting agencies for any necessary clarification or resolution as well as through potential legal proceedings, with the aim being to proceed with continued project construction towards COD in the second half of 2026.”

If completed, the project will provide about 700 MW of energy, enough to power 350,000 homes and businesses in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Gov. Ned Lamont and Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee both **released** statements responding to the sudden stoppage.

“This political move by the Trump administration will drive up the cost of electricity bills and contradicts everything the administration has told us. It wastes years of state investment in renewable energy designed to diversify our energy supply and lower costs for families and businesses,” warned Lamont.

McKee echoed those comments, adding, “We are working with our partners in Connecticut to pursue every avenue to reverse this decision. Revolution Wind is key to Rhode Island’s economic development, energy security, and long-term affordability for our residents.”

The stop order is a double blow to Connecticut which provided about \$300 million to subsidize the redevelopment of State Pier in New London in an effort to secure a key hub for what was once anticipated as a boom of offshore wind development off the Eastern Seaboard.

Responding to the news, Congressman Joe Courtney, whose district includes most of eastern Connecticut, estimated that the stoppage put 200 jobs at risk at State Pier. He called the security concerns baseless.

“The claim by the Administration that national security concerns have arisen is particularly galling given the fact that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the U.S. Coast Guard meticulously analyzed ‘protection of national interests of the United States’ as part of the record of decision years ago. That exhaustive review ensured that transit by Coast Guard vessels and U.S. Navy warships would not be hindered by the final placement of Revolution Wind towers.”

Meanwhile lawyers for two Rhode Island nonprofits who filed cases against BOEM last year said they didn’t how the stop order might affect their client’s cases.

Greg Werkheiser, with the law firm Cultural Heritage Partners, said he was uncertain what the order meant for the future of the project. “Scrutiny of BOEM’s permitting failures is overdue, but it’s unclear what the Revolution Wind suspension means for the long-term future of that project or Ørsted’s other projects,” he said.

“Ørsted, which has largely ignored requests from historic communities and Tribal Nations to be meaningfully consulted, will certainly explore all legal and political options to challenge the suspension,” Werkheiser anticipated. “Our clients will have to wait and see how this development affects our appeals in federal court and how the Department of Justice responds to them.”

BOEM has given no timeframe as to how long its new review of Revolution Wind would take. It’s the second time the Trump administration has put a halt to an offshore wind project.

In April, **Empire Wind**, a large-scale offshore wind farm for New York was ordered to stop work.

That order was lifted in May after a compromise with New York State and counter-claims by developer Equinor that the stop order was “unlawful.”

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