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Federal approval signals a shift in national policy toward clean energy and corresponding economic benefits

CAPE WIND APPROVED



MERRILLY LUNSFORD/CAPE COD TIMES

The horizon south of Hyannisport could soon be dotted with 130 wind turbines after yesterday's announcement by U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar that "Cape Wind will be the United States' first offshore wind farm." The project's approval, which Salazar said was the government's "final decision," is a blow to those who have been fighting the project for almost a decade.

Mitigation claims exaggerated

By PATRICK CASSIDY
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When U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar approved the proposed Nantucket Sound wind farm yesterday, he did so with some familiar caveats.

"I am approving the Cape Wind project with modifications," he said during a press conference at the Statehouse in Boston.

But the modifications he referred to were nothing new to longtime Cape Wind watchers, including the most significant — a reduction of

the number of turbines from 170 to 130.

Cape Wind originally planned to build 170 turbines, but the company scaled the energy project down to 130 turbines in January 2003. By then, advances in turbine design meant fewer towers were needed to generate the same amount of electricity, according to the Times archives.

Along with thousands of news stories over the past seven years, the

see **MODIFICATIONS**, page 5



STEVE HEASLIP/CAPE COD TIMES

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar appeared at the Statehouse yesterday with Gov. Deval Patrick and Lt. Gov. Tim Murray to announce the government's approval of the Cape Wind project.

By PATRICK CASSIDY
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BOSTON — After nearly a decade of debate that divided the Cape and Islands, U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar approved the proposed Nantucket Sound wind farm yesterday, heralding it as the start of a new era in national energy policy and a precursor to the spread of turbines along the East Coast.

"Cape Wind will be the United States' first offshore wind farm," Salazar said in a room crowded with reporters and officials at the Statehouse in Boston.

Renewable energy advocates praised the decision as a milestone for the offshore wind energy industry. Opponents immediately decried it as political pandering and they threatened a new round of lawsuits to block the plan by Cape Wind Associates LLC to build 130 wind turbines in the Sound.

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INSIDE

TIMELINE OF CAPE WIND

Follow the twists and turns of the project's decade-long government approval process. /A8

REFLECTIONS ON LONG BATTLE

Longtime foes and advocates of Cape Wind react to the energy project's approval. /A12

BARNSTABLE SUIT DISMISSED

Superior Court judge rejects criticism of state regulator's review of Cape Wind. /A12



Sio-gone!

Marstons Mills resident voted off 'American Idol'

By ROBERT GOLD
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Cape Cod's singing star Siobhan Magnus saw her "American Idol" ride end last night. The 20-year-old from Marstons Mills was eliminated from the show based on viewer voting after advancing as one of the final six contestants.

The tension built early in the show, when Magnus found out she was in the bottom three of this week's viewer voting. As the show neared its nerve-racking end, Magnus and

see **MAGNUS**, page 4

WEATHER

Sunny but a chance of an afternoon shower; highs in the 50s. /B6

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