

The background of the slide is a large, faded seal of the Town of Ocean City. The seal is circular with a gold border and a blue inner ring containing the text "TOWN OF OCEAN CITY" at the top and "1878" at the bottom. The central shield is divided into four quadrants: top-left shows a sun over a beach with a lifeguard stand; top-right shows a sun with rays; bottom-left shows a ship's steering wheel; bottom-right shows a sailboat on the water.

Renewable Energy Siting Task Force

Municipal Concerns and Recommendations

Net Aggregate Metering

- Allows for multiple facilities (meters) of a single customer to take advantage of a single renewable generation project
- Limited to local government and non-profits
- Had been used for some offsite solar projects
- PUA 7-306 restricts use for large scale (>2 MW) projects
- Case 9387 ruling by PSC disallowed breaking up large project into smaller sub-projects
- Recommendation: As an incentive to locate outside high value agricultural areas allow Net Aggregate Metering for large scale offsite renewable energy projects located in “low value” areas such as:
 - Brownfields
 - Unused right of way
 - Other (capped landfills, airport infields)

PSC Siting Authority

- The PSC must consider local zoning considerations and concerns
- However, per the recent Washington County court decision discussed earlier, the PSC remains the ultimate siting authority and therefore local land planning decisions can be overridden
- Recommendation: Local jurisdictions where a generation or transmission project is proposed or that would be significantly impacted by said project should be automatically listed as an interested party to the case and should be granted status as an intervenor upon request

No restrictions on height or bulk of projects

- Offshore Renewable Energy Credit (OREC) enabling legislation placed no restrictions on the height or number of turbines
- PSC ruling awarding ORECs placed no restrictions on the height or number of turbines
- Both projects are now proposing to install turbines significantly taller than those presented to the PSC at the time of the ruling
- PSC OREC order referred visual impact concerns to BOEM. BOEM will issue permits to applicants for a range of sizes and configurations leaving what actually is built completely up to the applicant
- Recommendation: Applicants for construction of any renewable energy plant, on shore or offshore, should be required to submit specific plans showing the height and bulk of their project and any increase in the approved plan should require the applicant to return for a new public hearing with the PSC
- Recommendation: The Clean Energy Jobs Act should be amended to place height restrictions on offshore wind turbines based on their distance from shore