

Commission hearing slated on Cape wind farm

By [Patrick Cassidy](#)

STAFF WRITER

March 20, 2009 12:40 PM

BARNSTABLE – The Cape Cod Commission will hold a public meeting March 30 to review comments on a state decision to sign off on the proposed Nantucket Sound wind farm.

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management issued a pair of certifications in January that the project met state standards for projects in federal waters. The Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is responsible for balancing human activities and the protection of coastal and marine resources

Cape Wind Associates, LLC, wants to build 130 wind turbines in the sound. The wind farm would be built in federal waters but the cables to connect it to the electric grid would run through state waters and land.

A pair of lawsuits were filed against the state following the CZM determinations. Part of the plaintiffs' argument was that the state agency had failed to consult with the Cape Cod Commission as required by law.

The regional planning and regulatory agency issued a procedural denial for the project in 2007 but a tentative decision reached by the state Energy Facilities Siting Board a week ago would override that decision. The siting board's decision, if finalized, would also provide approval for eight other local and state permits required for the project.

Last week the CZM announced that it would open up a 21 day comment period for the commission to provide input on the certificates.

The March 30 meeting begins at 1 p.m. in the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates Chamber in the basement of the Barnstable District Courthouse, according to a press release from the commission.

The commission will consider comments from Barnstable and Yarmouth officials, written comments from the public and any written requests to speak that are received by noon on Wednesday.

Written comments and requests to speak must be sent to the Cape Cod Commission, P.O. Box 226, Barnstable, MA, 02630. They can also be delivered to the commission's offices at 3225 Main Street in Barnstable Village.

All comments will be limited to whether the proposed wind farm is consistent with the 2002 Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan and towns' local comprehensive plans, according to the press release.