

Wind cable showdown in doldrums

■ Seven months after one part of Cape Wind's project was appealed, a court delay has company officials frustrated.

In May, the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board granted Cape Wind Associates the right to run cables from its proposed wind farm on Nantucket Sound to the shore, a critical step in what has been a years-long review.

Within weeks the project's top critic, the Alli-

Political Notes

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ance to Protect Nantucket Sound, appealed the decision.

But now, seven months later, the state board has yet to appoint a counsel for its defense, which Cape Wind officials insist has ground the process to a halt.



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Siting board officials say the delay of the review rests with the state Supreme Judicial Court, not with them.

Nonetheless, a department official said last week that the board, which reviews all energy projects more than 100 megawatts, will likely get around to it at its next meeting, Jan. 12.

Interestingly, the new chairman at the meeting will be **Judith Judson**, a Topsfield Republican promoted by Gov. **Mitt Romney** last week — and one of just two board members to oppose the Cape Wind license last May. Romney is an outspoken opponent of the wind farm.

"It's appalling that all this time has gone by and they have not appointed a counsel," said **Mark Rodgers**, a Cape Wind spokesman. "This process has been frozen."

Gail Soares, deputy director of the department, said the board could not appoint a counsel until the attorney general's office confirmed it would not defend the decision, which it usually does.

In this case, Attorney General **Thomas Reilly's** office decided to not defend the decision because of conflict of interest concerns. Reilly's office testified during the hearing. The attorney general is also an outspoken wind farm opponent.