Louisiana Issues First State Offshore Wind Energy Leases

Louisiana recently approved the state’s first-ever wind energy operating agreements in state offshore waters at a State Mineral and Energy Board meeting, the Louisiana Illuminator reports.

Governor John Bel Edwards and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Secretary Tom Harris announced approval of two projects, one off the coast of Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes and another in the Cameron Parish’s coastal waters.

The Diamond Offshore Wind (DOW) site is on 6,162 acres just offshore from Terrebonne and Lafourche. The Cajun Wind development will cover 59,653 acres off the Cameron coast.

The two agreements have different payment structures to the state, Harris said in a statement from the governor’s office. Although the DOW Wind project covers a smaller area, it will pay more in upfront costs and rental fees per acre. The larger Cajun Wind field had a lower per-acre fee for upfront and rental payments but a higher energy royalty over the length of the agreement.

The DOW Wind property agreement paid $308,101 upfront and will submit 1.5% of its gross revenues in royalties over the life of the agreement. Cajun Wind first paid $357,923 for its agreement and will pay 2.2% in royalties. Read more.

Coastal Restoration Board Updated on New Orleans Pump Repairs

Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board heard an update on work to fix corroded flood control pumps in New Orleans and a recap on coastal work in 2023, The Center Square reports.

US Army Corps of Engineers Col. Cullen Jones told the board severe corrosion
discovered on a flood control pump at the end of the London Avenue Canal in New Orleans has been fixed, and all 17 pumps in the system were inspected and prepared ahead of the 2023 hurricane season.

"Out of an abundance of caution, to ensure that we met capacity at London Avenue, we also executed a temporary pumping plan where we provided an additional 1,000 cubic feet per second of pumping capacity on station," Jones said. "Thankfully, we did not need it."

"Since then, we’ve been able to remove those pumps from that location and restore that area back to its original condition," he said.

Jones said that the Corps and others are now working through corrective actions for all 17 pumps to ensure any other system deficiencies are resolved.

The work comes after the Corps found severe corrosion at the London Avenue Pump following overheating, and less corrosion at another with the Orleans Avenue Canal in February. The ongoing work involves a closer look at the city’s roughly 5-year-old combined permanent canal closure and pump stations, a vital element of the city’s hurricane levee system. Read more.

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