US 🕹 Wind

Wind Turbine Lights Will Be Off 99% of the Time



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires that offshore wind farms have nighttime lighting capability to ensure safe air travel around lease areas. In keeping with our commitment to minimize nighttime viewshed impacts on Maryland and Delaware coastal communities, US Wind will be using Aircraft Detection Lighting System technology (ADLS). This new system:

- uses radar to track aircraft
- turns on FAA-required lighting when aircraft pass through a three-nautical-mile buffer around a wind farm at an altitude that is below 1,000 feet above the tallest turbine
- turns off lighting once aircraft leave the buffer zone

Capitol Airspace Group, a national leader in airspace analytics, analyzed several years of prior FAA air traffic data for the area around US Wind's offshore wind lease area to determine the total time an ADLS-controlled lighting system would be activated. The study paired flight data with a 3.55-nautical-mile-buffer around the lease area with a 3,500-foot minimum altitude trigger. With these conservative parameters, Capitol Airspace Group calculated that:

- only 144 flights would pass through the US Wind study area per year
- the duration of those flights would have caused the ADLS lights to be on for just over 5 hours and 46 minutes (less than 1 percent of the time) in any given year

US Wind will continue to invest in voluntary measures to minimize impacts from this clean energy project.

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