

To: David Kooris[dkooris@ctportauthority.com]  
Cc: John Henshaw[jhenshaw@ctportauthority.com]  
From: Andrew Lavigne[alavigne@ctportauthority.com]  
Sent on behalf of: Andrew Lavigne <alavigne@ctportauthority.com>  
Sent: Thur 12/23/2021 1:43:30 PM Eastern Standard Time  
Subject: Re: [WSHU] Scott-Smith: New London State Pier takes another step toward becoming an offshore wind hub

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\*his editor

On Thu, Dec 23, 2021 at 1:43 PM Andrew Lavigne <alavigne@ctportauthority.com> wrote:

Agreed. He said hose ditto added the piece re: missed filing deadlines, but the bias is outrageous.

Correction made to:

"This came after the quasi-state agency missed several self-imposed deadlines and finally granted a greenlight from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers almost nine months overdue."

On Thu, Dec 23, 2021 at 12:49 PM David Kooris <dkooris@ctportauthority.com> wrote:

The bias in this is absurd

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 22, 2021, at 10:06 PM, Andrew Lavigne <alavigne@ctportauthority.com> wrote:

The mention of "missed filing deadlines" in the second sentence first paragraph is dead wrong. I've already sent him a note about it.

## **New London State Pier takes another step toward becoming an offshore wind hub**

WSHU | By **Brian Scott-Smith**

Published December 22, 2021 at 12:50 PM EST

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The Connecticut Port Authority received a federal permit to begin some of the dredging work necessary to begin the redevelopment of State Pier in New London. This came after the quasi-state agency missed several filing deadlines and finally granted a greenlight from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers almost nine months overdue.

The port authority missed deadlines in September and October to get a federal work permit to begin in-water construction for the redevelopment of State Pier in anticipation of offshore wind construction in the Atlantic Ocean.

"With the receipt of the Army Corps permits, State Pier has cleared the last major remaining regulatory hurdle, and construction of the full project scope can now proceed," offshore wind joint development partners Ørsted and Eversource said in a statement. "When complete, State Pier will be transformed from a long-underutilized asset into a modern, heavy-lift capable facility, delivering well-paying jobs and economic investment to New London while positioning Connecticut as a regional hub for offshore wind for decades to come."

During the authority's final board meeting of the year, David Kooris, the board chair, remained optimistic about the cost and time schedule for the project despite a large dredging aspect of the project being pushed back almost a year because of the delayed federal permit.

"Our city may not be large, but it has always played a major role in Connecticut, punching above its weight. And now the eyes of the world will be on our city as we become a hub for the production of technology to support renewable energy," New London Mayor Michael Passero said in a statement.

The project was originally slated to cost around \$93 million but ballooned to \$235 million in recent months. It is still unclear whether costs could rise again due to the delays the project has suffered to date.

In a statement, a Port Authority spokesperson said finalization of the project costs and schedule will be discussed with all project partners, now that the final permits are in hand. They said they hope to update the board at a meeting in early 2022.

Kevin Blacker, a New London business owner and frequent critic of the authority, told the board that their words had become "meaningless" because of promises they couldn't keep. And new board member Felix Reyes, the director of economic development and planning for the city of New London, said the project had a perception problem in the eyes of the public. He said the authority needed to work to improve that in the new year.

Officials said the state and its partners — Eversource, Ørsted and Gateway — are committed to developing the State Pier to be a hub for the offshore wind industry.

"This project positions New London to become the premier commercial east coast hub for the offshore wind sector," Governor Ned Lamont said in a statement. "Connecticut remains a leader in the transition to renewable energy and the fight against climate change."