

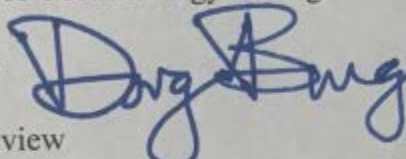


THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

April 16, 2025

Memorandum

To: Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

From: Secretary Doug Burgum 

Subject: Empire Wind Project Review

In his Presidential Memorandum of January 20, 2025, *Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf From Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects*, President Trump ordered me to conduct a "comprehensive assessment and review of Federal wind leasing and permitting practices." Pursuant to that review, staff of the Department of the Interior has obtained information that raises serious issues with respect to the project approvals for the Empire Wind Project.

The matters identified thus far suggest that approval for the project was rushed through by the prior Administration without sufficient analysis or consultation among the relevant agencies as relates to the potential effects from the Project. In light of these revelations and consistent with the President's instructions, I am directing you to exercise your authority to order Empire Wind to cease all construction activities on the Empire Wind Project. This halt is to remain in effect until further review is completed to address these serious deficiencies. This action is to be taken in accordance with applicable law and effective immediately.

In addition, I am directing your staff, in coordination with other Departmental offices, to continue your review of Federal wind permitting practices with respect to both existing and pending permits.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.