

## Rodvien, Emma (PUC)

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**From:** Gary Mataronas <lobster2@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 1:55 PM  
**To:** Rodvien, Emma (PUC)  
**Subject:** Sakonnet River Cable  
**Attachments:** Sakonnet River Wind.doc; Resolution .doc

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Hi Emma,

I have attached a letter I submitted to the Portsmouth Town Council and to my own Little Compton Town Council along with a resolution against the South Coast cable going up the Sakonnet River. The resolution was adopted and signed on April 6, 2023. I hope it is not too late to submit these.

Gary Mataronas  
22 California Road  
Sakonnet Point  
Little Compton, RI 02837  
[lobster2@cox.net](mailto:lobster2@cox.net)  
401-573-0942

I am on the LC Town Council and also a commercial fisherman that moors his boat at Sakonnet harbor. I have been asked to supply comments/questions about the Mayflower Wind cable running up the Sakonnet River. I also represented the fishermen when CRMC was contemplating the placement and impacts of the five Block Island wind turbines.

We have many fishing boats that sail out of Sakonnet. How will these be impacted while laying the cable?

We, the fishermen, are very concerned about electromagnet currents given off by the cables. All fish, and especially crustaceans, are very sensitive to any form of electrical current. They will disperse from any area that generates electrical currents. Will the cables give off electrical currents that will disperse our sea life?

The Sakonnet River, all the way up to and including Mount Hope Bay, has immense amounts of quahog beds that are a major source of income to our quahog fishermen. How will the dredging for the cable effect these beds? Previously there were a few boats that would dredge quahogs with a dredge that went six inches to a foot into the sea floor. How will these interact with the cables?

We also have many conch pots, fish pots, lobster pots, and gill nets fishing in the Sakonnet River from March through November. We are very concerned this fishing gear will be damaged during laying of the cables. We also want to make sure our sea life is not dispersed from the area and create a dead zone.

There are several dragger fishermen that tow nets behind them on the sea floor. How will these react with the laying of the cables and after the cables are placed.

When the Sakonnet River is being dredged for the cables we anticipate there will be massive mud plumes created. When lobsters, crabs, and fish ingest the mud from these plumes it blocks their gills and they die. We do not want a massive die-off of our sea life in and around the Sakonnet River.

We have a great contingent of recreational boaters at Sakonnet Harbor that most likely will be effected when the cable is being laid. Many of these boaters are recreational fishermen that contribute greatly to the Town and we don't want them negatively impacted by the laying of the cable or any current coming from the cable. How will this be mitigated?

As most people know Sakonnet Point is a stopover port for boats coming from other ports and then heading to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. It is also a stopping point for boats when there is thick fog. How will these boats be effected.

There are two pipelines that run across the Sakonnet River in the seabed. One is a gas pipeline and the other is a water pipeline from the Watson Reservoir. How does MW plan on securing and getting past them?

Obviously there will be an aesthetic depletion from all the Little Compton, Middletown, Tiverton, and Fall River shorelines while the cables are being laid in the Sakonnet River Also, many restaurants and beaches will be negatively impacted while the cables are being laid.

The Town wholeheartedly concurs and supports the questions raised by the Town of Portsmouth.

Respectfully,  
Gary Mataronas  
[lobster2@cox.net](mailto:lobster2@cox.net)



Town of Little Compton  
Town Hall  
P.O. Box 226  
Little Compton, RI 02837

WHEREAS: The Town of Little Compton is bordered on its long western shore entirely by the Sakonnet River, and

WHEREAS: The Sakonnet River is home to a wide variety of fin fish and shellfish, with virtually no industrial development on its shoreline, and

WHEREAS: The entirety of the river is used year-round for commercial and recreational fishing, as well as recreational boating, and

WHEREAS: The installation in the river of high power electrical transmission cables from off-shore wind turbines would subject its ecosystems to unpredictable risks and damage, and

WHEREAS: The intended destination of the cables and beneficiary of the revenues their electricity produces is a power plant in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS: An alternative overland path with few attendant drawbacks has not been sufficiently explored.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Little Compton Town Council supports the exploration of a cable path alongside State Route 88 in Westport, Massachusetts, which would carry none of the attendant risks of the current plan, and traverses an area relatively free of private residences or businesses.

Voted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023 by the Little Compton Town Council.

Robert L. Mushen, Town Council President

Attest:

Carol A. Wordell, Town Clerk