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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

Docket Nos. CP17-101-007
CP20-49-001

Protest of Public Citizen, Inc.

On May 29, The Williams Companies, Inc. filed a *Petition for Expedited Reissuance of Certificate Authority* for its cancelled Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, a proposed 37 mile-long natural gas pipeline running from Pennsylvania through New Jersey to New York.¹ The petition violates the public interest, and the Commission cannot reissue a certificate of public convenience and necessity, because it is the product of an unseemly, tawdry political shakedown involving unlawful abuse of powers by the Trump Administration and the State of New York. The President of the United States directed agencies under his control to issue a stop work order—under false pretenses—for an offshore wind project (Equinor’s Empire Wind) that was a policy priority of the Governor of New York, in order to coerce the governor into approving two natural gas pipelines, including the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, in exchange for lifting the offshore wind stop work order. The details of this quid pro quo arraignment have been so widely reported that the facts are not in dispute, and in fact have been confirmed publicly by the President of the United States, as the Trump White House issued a formal statement that it lifted the stop work order on the offshore wind project only after New York’s governor “caved” to Trump by allowing “two natural gas pipelines to advance”. A pipeline project that is the subject of a lurid political shakedown cannot be granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity because its association with such sordid acts violates the public interest.

¹ https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20250529-5275

Timeline of President Trump's Illicit Shakedown To Prompt Williams' Petition

- President Trump's first mention of using federal authorities for a natural gas pipeline in New York was during remarks he made at a February 13 Oval Office press conference: "And we are also working on a project that has been under wraps for 20 years. Everybody wanted it. It's been held up by New York. It's a pipeline that will bring down the energy prices in New York and in all of New England by 50, 60, 70 percent. It should have been done years ago. We'll be speaking to New York. And the New York is actually the biggest beneficiary because their energy costs are very high. This will reduce it very substantially. But the—all of the governors want this to happen, and I think it's going to happen. It's now going to happen. It's something that's—would rather not have to go eminent domain. We'll do that if we have to in New York. But hopefully, we won't have to do that ... Once we start construction, we're looking at anywhere from nine to 12 months, if you can believe it."²



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!

8.32k Retweets 41.6k Likes

Feb 19, 2025, 1:58 PM

- But President Trump's initial instigation with New York was unrelated to natural gas pipelines. On February 19, the Trump

Administration moved to block New York's planned congestion pricing, with President Trump posting on a for-profit social media platform he owns: "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!"³ Trump's post followed a move by U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy to withdraw necessary approval of the New York congestion pricing program, which had taken effect in early January⁴ (a federal judge in May blocked the Trump Administration's effort to stop the congestion pricing plan before its fate could be decided in court).⁵

- Two days after the Trump Administration moved to block congestion pricing, New York Governor Kathy Hochul flew to Washington DC to meet in person with President Trump for an hour at the White House.⁶ Hochul had publicly attacked Trump as engaging in a "revenge tour" against New York State, declaring that Trump was "taking out his anger and frustration over the 35 felony convictions he received here in the state of New York, taking out on our own New Yorkers."⁷

² <https://rollcall.com/factbase/trump/transcript/donald-trump-remarks-executive-orders-white-house-february-13-2025/>

³ <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114032082899254855>

⁴ Nick Reisman and Ry Rivard, *Trump moves to kill congestion pricing in NYC*, E&E News, Feb 19, 2025.

⁵ www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/nyregion/nyc-congestion-pricing-trump.html

⁶ <https://apnews.com/article/new-york-congestion-pricing-tolls-trump-hochul-7ddf79eb0f11cab86347b244bbf2d516>

⁷ www.wnytv.com/2025/02/21/ny-governor-says-trump-is-revenge-tour/

- The February 21 meeting between Gov. Hochul and President Trump failed to resolve the congestion pricing dispute, so a second in-person meeting was scheduled for March 14.
- In between the February 21 and March 14 in person meetings, President Trump and members of his cabinet pivoted to a new policy priority in their negotiations with New York: revive the recently cancelled Northeast Supply Enhancement Project and Constitution pipelines, both proposed by Williams.
- On March 6, Energy Secretary Chris Wright declared his priority using federal authorities to expedite more natural gas pipelines into the northeast U.S.: “We’ve got millions of New England residents paying exceedingly high electricity and heating prices. The pipelines to bring the gas from Pennsylvania, a short distance, into those communities can lower their heating costs, lower their electricity costs, get more businesses and job opportunities booming in New England.”⁸
- The day before the March 14 in-person meeting between Gov. Hochul and President Trump, Gov. Hochul’s social media post didn’t specifically mention gas pipelines would be part of the discussion with the President: “I’ll be heading to the White House tomorrow to meet with President Trump. There’s a lot to talk about: the massive success of congestion pricing, the impact of tariffs on New Yorkers, and much more.”⁹



If New York, Connecticut, and New England had their Pipelines, savings from Heating alone would go down \$2,300 per family — When you add Air Conditioning, and other things, you would have a \$5,000 savings per family. All we need is a simple approval from New York. Every other State in New England, plus Connecticut, wants this, in order to help the Environment, and save BIG money. We only need the final approval from New York State, whose people all want it. Otherwise, we'll have to use other authorities. New York State has held up this project for many years, but we won't let that happen any longer. We will use federal approval!

13k ReTruths 55.2k Likes

Mar 13, 2025, 12:21 PM

the federal government to get it done. But if we have to, we will, but I don't think we'll have to”[emphasis added].¹⁰

- The day before his in-person meeting with Gov. Hochul, President Trump told reporters in the Oval Office: “Kathy Hochul, very nice woman; she’s coming in tomorrow morning at nine o’clock to meet me on that [natural gas pipelines] and other things. **I hope we don't have to use the extraordinary powers of**

- President Trump followed that his threat “to use the extraordinary powers of the federal government to” approve natural gas pipelines routed through New York with a post on the social media platform that he owns, declaring “**We only need the final approval from New York State, whose people all want it.**

⁸ www.foxnews.com/video/6369694395112

⁹ <https://x.com/GovKathyHochul/status/1900260178681094525>

¹⁰ www.reuters.com/world/us/ny-governor-hochul-meet-with-trump-friday-trump-says-2025-03-13/

Otherwise, we'll have to use other authorities. New York State has held up this project for many years, but we won't let that happen any longer. We will use federal approval!"¹¹

- The March 14 meeting between Gov. Hochul and President Trump yielded no “formal agreements or decisions,”¹² although Energy Secretary Wright said during a live Fox News interview hours after Trump’s meeting with Hochul that “I think it’s highly likely that this pipeline — **there’s a couple of them, actually** — get done” [emphasis added], with ClearView Energy Partners claiming that Trump could try to strike a deal with Hochul, “perhaps by trading pipeline approvals for another energy-relevant result,” like some kind of win for offshore wind.¹³
- On April 16, U.S. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum issued an order to the Acting Director of the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, claiming “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 . . . I am directing you to exercise your authority to order Empire Wind to cease all construction activities on the Empire Wind Project.”¹⁴ Secretary Burgum elaborated on social media that he consulted with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick to “halt all construction activities on the Empire Wind Project” because “the Biden administration rushed through its approval” of the project.¹⁵ Secretary Burgum later elaborated on social media that “Scientists at [the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] have revealed that the Biden administration’s rushed approval of the Empire Wind project was built on bad & flawed science.”¹⁶ Secretary Burgum’s social media post links to a Fox News article citing a formal NOAA study that allegedly documented “flawed scientific methodologies” were used to approve Empire Wind. Gov. Hochul issued a statement sharply critical of the stop work order,¹⁷ with The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority declaring the stop work order was the product of “a shortsighted, political agenda”.¹⁸

¹¹ <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114156036814880330>

¹² www.spglobal.com/commodity-insights/en/news-research/latest-news/natural-gas/031425-no-deal-trump-hochul-to-continue-talks-on-constitution-pipeline-energy-issues

¹³ Carlos Anchondo, *Trump wants to revive long-abandoned Northeast pipeline*, Energywire, March 17, 2025, www.eenews.net/articles/trump-wants-to-revive-long-abandoned-northeast-pipeline/

¹⁴ https://chrissmith.house.gov/uploadedfiles/trump_admin_dept_of_interior_empire_wind_memo_signed_by_secretary_burgum_april_16_2025.pdf

¹⁵ <https://x.com/SecretaryBurgum/status/1912590753236427060>

¹⁶ <https://x.com/SecretaryBurgum/status/1914343506488754503>

¹⁷ www.governor.ny.gov/news/statement-governor-kathy-hochul-74

¹⁸ www.reuters.com/business/energy/equinor-halts-offshore-construction-empire-wind-project-us-2025-04-17/

- The stop work order cost project sponsor Equinor \$50 million a week, and by May 12 Equinor stated publicly that if the stop work order wasn't resolved within days, the company would terminate the project.¹⁹
- Then all of a sudden on May 19, with no explanation on how the “flawed scientific methodologies” were resolved, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Walter D. Cruickshank rescinded the stop work order for Empire Wind.²⁰



Secretary Doug Burgum
@SecretaryBurgum



Energy Dominance is the foundation of America's economic and national security. I am encouraged by Governor Hochul's comments about her willingness to move forward on critical pipeline capacity. Americans who live in New York and New England would see significant economic benefits and lower utility costs from increased access to reliable, affordable, clean American natural gas.

9:32 PM · May 19, 2025 · 20.6K Views

- Interior Secretary Burgum strongly suggested the lifting of the stop work order was directly related to Gov. Hochul agreeing to support natural gas pipelines when he posted on social media on May 19 that “I am encouraged by Governor

Hochul's comments about her willingness to move forward on critical pipeline capacity.”²¹ Crucially, Secretary Burgum made no mention of whether Interior had resolved the Biden Administration permitting issues or other rationale for the April 16 stop work order. Instead, Burgum implied a direct link between the lifting of the stop work order and Gov. Hochul's support for “critical pipeline capacity”. The deal to lift the stop work order in exchange for Gov. Hochul greenlighting support for natural gas pipelines, including Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, has been widely reported.²²

- One week later, the Trump White House issued a statement to *E&E News* confirming that it lifted the stop work order on Empire Wind only after New York Gov. Hochul “caved” to Trump and agreed to allow “two natural gas pipelines to advance”.²³ This media article is attached as Exhibit A.
- Equinor chief executive Anders Opedal gave an interview to the *Financial Times* in which he confirmed that the stop work order was lifted after Gov. Hochul intervened with an offer to President Trump to support two gas pipelines, recalling that she called him at 4am Norway time on May 18 to relay she had

¹⁹ www.utilitydive.com/news/equinor-stop-work-order-empire-wind-termination-trump/747830/

²⁰ www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/BOEM%20Directors%20Order%20Empire%20Wind%20Amendment.pdf

²¹ <https://x.com/SecretaryBurgum/status/1924639319622393919>

²² See www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-05-20/trump-u-turns-on-new-york-wind-farm-in-pipeline-deal-with-hochul and www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/equinor-says-us-lifts-stop-work-order-new-york-offshore-wind-farm-2025-05-19/

²³ Mike Soraghan, *White House claims Hochul ‘caved’ on gas pipelines to save Empire Wind*, May 27, 2025.

reached a deal with President Trump. The stop work order was lifted the next day.²⁴ This news article is attached as Exhibit B.

The Commission's Standard of Review Requires Consideration of Whether The Pipeline Is Being Proposed As Part Of An Unlawful, Unscrupulous Government Conspiracy

The Natural Gas Act asserts that “the business of transporting and selling natural gas for ultimate distribution to the public is affected with a public interest.”²⁵ Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act requires a certificate of public convenience and necessity be issued by the Commission prior to construction and operation of a new natural gas pipeline.²⁶

The Commission's standard of review in authorizing a certificate of public convenience and necessity under § 7 rely upon its 1999 policy statement on pipeline authorizations. See Certification of New Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities, 88 FERC ¶ 61,227 (Sept. 15, 1999), clarified, 90 FERC ¶ 61,128 (Feb. 9, 2000), further clarified, 92 FERC ¶ 61,094 (July 28, 2000). The courts have distilled the policy statement into a two part test. First, the Commission evaluates “whether there is a market need for the proposed project,” *Env'tl. Def. Fund v. FERC*, 2 F.4th 953, 959 (D.C. Cir. 2021), including whether the project can be developed “without relying on subsidization by the sponsor's existing customers,” *City of Oberlin v. FERC*, 937 F.3d 599, 602 (D.C. Cir. 2019) (quoting 88 FERC at ¶ 61750).

Second, if there is a market need for the project, FERC will approve the pipeline “only where the public benefits outweigh the project's adverse impacts.” *Citizens Action Coal. of Ind., Inc. v. FERC*, 125 F.4th 229, 235 (D.C. Cir. 2025) (quoting *Minisink Residents for Env't Preservation & Safety v. FERC*, 762 F.3d 97, 102 (D.C. Cir. 2014)). “FERC must consider ‘all factors bearing on the public interest.’” *Citizens Action Coal. of Ind., Inc.*, 125 F.4th at 235 (quoting *Food & Water Watch v. FERC*, 104 F.4th 336, 341 (D.C. Cir. 2024)); see also *South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. Dist. v. FERC*, 621 F.3d 1085,

²⁴ Malcolm Moore and Rachel Millard, How a gas deal helped save Equinor's \$5bn New York wind farm, www.ft.com/content/e083e0a8-072e-4967-a9f5-4750b1cb8cf2

²⁵ 15 USC § 717(a).

²⁶ 15 USC § 717f.

1099 (9th Cir. 2010) (“FERC must consider all factors bearing on the public interest consistent with its mandate to fulfill the statutory purpose of the NGA, which is to encourage the development of adequate natural gas supplies at reasonable prices.”).

An unlawful, sordid political scheme involving an illegal stop work order in order to force a state’s governor to sign off on a pipeline constitute “adverse impacts” that harm the public interest.

The Energy Emergency Declaration Cited In The Petition Is Phonier Than A Three Dollar Bill

The Petition cites, at page 2, that President Trump’s January 20 executive order declaring a national energy emergency provides support for granting Northeast Supply Enhancement Project a certificate of public convenience and necessity. It does not, because the energy emergency declaration is meritless, contains zero factual evidence whatsoever, and is merely a political proclamation that cannot be relied upon for anything of substance.

The emergency declaration states, with no factual proof, that

*The policies of the previous administration have driven our Nation into a national emergency, where a precariously inadequate and intermittent energy supply, and an increasingly unreliable grid, require swift and decisive action. Without immediate remedy, this situation will dramatically deteriorate in the near future due to a high demand for energy and natural resources to power the next generation of technology ... Our Nation's current inadequate development of domestic energy resources leaves us vulnerable to hostile foreign actors and poses an imminent and growing threat to the United States' prosperity and national security. These numerous problems are most pronounced in our Nation's Northeast and West Coast, where dangerous State and local policies jeopardize our Nation's core national defense and security needs, and devastate the prosperity of not only local residents but the entire United States population. The United States' insufficient energy production, transportation, refining, and generation constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to our Nation's economy, national security, and foreign policy. In light of these findings, I hereby declare a national emergency.*²⁷

This is laughably false. No country in the history of the world produces more oil and natural gas than the United States does today, as our oil and gas infrastructure is increasingly prioritized to accommodate increased volumes of petroleum and natural

²⁷ www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/29/2025-02003/declaring-a-national-energy-emergency

gas exports. The energy emergency proclamation blames “dangerous State and local policies” ... “in our Nation’s Northeast and West Coast” without providing a shred of substantiation. The conditions cited in the energy emergency declaration are not confirmed in the Commission’s 2025 Summer Energy Market and Electric Reliability Assessment issued on May 15, 2025.²⁸ This energy emergency executive order is political theater and has no applicability in a serious FERC proceeding.

Public Citizen’s Intervention

We intervened on May 30,²⁹ prior to the Commission’s June 3 notice of the Petition.³⁰ While no party has challenged our intervention, out of an abundance of caution, Public Citizen moves to intervene in this proceeding: Established in 1971, Public Citizen is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan, research and advocacy organization representing the interests of household consumers. Public Citizen is active before FERC promoting just and reasonable rates, and supporting efforts for utilities to be accountable to the public interest. We work to ensure that proposed pipelines are consistent with the public interest, and not the result of unlawful government conspiracies. Our interests in this proceeding are unique, and cannot be represented by any other party. Financial details about our organization are on our web site.³¹

Respectfully submitted,

Tyson Slocum

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Filed June 24, 2025

²⁸ https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20250515-3038

²⁹ https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20250530-5128

³⁰ https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20250603-3065

³¹ www.citizen.org/about/annual-report/

EXHIBIT A

White House claims Hochul 'caved' on gas pipelines to save Empire Wind

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul says there was no deal, days after the Trump administration allowed the offshore wind project to resume construction.



BY: **MIKE SORAGHAN** | 05/27/2025 06:32 AM EDT



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul attends a news conference. | Julia Demaree Nikhinson/AP

ENERGYWIRE | President Donald Trump and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul disagree on what was in their agreement to resume construction on Empire Wind 1.

The Trump administration was silent for nearly a week on why it decided to suddenly lift its stop work order for the \$5 billion project. But on Friday, the White House fired off a

statement to POLITICO's E&E News claiming that the Democratic governor "caved" to Trump and agreed to allow "two natural gas pipelines to advance" through New York.

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Hochul, however, says there was no deal — and she will approve the pipelines if they meet federal and state requirements. Her staff said she persuaded Trump by simply presenting the facts on why the 54-turbine offshore wind project is important.

"No deal on any natural gas pipeline was reached," Hochul spokesperson Paul DeMichele said Friday morning. Hochul's office did not respond to inquiries after the White House statement was released later on Friday.

The disagreement could signal trouble for the fragile truce that allowed construction to resume on Empire Wind, a project that is central to New York's climate and energy plans. It also focuses attention on Hochul's energy and environmental policy as she seeks re-election next year.

The statement from White House spokesperson Harrison Fields said Hochul agreed to the "deal" to "save her flailing offshore wind project." The project is being built by Norwegian oil giant Equinor, which [came close to walking away](#) because the stop work order was costing it \$50 million a week.

The White House statement boasted of "another great deal delivered by America's Dealmaker in Chief," calling Hochul a "far-left Democrat ... out-of-line with President Trump's energy agenda."

The White House did not make clear what two natural gas pipelines it was claiming Hochul approved. Fields did not respond to a request for clarification.

But Trump has specifically pushed to revive the Constitution pipeline. Constitution was proposed by Williams Cos., which gave up last year on a second New York gas project called the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE), which hit regulatory and political hurdles.

Hochul has said she was already open to new pipelines, willing to evaluate any pipeline project on its merits.

The administration's boasts are the latest development in a yearslong tug-of-war over whether the Northeast should be powered by gas pipelines or wind turbines.

Williams spent much of the 2010s pushing gas in the form of the 124-mile Constitution pipeline project, designed to move the fuel from northeastern Pennsylvania shale gas fields into upstate New York.

But Hochul's predecessor, then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo, promoted offshore wind as central to his energy policy. That included support of Empire Wind.

Under Cuomo, New York environmental regulators refused to sign off on a water permit for the Constitution project required under the Clean Water Act. That led to years of litigation, but Williams gave up on the project in 2020, the last full year of the Trump administration. That same year, New York also rejected Williams' application for a water permit for the company's NESE project, a regional expansion of the massive Transcontinental gas pipeline.

Constitution and NESE were two of at least five failed proposals to ship gas from the shale formations under Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia into the Northeast. One gas trade group, the Marcellus Shale Coalition, has accused New York of having an "energy blockade."

Trump's return to the White House and his campaign to "unleash American energy" has raised hopes for fossil fuel developers that their projects could get permits and favorable treatment.

As Trump focuses on boosting oil and gas, he actively opposes the wind industry. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum's decision to halt Empire Wind was unusual; not only was the project already under construction, but it had all needed permits and approvals. Burgum said without evidence that the Biden administration had rushed the permitting process.

Hochul mounted a last-ditch effort to save the project in early May.

She has said she told Trump that the demise of Empire Wind would cost 1,500 jobs, many filled by Trump-supporting union members, and damage investor confidence in the United States. She also said she reiterated her previous position on pipelines — she would support a project that can demonstrate it fulfills a need and meets environmental requirements.

The Trump administration reversed itself on Empire Wind early last week with little explanation beyond a brief formal [letter posted online](#) by a career Interior department official. Burgum followed up with a social media post that did not mention Empire Wind, but praised Hochul's "willingness to move forward on critical pipeline capacity."

Exhibit B

FINANCIAL TIMES

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How a gas deal helped save Equinor's \$5bn New York wind farm

Norway's state energy major reveals the art of negotiating with the Trump administration



Save



Equinor chief executive Anders Opedal said his team had received 'good indications' that the Trump administration would not target projects already in execution © Charlie Bibby/FT

Malcolm Moore and Rachel Millard in London

Published 7 MINUTES AGO

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The Trump administration has reversed its opposition to a \$5bn offshore wind farm to protect jobs, but also as part of a political deal over a long-stalled gas pipeline, according to the boss of the energy group behind the project.

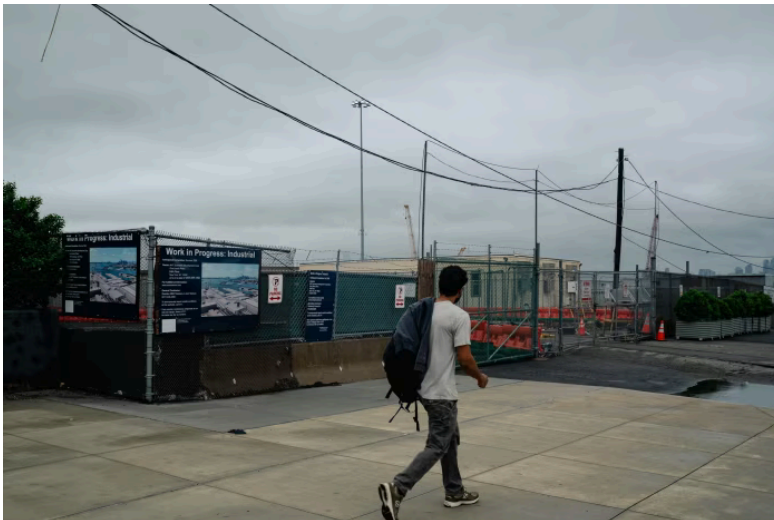
The White House issued a surprise order in April to halt work on [Equinor's](#) Empire Wind development, an 84-turbine, 2.1 gigawatt project, 30 miles off the New York coast, even though construction was already under way and

all permits had been secured. The project includes a 70-acre port terminal in Brooklyn and is one of the largest in the US.

President [Donald Trump](#)'s hostility to wind farms has been well documented — he once said they were “littered all over our country . . . like dropping garbage in a field” — but Equinor chief executive Anders Opedal said his team had received “good indications” that the administration would not target projects already in execution.

The administration's targeting of the offshore wind sector has prompted other developers, including Shell and TotalEnergies, to reduce or slow down US projects, and Opedal indicated that the episode meant Norway's state-backed Equinor was unlikely to pursue other projects.

Speaking about how he navigated the most politically fraught and potentially costly episode of his career Opedal said Equinor's US management “had actually trained for a similar scenario”.



Construction was already under way on Equinor's 84-turbine, 2.1 gigawatt wind farm when the White House issued a surprise order in April to halt work on the project © Shuran Huang/The Washington Post/Getty Images

“We were surprised, but prepared,” said Opedal, recalling the late-afternoon call he received with the news while on holiday in southern Norway.

Equinor quickly formed two crisis teams: one to lobby for the order's reversal, the other to prepare for a full shutdown. After an intervention from Jens Stoltenberg, Norway's finance minister and former Nato chief, Opedal flew to

Washington to meet Kevin Hassett, head of the US's National Economic Council.

“We wanted the order lifted in a sustainable way,” said Opedal. “A federal judge could reverse it, but that would still leave uncertainty.”

Instead, the company emphasised the human cost of halting a project already under way. “If you stop a new offshore wind project, people just won’t get a job. But if you stop one in execution, people lose their jobs and that’s a big difference,” he said.

But political negotiations elsewhere were just as critical. Opedal said talks between New York State and the White House over a natural gas pipeline played a “very helpful” role in unlocking the project.

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Trump had long sought approval for the Constitution pipeline — a \$1bn project to carry gas from fields in Pennsylvania to New York and New England — but state regulators had blocked it on environmental grounds. The scheme was cancelled in 2020.

According to Opedal, New York governor Kathy Hochul reopened the conversation. “The governor called me and said: ‘I think I have an angle to talk to the administration on this’,” he said. She phoned again at 4am on May 18 to relay details of a meeting with Trump.

The following day, the stop-work order on Empire Wind was lifted. A week after that, the company behind the Constitution pipeline announced it was reviving its plans.

Opedal described the events as a “rollercoaster” but said it would not derail Equinor’s relationship with the US, where it is a major oil and gas producer in the Gulf of Mexico.

But, he added: “I don’t foresee that embarking on new offshore wind projects will be something that we do.”