“Offshore Wind in the United States”

Presented by:
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Abstract - Offshore wind energy has been a major source of renewable energy in Europe for nearly three decades, however, there are no utility-scale offshore wind projects here in the United States. Recent developments in the industry over the spring and summer 2019 indicate that might be changing soon. Denmark’s Ørsted won New Jersey’s first offshore wind solicitation with a 1.1-gigawatt project known as Ocean Wind, the largest offshore wind project to secure a development deal with a U.S. state to date. Ocean Wind will be built 15 miles from the Atlantic City coast, with construction expected to begin in the early 2020’s and finish in 2024. Almost simultaneously, New York State struck deals with Ørsted and another developer to build 1,700 megawatts of capacity off Long Island, aiming to have turbines in operation by 2024. Ørsted plans to include training programs for new workers — seen as a critical need for the U.S. wind industry.

The talk will cover critical elements of these awards and describe the types of assistance they would seek from academic institutions such as Lehigh University.

Bio - Kris Ohleth has worked in the offshore wind industry in the U.S. for nearly 15 years, since the days of the industry’s inception in the States. As the Director of Permitting and Stakeholder Relations for several offshore wind developers, she has gained critical insights into the regulations that shape offshore wind activities at both the state and federal level. Kris has extensive experience with offshore wind stakeholders in the region and has expert knowledge of ocean planning, having worked on ocean policy issues at all levels, from industry, state, and NGOs perspectives. She is currently Senior Manager of Stakeholder Engagement for the offshore wind developer Ørsted, working across projects in their U.S. portfolio on variety of stakeholder-related issues. Kris is from New Jersey, she is a Rutgers graduate, has a Master’s degree from the University of Rhode Island, and lives in Morris County, New Jersey with her husband and two retired racing greyhounds.