



Press release

“Places of remembrance are not just gusts of wind”
A proposal for setting the wind farm further off shore

A new site for the offshore windfarm on the Normandy coast which will be both ecological and sustainable.

Arromanches-les bains / Courseulles-sur-Mer, 20th May 2014

The forthcoming ceremonies to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Landing of Allied forces in Normandy remind us of the importance of these sites for keeping alive our memory of these events.

If the greatest leaders of our democracies are gathering to these sites, it serves to remind us that this land, these sacrifices and this human suffering opened the way for the liberation of France and of Europe, and for the restoration of peace.

One cannot look at the sea without thinking about this and being deeply moved.

With no respect for these sites of remembrance, 75 masts, 175 meters tall ($\frac{2}{3}$ the height of the Eiffel Tower!), 6 meters in diameter and weighing 1500 tons each, will, from 2015, cover an area of 50km² called the “Courseulles zone” extending from Bernieres-sur-Mer to Arromanches-les-Bains, a mere 10 kilometers out to sea from the Landing Beaches, and be visible along the coast from Grandcamp-Maisy to Deauville.

Since it was announced in February 2013, this enormous project, led by Alstom in partnership with EDF and RTE (The French Public Network for Energy Transportation) has aroused great discontent amongst local people, historians, veterans of 6th June and the families of those who landed.

On D-Day, 1,213 warships, 736 support vessels, 864 freighters and 4,126 boats and landing craft put ashore 20,000 vehicles and 156,000 men onto the Normandy beaches. In total, more than 2 million soldiers, mainly American, British and Canadian but also other allied forces (Free French, Polish, Belgian, Czech, Dutch and Norwegian) would cross the Channel in their wake.

This unprecedented action left its mark on the souls and memories of everyone, not just in Normandy. Each year, millions of Britons, Germans, Americans, Canadians and French travel around the area to discover the remnants of this undertaking. One hundred thousand foreign soldiers are buried in the 27 Normandy military cemeteries. Seventy years after the war the Landing Beaches have become places of

remembrance and meeting – unique in the world, a symbol of resistance, of courage, of transatlantic friendship and of peace.

As the project – designed by Alstom in partnership with EDF – stands, the offshore windfarm will irrevocably change this historical memorial site by permanently altering what makes it so special – its horizon.

The **Libre Horizon** Association (1901 Law) was created on 26th February 2014 to defend the environment and the countryside of these places of remembrance.

Our fight is not against the quest for new sources of energy, nor is it anti windfarms.

The energy stakes are not in question. On the contrary, windfarms have long been part of the Normandy countryside. Eleven development areas have been authorised by May 2012.

The stakes are primarily, and above all, industrial.

It is a question of a project worth 1.8 billion euros supported by a political/industrial lobby which puts forward the benefits of employment with vague and questionable figures. The economic context is even more debatable when one takes into account the concealing of the real costs by subsidies and various electoral promises. It is also worth noting that more and more people are taking issue with marine windfarms which are being abandoned and replaced by tide power at an international level and in particular in America.

Our proposal is to move the site further out than 12 nautical miles in order to better protect the environment, navigation, wildlife and our historical heritage.

This option is technically possible and will no longer be visible from the historic sites.

EDF and RTE have not responded to our various requests for meetings to present our plans nor have they studied the idea of floating wind generators even though these could be operational by 2015.

By means of this press release, we have decided to give information directly to the public and the media.

The commemorative sites of the Normandy Landing Beaches are the testimony of the human sacrifices made for our freedom.

The **Libre Horizon** Association calls for action to respect these sites and will take whatever actions are necessary to achieve its objective.

Libre Horizon is an association regulated by the 1901 law which was created on 26th February 2014. It brings together the inhabitants of the various villages concerned with this project: Arranches-les-Bains, Asnelles, Courseulles-sur-Mer, Crepon, Graye/mer, Longues-sur-Mer, Meuvaines, Sainte-Croix/mer, Saint-Côme-de-Fresné, Tracy, Ver-sur-Mer.

It reunites people from all walks of life, farmers, fishermen, shopkeepers, tourists, historians, veterans and the widows of British and Commonwealth countries, American and Canadian soldiers who landed in 1944.

“MEMORY MUST NOT BE BLOWN AWAY BY THE WIND”

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