



# COUNTY OF ERIE

## OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**Kathy Dahlkemper**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **LEEDCo Takes Next Step for Icebreaker Offshore Wind Project; Donjon Shipbuilding Plays Integral Role in Project**

County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, along with Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority Executive Director Brenda Sandberg, and Lorry Wagner, President of Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) and Dave Karpinski, Vice President of Operation at LEEDCo, will announce Erie County's involvement in the next step in the creation of an offshore wind industry in the Lake Erie region at press conference on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 1:15pm at Donjon Shipbuilding and Repair, 220 E Bayfront Pkwy, Erie, PA.

County Executive Dahlkemper is pleased that Erie County's affiliation with the LEEDCo is already paying off for one business and its workers here in Erie County. LEEDCo will begin a geotechnical investigation of the Lake Erie soils where they plan to install six Monobucket foundations for the Icebreaker offshore wind project, off the lake shore of Cleveland.

Donjon Shipbuilding of Erie will play an important role in the process. Donjon is providing their large crane barge, the Farrell 256, for the investigation. The Donjon team is also providing support from the shipyard as they have prepared the barge and other equipment for the work.

LEEDCo will test the soil and collect samples at each of the six foundation locations. The geotechnical investigation is part of the award that the US Department of Energy made to LEEDCo in 2014 and it builds on the early stage geotechnical work completed in 2013 at the site.

Donjon's Farrell 256 barge will anchor near the site of the project. The work onboard the Farrell 256 will be continuous, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and is expected to take about two weeks.

LEEDCo is the non-profit organization based in Northeast Ohio who is leading the effort to develop the offshore wind industry in Lake Erie. In April of this year, Erie County became the first county outside of Ohio to join the public-private partnership. This membership allows Erie County to coordinate with LEEDCo's other members and partners to shape a long-term strategy for developing offshore wind projects and the manufacturing base for the wind turbines here in the Lake Erie region.

County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper is pleased that work that involves an Erie business is beginning so soon after the County affiliated with LEEDCo. "The Icebreaker project is the first step toward building an exciting new industry in the Lake Erie region with the potential to create thousands of jobs over the long term, many of which could be from firms here in Erie County. Our decision to join LEEDCo earlier this year is a good decision for the future growth of manufacturing in Erie County," she said.

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