

The GE Verona 13.7 MW Haliade X blade that failed off of Nantucket was claimed by GE to be due to a material bonding problem in their Canadian factory.

This blade had a length of 351 ft and was based on the design by DOE in 2010 to develop large blades that could bend and flex under each rotation to reduce stresses .

The cause of the blade failure was a classical torsional fatigue failure of the blade at the base . This blade failure released 60 tons of fiberglass into the ocean. The GE blade design was composed entirely of fiberglass. The blade did not have any reinforcing carbon fiber added. Carbon fibers cost 15 times more than fiberglass and also require extremely toxic epoxy glues for the bonding. However, carbon fiber have 15 times of strength of fiberglass. No airspace structures would ever be composed purely of fiberglass.

This failure occurred during a warm day in July . Imagine what would have occurred during a nor 'eastern storm in the dead of winter!

Edgar Gunter, PhD

Prof. Emeritus Mech. & Aerospace Eng.,UVA

Fellow ASME

