

Steve Taffolla

From: Donna Tisdale <tisdale.donna@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 1:16 AM
To: ECOSUB
Subject: ECO Sub, Tule Wind ESJ Blvd PI Group
Attachments: Blvd PG Tule ECO ESJ DEIREIS 3-4-11.pdf

Please find the Boulevard PLanning Group comments on the DEIR/EIS for ECO Substation, Tule Wind and ESJ

Both my computer and my satellite service gave out on me this evening.

Regards,

Donna Tisdale,Chair
619-766-4170

This footnote confirms that this email message has been scanned by
PineApp Mail-SeCure for the presence of malicious code, vandals & computer viruses.

BOULEVARD PLANNING GROUP

PO BOX 1272, BOULEVARD, CA 91905

California Public Utilities Commission

March 4 , 2011

Attn: Iian Fisher

c/o Dudek

605 Third Street

Encinitas, CA 92024

BLM California Desert District Office

Attn: Greg Thomsen

22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos

Moreno Valley, CA 92553-9046

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Attn: John Rydzik

2800 Cottage Way

Sacramento, CA

VIA E-MAIL: ecosub@dudek.com

RE: DEIR/EIS COMMENTS / ECO SUBSTATION, TULE WIND & ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ (ESJ)

THE *NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE* IS OUR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO AVOID SIGNIFICANT CUMULATIVE CLASS I IMPACTS TO NUMEROUS AT RISK AND IRREPLACEABLE RESOURCES INCLUDING LOCAL RESIDENTS

A subset of society should not be forced to bear the cost of an alleged benefit for the larger society--especially when the so-called benefit has been proven to be a harmful detriment.

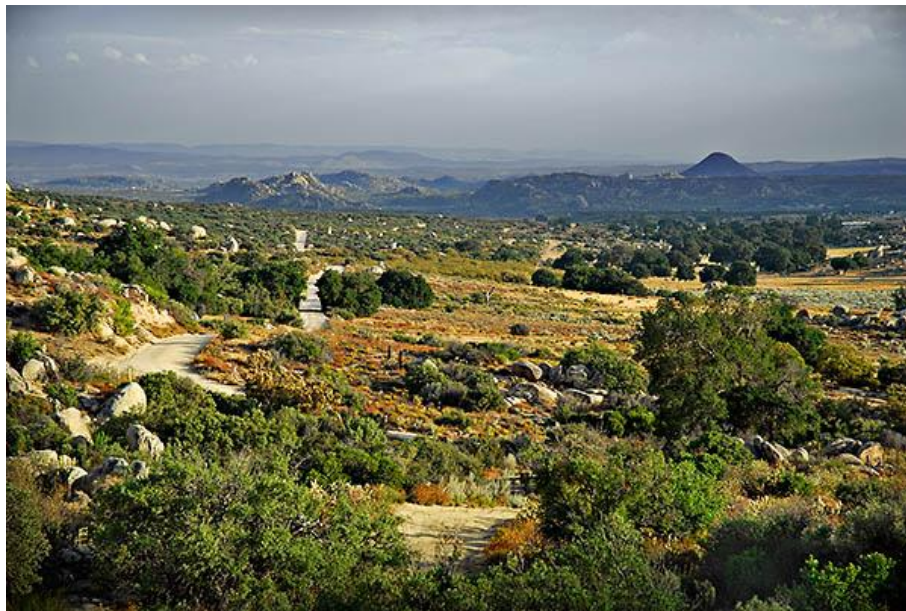
Dear Mr. Fisher, Mr. Thomsen, and Mr. Rydzik,

By unanimous vote, taken at our regular monthly meeting on February 3rd, these comments are submitted on behalf of the Boulevard Planning Group, an elected advisory land use group for the County of San Diego and their various departments.

The massive scale, scope, and number of energy and transmission projects that are being foisted upon us are unprecedented. It is very difficult for average citizen volunteers, with no paid staff or government funding to find the time necessary to review and respond to these complex and complicated projects. Especially so, in this case when there are 3 large main projects and multiple cumulative projects. Having to skip back and forth for the different impacts for each and then the cumulative project impacts is virtually overwhelming. We give it our best shot but we needed much more time to do a thorough review and response.

The cumulative Class I Significant adverse effects to Air Quality; Noise; Biological Resources (Golden Eagles, Bighorn Sheep and more); Visual Character (stunning and vast views) ; Fire Fuels (High fire severity zone) ; Cultural Resources (under surveyed high density, incredibly rich and complex sites), and more, as represented by the proposed project (and cumulative projects) cannot be justified, rationalized, or mitigated. Nor can the similar impacts represented by the Agency Preferred reduced project alternative. We therefore, support the NO PROJECT Alternative, identified at page ES-24 as the top ranked alternative under CEQA and reject any project alternatives that do not further reduce adverse impacts in a compelling and significant manner. Even the DEIR/EIS admits that , "no other feasible mitigation measures or alternatives have been identified that would further reduce project impacts." (ES-25)

The agency preferred alternative, for a reduced project and removal of 62 of the proposed 134 wind turbines, and the undergrounding of some lines, still represents unacceptable adverse impacts and risks to our constituents, community as a whole, and to important irreplaceable and priceless resources, such as this view of McCain Valley. The 500kV Sunrise Powerlink will trample along the left side of McCain Valley Road with the Tule Wind 138 kV next to it. The Tule Wind Substation is proposed for the open pasture area near the center of the photo on land we believe was purchased for that undisclosed purpose by the Hamann Companies.



We hereby incorporate, by reference, all previous comments submitted on each of these three projects, including our scoping comments on this DEIR/EIS, dated February 15, 2010, all the other comments referenced within that scoping comment document, all previous comments on the DOE's EIS for ESJ, our comments on the San Diego County Wind Energy Ordinance Amendments dated October 10, 2010 (attached), and our comments on the Administrative Permit Applications for the Brucci and Enel Jewel Valley MET tower (also attached).

Our community has elected us through multiple election cycles on the same platform to guide local development in a manner that will protect and defend local residents, resources, and the quiet rural quality of life, with vast open vistas and star-studded dark skies, that attracts residents and visitors alike. As previously stated, we strongly resist current wrong-headed and unwarranted political agendas and policies, PROMOTED BY OUR OWN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AT OUR EXPENSE, to transform our quiet rural and natural communities, public wildlands, scenic vistas and recreation resources, into rural sacrifice blighted industrial energy zones--especially when better, cheaper, and less destructive alternatives are available, viable, and economically competitive--as they indeed are.

PARTIAL LIST OF MAJOR AREAS OF CONTROVERSY:

- Need / Request for moratorium on wind turbine project approvals until legitimate 3rd party studies are conducted --and accepted as valid--to determine turbine setbacks that are adequate to protect public health and safety , and to protect livestock and sensitive wildlife.
- Need for a CPCN with cost/benefit analysis and cost cap. Where are the consumer watch dogs like DRA and UCAN?
- Lack of evidence for alleged need for these projects / failure to address reduced energy demands that triggered SDG&E request for rate increase / better less expensive and destructive alternatives.
- Lack of evidence regarding claims of reduced GHG emissions with wind turbine operations. In the UK, wind companies had to retract false claims that were challenged under truth in advertising laws.
- Lack of evidence of fossil fuel plants shut-down based on proposed renewable energy projects / SDG&E and others have increased the number of new efficient gas-fired power plants in the region with more in the planning / review process.
- Potential for above market referent price Power Purchase Agreements for intermittent and unreliable wind energy. SDG&E has a history of this. They do not have to pay the higher price--the ratepayers do. Enel (Jordan/Jewel Valley) actually advertise their success at securing above MRP.
- Lack of response from Secretary of Interior to our request to investigate catastrophic failure at Kumeyaay Wind facility / cause of failure / adverse effects and more/ prior to more turbines being approved on adjacent federal lands.
- Need for unbiased third party blind health surveys, and testing for noise, low frequency noise, infrasound, and stray voltage within a 2-3 mile radius of the existing 25 Kumeyaay Wind Turbine facility and related substations. We have received numerous complaints

and reports of illness, sleep deprivation, anxiety, vertigo, heart issues, at least two suspicious cancer cases at tribal residences near the Kumeyaay Substations, and more, that all started about the time the turbines went into operation. It was also reported that much relief was felt when those turbines were offline for almost 4 months after the December 2009 catastrophic failure occurred.

- Massive dominating Commercial / Industrial scale wind turbine and infrastructure projects **do not comply** with the rural community character, open space and viewshed protections, and **total lack** of industrial zoning, in the either the current or draft Boulevard Community Plan or the San Diego County General Plan.
- WE strongly disagree that the proposed projects comply with local land use plans are requesting NEPA coordination with local agencies, as required by law *for Productive Harmony*. **There must be actual coordination not just cooperation- 40 CFR 1502.16(c)** requires that the DEIR/EIS discuss: "Possible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of Federal, regional, State, and local land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned." - **40 CFR 1506.2(d)** requires: "To better integrate environmental impact statements into State or local planning processes, statements shall discuss any inconsistency of a proposed action with any approved State or local plan and laws. Where an inconsistency exists, the statement should describe the extent to which the agency would reconcile its proposed action with the plan or law."
- D.10-7 states that Clover Flat Elementary is 1.25 miles from the Boulevard Substation and the new 138kV line for Tule Wind however, SDG&E has an existing easement just to the south of the school property that could potentially be used for several new 138 kv lines to serve SDG&E's proposed Campo Wind and Manzanita
- The DEIR/EIS inexplicably limits Class I Noise impacts to "Short-term construction noise associated with ECO Substation and Tule Wind" (ES-25). Documented Noise / adverse impacts from all the operation and maintenance of an estimated total of up to or beyond 392 industrial wind turbines, related power lines, substations, transformers, inverters, traffic, etc, for the Proposed Project / Alternative Projects / Cumulative projects, need to be recognized, analyzed and addressed in a re-circulated Draft EIR/EIR.
- The DEIR/EIS inexplicably discounts public health and safety issues (some already occurring here with Kumeyaay Wind), including but not limited to: adverse health effects, increased turbine related wildfire ignition, noise, low frequency noise, infrasound, vibrations, blade shedding and throw, shadow flicker, tower collapse, potential for wide-spread debris fields from self destructing turbine failures (measured over 2,000 feet or more, up to a mile in the 1980's at Buckeye Wind Farm in Boulevard). *Where are the peer-reviewed studies showing that there are no adverse health effects as the wind industry so falsely claims?*

- Growth inducing / ECO Substation being designed so that it will ultimately be expanded to include components for five 500kV lines / 4,480 MW. New Boulevard Substation designed for up to 4 more 138 kV lines. Where will all that energy be produced and where will all those lines be routed? This is part of the "whole of the project" and must be fully analyzed. Our low-income rural communities will be surrounded and overwhelmed by these massive projects and tangled web of power lines and substations.
- Importing energy exports jobs and violates many stated goals and policies.
- Energy imported from Mexico, with initial grid tie in California (ECO Substation), is treated as California energy for Renewable Portfolio and Renewable Energy Credits programs (CEC Out of State RPS Guidelines Jan 2011)
- Energy projects built out of country, that connect to the California grid, must be built in full compliance with CEQA. But who can oversee or assure that compliance in Mexico.
- Sempra, the parent of Sempra Generation, is reportedly under investigation by the SEC, the FBI and the US Attorney. Investigations have been called for in the last few months, / weeks by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the Mexican Congress. News agencies have repeatedly reported that allegations have been made that certain project permits and authorizations were secured through bribery. Sempra denies these allegations but the jury is still out so to say.
- Significant and cumulative adverse impacts to natural environment, intact habitat and wildlife resources--all totally unnecessary.
- Significant and cumulative adverse impacts to Visual Resources, historic, cultural and recreational resources --that cannot be mitigated to any acceptable degree.
- Under reporting of very high density of significant and complex cultural resources throughout the area , especially so in McCain Valley and Jacumba, including Traditional Cultural Properties, landscapes, sacred sites, village sites, ceremonial sites, gathering sites, and more. These irreplaceable resources must be protected and preserved through designation of National Monument status, with preservation of existing legal uses.
- Significant, cumulative, and irreversible adverse impacts to rural community character, quality of life, peaceful enjoyment of one's home and property.
- Adverse impacts to surface and sole source groundwater resources (including impacts to the blue line Tule Creek and 100 year floodplain and La Posta Creek watershed, groundwater quality and quantity).

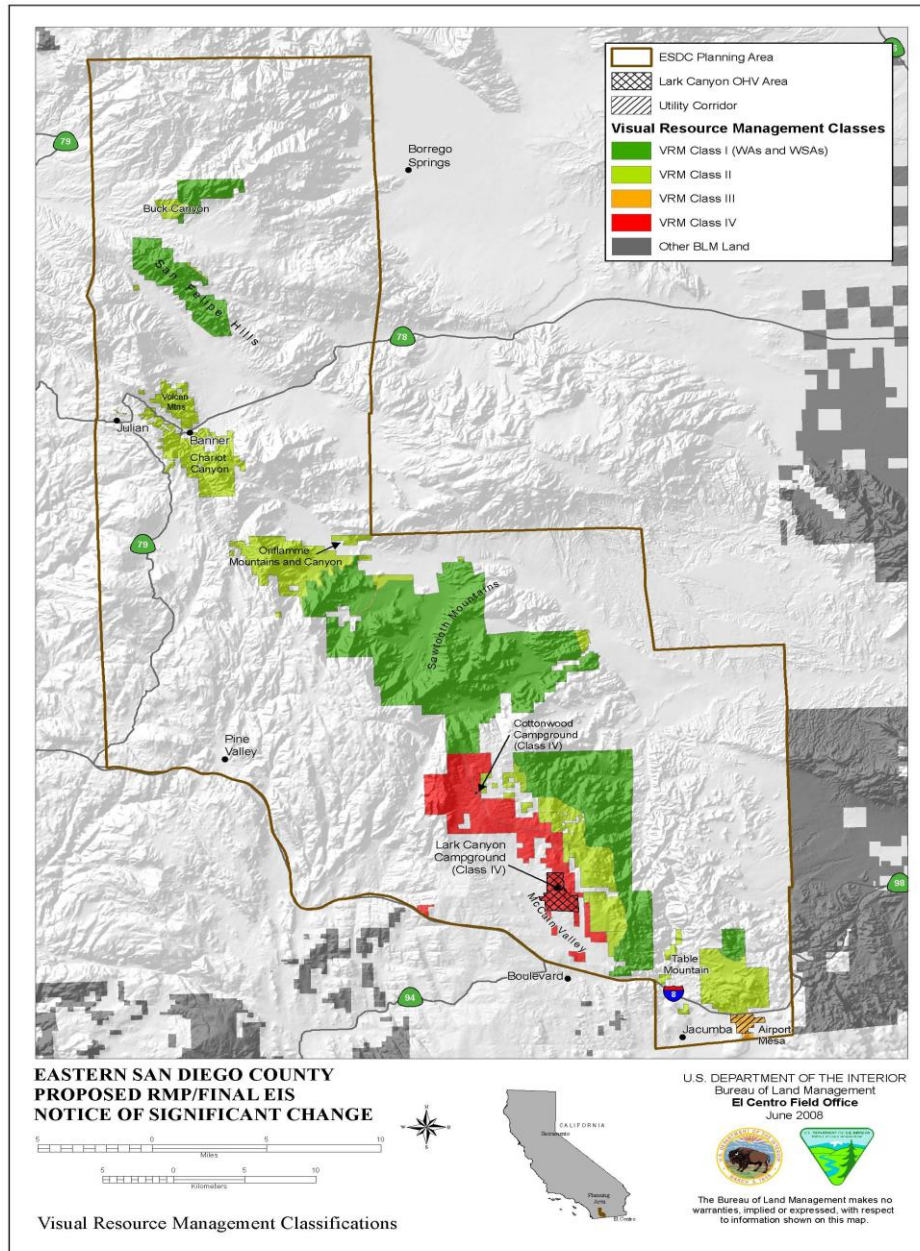
- Significant and cumulative adverse impacts to Property values, increased utility and insurance rates. The DEIR/EIS and project applicants disingenuously tout the much discredited ERNEST ORLANDO LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY (LBNL) Study "Impact of Wind Power Projects on Residential Property Values in the United States". That report is not worth the paper it is written on. Our community deserves better.
- Need for Property Value Guarantee Agreements similar to those that have been proposed or recommended by Michael McCann of McCann Appraisal, LLC. Iberdrola has informed us that they do not "DO" those! If there is no lost value as they claim, then they should not have a problem providing them to the impacted property owners.
- Adverse impacts to tourism and recreation that help support the local economy and businesses that serve the local community and visitors alike.
- **Adverse socio-economic impacts to Low income rural communities / Environmental Justice issues. It has been falsely stated that the locally impacted US communities of Jacumba and Boulevard are too white, are not low income, and there are no environmental justice issues.** According to information found at www.greatschools.org, Jacumba Elementary with grades K-2 has 50 students with 62% participating in free or reduced-price lunch program. The state average is 51%. 28% are English learners. The state average is 24%. Clover Flat Elementary in Boulevard with grades 3-6 has 84 students with 91 % participating in free or reduced lunch program. The state average is 51%. English learners are 23% with State average at 24%. We have a higher number of Native American students with 8% at Jacumba Elementary and 12% at Clover Flat. The state average is less than 1%. One would assume that a majority of students on the Mexican side at Jacumba and La Rumorosa are of Mexican or other indigenous heritage.
- Adverse impacts to established aviation routes of travel, training and operations, communications, surveillance, and search and rescue activities, for our military , the Department of Homeland Security, and emergency services, including fire fighters -- safe operations and personnel safety are at risk.
- Questions, and need for full disclosure, over Rough Acres Ranch property ownership of various parcels involved in Tule Wind Project: Hamann Companies / Hamann family members / various charities and foundations (some registered out-of-state) / and how the ownership of project parcels relates to reduced or avoided income taxes and / or property taxes that could in turn result in a lower tax base and lower fees / payments that would otherwise benefit Boulevard Volunteer Fire and Rescue, and other infrastructure. What purpose do the various charities serve? What is their source of income? Who benefits? Are they audited?
- Cumulative impacts from 4 major Rough Acres Ranch projects with MUPs. Projects and are being segmented and stalled so they don't have to analyzed as cumulative impacts.

As stated in our previous scoping comments for these projects, our group has been actively involved in the public review process for this and other related energy and transmission projects proposed for, and through, our planning area since 2004-05 when Pacific Wind (PPM Energy / Iberdrola) received a categorical exclusion from the BLM El Centro office for their first MET Towers--which we objected to. When Kumeyaay Wind was proposed in 2004 or so, we were not notified in a timely manner and were only made aware of the project when the EA and FONSI were issued. That project went on line in 2005 and triggered problems with brown outs and surges during the previously undisclosed use of emergency generators while our single 69 kV was upgraded to accommodate the 50 MW of new wind energy.

We were also involved in the process where the BLM unlawfully downgraded the highly scenic and culturally and biologically rich McCain Valley Resource Conservation and Recreation Area, through their Notice of Significant Change to the proposed Final EIS for the Eastern San Diego County Resource Management Plan--**based on one single protest from PPM Energy/ Iberdrola**. Copies of that single protest can be provided. See the map copied below (dated June 2008). We have voted unanimously, on numerous occasions, to oppose each of these projects based on the significant and cumulative adverse impacts that they represent to this unique area and the impacted human and natural communities and scientifically identified globally significant and rare resources and vanishing wildlife corridors. Where will the big cats prowl and the Golden Eagles soar when these large intact habitats are chopped up and rendered useless to sustain these large predators?

The heavily impacted rural East County is extremely fire prone, as well as environmentally, biologically and culturally sensitive. These massive energy projects not only represent adverse impacts to current residents, if not properly sited, they can also impact, damage, and destroy ancient Native American village and camp sites, human remains, graves, grave goods, artifacts, religious and ceremonial sites, traditional cultural properties and landscapes in and around traditional Kumeyaay / Kamia territory. Once destroyed, these critical resources, and the amazing heritage they represent, that should be protected for the benefit of current and future generations, under both state and federal law, cannot be replaced at any price

BLM Map, below, shows in red the drastic result of intense lobbying by PPM Energy / Iberdrola. Their one protest to a Final EIS resulted into what we understand was the first Finding of Significant Change to a Final EIS --without a recirculation of that EIR/EIS for public comment on the devastating downgrade.



FIRE:

- We support, endorse, and incorporate by reference, the comments made on this DEIR/EIS by the Boulevard / Jacumba / La Posta Fire Safe Council and Jacumba resident and retired fire fighter, Mark Ostrander.

- Figure D-15.1 vividly documents the location of all but a small section of the ECO 138 kV line as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.
- The subject DEIR/EIS and that for the Sunrise Powerlink both ranked the increased risk of fire and interference with fire fighting as adverse Significant Class I and unmitigable.
- The fire impacts ranked as Class I and unmitigable for the proposed and reduced project do **not** fully or adequately address turbine sparked fires, that are a valid concern based on photographic evidence of malfunctioning and flaming turbines, regardless of proposed clearing proposed around the base of each turbine that will be useless during high winds. There are also reliability issues with the proposed self dousing fire suppression systems that Iberdrola has proposed using.
- Tall metal turbine structures and energy fields surrounding them can attract lightning strikes that further increase the risk of fire.
- Many property owners lost their homes in the 2003 or 2007 fire storms that raged through East County. Some were reportedly sparked by SDG&E's infrastructure and poor maintenance. We don't need more powerlines, substations, transformers or inverters here.
- A recent SDG&E Substation fire in Escondido took two days to extinguish. Attempts to contact the CPSD of the PUC, to determine the status of the investigation into the substation fire, were not responded to.
- The introduction of more turbines, transmission lines and substations in underserved rural areas is counter intuitive.
- The cumulative impacts from all these projects on increased fire risk are reason enough to deny both the proposed project and any alternative other than the NO Project Alternative

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

- Rural East County and Western Imperial County contain some of the most well preserved and extensive complex cultural sites and resources in the US--at they are being lost on a daily basis for totally unnecessary and unjustified development.

- Significant and cumulative impacts to all the cultural resources listed above, and more, from multiple projects identified in the Cumulative Projects list, including the Sunrise Powerlink, are unacceptable.
- Native American monitors have informed us at Planning Group meetings, and elsewhere, that there are many discrepancies between what has been reported for the proposed project and what the actual physical impacts are on the ground.
- It has also been reported that developers for all aspects of the proposed project have been less than cooperative and have failed to uphold previous agreements to provide up to 300 feet of flex to avoid significant cultural resources.
- It is our understanding that there are still outstanding and unresolved siting issues regarding impacted Traditional Cultural Properties, graves, grave goods, ceremonial and camp sites, villages, plant foods, and artifacts, especially in the McCain Valley and Jacumba areas.
- We have also been advised that artifacts have gone missing once identified and marked for project surveys, and that one project team member was allegedly caught in a theft.
- Concerns have also been expressed that the proposed destination of collected artifacts at the museum in Ocotillo is objected to and that a better alternative is needed.
- In the event some form of the proposed project moves forward, a potential mitigation measure would be for the funding, construction, and operation of a Kumeyaay Museum to be jointly owned and operated by the Kumeyaay member nations who so choose to participate. Local tribal members have expressed tentative support for this idea when raised at several planning group meetings.
- Conservation easements are needed to protect these valuable resources. Those that qualify for the National Historic Register should be so designated ASAP. Designating McCain Valley as a National Monument while preserving current legal uses would be a good start of showing good faith to impacted Native American tribal members.

NEPA/CEQA COMPLAINT:

- The apparent double standard for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, with large-scale so-called green energy projects getting a virtual waiver, is

unacceptable, especially when much less destructive projects have been denied outright.

- No double standards should be allowed for renewable energy projects proposed for tribal lands as was recently proposed.
- It is our understanding that SDG&E is / was negotiating with the Campo Reservation Fire Department to install a helipad as part of their Sunrise Powerlink project or this project. It was also alleged that SDG&E openly stated that they wanted to avoid NEPA and CEQA review and expense of that helipad.
- The conversion of previously protected public lands and resources, designated recreation areas, and open space into for-profit commercial industrial energy zones is neither necessary nor acceptable.
- The BLM's down zoning for the Eastern San Diego Resource Management Plan (2008), that changed the zoning from protected to industrial use is the subject of ongoing litigation as part of the federal lawsuit: Case No. 3:10-CV-01222-MMA (BGS): Backcountry Against Dumps, the Protect Our Communities Foundation, the East County Community Action Coalition and Donna Tisdale v BLM, DOI & FWS
- The proposed project relies on the Sunrise Powerlink that is the subject of the same litigation noted above. It is also the subject of second federal suit filed against the US Forest Service alleging similar noncompliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, FLPMA and more.
- The BLM's rushed approval of the Sunrise Powerlink, Imperial Valley Solar, and 5 other large scale ARRA fast-tracked solar projects, with alleged lack of compliance with adequate Section 106 consultation, NHPA NEPA, ESA, and FLPMA has resulted in two lawsuits filed by several Native American Groups with more pending.

ARRA SECTION 1603 GRANT FUNDING **SHOULD BE DENIED AND THE PROGRAM REVOKED:**

- The United States government recently passed a dubious milestone with debt topping \$14 trillion — \$45,300 for each and everyone in the country.
- In a period of deep deficits and strained revenues, spending priorities need to be carefully weighed and prioritized

- Iberdrola Renewables, a Spanish Corporation, has already benefitted significantly from a reported \$ 1 billion in ARRA grants.
- Any ARRA grants applications for Iberdrola's Tule Wind, DFG&E's ECO Substation and/ or Sempra's ESJ should be denied outright based on the lack of need and cumulative Class I significant impacts to critically important resources.
- If wind turbines are being approved on public lands, and portrayed as safe, why was another \$745,000 ARRA (2009) grant given to Dow Corning to develop a lifetime lubricant for gearboxes used on wind turbines (to reduce overheating and fires), with the Michigan Aerospace Corp. in Ann Arbor receiving a \$748,002 grant for a turbine reliability study and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor receiving a grant for \$413,534 to study voltage control and transient stability. <http://blog.mlive.com/mid-michigan-business-impact/print.html?entry=/2009/07/dow-corning-to-get-745000-for.html>
- **Supersubsidy upon Subsidy** Following the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September 2008, tax-based policy incentives lost much of their effectiveness as the number of tax equity investors declined. Provisions under ARRA were designed to fill the void by reducing, and essentially eliminating, the need for tax advantaged investors. The Section 1603 cash grant program enabled developers to secure direct monetary outlays from the Federal government to cover 30 percent of a project's qualifying cost. ([Greenwire October 14](#)). The criteria for receiving the grant were not onerous and the Treasury Department was prohibited by law from ranking the projects before distributing the funds. **Spanish energy giant Iberdrola Renewables, Inc., which received nearly a billion dollars in cash grants alone, argued the money was crucial to promote jobs and economic opportunity (as if the money spent elsewhere would not have done the same....)**. But a [preliminary evaluation](#) of the grant outlays published last year found that 61% of the grant money distributed through to March 2010 "likely would have deployed under the PTC [production tax credit] if the grant did not exist." In many cases, money went to projects that were already under construction, and in some cases already producing electricity. **Comparing the Subsidies** Around the time ARRA was passed, researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory provided an [academic comparison](#) between the production tax credit and the ITC/cash grant from the perspective of a project developer/owner. The authors claim that the programs are — at least in theory — equivalent but offer a quantitative financial analysis to determine which program might provide the better financial option based on project characteristics. The study looked at total installed project costs (\$/kilowatt) and net capacity factor and calculated the difference between the two subsidies. Tables 2 and 5 from [the report](#) show the net value of the ITC/cash grant for wind and geothermal respectively. For wind, the report concluded that "under most capacity factor assumptions, projects that cost \$1,500/kW or less are likely to receive more value from the PTC, while projects that cost more than \$2,500/kW are likely to be better off with the ITC [cash grants]." For geothermal the report found "the PTC provides more value in nearly all cost and capacity factor combinations

examined.” While we do not doubt the arithmetic used, the range of project costs considered do not reflect the market and leave the reader with a sense that the PTC is an equal or better benefit than the cash grant. For example, wind project costs were assumed to range between \$1500/kW and \$2500/kW, yet most onshore wind projects built since 2009 are at least \$2200/kW and many cost more than \$2500/kW. Offshore projects are double at \$5000/kW. The authors placed geothermal project costs at under \$6000/kW, but typical project costs now start at \$6000/kW. Net capacity factors for wind ranged from 25% to 45%, representing generation levels much higher than actual and forecasted for the projects we reviewed, including offshore wind. There are other qualitative benefits under the cash program which shift the rewards to wind and geothermal developers while laying project debt and risks at the feet of American taxpayers. For example, the production tax credit is dependent on project performance; the cash grant is not. This has the effect of eliminating performance risks for the developer. If a project’s net capacity factor is marginal the public still grants the cash and projects that would normally not meet financial threshold requirements are apt to get built anyway. The Section 1603 program substitutes government payments for private investments after which the government just walks away. **An Addicted Industry** Upfront cash grants have only served to grow the industry’s dependency on federal subsidies and in return, developers have minimal incentive to negotiate lower prices with suppliers and no financial obligation to meet claimed capacity factors. The speed at which the industry became reliant on this new stimulus should not surprise anyone. However, there are cheaper, much more effective opportunities for achieving clean energy goals. Instead, we have succeeded in adopting a policy that drives up construction and energy costs while at the same time eliminating any incentive to build projects that can meet the highest performance standards. In fact, the more expensive a project is to construct the better for vendors, contractors and developers. It doesn’t stop there. For intermittent resources, higher construction and operational costs also push up energy prices since there are fewer hours of operation to spread the inflated costs over. Power purchase agreements for onshore wind are at least two times higher than traditional sources of generation. Offshore wind agreements are priced at [four times energy market rates](#)....*We wish to thank Mr. William Short for co-authoring our editorial this week. Mr. Short is an independent consultant with a practice that specializes in renewable energy in the New England states. ----*

[1] The federal production tax credit (PTC) was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and amended over time. The subsidy provides a 10-year, inflation-adjusted production tax credit for power generated by certain types of renewable energy projects, including wind, biomass, geothermal, and other renewable fuels excluding solar. The inflation-adjusted credit is currently at \$21/MWh. To qualify for the PTC, the power must be sold to an unrelated party. The cash grant program under ARRA creates a new subsidy, administered by the Treasury. The program provides grants covering up to 30% of the cost basis of qualified renewable energy projects that are placed in service in 2009-11, or that commence construction during 2009-11 and are placed in service prior to 2013 for wind, 2017 for solar, and 2014 for other qualified technologies. The Treasury is required to make payments within 60 days after an application is received or the project is placed in service, whichever is later. <http://www.windaction.org/faqs/30959>

VISUAL RESOURCES

- Eastern San Diego County's much-loved rural character and wide open vistas should be preserved and protected, as they were before the BLM and US Forest Service unacceptably gutted their limited use zoning and visual resource protections to allow a new unplanned utility corridor for Sunrise Powerlink and the industrial zoning needed for Tule Wind. Both those actions are the subject of unresolved federal lawsuits.
- A **premium view** adds value to local private properties. Loss of that view results in a loss in value.
- Loss / degradation of visual resources and premium views also negatively impacts the outdoor / wilderness experience that most people seek when they visit McCain Valley and other impacted public lands in the area.
- Most if not all of the visual simulations of the proposed project and alternatives, inexplicably leave out the 500 kV Sunrise Powerlink lines that represents significant and cumulative impacts for a significant portion of the ROW for the Tule Wind turbines and 138 KV line, and the ECO / Boulevard Substation 128 kV line. (D.3 Visual). This needs to be corrected as it does not represent the visual and other impacts as we know them.
- Figure D.3-17 C shows the proposed 138 kV line for Tule Wind AT THE ENTRANCE TO MCCAIN RECREATION AREA and MCCAIN VALLEY NATIONAL COOPERATIVE LAND AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, but it does not include the Sunrise Powerlink that is proposed to run in that very same location. This is a significant misrepresentation and needs to be corrected.
- The visual simulation of the view of the proposed Boulevard Substation from adjacent homes is missing and should be included. Only the current view is shown.(D.3-14a)
- The KOPs for ECO Substation do not show any views from elevated locations north of I-8 where a new off-the-grid custom home is located at the base of Table Mountain, or from the top of Table Mountain, located within the ACEC, where stunning unobstructed vast vistas reach far into Mexico and every other direction.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY:

- See comments above on Noise and Fire., and elsewhere in these comments
- The DEIR/EIS is missing adequate turbine setbacks from private property lines and residences, public roads, campgrounds, OHV , hiking and riding trails, and power lines. This is a matter of public health and safety.
- How can this DEIR/EIS rank potential turbine blade throw and tower collapse as NO IMPACT when the turbines are placed within and immediately adjacent to the Lark Canyon OHV Park and Campground, the Cottonwood Campground, throughout Boulevard
- Iberdrola has informed us that turbines are within 300-500 feet of the Sunrise Powerlink. This presents an unnecessary threat of blade throw or turbine collapse

taking out the powerlink and /or sparking a catastrophic fire storm. More setback should be mandated.

RECREATION

- Figure D.5-2 shows the significant and cumulative adverse impacts to the BLM's Boulevard/Jacumba Destination Special Recreation Management Areas and Zones.
- This impact should be ranked as significant and cumulative with Sunrise Powerlink and all the other recognized cumulative impact projects.
- Figure F-2 shows 16 turbines proposed within the Lark Canyon OHV Park and adjacent to the Lark Canyon Campground
- Figure F-2 also shows 9 turbines in very close proximity to the Cottonwood Campground at the north end of McCain Valley Road
- The proposed locations of all or part of the planned Tule Wind and Energia Sierra Juarez wind turbines will be highly visible from many destination recreation, Wilderness, and ACEC areas resulting in significant and cumulative adverse impacts.
- Table D.5-1: Reduced / precluded access and/or visitation to these areas, ranked in the top 4 of 10 most visited places within the BLM El Centro's boundaries, will have adverse and cumulative impacts on local businesses who currently enjoy that business.
- Lost and reduced access to these recreation areas, as stated in the DEIR/EIS will be an adverse impact that cannot be mitigated by posting notices 30 days in advance. Visits to these areas are often spontaneous.
- Cumulative and significant loss of access and use of BLM lands across the southwest related to these massive renewable energy projects, including the BLM's approval of the 6,500 acre Imperial Valley Solar project on land zoned as Limited Use with numerous open routes and campsites, and the proposed Ocotillo Express Wind ,is wholly unnecessary and unacceptable.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC:

- **Table D.16-7 admits that, "the proposed project construction and operation would cause a decrease property value". But then classifies that impact as "Not Adverse"!**
- Please explain why reduction of property values for local residents is not adverse, especially when our tax dollars and increased utility rates will be supporting increased profits for Iberdrola, SDG&E and Sempra.
- The same table claims that the property tax revenues and/or fees from the project presence would substantially benefit public agencies.

- Where is the accounting of any benefits that would flow back into the impacted communities and those property owners whose suffer decreased property value, borrowing power, potential loss of property sales, and quality of life?
- In other impacted communities, where turbines have been placed too close to homes, some property owners have had to abandon their homes due to adverse health effects and lack of interested buyers.
- The project developers should be required to enter into legitimate and enforceable Property Value Protection Agreements to ensure against the total property losses that can be expected as evidenced in other communities impacted by the proliferation of industrial wind turbines too close to homes, along with all the related transmission infrastructure.
- According to information found at www.greatschools.org, Jacumba Elementary with grades K-2 has 50 students with 62% participating in free or reduced-price lunch program. The state average is 51%. 28% are English learners. The state average is 24%. Clover Flat Elementary in Boulevard with grades 3-6 has 84 students with 91 % participating in free or reduced lunch program. The state average is 51%. English learners are 23% with State average at 24%. We have a higher number of Native American students with 8% at Jacumba Elementary and 12% at Clover Flat. The state average is less than 1%. One would assume that a majority of students on the Mexican side at Jacume and La Rumorosa are of Mexican or other indigenous heritage.

TRAFFIC:

- Cumulative traffic impacts to Boulevard and Jacumba's limited access routes and residents, from Sunrise Powerlink, Tule Wind, ECO Substation, Energia Sierra Juarez, the Enel Jewel Valley wind project, the proposed new Campo and Manzanita wind projects, and the new \$30 million Boulevard Border Patrol Station, have not been adequately recognized or addressed.
- Complaints are already been received regarding hundreds of sand and gravel trucks heading daily to SDG&E's Rough Acres Ranch construction yard, and numerous near misses with local property owners trying to enter and leave their properties along Ribbonwood Road and Historic Rt 80.
- Construction traffic has been reported to start as early as 5 AM.

MITIGATION:

- No amount of mitigation can or will reduce the adverse impacts on rural communities. irreplaceable, priceless resources, public health and safety and quality of life.

- Developers for all proposed wind turbine projects (on and off-tribal land) should be required to fund a unbiased third party hiring of an independent qualified specialist to conduct pre-construction ambient noise levels with full spectrum weighting at all property lines and homes, within a 1-mile minimum.
- Legitimate and enforceable monitoring and complaint resolution needs to be part of any project approvals / contractual agreements.
- The project developers should be required to enter into legitimate and enforceable Property Value Protection Agreements to ensure against the total property losses that can be expected as evidenced in other communities impacted by the proliferation of industrial wind turbines too close to homes, along with all the related transmission infrastructure.
- In the event the project/reduced project is approved, over justified objections, adequate funding should be required of project developers and committed to new Boulevard and Jacumba fire stations with necessary equipment to attack fires on 500' tall wind turbines, along miles of new transmission lines, and at remote 5-60 acre substations, along with funding for 24/7 staffing and equipment, and station maintenance and operation, with upgrades for the life / lease of the project(s).
- Any fire mitigation agreements should be required to be negotiated with full disclosure and legally noticed public review and comment, **prior** to any such approvals.
- Additional funding to address the increased fire risk should also be provided through the Jacumba/Boulevard/La Posta Fire Safe Council.
- To prevent future adverse industrial development of the McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area / McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area, I propose revoking the previous changes made to the East County Resource Management Area and support for a new McCain National Monument, with preservation of all currently existing and authorized uses.
- The most impacted communities of Boulevard and Jacumba should receive the vast majority of mitigation funding rather than less impacted communities like Campo that is much more removed from the cumulative adverse impacts.
- Boulevard has no real community center, no library, no clinic, no emergency or evacuation center. Our community deserves to have a multi-purpose facility on a lot large enough to accommodate future expansions, and or recreation facilities.

- Any mitigation funds should go to public entities, not private property owners or their related charities / foundations that do not serve the local community in any real manner.

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED AT KUMEYAAY WIND BEFORE BUILDING APPROVING MORE INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES HERE



San Diego Union Tribune photo of Kumeyaay turbines under repair

Prior to consideration of approving any additional wind turbine projects in this area, Secretary Salazar needs to respond to our previous Boulevard Planning Group letter, dated May 21, 2010, asking for an investigation into the cause of the catastrophic failure (December 2009) and several accidents at the Kumeyaay Wind facility located on lands leased from the Campo Kumeyaay Nation, that resulted in the project being off-line for 3-4 months, and the need to replace all 75 turbine blades and other components. Several local residents (tribal and non-tribal) witnessed the blue light ball that arced out to all 25 turbines during a snow storm, and the alleged brake failure, we have heard that over \$ 8 million has reportedly been spent so far trying to repair that damage. Discarded blades and other components still litter the ground, one year later. They also report there is ongoing lawsuit between the turbine manufacturer and the project operator over liability for the catastrophic failure.

If the explosive electronic failure at Kumeyaay Wind had occurred during dry Santa Ana winds, or a similar one occurs in the future at any one of these existing or proposed project, the outcome may not be isolated to the immediate area of the turbines, and a catastrophic wild fire could be sparked. There is no benefit in that--for anyone. The local community deserves a full investigation and disclosure on this issue and a full accounting of which agencies have oversight and authority over these large scale projects.





The two photos above, and one below (showing leaking oil) are part of the attached power point document that shown to Congressman Bob Filner at a community meeting held on February 24, 2011 in Ocotillo, CA. They were taken at the Kumeyaay Wind facility on property leased from the Campo Kumeyaay Nation. The photographer was reportedly unaware that they were actually trespassing at the time.



Wind-farm worker, two others injured by electrical shocks

By [Onell R. Soto](#)

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 19, 2010 AT 3:52 P.M., UPDATED APRIL 19, 2010 AT 7:10 P.M.



A semi tractor trailer travels westbound on I-8, passing the wind farm on the Campo Indian Reservation, back in October 2009. Lightning struck the power towers during a fierce storm on Monday, Dec. 07, 2009, causing some damage. (John Gibbins/Union-Tribune)

CAMPO INDIAN RESERVATION — A wind-farm worker who suffered an electrical shock while working about noon Monday was airlifted to safety from the Campo Indian Reservation, authorities said.

Two other men were hurt. One was taken to a hospital by ambulance, and the other sought help on his own.

The three were injured by electrical shocks, but it's unclear exactly how that happened, said Capt. James Williams of the Campo Reservation Fire Protection District.

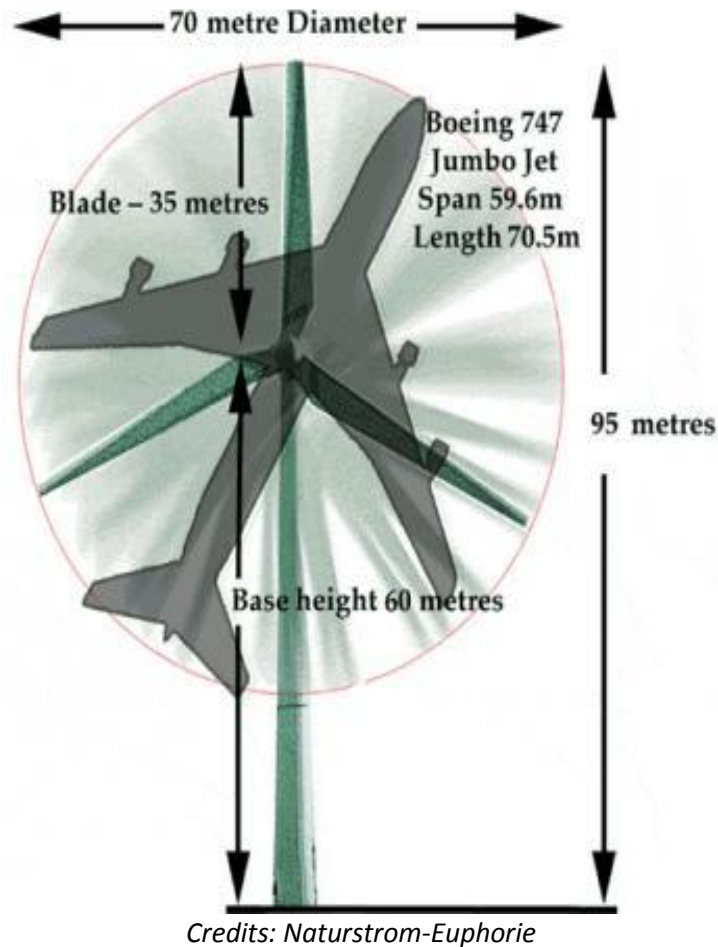
David Smith, chief operating officer for Bluarc Management, which runs the Kumeyaay Wind farm, said an investigation into the incident is continuing.

The 25-turbine facility, which generates power for San Diego Gas & Electric, was shut down at noon as a result of the incident.

The wind farm has just recently begun producing power again after the blades on its turbines were replaced following wind damage suffered during a Dec. 7 storm, Smith said.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/apr/19/electrocuted-wind-farm-worker-airlifted-to/>

The diagram below, gives an idea of the massive size and intrusion these industrial wind turbines represent, especially when placed on our uncluttered ridgelines that ring our community and residential neighborhoods.



ECO SUBSTATION ISSUES / CONCERNS

The ECO Substation Project includes the following major components:

- Construction of a 500/230/138-kilovolt (kV) substation in Eastern San Diego County
- Construction of the Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) loop-in, a short loop-in of the existing SWPL transmission line to the proposed ECO Substation
- Construction of a 138 kV transmission line, approximately 13.3 miles in length, running between the proposed ECO Substation and the rebuilt Boulevard Substation
- "Rebuild" of the existing Boulevard Substation, but it will be a new and much larger substation

Additional ECO Substation details:

- 58 acres with 25 acres of additional cut and fill
- 15 X 30 120,000 gallon water tank
- 2 retention basins, 1.2 and 1.9 acres
- Microwave communication tower and backup generator (noise issues) and cumulative Radio impacts
- Tallest structure 135'
- Approximately 1,500' from nearest property line /but many more residential lots are in close proximity and have not been fully disclosed.
- These properties will be vastly reduced in appeal and value but there is no mention of compensation. Other properties were outright condemned for easements.
- A new custom off-the-grid home is less than 3,600 feet just north side of I-8, at base of Table Mountain, with a gorgeous view over the proposed 80 plus acre substation site and on into Baja where the ESJ turbines will be. Yet there are no photos showing the views (value) that will be lost.
- DEIR/EIS Project documents / maps do not disclose proximity of multiple vacant private properties within 1 mile.
- 13.3 miles of new 138 kV transmission line to connect with new Boulevard Substation (eminent domain)
- 14 homes reportedly located within 500 feet of new 138 kV line (DEIR/EIS D.85 Noise)

The Growth Inducing Effects of ECO Substation and design to ultimately expand to include up to five 500-kV lines with 4,480 MW capacity *are not addressed:*

" The ECO Substation will be designed so that it will ultimately be expanded to include the following components:

- **Five 500 kV bays**
- Nine 239 kV bays
- Nine 138 kV bays
- **Four 500/230 transformer banks**
- Three 230/128 kV transformer banks
- One or more 500 kV series capacitors
- Two 230 kV , 63 MVAR shunt capacitors
- Four 12 kV. 180 MVAR shunt reactor banks
- One 230 kV static VAR compensator

Source :SDG&E's ECO Substation Application. Expansion info at page 8 :

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ECOSUB/SDG&E%20ECO%20Application_A0908003.pdf

- The maximum amount of oil required for the transformers at the ECO Substation will be approximately 569,800 gallons that represent a threat to sole source groundwater supplies and a major fire hazard.
- Where all those new transmission lines will run through our rural communities



The photo above shows the SDG&E communication tower that was installed around May 2010 at the Tierra Del Sol project area. Will there be another? This represents cumulative impacts to fire fighters who are quartered less than 100 feet from this cell tower complex , that is much larger than shown in this photo

Substation explosions and fires, like the recent SDG&E fire in Escondido, are of major concern, with the potential for out of control fires, and the release of toxic fumes and oil that can either ignite or seep into groundwater and watercourses, and, and only limited emergency response staff, equipment, and funding to address a massive increase in high risk infrastructure into rural communities and sensitive public lands and open space.



Photo and news story on Dec 21, 1010 fire below were found at www.10News.com

Transformer Fire At SDG&E Substation Extinguished *Substation Located In 500 Block Of Enterprise Street In Escondido*

POSTED: 3:07 pm PST December 22, 2010

"**ESCONDIDO, Calif.** -- A stubborn fire sparked when an electrical transformer exploded at a North County utility substation continued to burn for a second day Thursday, until crews ultimately were able to suffocate the flames with a chemical foam. The non-injury blaze at the San Diego Gas & Electric facility in the 500 block of Enterprise Street in Escondido erupted shortly after noon Wednesday. About an hour later, city officials used a reverse 911 system to urge residents within a mile of the heavily smoky fire to limit their time outdoors in the area as much as possible as a health precaution. Crews initially tried to let the blaze, which was burning in a roughly 30- by-30-foot area, burn itself out. Late Wednesday evening, they tried in vain to extinguish it with foam. The blaze kept burning until firefighters attacked it once again with the chemical suppressant this afternoon. The effort finally succeeded shortly before 2:30 p.m., police Lt. Craig Carter said."

SDG&E substation fire video posted on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEHvpo9i4fU>

BOULEVARD SUBSTATION ISSUES / CONCERNS

Boulevard Substation is not a "rebuild " it will be brand new much larger substation on residential land and taking out a home and mature oaks"

- New 3-acre substation will be built on residential zoned property immediately east of the existing older and much substation.
- ***Boulevard Expansion will allow for up to four generation tie-lines***
- There is evidence that substations and switchyards can generate excessive noise, low frequency noise and infrasound and dangerous levels of EMF and stray voltage.
- Comments were submitted into the record on this project from Paul Thompsen whose home and that of his neighbors, the Kidd family, in Ontario Canada are so adversely impacted from the adjacent wind turbine substation that they cannot live in them. Paul and Kidd family members have also developed a sensitivity to electricity due to overexposure generated by the substation. Attempts by the turbine company to remediate the problems have not been successful. Thompson's property taxes were reduced by 50% after he played a recording of the noise in his home to the assessment board. The Kidd family had to move away and sell their horses and abandon a successful breeding business due to adverse health effects to themselves and their animals.
- Pre-construction health surveys and testing by an unbiased third party must be conducted for ambient full spectrum noise and stray voltage readings, to set a base line that the energy company must maintain at their own expense--not the expense of the impacted neighbors.
- Currently designated 1 DU 4/8/20 acres and zoned S 92 Multiple Use. Pending General Plan Update will re-designate as Semi-rural SR -10 1 DU/20, 20 acres.)
- Existing home and structures will be removed. Mature Oaks may be removed.
- 2 single family homes are located within 500-600 feet (DEIR/EIS D.85 Noise)
- Nearby homes are located south, west, north , and east of new site. (see current views at -14A Figure D.34 existing setting:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ecosub/Draft_EIR/D-3_VisualResources.pdf
- About 50 homes or more are within about 1,500' of proposed substation and new 138 kV line as shown in Figure D.4-5c. More are out of site in the Calxico Lodge area across Old 80 to the Northwest.
- At least one known sensitive receptor, ill with cancer and suppressed immune system, lives less than 2,000 feet southwest of proposed substation. Their home is also about 750 feet from the SDG&E easement that is a potential route for two or more new 138 kV lines that will serve Campo and Manzanita Wind projects.
- Two steel poles 85' tall will be installed southwest of new substation. These are much more industrial and view impairing in appearance.

- New 138 kV lines will come in from Jewel Valley to the south from ECO Substation impacted many private properties along the way. SDG&E has already used eminent domain despite the fact that their project has not yet been approved.
- New 138 kV lines will come in from the north from Tule Wind--but no easements have been secured and may not be made available. Iberdrola does not have eminent domain rights to condemn.
- 2 New 138 kV lines will come in from the west along an unidentified SDG&E Easement (likely along the line that comes into the existing substation from the west) from unidentified new substation locations that will serve SDG&E's and Invenergy's proposed Campo and SDG&E's Manzanita Wind projects.
- **One or more of these new 138 kV lines (for Campo / Manzanita Wind) will likely pass very near the southern boundary of the Clover Flat Elementary School in Boulevard.**
- New 138 kV line will come in from the Jewel Valley area (south) , from the Ribbonwood Road area (northwest), and potentially from the McCain Valley Road / Old Hwy Road area (northeast)
- **These routes and impacts to those property owners and adjacent property owners must be disclosed and the cumulative impacts addressed.**

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ECOSUB/SDG&E%20ECO%20Application_A0908003.pdf

TULE WIND / IBERDROLA RENEWABLES

IBERDROLA'S INTERFERENCE WITH BOULEVARD COMMUNITY PLAN;

EXPENSIVE \$400 K/YEAR LOBBYING CAMPAIGNS;

RECEIPT OF OVER \$1 BILLION IN ARRA GRANT REWARDS;

- IBERDROLA IS CUTTING BACK ON 2011-2012 INVESTMENTS BY OVER 1/2--SHARES DOWN:
- In 2007, Iberdrola spent around \$1.5K in lobbying, in 2008 and 2009 they spent just under \$400k and in Jan -July 26 ,2010, they spent \$399,950 in lobbying the US Senate, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.
- Bloomberg reported on March 2, 2011 that Iberdrola Renewables is cutting back on 2011-2012 investments by over 1/2 --shares down: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-02/iberdrola-renewables-sets-limit-of-350-megawatts-for-investment-in-2012.html>
- Iberdrola's 2010 presentation to CEC workshop described their wind energy as an incremental product. Slides shows Big Horn Wind project average at 30 % that is backed up with Iberdrola's own thermal energy. Energy sells to California market and receives Renewable Energy Credits.

- Private Rough Acres Ranch property split into many different parcels with different owners of record is involved in Tule Wind with 12 turbine locations, and a proposed 5 acre switchyard another 5 acre O& M building, parking yards, new access roads that cross the Tule Creek flood plain. Impacted properties are in various names related to Hamann Companies, Hamann Family members, Johh Gibson, numerous charities , foundations, and trusts, etc, that can result in reduced or voided taxable income and or property taxes that help support limited local infrastructure including local fire departments and other local funding that comes back to the community that is based on the local tax base.
- The proposed Tule Wind Project, consisting of up to 134 wind turbines in the 1.5 to 3.0– megawatt (MW) range generating up to 200 MW of electricity, would be located in the McCain Valley Resource Conservation / Recreation Area. An area that was unlawfully down zoned to accommodate this foreign-owned project on our public lands.
- On August 8, 2009, Iberdrola Renewables wrote a letter to San Diego County challenging our Draft Community Plan using inaccurate and self-serving information in an aggressive move to remove the language that we had written in to the plan to protect our constituents from the adverse effects that have been documented in relation to industrial wind turbine projects installed in close proximity to homes and livestock and sensitive lands and wildlife.
- It is amazing that one of Harley McDonald's comments was "You have a lot of water up here." There is No basis for that opinion.
- The two page groundwater resources study for the project does not provide any technical data or actual well data. It only uses items taken from the County's groundwater report. It identifies a O&M building that will require a well, but does not provide anything but conjecture. The document states that water for construction will be provided from another supply.
- The water resources sections mentions 3 wells at Rough Acres, but no details about them, other than that they are there. These are probably the same wells we have been asking for information on for a long time.
- The water resources section and the 2010 Groundwater Resources assessment done by Geo-Logic Associates does not provide any factual, verifiable evidence that groundwater resources are available for the construction or operation of the Tule Wind project.
- The groundwater resources assessment merely documents a county report and a conversation with the San Diego County groundwater geologist
- Tule Wind / Iberdrola refuses to identify either the make, model or generating capacity of the turbines they plan to use here.

- If the Preferred Alternative is approved with a reduced number of turbines, Iberdrola will likely use 3 MW turbines that are much larger and will generate more adverse impacts to visual, noise, stray voltages, shadow flicker, interference with training, operations and communications for military, Homeland Security, and emergency service aviation activities in the impacted established routes of travel and areas of daily activity for Border Patrol, here, near the border.
- Larger turbines will likely increase EMF around the turbines, on the lines, and at the substations that will in turn impact residents and visitors, pets, livestock, wildlife and habitat.
- In addition to up to 134 unidentified industrial wind turbines and associated generator step-up transformers, and the Tule Wind MW Project would include the following components:
 - Proposed for approximately 15,000 acres of public land, some private ranch land, tribal land and State Land Commissions Land near Boulevard.
 - Closet homes and the Lark Canyon and Cottonwood Campgrounds are 900 feet or more from turbines, transmission lines and ancillary facilities (DEIR/EIS D.86 Noise)
 - The residence of an elderly couple, Robert and Kathryn McCallister (APN 61103002 & 61107002 Mc Callister Robert & Kathryn Trust), will be about 2,000 feet east of turbines, and less than 1,000 feet west of both the proposed 500 kV Sunrise Powerlink and Tule Wind 138 kV line. I will be helping them draft a comment letter.
 - Another senior couple live on the opposite side of the ridgeline placing turbines far too close.
 - A 34.5 kV overhead and underground collector cable system linking the wind turbines to the collector substation
 - A 5-acre collector substation and a 5-acre operations and maintenance (O&M) facility
 - Two meteorological towers and one sonic detecting and ranging (SODAR) unit
 - A new 138 kV overhead transmission line running south from the collector &E Boulevard Substation
 - 36 miles of newly constructed access roads and temporarily widened and improved existing access roads that will increase dust, erosion, and access to previously protected areas and habitat for wildlife.
 - Turbines in J string on Ewviaapaayp tribal land will be 100 feet from Sawtooth Wilderness Area.
 - 11 Turbines on private in holdings in R string, East of McCain Valley Road would be surrounded BLM In-Ko-Pah Area of Critical Environmental Concern
 - Turbines will be located within McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area and inside the Lark Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle Park.
 - BLM lands were down-zoned from Visual Resource Management Class II to Class IV, in the 2008 Eastern San Diego Resource Management Plan revision, specifically to accommodate the Tule Wind project. That downzone is the subject of unresolved federal litigation.

Facing reality of wind energy

August 11, 2008 in Salina Journal

Iberdrola of Spain, owner of Elk River, realized over \$9.9 million in PTC allowances in 2007. Foreign companies are not regulated by the Kansas Corporation Commission. There are no state or federal regulations of any kind on WECS. Few Kansas counties have wind regulations. WECS will force consumers to pay for their electricity three times; to build the WECS, build conventional power as backup, and additional transmission lines to carry power from the WECS to the grid. WECS will not produce large economic benefits to a community as evidenced by records from Gray County (Montezuma), or Butler County (Elk River). Elk River has produced seven jobs. Most employees live outside the community.

Perhaps it would clarify the wind issue if some basic facts were understood. The term is WECS: Wind Energy Conversion Systems, not "farms," "ranches," or "parks." The structures are industrial-scale turbines.

WECS will produce small amounts of energy with an efficiency range averaging 35 percent at most locations. WECS in Kansas in operation or under construction have the ability to produce 1,014 megawatts of electricity at maximum production; less than a quarter of that electricity stays in Kansas.

WECS will not replace conventional coal, gas or nuclear plants, because wind energy is intermittent, unpredictable, unreliable and expensive and cannot be stored in commercial quantities.

WECS will not reduce our consumption of oil. Three percent of oil is used nationwide and 1 percent is used in Kansas for "peaking" periods when electricity is in high demand and wind cannot be counted on.

WECS will pay money to very few landowners. Elk River benefits four landowners; only one is local.

WECS will transfer massive amounts of taxpayer dollars to wind developers and owners, 65 percent nationwide are foreign; 14 out of the 17 in Kansas are foreign owned. Benefits include PTC (Production Tax Credits), rapid depreciation schedules and electricity sales.

Iberdrola of Spain, owner of Elk River, realized over \$9.9 million in PTC allowances in 2007. Foreign companies are not regulated by the Kansas Corporation Commission. There are no state or federal regulations of any kind on WECS. Few Kansas counties have wind regulations.

WECS will force consumers to pay for their electricity three times; to build the WECS, build conventional power as backup, and additional transmission lines to carry power from the WECS to the grid.

WECS will not produce large economic benefits to a community as evidenced by records from Gray County (Montezuma), or Butler County (Elk River). Elk River has produced seven jobs.

Most employees live outside the community. Construction crews and vehicles were from out of state.

WECS will pay most counties PILOT payments. (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) Considered a "gift" to the county, a "payment without consideration," it is not legally enforceable.

WECS will be totally tax exempt in Kansas unless the current law is changed. WECS will not substantially reduce greenhouse gas, since conventional plants kept in "spinning reserve" to take up slack when wind dies are less efficient.

WECS will contribute to the division and disruption of communities. Riley, Geary, Wabaunsee, Morris, Chase, Butler, Lincoln, Ellsworth, and Ellis counties have all experienced community division involving a wind project. Projects have disrupted communities, split neighbors and even divided families.

WECS will contribute to the destruction and fragmentation of the last remnants of our prairies and open spaces. Elk River's 8,000 acres of beautiful native prairie is now scarred with 100 turbine foundations, trenching to all turbines and about 22 miles of road. The destruction in progress along I-70 at the Smoky Hills wind complex on 25,000 acres of mixed grass prairie shows how native grasslands are turned into an industrial complex that dominates the horizon.

Few developers or power purchasers care about the destruction of the prairie. The notable exceptions are Westar and KCP L who have met with conservation groups and landowners before developing in order to locate their projects more responsibly.

The governor has wisely encouraged developers to leave a portion of the Flint Hills undeveloped, but all open grasslands are at risk.

Rose Z. Bacon ranches with her husband, Kent, in the Flint Hills of Morris County. She was a member of the Governor's Wind and Prairie Task Force.

Web link: Rose Z. Bacon"

LINKED ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

- [Section 1603: The renewable energy bailout](#) (02 February 2011)[[Tax Breaks & Subsidies](#)]]
- [White House memo and wasteful handouts](#) (15 November 2010)[[Tax Breaks & Subsidies](#) | [Energy Policy](#)]
- [Iberdrola Renovables to limit 2012 Investments; Shares decline](#) (02 March 2011)[[General](#)]
- [Lure of crude puts clean energy on the back burner](#) (27 February 2011)[[General](#) | [Australia / New Zealand](#)]
- [Wind farms and deadly skies; Turbines on Texas coast killing thousands of birds, bats each year](#) (27 February 2011)[[Impact on Wildlife](#) | [Texas](#)]
- | [Impact on Birds](#) | [New Hampshire](#)]
- [PG&E ends bid to buy wind farm project for \\$900 million](#) (21 January 2011)[[General](#) | [California](#)]
- [Calif. rule may stunt Oregon clean energy market](#) (20 January 2011)[[Energy Policy](#) | [USA](#) |

- [Decision denying a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Manzana windproject](#) (21 December 2010)[[California](#)]
- [Austerity pulling plug on Europe's green subsidies](#) (25 January 2011)[[Energy Policy](#) | [Europe](#)]
- [Judge cites condor impact; halts sale of wind farm in Kern County](#) (25 January 2011)[[Impact on Birds](#) | [California](#)]
- [In green Spain, unemployment nearly twice U.S. rate](#) (16 April 2010)[[General](#) | [USA](#)]
- [Burning Iberdrola turbine](#) (13 September 2008)[[Safety](#) | [Structural Failure](#) | [Europe](#)]

Source of linked documents above:

<http://www.windaction.org/search?module=search&q=iberdrola&x=16&y=9>

ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ GEN-TIE PROJECT

1,250 MW WIND PROJECT & MASSIVE EXPANSION POTENTIAL(SEMPRA GENERATION)

KPBS March 4, 2011: According to US/Mexican news reports, Sempra is currently the subject of ongoing investigations into numerous violations including the Baja Officials Raise Concerns About Sempra's LNG PI [Download \(video with audio\)](#)

By [Hank Crook](#), [Alison St John](#) [Editors Roundtable](#) transcript | Friday, March 4, 2011

First, Ensenada Mayor Enrique Pelayo attempted to shut down Sempra's liquefied-natural-gas terminal in Baja after alleging that permits for the facility were improper. Now, Mexican federal lawmakers are calling for a review of the LNG plant's permits. We talk about why neighbors are concerned about the facility and why officials on both sides of the border are questioning Sempra's business practices in Baja.

Guests: **JW August**, managing editor for [10 News](#), **Ricky Young**, watchdog editor for the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) and **Scott Lewis**, chief executive officer of [voiceofsandiego.org](#)

- The DEIR/EIS reportedly addresses the gen-tie line including any potential impacts to the U.S. associated with wind turbines constructed in Mexico.
- We incorporate by reference all previous comments made during this EIS/EIR process, the DOE's EIS process for this project, and the Sunrise Powerlink EIR/EIS process.
- Sempra Aug 08 letter asks DOE to limit ESJ Gen tie to Renewables and 1,250 MW: http://esjprojecteis.org/docs/DOE_Presidential_Permit_clarification.pdf
- The quote below is perceived as a *lie by omission* -- what the letter does not say is that the ECO Substation will be built to accept up to five 500 kV lines and that the Presidential Permit, once

granted, can be amended to accept much more energy importation from Mexico. And that energy may *not* be renewables.

- *"ESJ U.S. Transmission requests that the import capacity in the Presidential Permit be limited to the physical capacity of the Generator-tie line (1250 MW) and that power on this line be limited to renewable energy projects."*
- See Sempra's linked 2008 letter stating there is an 80 MW limit on SWP and their ECO Substation interconnection Queue shows 2,480 MW lined up: http://esjprojecteis.org/docs/Sempra_response_to_DOE_re_Sunrise-ECOS_05-30-08.pdf
- National and International labor unions oppose this project due to export of jobs.

- This is just one of many examples of how Sempra runs rough shod over the Mexican people and their resources while reaping incredible profits from their self-serving actions.
- It has been stated that the Mexican environmental permit for this project has been approved. DOE must understand that the first approval is heavily conditioned. Those conditions include: 1) A 1 year avian study 2) A change in land use designation away from Forest Lands 3) Sempra is required to provide specifics on turbine manufacturers, GPS locations for each turbine, road, and project accessory.
- All of these conditions must be met at least 6 months prior to any construction. The Mexican approvals are far from a done deal, which is why they told the press that they will not build the project until it is needed. The project may never be built and this Presidential Permit can then be amended to allow the transmission of non-renewable energy from Sempra's multi-million dollar Mexican Natural Gas infrastructure, including their existing gas line that runs through the Energia Sierra Juarez lease area
-
- **Information found at the bottom of page 35 of CEC Out of State Guidelines (Jan 2011) , reveals that ESJ gen tie line can import energy from a foreign source and tie it into the California grid at ECO Substation and SWPL and it magically becomes eligible to be treated as in-state because it meets their guidelines. All that foreign energy also becomes eligible for Renewable Energy Credits that can be sold on the open market.**
- **However, the CEC Guidelines also say that to be eligible, # 5"if located outside of the United States, the facility is developed and operated in a manner that is as protective of the environment as would a similar facility be if it were located in California., or # 4 facility would not cause or contribute to any violation of California environmental quality standard or requirement within California><http://www.energy.ca.gov/2010publications/CEC-300-2010-007/CEC-300-2010-007-CMF.PDF>**
- This project also requires a Presidential Permit (PP-334) from the United States Department of Energy and a Major Use Permit from the County of San Diego, that we have commented on.
- The ESJ is proposed by Energia Sierra Juarez, a subsidiary of Sempra Generation which is a subsidiary of Sempra Energy. Sempra Energy had revenues of \$12 billion in 2006, \$11 billion in 2008, and \$ 8 billion in 2009. In a 2006 report they reported they had provided investors with an average annual return in excess of 15%.
- It was announced in a Sept 28, 2010 press release, that Luis Tellez, who currently serves as chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Mexican Stock Exchange, was re-elected to join Sempra Energy's board of directors.
- The press release also states that "As a government official, Tellez was a key player in crucial policy decisions to improve the structure of the Mexican economy, agriculture, infrastructure and energy."
- One can surmise that Mr. Tellez has may be handsomely rewarded, in some way, for helping Sempra with their multi-billion dollar investments in their natural gas infrastructure in Mexico,

with shepherding those projects, and the ESJ project, through the Mexican permitting agencies. Sounds like very a convenient and profitable partnership for both Sempra and Tellez. It should be of concern that large part of that profit has likely come at the expense of the Mexican people, their impacted communities, and their resources.

- Sempra's Natural gas pipeline runs through the ESJ lease area. A new water line was installed through the same area in the last few years. In the future, a gas-fired power plant could be built in the ESJ area that could access the proposed cross-border power line with an amended Presidential Permit.
- **Mexican Social /environmental Justice issues:**
- ESJ Is an export only wind energy project. It is our understanding that under Mexican law, Sempra can write off 100% of the cost of their ESJ turbine project through an accelerated depreciation tax incentive for renewable energy projects.
- Therefore, the Mexican people will bear the financial burden of building Sempra's wind energy project that will not provide any energy whatsoever to Mexico. They will likely be subsidizing 100% of the ESJ wind energy that will be exported for use by American consumers. If that is not a social/environmental injustice, what is?
- Then on the US side, the California rate and tax payers get to pay for increased energy price and rates for remote Sempra wind energy previously reported at \$400 million, the \$300 million SDG&E ECO Substation, and the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink--not to mention the lost value and use and enjoyment of our own properties as well as our now degraded, devalued and much less appealing public lands.

And there is more to come with the future phases of Energia Sierra Juarez, 1,000 MW Aubunal Wind, and the Union Fenosa Wind projects.

CUMULATIVE SCENARIO AND IMPACTS

The following projects were inexplicably left out of the cumulative projects list:

- **New US Border Patrol Station approved with FONSI for Ribbonwood Road just north of I-8:**
This project has been approved with a vastly inadequate EA/FONSI over our strong objections and request for full EIS. Approximately \$29 million in ARRA funding has already been granted as reported in the San Diego Union Tribune. This project will generate construction and operation traffic that will result in separate and cumulative significant adverse impacts to road and helicopter traffic, road damage, ingress and egress issues for private property owners that have no other access to and from their properties--*other than Ribbonwood Road*.
- **Rough Acres Ranch Campground MUP Permit Application / Dudek working on project**
Project Description: This is a major pre-application review for a conference center and campground facility to be used for corporate retreats, community meetings, and religious gatherings. The project site would also be used as an official Emergency Evacuation Center for

backcountry communities. The project site is 760-acres in size and is located off of McCain Valley Road. A secondary access road (24' DG private road) is proposed to be approximately 2 miles long that would connect Ribbonwood Road in the west to McCain Valley Road in east. Please note that this connector road and the two wind turbines shown onsite are proposed as part of the Tule Wind Project Major Use Permit, and are not part of this major use permit.

The proposed campground facility would include a conference center (8,300 square feet) and three single-family residences approximately 5,000 square feet in size with agricultural storage barns. It would include two dry camping areas with 2 clubhouses, 2 stand alone bathrooms, and 75 camp spaces to accommodate any combination of tents, trailers and motor-homes. The campground would include picnic benches, fire rings and an equestrian facility with support corrals and bleacher seating. Sports/Recreation facilities would include a multi-purpose field, archery / skeet-shooting range, a swimming pool and easy access to the off-road vehicle park located off-site in the north. Accessible parking spaces would be provided per the requirements of the California Building Code. All other parking would be available at each camp site or in designated parking areas constructed of decomposed granite on native soils. The campground would provide overnight accommodations for up to 450 people for up to 14-days at a time and 4 fulltime employees

County comment: " Please note that County Staff did not evaluate all of the uses noted on the plot plan, as they were not included in the submitted project description. The internal compatibility of such uses including motor-homes, mobile home residential facilities, meat processing, equestrian centers, church services and wind/solar power facilities were not analyzed. Given the broad range of uses allowed permitted by a Major Use Permit in the A-72 Zone, it may be necessary to conduct a subsequent major pre-application conference if the project description deviates from what was analyzed. Therefore, prior to a full submittal, please submit a detailed project description and accompanying plot plan. County staff will compare the resubmitted project description with what was previously analyzed to make sure information provided in this Pre-application Letter and Project Issue Checklist can be relied upon."

- **3 more Major Use Permits in works for Rough Acres Ranch / Hamann / charity / foundation properties that need to be added as cumulative impacts. Dudek is doing some if not all of those project reviews. #1 MUP: Case # PROJECT NAME: ROUGH ACRES RANCH CAMPGROUND FACILITY; MAJOR PREAPPLICATION CONFERENCE; CASE NUMBER: 3992 11-002; PROJECT ADDRESS: OFF OF MCCAIN VALLEY ROAD; APN 611-070-01& 03 AND 611-060-03; KIVA PROJECT: 11-0138043**
- **Rough Acres Ranch / Concentrix 30 MW Solar project:** Hamann Companies consultant, Jim Whalen of Whalen and Associates attended our March 3 planning group meeting with Michael Armstrong, Business Development USA for Concentrix Solar. Concentrix and the Hamann

Company / family / charities (?) are in negotiations for the lease and /or purchase of approximately 200 acres of Rough Acres Ranch property for a 30 MW facility. Each 6 kW unit stands over 20 feet tall. They need an average of 6 acres/MW. Chair Tisdale and Vice-Chair Noland previously visited the Concentrix test site at UCSD with Michael Armstrong, Jim Whalen, and Phoebe Hamann

- **Debenham Energy's installed MET tower and industrial wind energy plans for the Cleveland National Forest** have been confirmed by Tim Cardoza in statement, below, made directly to the author of this letter on March 2,2011. We previously submitted comments to the Forest Service objecting to Debenham's permit applications for multiple MET towers. It has been brought to our attention that Scott Debenham is working with both the Ewiiapaayp Band and Pattern Energy for a large-scale industrial wind turbine project that incorporates both tribal land and Forest land. This project must be analyzed and the cumulative impacts recognized and addressed, especially in light of the Ewiiapaayp land involvement in the Tule Wind project.

"I can confirm for you here that Mr. Debenham was issued a Special Use Permit for a single MET tower to measure wind energy resources on the Descanso District along Fred Canyon Road, located within the SW1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 12, Township 16 South, Range 5 East, SBBM. An environmental analysis for the project was completed on 1/25/2010 in the form of a Decision Memo for a Categorical Exclusion from further NEPA review, and signed by District Ranger Owen Martin. The NEPA document approved installation of three MET towers, however, Mr. Debenham decided only to move forward with one, which was constructed last month. As I believe you commented on the MET tower NEPA review, you may have a copy of that document in your files. " Tim Cardoza, Lands Specialist, Descanso Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest 3348 Alpine Blvd., Alpine, CA 91901, 619 445 6235 ext. 3434, Fax 619 445 1753

CAMPO WIND ISSUES / CONCERNS

Campo Wind Project 160-300 MW (no specific Details have made available yet)

- The existing Kumeyaay Wind farm is already suspected of causing adverse effects for folks and wildlife in a radius of up to 3 miles or more. We receive repeated complaints.
- SDG&E and Invenergy propose to construct and operate approximately 106 turbines capable of generating 160 MW of electricity on Campo tribal lands.
- In addition to the 160 MW of generating capacity proposed for this project, the Campo Tribe has requested that an additional 140 MW of generation be analyzed in the Bureau of Indian Affairs' NEPA review of the project for future development purposes.

- These projects should be studied one phase at a time in order to address future unknown adverse impacts that may result from phase 1.
- 6 MET towers were granted Categorical Exclusions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs without making any effort to distribute the public notice.
- MET towers have been placed in very close proximity to tribal residences and to private property on the south side of Old 80 and south of Hwy 94.
- These MET towers serve as Constructive Notice that potential industrial wind turbine projects will be arriving in the future.
- The mere presence of these MET towers reduce adjacent property values
- Turbines (approximately 450 feet tall from ground to tip of the fully extended turbine blade) would be located on available ridgelines on the reservation, again, some of these ridgelines are within several hundred feet of private property and residences.
- The proposed Invenergy and SDG&E Campo Wind Project would connect with the Boulevard Substation Rebuild component of the ECO Substation Project.
- The related switchyards will be off-reservation and new 138 kV line will reportedly use existing SDG&E easements back to the new larger Boulevard Substation
- These off-reservation impacts are cumulative.
- The combination of both SDG&E and Invenergy working together is not comforting.

MANZANITA WIND ISSUES / CONCERNS

Manzanita Wind Project (no details available yet)

- SDG&E proposal for 57.5 MW, which could include up to 25 wind turbines depending on the turbine size selected.
- Not all tribal members are happy with this proposal. Many are not.
- Some members, their families, and their neighbors are already suffering adverse health effects, noise and shadow flicker from the Kumeyaay Wind turbines.
- New Turbines are to be located on the same ridgeline as the existing Kumeyaay Wind facility that are already far too close to tribal homes and offices.
- Turbines are proposed to be approximately 414 feet tall from ground to tip of the turbine blade fully extended.
- Access easements are needed but not yet secured across tribal land
- Oaks will likely need to be removed to widen roads to necessary width to accommodate large turbine parts, cranes and other equipment.
- Project would connect with the new Boulevard Substation "Rebuild" component of the ECO Substation Project.
- It is expected that the Campo and Manzanita wind energy projects would develop a switchyard for both facilities on non-tribal lands and a new 138 kV transmission line

would be constructed along the existing ROW of the 69 kV (?) transmission corridor that currently connects to the existing Boulevard Substation.

- The new 138 kV transmission line would interconnect with the proposed Boulevard Substation Rebuild component of the ECO Substation Project.
- SDG&E has not identified their wind energy development partner or the company that installed their 4 MET towers--that are very close to some tribal homes.
- Again, these projects represent significant and cumulative impacts to a wide variety of resources and residents.

ENEL JEWEL VALLEY PROJECT (JORDAN)

ISSUES / CONCERNS

Jordan Wind Project (now Enel Jewel Valley Project)

WE MAY PAY MORE NOT LESS (as often stated) for Enel wind energy.

Enel proudly announces that "the Company is a leader in promoting "green premium" transactions - that is, sales of renewable energy at higher-than-market prices, based on its environmentally beneficial attributes and desirability for environmentally-conscious electricity producers" : www.enel.northamerica/greenCredits.asp

- The Boulevard Planning Group has voted to oppose Enel's multiple MET facility Administrative Permit Applications due to the adverse impacts they represent to property values through Constructive Notice and more.
- Enel Green Power Jewel Valley Project changed the proposed Jordan 40 2.3 MW turbines (total generating capacity of 92 MW) into 158 MW wind and 10 MW solar tracking units on over 7,000 acres of ranch land.
- Like the rest of Boulevard, Jewel Valley and the upper McCain Valley are very scenic areas with homes in close proximity virtually all the way around.
- The towers of the proposed wind turbines would be approximately 260 feet tall (height from ground to tip of fully extended blade would be approximately 430 feet).
- Enel's preferred point of interconnection is the new and much larger Boulevard Substation component of the ECO Substation Project.
- A new project switchyard and 138 kV line would be needed to connect to the Boulevard Substation and will need to secure easements across private property--not an easy thing to do.
- Again, there will be significant cumulative impacts to a wide variety of resources.

Proximity of turbines to residence: See Figure D. 4-9 at page D-43 in DEIR/EIS

- When you use the scale on the Figure D.4-9 map, you can see that most of Boulevard will be impacted within the 1, 2 & 3 mile radius of currently proposed wind turbine projects
- We don't have a firm number for impacted homes

INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES' IMPACTS ON PROPERTY VALUES

Property value impacts from industrial wind projects:

<http://www.windaction.org/fags/24176>

Turbines declared a nasty neighbour as secret buyout is revealed

- Peter Rolfe
- From: *Sunday Herald Sun*
- January 30, 2011 12:00AM



Noel Dean and other residents believe the Waubra wind farms have caused medical problems. Picture: Tony Gough *Source: Herald Sun*

VICTORIANS who have endured health problems from a nearby wind farm have been gagged from talking in return for the sale of their land.

Spanish multinational energy company Acciona has been quietly buying farms adjacent to its site at Waubra, near Ballarat, as an increasing number of residents in the tight-knit community complain of the ill-effects of living near turbines.

Since the wind farm started operating in July 2009, about 11 houses in the area have been vacated by people complaining of noise problems.

Acciona has bought at least another seven houses, the purchase of two of which appear to have been prompted by the new State Government's threat to shut down the farm unless noise and permit conditions were met.

Locals in the tiny town of 700, 35km northwest of Ballarat, say the sales took place on the proviso landowners would not talk about the price of the purchase or negative health effects they blame on the wind farm.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/turbines-declared-a-nasty-neighbour/story-e6frf7kx-1225996775637>

**Invenergy's 99 MW Forward Energy Wind project , near Brownsville, WI,
started operation in 2008 with 86 GE 1.5 sle turbines.**

**The Wirtz family abandoned their home of 12 years & alpaca farm to escape
the noise and illness attributed to the turbine project.**

The Wirtz family had been living in and renovating the 100 year old home pictured below for 12 years before Invenergy began erecting 86 industrial scale wind turbines. The 400 foot structures are sited as close as 1000 feet from non-participating homes. The turbine in this photo is located 1250 feet from the Wirtz home.



WIND FARM PROPERTY SOLD AT SHERIFF'S SALE

SOURCE: The Daily Reporter, dailyreporter.com

May 6, 2010 / By Paul Snyder

The attorney representing two Oakfield residents in a case against Chicago-based Invenergy LLC wants the results of a sheriff's sale this week to convince the state to review the case.

Madison-based attorney Ed Marion on Thursday sent a letter to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, requesting it consider new facts in Ann and Jason Wirtz's case against Invenergy.

The Wirtzes abandoned their home in Brownsville last year after Invenergy's Forward Energy Wind Center became operational in 2008. The property, appraised at \$320,000 in 2007, sold to the Bank of New York Mellon at a sheriff's sale Tuesday for \$106,740.

"I hope it will influence the commission to look favorably, at least, at giving us our day in court," Marion said.

The Wirtzes want the PSC to force Invenergy to compensate the family for their losses, although no specific amount is named.

Marion said the PSC has not yet made a decision as to whether it will review the case.

(See more information on the Wirtz family / interviews at the link below:)

<http://betterplan.squarespace.com/todays-special/tag/invenergy-invenergy-wisconsin>

Iberdrola's co-owned Maple Ridge Wind Farm, near Watertown, NY:
140 Vestas 1.65 MW turbines and substation generates complaints
from adverse impacts / and broken promises

Compare Iberdrola's co-owned Maple Ridge Wind Farm advertisement photo
below vs the real view, that the closest neighbors are subjected to-- the views
they *don't* show in the pretty advertisements

MAPLE RIDGE I WIND FARM, NEW YORK



Maple Ridge I Wind Farm, co-developed and co-owned with Iberdrola Renewables, is located about 75 miles northeast of Syracuse, New York. Phase I has an installed capacity of 231 MW - enough to power approximately 64,000 homes each year. The wind farm, which achieved commercial operation in June 2006, consists 140 Vestas V82 1.65 MW turbines. The wind farm's electricity flows into the New York energy grid. Renewable Energy Credits are contracted to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

<http://www.horizonwind.com/projects/whatwevedone/mapleridge/>

"Welcome to Maple Ridge Windfarm. A blasted, ruined, industrialized landscape where there was once serenity. And beauty. Sarah wandered down to the old family farm earlier this fall. She stood on the road and gazed upon vandalism. And wept. "

photo below from Watertown Daily (News) Times (date unknown) included in printed statement below dated 11/4/05



Credits: Watertown Daily News

Description:

Calvin Luther Martin, Malone, NY 11/4/05

It's Friday evening and I just got off the phone with a middle-aged lady who lives on the Tug Hill Plateau near Watertown, New York (USA). What makes this banal fact remarkable is that the woman now finds herself living in a mind-blowing forest of 40-story-high industrial wind turbines.

The developers (Is this the right word to use for these people?) have given it the charming name, Maple Ridge Windfarm. Everyone else in Upstate New York knows it as the Tug Hill Plateau: a high tableland famous for its views of the Adirondacks (to the south), Canada (to the north), and L. Ontario (to the west). Also a serious migratory bird flyway. People remember Tug Hill as gorgeous and wild.

No more. Sarah (I have changed her name to protect her privacy) was eager to talk. I found her full of homespun wisdom and quick to chuckle, even though she was in obvious pain. This place, which has been home and memories, has become a nightmare. When the turbine salesmen rang her doorbell a year ago to ask what she thought "about renewable energy" (that was their opening line), she soon steered the conversation around to the stupendous view. Look there, she said, pointing to the mountains: this is what I cherish.

No more. She is now surrounded by colossal industrial wind turbines. How many? I asked. Fifteen to twenty within a mile radius, she replied. I could hear her despair, her disbelief. The wind companies (Zilkha and PPM) spent the summer feverishly cobbling together their Goliath machines: 187 in this first phase of the project. There are more to come in Phase II. And who

knows how many more phases? Besides the dozen plus overshadowing her, there is a power substation mere yards from her backdoor, in a ravine she remembers well as a child. (The ravine was often struck by lightning, she recalled, as she wondered if this was the best spot for a power station. Fond memories often bubbled to the surface as we talked—a surface now rendered incomprehensible.)

Sarah took the company-sponsored bus trip to Fenner, NY, to inspect Fenner's 20 turbines ("Go to Fenner and see for yourself": they got the same cheery line we get here, in Clinton & Franklin counties). She thought the Fenner turbines huge, but, it turns out, they are not as colossal as what she now has next door. Besides, that was only 20; this is 187. The number boggles her mind. She met a lady in Fenner with a turbine or two on her property. She motioned Sarah aside and whispered not to trust the wind energy company. The woman and her husband are not getting what the company promised, and are suing as a result.

The wind salesmen snowed Sarah's town board. They promised the sun and the moon; the board swooned and said amen. The wind guys managed to talk the town into a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) rather than taxation, to Sarah's disgust. She was clearly dubious the salesmen would deliver what they promised. And when it came to a public hearing, the town board hid the announcement so cunningly that Sarah was totally unaware of it.

The construction has shattered her life. Noise. Roads cratered and potholed and rutted. Trees chain-sawed and bulldozed into piles. Giant pits bored into the earth and filled with rebar-reinforced concrete. Finally, the towers and 40-ton propellers and 60-ton nacelles stacked atop all this. Literally, skyscrapers.

The turbines are not yet running; they will be in another few months. Sarah dreads that day: the pulsed thump thump thump; the huge shadow from blades sweeping the landscape, everywhere you look (morning & evening). Sarah has sensitive hearing; she's especially worried about the low frequency thump, night and day, weeks on end. Already she struggles with 187 flashing red lights. And she tries to compose herself over the floodlit power station next door. When she telephoned the project manager to ask why those confounded lights need to be left on all night, he got testy and dismissed her.

The floodlights still drill into her windows.

Welcome to Maple Ridge Windfarm. A blasted, ruined, industrialized landscape where there was once serenity. And beauty. Sarah wandered down to the old family farm earlier this fall. She stood on the road and gazed upon vandalism. And wept.

She's angry. She feels lied to. She has a neighbor, a young man and his wife and little children, who is also outraged. The man is building a lovely home; he moved here because of the magnificent views, the beauty. Now, this. He worries about his kids' health once the generators fire up.

Sarah feels helpless, and kept saying she thinks she will move. Driven from her home. She worries no one will buy it, or will offer a fraction of its pre-turbine worth. She foresees town revenues plummeting as people refuse to pay the tax on turbine-depreciated property.

In the end, she said, she and her neighbors were not organized well enough to stop the wind salesmen. The property owners and town fathers fell in line perfectly, like sheep to be slaughtered. Yet many of them don't live on their land, or have moved elsewhere, leaving Sarah and her neighbors to deal with this horror.

I urged her to start a daily journal of her experiences and the "progress" of the wind power project. I also urged her to take photographs of her landscape and the windmills. And I suggested she get an electrical engineer to check for ambient underground current, so she can sue the wind companies for stray current once the turbines go on line. I suggested, too, that she and her neighbors get a complete physical and neurological exam before the turbines are fired up, again, to establish a medical baseline for future medical problems.

I told her, finally, I had seen the amazing photograph of the Tug Hill turbines in the Watertown Daily Times last month. "Yes," she mused, "that was taken near my home." Then added, "It's actually worse than the picture shows." (newspaper photo above)

WIND ENERGY'S DOWNSIDE

Wind energy produces stray dirty energy: <http://www.windaction.org/news/24759>

Dangerous health impacts from industrial wind turbines:

<http://www.windaction.org/fags/24875>

Wind farm oil taints Martinsburg well: <http://www.windaction.org/news/13367?theme=print>

Comments from a regretful wind farm participant (farmer):

http://www.windcows.com/files/What_have_I_done_2.pdf

Modern turbines produce dangerously "Dirty" electricity:

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/2095>

New York Times: With wind energy, opportunity for corruption:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/14/world/europe/14wind.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all

ENERGY OUTLOOK

Thursday, March 03, 2011

Could Competition and Low Demand Stall Wind Power's Growth?

In the last week I've seen [reports](#) that two of the biggest wind power developers in the world, Spain's Iberdrola Renovables and Portugal's [EDP Renovaveis](#), plan to reduce their wind power investments in the US for at least the next couple of years. That's significant because these two firms together accounted for just under a third of the [5,115 MW](#) of new wind turbines installed

in the US last year. This isn't for lack of opportunities or incentives, but for some very old-fashioned reasons: low demand and competition from other energy sources. It's an important reminder that renewable energy can't just be viewed as a set of technologies; they are also businesses, and as such are subject to the normal ups and downs of the market. It also highlights the limitations of government incentives.

Wind power had been on a tear in the US as recently as 2009, when a record [10,010 MW](#) of turbines were installed, extending an enviable 5-year run of 40% average annual growth in wind capacity. Last year that growth slowed to 15% as new installations fell [by half](#). That occurred in spite of the federal [stimulus program](#) that converted tax credits for renewable energy projects into up-front cash grants, paying [\\$ 3.5 billion](#) to wind developers out of a total of \$4.2 billion expended in 2010. Although eligibility for that benefit was due to expire on 12/31/10, it was subsequently extended through 2011 under December's "lame duck" tax legislation, largely on the strength of [arguments](#) that it would keep wind and other renewables growing at a brisk pace. What happened?

At least two major factors related to the business environment are weighing on wind development, as well as another factor unique to renewables. First, electricity demand that was depressed by the recession is apparently still at least [1% below pre-crisis levels](#). That doesn't sound like much, but the difference is roughly equivalent to the entire amount of electricity generated from wind power [in 2008](#). As a result, utilities have become less keen to sign long-term offtake agreements, or "power purchase agreements" (PPAs), with new wind farms. Both [EDP](#) and Iberdrola cited this problem in reference to their 2011 plans.

Wind power also faces strong competition from cheap natural gas, as you've probably heard many times by now. Despite some resistance to shale drilling in states like New York, there's every indication that US gas output will continue to expand. Last year the US produced more natural gas than in any year [since 1973](#), and the end of this boom is [not in sight](#). Although advocates may claim that wind is now [cost-competitive with gas](#), that remains a best-case analysis for locations with excellent wind resources and good access to transmission. Natural gas at [\\$5 per million BTUs](#) yields [electricity](#) at 5¢/kWh from a combined-cycle gas turbine. That sets a pretty tough bar for wind, especially when gas turbines can produce power on-demand, 24/7, while wind turbines generate power an average of 30% of the time, intermittently.

Unexpectedly, wind power may also be facing competition from solar power. In a recent interview the CEO of NRG Energy Inc., a large power generator, pointed to the greater [opportunities for innovation](#) in solar, compared to wind. The [cost of installed photovoltaic modules](#), particularly in utility-scale applications, has fallen much faster in recent years than the cost of wind turbines. That's not to say that power from solar is cheaper than from wind, but solar is starting to look like a better investment for utilities, which have been signing PPAs with

solar project developers in droves. It's also noteworthy that for the first time last year more solar power was [installed in Europe](#) than new wind power, by a healthy margin.

It's probably premature to conclude that the US wind boom has ended, and that wind capacity is now likely to grow at lower, more normal rates in the future, compared to its extraordinary past performance. This could just be a lull, as the enormous additions of the last few years are absorbed into a power grid that is still modernizing and remains a long way from the smart grid that will be needed to accommodate much larger contributions from intermittent renewables of all types. At the same time, it's worth noting that government incentives can't eliminate every obstacle that renewables face, and that arguments that the Treasury cash grants in lieu of tax credits should be extended beyond 2011 should be assessed with much more critical judgment than was possible in the scramble of a lame duck Congressional session.

<http://energyoutlook.blogspot.com/2011/03/could-competition-and-low-demand-stall.html>

Wind Shortfalls Make Grid Guys Nervous

Ken Silverstein | Mar 02, 2011

When it comes to integrating wind into the transmission lines, system operators say that they are challenged. While they understand and appreciate the reasoning, they are saying that the networks lack the flexibility to handle wind variation.

Green energy has a lot of public appeal. But the intermittent nature of wind and solar power coupled with the relatively higher costs put the grid's traffic cops in an untenable position. Those are the fellows whose job it is to schedule the resources to where they need to be so that the electricity keeps flowing. Their task is to maintain that reliability with the lowest-priced fuels.

"We have to be truthful about what the impact will be," says Jim Detmers, principal in Power Systems Resources and the former chief operating officer of the California ISO. "The devil is in the details. These new embedded costs will be significant." Better communication with policymakers is essential.

In the case of California, it now has 3,000 megawatts of wind. In a few years, that will be 7,000 megawatts. A few years later, it will be 10,000 megawatts. By 2020, the goal is to have 33 percent of electricity generated from renewable energy. "That's making grid operators nervous," says Detmers, who spoke at [Wartsila's Flexible Power Symposium](#) in Vail, Colo.

Simply, the wind does not blow on demand. Ditto for the sun. So these resources must be backed up with other, "dispatchable" forms of generation. But such "firming" or "cycling" creates two distinct issues: The first is that the power is not free and the second is that if coal

plants are “cycled” up and down, they release more pollutants per unit of output than if they ran full steam ahead.

No doubt, the price of wind and solar energy is falling while their productivity rates are increasing. But the technologies still have a ways to go...

<http://www.energybiz.com/article/11/02/wind-shortfalls-make-grid-guys-nervous>

How Green Is Your Lost Job?

Posted 03/01/2011 06:20 PM ET **Investors Business Daily**



The Thanet Offshore Wind Farm off the coast of Kent, England, is the largest site of its type. AP

Power: A study of renewable energy in Scotland shows that for every job created in the alternative energy sector, almost four jobs are lost in the rest of the economy. We've seen this movie before.

Not only has the sun set on the British Empire, but the promise of wind apparently is deserting it as well. A new study called "Worth The Candle?" by the consulting firm Verso Economics confirms the experience of Spain and other countries: The creation of "green" jobs destroys other jobs through the diversion of resources and the denial of abundant sources of fossil fuel energy.

The economic candle in the U.K. is being blown out by wind power. The Verso study finds that after the annual diversion of some 330 million British pounds from the rest of the U.K. economy, the result has been the destruction of 3.7 jobs for every "green" job created.

The study concludes that the "policy to promote renewable energy in the U.K. has an opportunity cost of 10,000 direct jobs in 2009-10 and 1,200 jobs in Scotland." So British taxpayers, as is the case here in the U.S., are being forced to subsidize a net loss of jobs in a struggling economy.

"There's a big emphasis in Scotland on the economic opportunity of investing in renewable energy," says study co-author and Verso research director Richard Walsh. "Whatever the environmental merits, we have shown that the case for green jobs just doesn't stack up."

Again, it's been shown that wind energy can't hold a candle to other more traditional and more reliable forms of energy.

"The Scottish renewable sector is very reliant on subsidies from the rest of the U.K.," co-author Tom Miers adds. "Without the U.K.-wide framework, it would be very difficult to sustain the main policy tolls to promote this industry."

As here, only continuous subsidies and redistribution of resources to an unproductive and uncompetitive source of energy keeps the alternative energy industry alive, politically and economically.

As the Telegraph's James Delingpole reminds us in reporting the results of the British study, "wind and solar power have proved a disaster in Germany, Denmark and Spain (where Dr. Gabriel Calzada Alvarez calculated that for every 'green job,' the country had destroyed 2.2 jobs in the real economy)."

If these numbers were extrapolated to America, instead of a touted 3 million-job gain from alternative energy, we should expect the loss of at least 6.6 million jobs in other industries.

Calzada noted that these are direct job losses. "The loss of jobs could be greater if you account for the amount of lost industry that moves out of the country due to high energy prices," he said in an interview.

Under a target agreed to with the European Union, Britain is committed to generating nearly a third of its electricity from renewable sources, mainly through building thousands of wind turbines.

The Daily Mail's Christopher Booker calls the push for alternative energy "the greatest scam of our age," a statement we find hard to disagree with.

Booker reports that in Britain, "To keep our homes warm we were having to import vast amounts of power from nuclear reactors in France." He notes that the total usable output from Britain's 3,500 turbines is no more than a single conventional power plant, which is necessary as a backup when the wind doesn't blow.

These wind turbines are so expensive, according to Booker, that Holland recently became the first country in Europe to abandon its EU renewable-energy target, saving billions of euros.

Despite the evidence in country after country, we intend to repeat their mistake.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, architects of the Obama administration's economy-killing war on fossil fuels, announced on Monday that the

development of offshore wind farms would be fast-tracked, with a goal of issuing leases off four Atlantic Coast states by the end of the year. Tilting at windmills will not create jobs, make us energy-independent or save the earth. <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=564579&p=2>

WIND ENERGY IS INTERMITTENT AND UNRELIABLE AND EXPENSIVE LOAD BACKUP /FIRMING NEEDED

Why aren't Lackawanna windmills turning?

Updated: Tuesday, 01 Mar 2011, 7:34 PM EST
Published : Tuesday, 01 Mar 2011, 5:59 PM EST

- [George Richert](#)
- Posted by: Eli George

LACKAWANNA, N.Y. (WIVB) - Have you noticed many of the new windmills along Route 5 are not working?

This isn't the first time they've had mechanical problems, and we managed to dig up some hard numbers on just how much electricity they actually are generating.

In its first year, Steelwinds had to replace all of the gear boxes in the eight turbines. The next year, the blades had to be fixed. And for this entire winter, only half of the Lackawanna windmills have been working at any given time.

So we did some research to see just how much electricity these turbines have actually been producing. According to the numbers filed with the NY Independent System Operator, the eight Lackawanna windmills averaged about 40 Megawatt hours of electricity per year in 2008 and 2009. That's enough to power almost 6,000 homes, and works out to about 23 percent of its capacity. 100 percent would only be achieved in a constant wind, with turbines that never needed maintenance, so 30 percent is the average capacity for a wind farm.

The bottom line is Steelwinds is putting out less electricity than an average wind farm, partly because of mechanical problems, but it has no effect what Lackawanna gets.

Mayor Norman Polanski said, "We still get our money from them, our \$100,000 a year. Uh, but people call about them all the time, they want to know what's going on

At the going rate for electricity, Steelwinds is still making over \$2 million a year for the electricity it is generating. On top of that, its investors get an extra two cents a kilowatt for going green. So the investors that helped pay a million bucks to build each one of these turbines get \$800,000 every year in federal tax credits

<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/erie/Why-arent-Lackawanna-windmills-turning#viewSingle112300341>

Mitigation issues

MailOnline

Why the £250bn wind power industry could be the greatest scam of our age - and here are the three 'lies' that prove it

By [Christopher Booker](#)

Last updated at 11:20 AM on 28th February 2011

Scarcely a day goes by without more evidence to show why the Government's obsession with wind turbines, now at the centre of our national energy policy, is one of the greatest political blunders of our time.

Under a target agreed with the EU, Britain is committed within ten years — at astronomic expense — to generating nearly a third of its electricity from renewable sources, mainly through building thousands more wind turbines.

But the penny is finally dropping for almost everyone — except our politicians — that to rely on windmills to keep our lights on is a colossal and very dangerous act of self-deception...

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1361316/250bn-wind-power-industry-greatest-scam-age.html#ixzz1FJkdtBDh>

Wind Energy Gets Huge Subsidies. So Where Are The CO2 Reductions?

August 27, 2010
Energy Tribune

Over the last few years, the wind industry has achieved remarkable growth largely due to the industry's claim that using more wind energy will result in major reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. There's just one problem with that claim: it's not true. *(This an extended version of the August 24 piece I published in the Wall Street Journal.)*

Recent studies show that wind-generated electricity may not result in any reduction in carbon emissions, or those reductions will be so small as to be almost meaningless.

This issue is especially important now that states, even in the absence of federal legislation, are mandating that utilities produce arbitrary amounts of their electricity from renewable sources. By 2020, for example, [California will require utilities to obtain 33% of their electricity](#) from renewables. [About 30 states including](#)

[Connecticut, Minnesota, and Hawaii, are requiring major increases in the production of renewable electricity over the coming years.](#) Wind, not solar or geothermal sources, must provide most of this electricity, because it is the only renewable source that can rapidly scale up to meet the requirements of the mandate. But those mandates will mean billions more in taxpayer subsidies for the wind industry and result in higher electricity costs for consumers.

There are two reasons wind can't make major cuts in carbon emissions. The wind blows only intermittently and variably; and wind-generated electricity largely displaces power produced by natural gas-fired generators rather than that coming from plants that burn more carbon-intensive coal...

<http://www.robertbryce.com/node/377>

Boulevard wind farms made this list starting in the 1980's

Summary of Wind Turbine Accident data to 31st December 2010

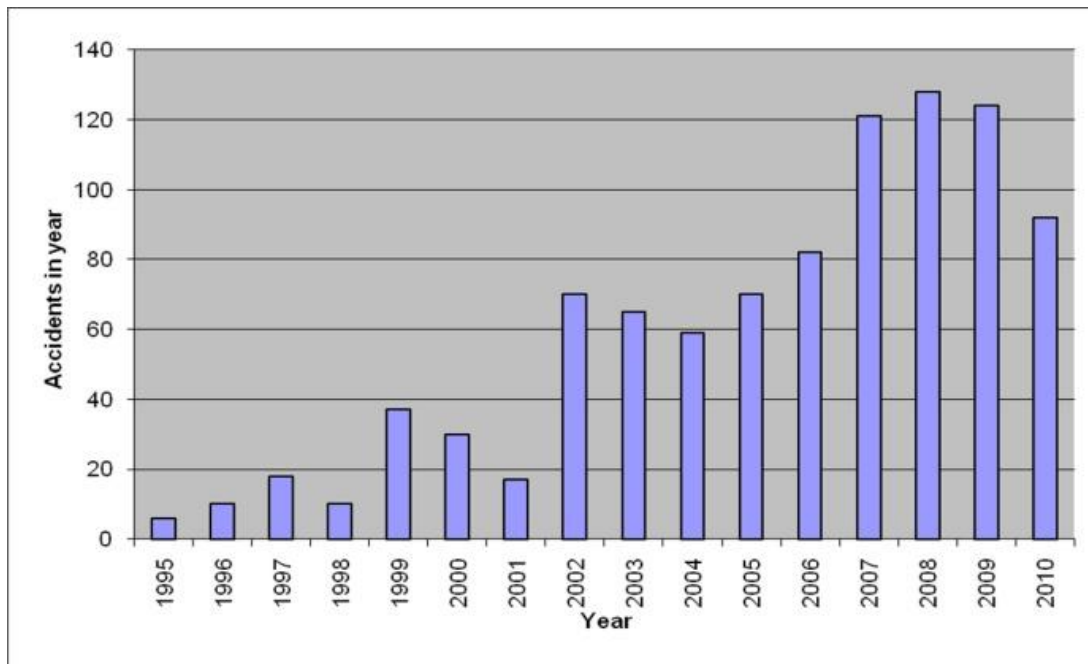
*These accident statistics are copyright **Caithness Windfarm Information Forum 2010**. The data may be used or referred to by groups or individuals, provided that the source (Caithness Windfarm Information Forum) is acknowledged and our URL www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk quoted at the same time. Caithness Windfarm Information Forum is not responsible for the accuracy of Third Party material or references.*

The detailed accident list with sources may be downloaded [here](#)

The attached detailed table includes all documented cases of wind turbine related accidents which could be found and confirmed through press reports or official information releases up to 31 December 2010. CWIF believe that this compendium of accident information may be the most comprehensive available anywhere.

Data in the detailed table attached is by no means fully comprehensive - CWIF believe that what is attached may only be the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of numbers of accidents and their frequency. However, the data gives an excellent cross-section of the types of accidents which can and do occur, and their consequences. With few exceptions, before about 1997 only data on fatal accidents has been found.

The trend is as expected - as more turbines are built, more accidents occur. Numbers of recorded accidents reflect this, with an average of 16 accidents per year from 1995-99 inclusive; 48 accidents per year from 2000-04 inclusive, and 103 accidents per year from 2005-10 inclusive.



This general trend upward in accident numbers is predicted to continue to escalate unless HSE make some significant changes - in particular to protect the public by declaring a minimum safe distance between new turbine developments and occupied housing and buildings (currently 2km in Europe), and declaring "no-go" areas to the public, following the 500m exclusion zone around operational turbines imposed in France.

<http://www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk/page4.htm>

False claims that “wind farms” provide large economic and job benefits

January 3, 2011 by Glenn R. Schleede

Summary:

Energy expert Glenn Schleede details key flaws found in the Jobs and Economic Development Impact model (JEDI) used by the DOE's National Renewable Energy "Laboratory" (NREL) to the forecast economic benefits of wind energy development.

One would think that by now Obama Administration officials would admit that "wind farms" do not provide large economic and job benefits. However, recent Administration statements suggest the delusion continues and, perhaps, that officials do not understand why their expectations are unrealistic.

False expectations may be due to the infamous "JEDI" model (Jobs and Economic Development Impact model) developed for DOE's National Renewable Energy "Laboratory" (NREL) by a

wind industry consultant-lobbyist. Unfortunately, this "model"(paid for with our tax dollars) has been widely promoted by NREL and DOE and outputs from the model are used by "wind farm" developers to mislead the public, media, and government officials.

Economic models often produce false or misleading outputs because (a) the model itself is faulty, and/or (b) unrealistic assumptions are "fed into" to model, with the result that the models overstate national, state, and/or local job and other economic benefits. In the case of wind energy models, basic flaws and faulty assumptions often include one or more of the following:

1. Ignoring the fact that much of the capital cost of "wind farms" is for equipment purchased elsewhere, often imported from other countries. Some wind energy advocates claim that wind turbines are "manufactured" in the US when, in fact, they are merely assembled in the US using imported parts and components. About 75% of the capital cost of "wind farms" is for turbines, turbine parts and components, towers and blades - so a large share of the "wind farm" cost is for imports. These add to the outflow of wealth from the US and provide no economic or job benefits in the US.
2. Assuming that employment during project construction results in new jobs for local workers -- when most "wind farm" construction jobs are short term (6 months or less) and the overwhelming share of them are filled by specialized workers who are brought in temporarily.
3. Assuming that the very few permanent "wind farm" jobs are new jobs filled by local workers - when, in fact, these few permanent jobs are often filled by people brought in for short periods. Some "wind farm" owners contracts with suppliers of wind turbines and other equipment for maintenance work with the result that no "new" jobs for local workers are added.
4. Assuming that temporary workers who are brought in for short periods live and spend their pay checks -- and pay taxes -- locally when, in fact, these workers spend most of their wages where they and their families have permanent residences -- where the workers spend most of their weekends and where they pay nearly all of their taxes.
5. Assuming that the full purchase price of the goods and services purchased locally (often minimal in any case) has a local economic benefit. In fact, only the local value added may have a local economic benefit. This truth is illustrated by the purchase of a gallon of gasoline -- let's say for \$3.00. Only the wages of the service station employees, the dealer's margin, and the taxes paid locally or to the state may have a local or state economic benefit. Economic benefits associated with the share of the \$3.00 that pays for the crude oil (much of it imported), refining, wholesaling, and transportation generally flows elsewhere.
6. Assuming that land rental payments to land owners for allowing wind turbines all have local economic benefit. In fact, these payments will have little or no local economic benefit when the payments are to absentee landowners OR if the money is spent or invested elsewhere or is used to pay income taxes that flow to Washington DC or state capitals.
7. Using "input-output" models that spit out "indirect" job and other economic benefits that, in effect, magnify (a) all of the overestimates identified above, and (b) use unproven formula and data to calculate alleged "multiplier" effects.
8. Ignoring the environmental and economic COSTS imposed by "wind farm" development, which include (a) environmental, ecological, and economic costs associated with the production

of the equipment, and constructing and operating the "wind farm" (e.g., site and road clearing, (b) wildlife habitat destruction, noise, bird and bat kills and interference with migration and refuges, (c) scenic impairment, (d) neighboring property value impairment, and (e) infrastructure costs.

9. Ignoring the fact that electricity produced from wind turbines, has less real value than electricity from reliable generating units -- because that output is intermittent, volatile and unreliable. Also, the electricity is most likely to be produced at night in colder months, not on hot weekday late afternoons in July and August when demand is high and the economic value of electricity is high.

10. Ignoring the "backup power" costs; i.e., the added cost resulting from having to keep reliable generating units immediately available (often running at less than peak efficiency) to keep electric grids in balance when those grids have to accept intermittent, volatile and unreliable output from "wind farms."

11. Ignoring the fact that electricity from "wind farms" in remote areas generally results in high unit costs of transmission due to (a) the need to add transmission capacity, (b) the environmental, scenic and property value costs associated with transmission lines, (c) the electric transmission "line losses" (i.e., electricity produced by generating units but lost during transmission and never reaches customers or serves a useful purpose), and (d) inefficient use of transmission capacity because "wind farms" output is intermittent and unpredictable and seldom at the capacity of the transmission line that must be built to serve the "wind farm."

12. Ignoring the fact that the higher true cost of the electricity from wind is passed along to ordinary electric customers and taxpayers via electric bills and tax bills which means that people who bear the costs have less money to spend on other needs (food, clothing, shelter, education, medical care -- or hundreds of other things normally purchased in local stores), thus reducing the jobs associated with that spending and undermining local economies that would benefit from supplying these needs.

13. Perhaps most important, ignoring the fact that the investment dollars going to "renewable" energy sources would otherwise be available for investment for other purposes that would produce greater economic benefits. "Wind farms" have very high capital costs and relatively low operating costs compared to generating units using traditional energy sources. They also create far fewer jobs, particularly long-term jobs, and far fewer local economic benefits. "Wind farms" are simply a poor choice if the goals are to create jobs, add local economic benefits, or hold down electric bills.

Download File(s):

[FalseClaims_wind.PDF](#) (125.88 kB)

Filed under : [Energy Policy](#) : [USA](#)

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/30628>

Modeling the effects of wind turbines on radar returns

December 5, 2010 by R. Ryan Ohs, Gregory J. Skidmore, Dr. Gary Bedrosian

Summary:

This paper explains how wind turbines located near radar installations can significantly interfere with a radar's ability to detect its intended targets. The authors explain software tools capable of calculating the radar cross section of electrically large objects. In this paper, interference from wind turbines is predicted using XGtd simulations and new post-processing algorithms that calculate Doppler shift quantities based on points of interaction with the rotating turbine blades.

Wind turbines located near radar installations can significantly interfere with a radar's ability to detect its intended targets. In order to better understand and mitigate the adverse effects of wind turbines on radar, the government and wind farm community need tools that can be used to analyze the radar returns from wind turbines. Remcom's XGtd® software is a high frequency solver capable of calculating the radar cross section of electrically large objects. In this paper, interference from wind turbines is predicted using XGtd simulations and new post-processing algorithms that calculate Doppler shift quantities based on points of interaction with the rotating turbine blades. Results of the analysis are used to calculate the bistatic radar cross section and Doppler shift from two blade orientations. In addition, the time-varying monostatic radar cross section and Doppler shift for a single wind turbine are analyzed and shown to agree well with measured data from actual wind turbines.

Web link: <http://downloads.vertmarkets.com/files/downloads/d...>

Download File(s):

[windturbineeffectsonradarreturns.pdf](#) (485.83 kB)

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/30275>

The problems with 'Noise Numbers' for wind farm noise assessment

September, 2010 by Dr. Robert Thorne

Summary:

Dr. Robert Thorne presented this paper at the annual symposium on turbine noise held by the Society for Wind Vigilance. The evidence documented in his paper show "there is the potential for adverse health effects for individuals due to wind farm activity while living in their residences and while working on their farms within 3500 metres of large-scale turbines". Dr. Thorne's complete paper can be downloaded by clicking on one of the links at the bottom of this page.

CONCLUSIONS

Personal perception of a sound is investigated through assessment of personal noise sensitivity, personal perception of the characteristics of the sound and observable adverse health effects. Noise includes vibration in any form that can be "felt" by a person. There is, in my opinion and despite the differences in opinion as to cause, considerable agreement between the parties - residents, clinicians and acousticians - as to observable health effects from unwanted sound.

There are clear and definable markers for adverse health effects before and after the establishment of a wind farm and clear and agreed health effects due to stress after a wind farm has started operation. It is the mechanism of the physical or mental process from one to the other that is not yet defined or agreed between affected persons, clinicians and psychoacousticians. There has, however, been considerable work recently (May-June 2010) on the possible mechanism between infrasound and adverse health effects.

It is concluded that:

- Wind farm reports and approval conditions (if approvals are issued) must provide clear and specific methodologies to measure wind farm sound under compliance testing conditions or under complaint conditions when turbine sound is part of the ambient sound.
- "Background" compliance monitoring is not sustainable as there is no proven methodology to accurately measure wind turbine sound, complaints especially, in the presence of ambient sound.
- Wind farms exhibit special audible characteristics that can be described as modulating sound or as a tonal complex. Compliance monitoring must include real-time measurement of special audible characteristics such as modulating sound in order to determine the perceptible effects of audible sound.
- Meteorological conditions, wind turbine spacing and associated wake and turbulence effects, vortex effects, turbine synchronicity, tower height, blade length, and power settings all contribute to sound levels heard or perceived at residences.
- Noise numbers and sound character analyses are meaningless if they are not firmly linked to human perception and risk of adverse health effects.
- No large-scale wind turbine should be installed within 2000 metres of any dwelling or noise sensitive place unless with the approval of the landowner.
- No large-scale wind turbine should be operated within 3500 metres of any dwelling or noise sensitive place unless the operator of the proposed wind farm energy facility, at its own expense, mitigates any noise within the dwelling or noise sensitive place identified as being from that proposed wind farm energy facility, to a level determined subject to the final approval of the occupier of that dwelling or noise sensitive place.

Web link: <http://www.windvigilance.com/downloads/symposium20...>

Download File(s):

[swv_symposium_paper_problems_with_noise_numbers.pdf](#) (2.27 MB)

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/30847>

Documents

FAA testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on the impact of wind farms on military readiness

June 29, 2010 by Nancy Kalinowski

Summary:

Statement of Nancy Kalinowski, Vice President for System Operations Services, Air Traffic Organization of the FAA delivered this testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Readiness on the Impact of Wind Farms on Military Readiness. An excerpt of Ms. Kalinowski's testimony shown below explains the problem produced when the moving turbines interfere with radar. Her complete testimony can be accessed by clicking on the links at the bottom of the page.

Excerpt:

The number of wind turbine cases handled by the FAA has increased from 3,030 in 2004 to 25,618 last year. To date in 2010, we have 18,685 wind turbine cases. One concern that the wind turbines raise is that the blade tips rotate above the radar, thus affecting the capability of the target to be received on the radar equipment. Additionally, they reflect radio waves, and exceed the line of sight protection criteria. To give you an idea of the impact of wind turbines on long range radar, there is a radar cross section spectrum that identifies how clearly a range of objects are picked up on the radar. Insects and birds are at the low end. Conventional cruise missiles are in the mid range. Most aircraft are a little higher in the spectrum, with large aircraft (e.g., a Boeing 747) and the space shuttle at the highest end of the spectrum. Wind turbine blades spinning, in some instances, at more than 200 miles per hour are picked up by radars with a signal strength greater than a Boeing 747. Because the radar repeatedly sees this large return, the radar will not pick up actual aircraft in the same area.

The clutter that is created by wind turbines can result in a complete loss of primary radar detection above a wind farm. When that clutter occurs, it appears at all altitudes, so simply directing the aircraft to a different altitude does not solve the problem. Similarly, on the Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD), wind farm activity looks remarkably like storm activity, thus complicating the communication of precise weather information by controllers to pilots. (Wind turbine impacts on NEXRAD, which are owned and operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, are not currently considered in FAA's evaluation process.) Existing FAA radars have limited capability to filter out clutter. The radar can be modified by increasing the sensitivity to reduce clutter from the wind turbines, but in doing so, what the radar can see is also reduced, to the point where actual aircraft targets can drop off. Consequently, there are real and significant issues that must be evaluated by the government prior to the approval of wind turbines.

Although not an issue of consideration in the evaluation process, another issue of some concern is that there is competition for the land which both the radars and the wind turbines need to occupy. Lease holders who currently have primary radars are now being offered substantial

financial incentives not to renew their leases with the FAA and instead, lease to companies that want to install wind turbines. This puts the FAA in the undesirable position of having to condemn property at fair market value to avoid losing the use of the navigational aid. The call for the FAA to simply move its radars to accommodate requests to install wind turbines fails to take into account that this is not a realistic option for a number of reasons. The FAA cannot take down a radar without an unacceptable loss of coverage. Even assuming an acceptable, alternate site could be identified, the radar could not simply be moved. Rather, a new radar would have to be installed at the new location. The reality is that the FAA does not have extra radars available for replacement and there are no spare long range radars. Even if a new radar were available, moving the radar site would require changes to the national airspace system. Airways, reporting points, and airspace fixes are parts of the airspace system that could be impacted. Depending on the situation, such changes could require regulatory action. The bottom line is that moving radars around the country is a costly, disruptive, unacceptable, and unworkable proposition. It may sound simple, but in fact, it is not something the FAA can accommodate or the taxpayers can afford.

Web link: http://www.faa.gov/news/testimony/news_story.cfm?n...

Download File(s):

[Kalinowski Testimony062910.pdf](#) (24.81 kB)

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/28500>

Gresham's Law of Green Energy

January 10, 2011 by Jonathan A. Lesser

Summary:

Jonathan Lesser explores how high-cost subsidized renewable resources risk destroying jobs and hurting consumers.

Conclusions

Industries that require never-ending subsidies simply cannot increase overall economic welfare. To conclude otherwise is to believe in "free-lunch" economics of the worst kind. Yet, freelunch economics are driving the push for renewable energy.

The subsidies paid by ratepayers transfer wealth from existing generators to a chosen few renewable resource owners. One may like to rail against the existing generators - as many politicians have - but the long-run implications of such subsidies will be to destroy competitive wholesale electric markets and drive out existing competitors. This course of action will cost jobs because businesses, forced to pay higher electricity prices, will either relocate, contract, or disappear altogether. It will reduce the disposable income of consumers, who will forever be forced to subsidize renewable resources (just as they must now subsidize corn ethanol producers) - all in the name of "green energy."

Cape Wind stands at the forefront of this new renewable energy push, one that is based on long-discredited - and, alas, long-believed promises. Unfortunately, it is politicians who are selecting the winners and losers in the renewables game, and the select few are benefiting at the expense of the many, i.e., the ratepayers. This is hardly a recipe for economic growth.

Web link: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/regulation/regv33n4/regv3...>

Download File(s):

[GreshamLawGreenEnergy.pdf](#) (279 kB)

Michaels on the viability of wind as an economic choice for U.S. electrical future

June 16, 2010 by Robert J. Michaels, PhD

Summary:

Economist Robert J. Michaels from California State University provided this testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology Energy and Environment Subcommittee in reference to renewable energy policy. Dr. Michaels expresses doubts that wind energy will have much of an impact on displacing fossil fuels, or that government subsidies for the wind industry will create jobs. A summary of his testimony is provided below. His full testimony can be accessed by clicking on one of the links at the bottom of the page.

Summary and Conclusions

The value of funding the changes that the Committee is considering depends critically on an assumption that requires far more thorough examination than it has thus far received – that wind power will be an economic choice for the nation's electrical future. Almost all of the evidence points in the opposite direction. There are two types of renewable resources: ones like biomass, waste and geothermal generators that have long occupied a small niche in markets where they have long stood on their own. The other resources, primarily wind, have yet to pass market tests and instead thrive because of subsidies and regulatory requirements that utilities purchase their output. Official data show clearly that the costs of electricity from wind and solar units are well above those of every fossil fuel, and are expected to remain high. We have seen wind's sensitivity to subsidies in the pattern of investments with and without its production tax credit, and in the statements of its trade association about the importance of those subsidies. Further, claims that all energy sources are subsidized can be quite misleading. Looking at fuel actually consumed in power production, a megawatt-hour of wind power receives 90 times the subsidy of one produced from natural gas. Most of wind's subsidy takes the form of tax breaks for producers rather than direct allocations of funds for research.

Other problems are still matters for research, but as they arise they suggest that government think twice before it continues to rush electricity into heavier dependence on wind power. Wind's

useful contributions to capacity are weather dependent, and wind often produces the least when it is the most needed. Integrating wind into regional markets will require substantial transmission investments, and preliminary results of work on wind power's actual impact on fossil fuel emissions are not encouraging. Regional political factors and electrical geography may further render some planned operational changes difficult or impossible to implement. Finally, as an engine of "job creation," wind power is probably a poor choice.

It is always hazardous for a non-expert (or for that matter an expert) to predict policy trends. Unfortunately, this Committee will have little choice but to do so when considering the GE / NREL study. Public opinion is in flux, but absent national carbon control and / or renewables requirements, the value of implementing its recommendations will fall precipitously. Markets are also changing in ways that bring up further questions. Over the past few years wind power has grown strongly, largely fueled by subsidies and regulatory requirements. Over that same period a revolution in fossil fuels has taken place, but without such subsidies or regulations. The technologies to access natural gas in shales, tight sands and coal seams have come of age. They can now reach hitherto unimagined volumes located all around the nation at current prices, and with what most agree are minor environmental impacts. The nation's gas reserves are massively increasing, and the history of oil and other minerals strongly suggests that early estimates of reserves will turn out to have been far too low. America can probably look forward to literally centuries of its own clean, safe, competitively produced, and truly secure fuel. Looking forward also means looking backward. Abundant gas means less need for power from coal and uranium, and from uneconomic renewables as well. Gas-fired generation is cost-effective, fuel-efficient, environmentally acceptable almost everywhere, and already an integral part of almost every utility's power supply. The future belongs to the efficient, and it is time to abandon the mistaken belief that efficiency and renewable are synonyms.

Web link: <http://gop.science.house.gov/Media/hearings/energy...>

Download File(s):

[100613MICHAELS testimony final.pdf](#) (93.68 kB)

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/27984>

Modern wind turbines generate dangerously "Dirty" electricity

April 28, 2009 by Catherine Kleiber

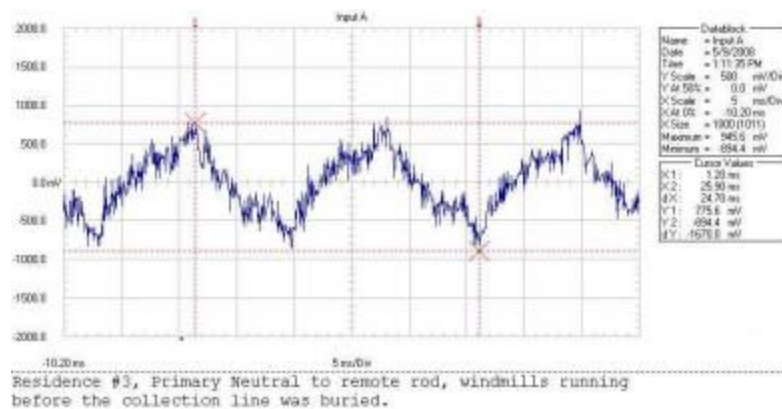
Summary:

Wind turbines are causing serious health problems. These health problems are often associated, by the people having them, with the flicker and the noise from the wind turbines. This often leads to reports being discounted. Residents of the area around the Ripley Wind Farm in Ontario where Enercon E82 wind turbines are installed feel that the turbines are making them ill.

Wind turbines are causing serious health problems. These health problems are often associated, by the people having them, with the flicker and the noise from the wind turbines. This often leads to reports being discounted.

Residents of the area around the Ripley Wind Farm in Ontario where Enercon E82 wind turbines are installed feel that the turbines are making them ill. Residents suffer from ringing in the ears, headaches, sleeplessness, dangerously elevated blood pressure (requiring medication), heart palpitations, itching in the ears, eye watering, earaches, and pressure on the chest causing them to fight to breathe. The symptoms disappear when the residents leave the area. Four residents were forced to move out of their homes, the symptoms were so bad. Residents also complain of poor radio, TV and satellite dish reception. There is no radio reception under or near the power lines from the wind turbines because there is too much interference. Local farmers have found that they get headaches driving along near those power lines.

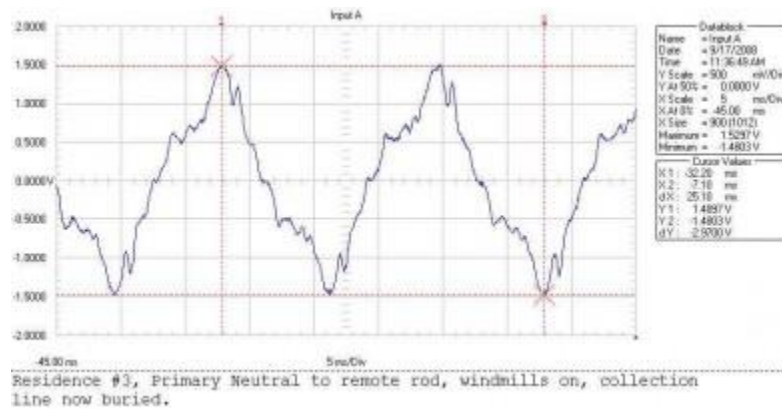
The waveforms below were taken at one of the residences in the area. The first waveform was taken before the wind farm started operation. (As you can see, a ground current problem existed even before the wind farm started.) The frequency profile of the neutral to earth voltage changed dramatically after the wind farm became operational (second waveform). There are far more high and very high frequencies present; indicated by the increased spikiness of the waveform.



As demonstrated by these waveforms, wind turbines are extremely electrically polluting. Studies and anecdotal reports associate electrical pollution with a similar set of symptoms to those experienced by the residents of the area (1, 2, 3). The symptoms associated with electrical pollution are caused by overexposure to high frequencies and are known as radio wave sickness (4). Technical papers discuss the fact that it requires only very small amounts of high frequency signals (either from transients or communications) on wiring to induce significant electrical currents in the human body. They support findings of human health problems caused by exposure to even small amounts of high frequencies (5, 6). The specific symptoms experienced depend on both the frequencies present and the body type and height of the person being exposed. Increased risk of cancer is associated with exposure to both "dirty" power on wires and electrical ground currents (7, 8). Animals also experience health problems related to electrical pollution exposures. Dairy cow's milk production and health suffers as exposure to high frequency transients increases (9, 10).

Suncor and Acciona have tried to some degree to correct the problem at the Ripley Wind Farm. They buried the collector line from the turbine near some of the most badly affected homes and gave the homes a separate distribution line. They also put an insulator between the neutral line

and the grounding grid for the wind farm. As you can see, from the waveform below, it helped somewhat. It reduced the high frequencies being induced on the distribution system by the proximity of the collectors and the high frequencies put directly on the neutral by the tie to the wind farm grounding grid. However, it is still not as good as before the wind farm installation and neither is their health.



This is not the only wind farm that seems to be causing serious health problems for local residents. The Enercon E82 does not seem to be unique in its design or problems. Wind turbines generate a sine wave of variable frequency in order to be able to take advantage of the full range of wind speeds. However, the grid only operates at 60Hz, so the variable frequency is converted to DC and then an inverter is used to convert the DC signal to 60 Hz AC. This is the signal that is put on the power line. Most inverters generate an extremely "dirty" signal, which is a 60Hz waveform polluted with a lot of high frequency transients. The previous waveforms are examples of this. The people in this house were so sick at home with the wind turbines running that they had to abandon their home and move elsewhere while they waited for the problem to be fixed. The changes made by the wind farm combined with a neutral isolation device installed by the homeowners has made the home livable, but their health is still affected by the operation of the wind turbines.

In order to eliminate the electrical pollution problem wreaking havoc on the health of people living in proximity to wind farms, the inverters need to be properly filtered at each wind turbine and all collection lines from the wind turbines to the substation should be buried. At the substation the electricity must also be filtered before being allowed on the power grid. There also needs to be a proper neutral system installed to handle the high frequency return current.

More information about electrical pollution and health can be found at <http://www.electricalpollution.com> . The author can be contacted with questions about electrical pollution at webmaster@electricalpollution.com . If you would like to get periodic email updates relevant to electrical pollution, please email with "join email list" in the subject heading. If you need measurements done, please contact Dave Stetzer in Wisconsin (608-989-2571 or dave@stetzerelectric.com) or Dave Colling in Canada (519-395-5194 or kave@hurontel.on.ca).

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/20955>

Stray voltage culprit, Bruce meeting hears

By BILL HENRY

Posted 1 year ago

Three months after the Ripley Wind Farm went online in December 2007, Dave Colling's phone started ringing.

Three of his neighbours were seeing doctors about recurring ear aches. They knew Colling, a former dairy farmer who lives within two kilometres of the turbines near the southern Bruce County community, had an interest in and could test for what he calls "electrical pollution."

"It's like living inside a microwave. It radiates," Colling told more than 100 people in Keady last Tuesday night.

He said stray voltage eventually forced four families from their homes. Two have not returned, and one family sold the farm and moved away.

"Everybody says it's in their heads. It's not in their heads," Colling said. "I know these people. They're honest, hardworking people."

Wind farm officials in Ripley finally agreed to bury some transmission lines. That improved but didn't end the problems, Colling said.

Many people experience difficulty breathing and a pressure in their chest. Colling said it's caused by stray electricity, citing numerous research sources linking illness to electrical hypersensitivity. Symptoms at some Ripley homes can arrive within 15 minutes, he said....

One farmer, his pregnant wife and their two-year-old daughter have been living in a single room at a Kincardine hotel since April at the wind farm's expense, Colling said.

Before that, her parents had taken their "screaming" child to the hospital emergency department some 10 times with ear aches. Her mother moved the girl out of the house, but the aches returned as soon as she would visit for the weekend.

"This little two-year-old girl does not know what a wind turbine is doing to her. She has no connection mentally that this thing is making her sick," Colling said.

Colling also said there's evidence that earthworms have vacated much of the land near the turbines, and rodents, cats and dogs won't go near some farm buildings where he has measured electrical pollution.

"It drives everything away," he said

<http://www.todaysfarmer.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?archive=true&e=2160644>

Calculating wind power's environmental benefits

June, 2009 by Thomas Hewson Jr. and David Pressman

Summary:

Energy analyst Tom Hewson provides details on new wind power generation and whether the claimed benefit of avoided emissions is overstated.

It's commonly believed that new wind power generation will displace coal and natural gas-fueled power plants and thereby avoid all their associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The benefits of these avoided emissions have become a major factor in wind developers gaining public support for their plans to site wind farms. These purported benefits also are the reason for the large subsidies governments have provided to offset wind's higher power production costs.

Unfortunately, some of these environmental claims are built upon incorrect assumptions about how U.S. environmental regulations actually work and the type of generation a new wind project will displace. On any given power project, the benefits of avoided air emissions can be calculated as the simple difference between whether a designated project is built versus if the project is not built. This simple calculation has been incorrectly done by several renewable project developers and their consultants. Their mistakes have led them to incorrectly claim large air emission benefits from building new wind facilities...

Finally, proponents who suggest that wind is able to entirely displace CO₂ overlook a fact fundamental to energy generation: wind's unpredictability means it truly has no generating capacity value and its construction will not displace building any new coal or natural gas generating capacity. Grid reserve margins require wind back up and the inefficiency of quickly firing up a natural gas unit to meet erratic wind generation output means any emissions displacement is minimal. Wind is simply an additional capital cost which proves to be more than twice as expensive for the ratepayer.

Conclusions

Any analysis of wind power's potential to displace fossil fuel generation must first correctly reflect current environmental regulations. Any air pollutant subject to a cap and trade program covering SO₂, NO_x and regional CO₂ may be displaced but not avoided. Emission levels will remain at the same capped levels with or without wind project development. With the eventual implementation of a federal cap and trade law regulating CO₂ emissions appearing likely, wind power will likely offer no future incremental greenhouse gas emission reduction benefit.

One must also distinguish between closed market states with renewable portfolio standards and those open market states without them. Those competing in these closed set-aside protected markets are competing against other renewable projects and not in the open market against lower cost conventional power sources. In these closed markets, no incremental carbon reduction benefits exist between competing renewable power projects. However, these closed power markets were established through regulation and/or legislation and their creation carved out a portion of the open market that reduced the demand for conventional power generation and non-capped fossil fuel emissions. In any case, any avoided emissions benefit is not attributable to a single wind developer, but to regulatory action that has created the closed market for wind and other renewables.

Creating a federal renewable portfolio standard would create a nationwide closed market for renewables, meaning wind projects would again offer no incremental emissions benefits given their direct competition with other renewables and not coal or natural gas. Unfortunately, many of the claims made regarding wind's supposed avoided air benefits are overstated.

***Authors:** Thomas Hewson Jr. is a principal with Energy Ventures Analysis of Arlington Va. where he directs the firm's environmental consulting practice. His experience spans more than 32 years evaluating environmental issues related to energy use for DOE, EPA, EPRI, major electric utilities, fuel suppliers, equipment vendors, utility commissions, investment firms and citizens groups. He holds a BSE in civil engineering from Princeton University.*

David Pressman is an Analyst for Energy Ventures Analysis and holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Rochester.

Web link: <http://online.qmags.com/PE0709/Default.aspx>

Download File(s):

[HEWSONCalculating the cost of wind power.pdf](#) (332.12 kB)

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/22493>

Living with turbines: a sad story from Shelburne, Ontario

February 18, 2011 by [northgowerwindturbines](#)

Shelburne, a village best known for its annual fiddle festival, located an hour west of Toronto, is now home to about 150 industrial wind turbines. The community was told 20 originally, and now they have over 100, with many many more planned.

What follows is a letter to Melancthon Township Council by a local resident, an organic farmer who has been living amid the turbines with his family for about three years now. The family's life is in ruins. His doctor has told them they must move, their Realtor says they will never be able to sell their property. This is the reality of "clean" "green" renewable industrial-scale wind power development.

Mayor Bill Hill

PO Box 465 Shelburne, Ontario

Dear Mayor Bill Hill,

I would like this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Farshad Davoodian, I am a registered farmer in Melancthon, Dufferin County. As I am sure that you are aware we are currently living in the middle of hundreds of wind turbines that have been planted here by the Canadian Hydro Company. Initially I did not have an objection to their existence as they gave us incorrect information regarding the discomfort we are now experiencing. They have completely disrupted our lives, we have trouble sleeping due to the constant sound, they have affected our health. We have now found ourselves in a position that it has become impossible to work, the noise has been unbearable and we cannot rest in our own home, the sound is comparable to a washing machine that never stops. Our health has been in constant decline since their existence and we cannot continue living and working here, we are put in a position of being run from our farm and home. I hope that you can do what you can in your power to bring our concerns to the table. I believe an investigation should be commenced regarding these issues. I am sure I am not the only one living under these conditions. I have enclosed letters that clearly show the company

Trans Alta is not denying the excess noise. Our correspondence as well as a letter from my doctor showing her concerns regarding our health.

We will report if there is any action or discussion following the reading of this letter at the council meeting.

northgowerwindactiongroup@yahoo.ca

<http://northgowerwindactiongroup.wordpress.com/2011/02/18/living-with-turbines-a-sad-story-from-shelburne-ontario/>

Report: CA Utilities Signing Expensive Clean Power Contracts

By [Ucilia Wang, Contributor](#) | February 21, 2011 |

It's no secret that renewable electricity in general is more expensive than power from fossil fuels. But how much more expensive? A California report shows that the state's utilities have signed contracts that will cost them over \$6 billion more than they would otherwise pay for electricity from natural gas power plants.

The [report](#), released by the [Division of Ratepayer Advocates](#) (DRA) last Friday, says 59 percent of the contracts signed by the state's three largest utilities are priced above the market price referent (MPR), which is a yardstick used by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in reviewing the contracts. The [MPR](#) takes into account the costs of building, operating and maintaining a 500-megawatt combined cycle natural power plant. The more expensive contracts have prices that on average are 15 percent higher than the MPR

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2011/02/report-cal-utilities-sign-too-many-expensive-clean-power-contracts?cmpid=WNL-Wednesday-February23-2011>

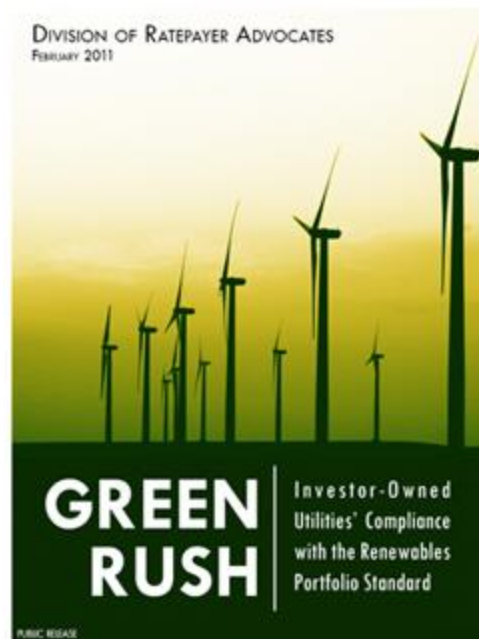
Green Rush: DRA Report Urges CPUC to Be More Discriminating on Contract Prices When Approving Renewable Contracts

DRA has released *Green Rush: Investor-Owned Utilities' Compliance With the Renewables Portfolio Standard*, a report analyzing California investor-owned utilities' progress in renewable procurement and outlining ratepayer concerns with their renewable strategies.

>> [See the report](#)

The California Legislature has set standards for renewable procurement -- including 20 percent of utilities' power coming from renewable sources by 2010, with a flexible compliance date of 2013. DRA's report finds that utilities are well on their way to meeting the 20 percent goal as well as a 33 percent renewable level. But DRA's analysis finds that the CPUC has continued to approve renewable contracts more expensive than outlined standards, and that utilities have exceeded the Legislature's above-market fund cost cap by more than \$5 billion.

The report encourages the CPUC to be more discriminating in its approval of utility contracts for renewable procurement. DRA analysis has found that the CPUC has only rejected two renewable contracts. Green Rush outlines specific measures that could help the CPUC bring ratepayer costs down while maintaining flexibility to help California get more of its power from sustainable, clean, renewable technologies.



The California Legislature has set standards for renewable procurement -- including 20 percent of utilities' power coming from renewable sources by 2010, with a flexible compliance date of 2013. DRA's report finds that utilities are well on their way to meeting the 20 percent goal as well as a 33 percent renewable level. But DRA's analysis finds that the CPUC has continued to approve renewable contracts more expensive than outlined standards, and that utilities have exceeded the Legislature's above-market fund cost cap by more than \$5 billion.

The report encourages the CPUC to be more discriminating in its approval of utility contracts for renewable procurement. DRA analysis has found that the CPUC has only rejected two renewable contracts. Green Rush outlines specific measures that could help the CPUC bring ratepayer costs

Experts weigh in on turbine noise

BY GARY RENNIE, THE WINDSOR STAR FEBRUARY 17, 2011

In a case that's put Ontario's Green Energy Act on trial drawing expert witnesses from around the world, a prominent Canadian physician testified Wednesday that construction of new wind turbines should be put on hold until appropriate medical studies are done to ensure the safety of nearby residents.

"The province ought not to proceed with the development of industrial wind turbines any further," said Dr. Robert McMurtry, a past dean of the medical school at the University of Western Ontario and a former assistant deputy minister of health for the federal government.

"There is a lot of suffering," McMurtry said. "We need to understand why." McMurtry was a witness for Chatham-Kent residents trying to overturn ministry of environment approval for Suncor's proposed Kent Breeze windfarm.

Using audio and video teleconferencing, expert witnesses from England, New Zealand and the U.S. have already weighed in on the complex science of industrial noise and how humans perceive and react to it.

Suncor and environment ministry lawyers have a long list of experts of their own to call in the weeks ahead.

Final arguments to the twomember Ontario Environmental Review Tribunal panel aren't expected to be made until April.

Considered the key witness for sceptics of the safety of turbines as currently regulated in Ontario, McMurtry spoke of his experiences talking to more than 40 people who have lived close to the 120-metre high towers and whirling blades. They complain of prolonged sleep deprivation, stress, headaches, extreme fatigue and high blood pressure, he said.

Leaving their homes to stay with relatives or in motels provides relief from the symptoms, McMurtry said. "The only cure is to move."

McMurtry was critical of both Ontario's noise standard for wind turbines and the 550-metre setback from turbine locations to homes in the regulations to the 2009 Green Energy Act.

"I do not have confidence in those guidelines."

© Copyright (c) The Windsor Star

http://www.windsorstar.com/story_print.html?id=4299742&sponsor=true

Wind industry group opposes federal guidelines to protect birds

Penn Energy 2/2011

The American Wind Energy Association Industry said it will oppose plans by a [federal agency](#) to adopt voluntary regulations on wind developers to protect birds and other wildlife.

AWEA said in a release that more than 34,000 MW of potential wind power development, \$68 billion in investment and 27,000 jobs are at risk due to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policies on golden eagles.

"Those numbers are expected to grow exponentially with analysis of the full scope of the proposed guidelines," AWEA said.

Two Fish and Wildlife Service documents offer guidelines for utility-scale and community-scale wind energy facilities to, according to the agency, "avoid and minimize" negative impacts to fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats.

"Draft Voluntary, Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines" was developed for industry to avoid and minimize impacts to federally protected migratory birds and bats and other impacted wildlife resulting from site selection, construction, operation and maintenance of land-based, wind energy facilities. The Fish and Wildlife Service also developed peer-reviewed "Draft Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance" for wind project developers and employees who must evaluate impacts from proposed wind energy projects to eagles protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and other federal laws.

AWEA said it cannot support either document even though it participated for more than two years in a public, collaborative Federal Advisory Committee process. AWEA said the process resulted in consensus recommendations on wind turbine siting that wind energy developers broadly supported.

AWEA said in a release "Unfortunately, the guidance released deviates significantly from the consensus recommendations." Among other problems with the guidance as released, it could:

- Delay construction of projects by up to three years and require operating projects to retroactively conduct post-construction wildlife studies for a minimum of two and as much as five years, adding unforeseen costs to the operating budgets of these facilities.
- Require "adaptive management", which could include operational changes, such as shutting off turbines at certain times of the year, which will add further unquantifiable costs to even projects already permitted and operating.
- Request analysis on wildlife-based sound impacts without any peer-reviewed scientific evidence that sound related to the construction and operation of wind farms has the potential to impact wildlife.
- "Greatly expand" applicability under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to projects built on private lands, adding time and costs to developing wind projects, when there is no federal staff to perform this "vastly increased amount of administrative work."

Rumbling from turbines puts wind up sleep-deprived locals

- Rebecca Puddy
- From: [The Australian](#)
- February 17, 2011 12:00AM

Dreaming of building a house and farming the land, Julie Quaft and her husband, Mark, bought a quiet 16ha property 100km north of Adelaide six years ago.

Since then, a wind farm has been built next to her house, which she said had not only robbed her of her dreams, but affected her health.

"It's made things very hard for me because I can't sleep," Mrs Quaft said. "It sounds like a huge jet engine rumbling on the hill."

The wind farm in Waterloo, near Clare, 100km north of Adelaide, began operating in October, but will be opened today by Mike Rann, amid criticism from the divided country community.

While many farmers have supported the project -- particularly those earning an income from turbines built on their land -- others have claimed to have suffered significant health effects.

Waubra Foundation medical director Sarah Laurie has studied the health effects of wind turbines and is concerned about the symptoms reported worldwide.

Related Coverage

- [SA - the 'clean and green' state](#) *Adelaide Now, 16 hours ago*
- [Turbine neighbours gagged in buy-up](#) *Herald Sun, 29 Jan 2011*
- [Wind farm fight heads to court](#) *Adelaide Now, 28 Jan 2011*
- [Tycoon's tilt at march of turbines](#) *The Australian, 21 Jan 2011*
- [Wind farms linked to health problems](#) *Adelaide Now, 16 Jan 2011*

"The main symptoms are chronic sleep deprivation, night terrors, people waking up in the night in a panic for no reason and bed-wetting," Dr Laurie said.

"We think that what is happening is that people's sympathetic nervous systems are being stimulated so they get a massive rush of adrenalin in the middle of the night."

The state's push to develop wind farms is being driven by a target of having 33 per cent of energy generated by renewable sources by 2020.

More wind power is generated in South Australia than in any other state or territory, with 13 farms operating. As in Victoria, wind farms have attracted strong opposition from locals.

In October, Family First senator Steve Fielding asked federal parliament to examine their social and economic impact.

The parliamentary committee received hundreds of submissions, many expressing community concern over the turbines' health effects. Owned by Roaring 40s, the farm near the Quaft family has 37 turbines. Bill, a Waterloo resident who did not want to be identified, has all but moved to a nearby town to escape the constant roaring and pounding effect from the soundwaves.

He said the wind farm developers had put a wedge into the previously close-knit community.

"We've been deceived and conned all along," Bill said. Roaring 40s managing director Steve Symons said the wind farm had strong support from the community and the organisation had tried to work with those who had objections.

"With the health issues, as an industry, that hasn't been medically proven, but to the extent we have complaints from residents in relation to noise, we go to their houses and test the noise levels with microphones," Mr Symons said. "We are in compliance with the noise requirements of the EPA (Environment Protection Authority) and they are the most stringent noise requirements in Australia."

Two cases are before the state's courts, with residents questioning the health and environmental impact of planned wind farms.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/rumbling-from-turbines-puts-wind-up-sleep-deprived-locals/story-e6frg6nf-1226007202813>

Trouble brewing for wind farms?

By Donna Barker - dbarker@bcnews.com Created: Wednesday, December 15, 2010 8:41 p.m. CST

PRINCETON — The future development of wind farms in Bureau County could be up in the air.

After hearing complaints at Tuesday night's meeting from Ohio residents Todd and Deb Anderson about the Big Sky wind farm, the Bureau County Board discussed the need to re-evaluate the county's zoning ordinances, especially in regards to wind farms, as well as the possible need to place a moratorium on any future building of wind farms in Bureau County...

The board also discussed ongoing litigation with Iberdrola Renewables over the road agreement for the Providence Heights wind farm south of Tiskilwa. There have also been problems with wind turbines and meteorological towers not erected in the approved locations, board member Joe Bassetti said.

After further discussion, board member Marshann Entwhistle suggested prohibiting future wind farm development in Bureau County until the county can solve the various problems and study the impact of wind farms in Bureau County.

"I really think that this county needs to put a moratorium on any future wind farms going into this county," Entwhistle said. "If you drive around this county, it's really looking pretty bad."

Board member Dan Rabe said the board needs to consider the taxing dollars brought into the county by the wind farms, as well as the money earned by the landowners for renting property to the wind farm developers. In response, Wilt said the county board is not to take financial impact into consideration when dealing with zoning issues...

http://www.bcnews.com/articles/2010/12/15/r_pgd6shkaqk25qx1glma2la/index.xml?_xsl=/article-tip.xsl

California approves first US cap and trade scheme

California regulators approve nation's first system that gives polluters financial incentives to emit fewer greenhouse gases

guardian.co.uk, Friday 17 December 2010 10.13 GMT

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/dec/17/california-cap-and-trade-emissions>

renewable energy credits can be collected and sold for tons of \$\$ / mark Hass

Second Rebuttal in Economist Debate

February 2, 2011
Economist Debates

Mr Sawyer once again, without any evidence, claims wind is cheaper than hydrocarbon-based generation and that wind's costs have come down. That is simply not true. In December, the US Energy Information Administration determined that the cost of new wind projects increased by 21% last year.

My opponent talks about scale and tosses out some percentages, but no hard numbers. Here are some: in 2009, total global wind energy production was about 260 terawatt hours, or 1.3% of global electricity production. (Production from solar and geothermal was so small as to be insignificant.) That is the energy equivalent of about 435,000 barrels of oil per day. Global primary energy consumption averages about 225m barrels of oil equivalent per day. Thus all global wind energy output in 2009 was the equivalent of about 1/500th of global energy needs. Put another way, global wind output in 2009 was less than 1/100th of the amount of energy derived from natural gas. Renewables will grow rapidly, but it will be decades before they can make a sizable difference in global carbon emissions

Mr Sawyer and many others in the wind industry fervently pray that they can dismiss the burgeoning backlash against industrial wind as "anecdotes" and "a few cases of NIMBY obstructionism". He dares not admit the resistance to the visual blight and the deadly serious infrasound-related health issues that make his industry unwelcome in so many rural communities around the world. He should visit Copenhagen, which in 2009 held a headline-grabbing UN-sponsored global climate conference, at which no real agreement was made. The Copenhagen Post recently reported: "State-owned energy firm Dong Energy has given up building more wind turbines on Danish land, following protests from residents complaining about the noise the turbines make." It appears that Denmark, the supposed Valhalla of wind energy, has many of the NIMBYs that Mr Sawyer so despises. He should also look at the 3,500-signature petition given

to the Scottish Parliament a few days ago which opposes "badly sited, industrial scale wind" projects in Scotland.

Does natural gas have environmental challenges? Absolutely. There is no such thing as a free lunch, particularly when it comes to energy and power systems. But with billions of people living in dire poverty, the answer is not expensive, intermittent, unreliable energy from renewables. Instead, those people must be brought into modernity with clean, cheap, reliable, dispatchable forms of power. And the best choice to provide that power over the near term is clearly natural gas.

Original file here: <http://economist.com/debate/days/view/647>

<http://johnosullivan.livejournal.com/30603.html>

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO **STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Excerpted quote from Barb Ashbee, Shelburne, a homeowner adversely affected by industrial wind turbines placed too close to her family's home. Quote taken from the attached document, Hansard 15-APR-2009_G023.pdf, starting at the bottom of page 34. According to this testimony, (emphasis added) her home was located within 1496 feet (456 meters) and 2296 feet (700 meters):

"You need to know the problems with wind turbines and people living with them. I know you probably know me. You've probably seen my letters. When the wind turbines started up in early December, we had terrible noise issues, and it was pretty much instant. There were three nights straight we didn't sleep at all, and that's what prompted my letter to the wind company and to—I actually sent it to the MP because I didn't know how this all worked at that time. I had no idea.

We had no thoughts that we were going to have problems. When the wind turbines were actually going up at our place in the summer, we were putting a double-car garage up at the same time. We had put in a new fence, a new deck, everything. We weren't expecting anything. We're not anti-wind, we're not anti-green, but there are big problems with the setbacks in our area.

By the way, I'm from Shelburne. I'm sorry; I should have said that to begin with.

The closest turbine is 456 metres behind us. There are two north and south of it. Our house faces east. Across the road, the next closest is just under 700 metres. When those winds pick up, they're so loud we cannot sleep at night. We've had test after test.

I will say the wind company has been very diligent in trying to find out what the problem is. Tests have been going on over four months now. They've been in our house with monitors, outside the house with monitors. They've shut turbines on, off. We've spent a lot of time with them, and I think they will agree that the two of us have worked very well together—with the acoustics company and with themselves—but they can't fix the problem

There's this horrible hum and vibration in our house. It just drives you mad. It's been there for the last six days. I'm sorry. It comes and goes, but it's so loud you can't sleep, and it's coming through the walls. The buried cable transmission lines go up the side of our property—we're on one acre—and I don't know if it's electrical coming through the ground in our house or what it is. We're looking for a rental now because we can't stay there.

When I hear people say, "There aren't problems," and "It's all in their heads," and they're just unhappy because they don't have a turbine, I don't even know what to do. My government has not been helping. My MPP, thank God, has been active in trying to work on my behalf with the government, giving everybody my story, and my council has been good, but I'm not getting anything back from anybody.

This hum and vibration is not covered in the guide-lines. There are no guidelines for interior noise in our house. When the winds are whipping up, and we can't sleep for days and days at a time, there's nothing. You

phone the MOE and I cannot tell you how many times I heard, “We’re in compliance. We’re in compliance.” They’re in compliance. They’re in compliance. In fact, they weren’t in compliance. Finally, we dragged it out and got the acoustics study back. It’s just been such a fight to get information.

Now they’re shutting five turbines down at night, and I thank them for that because that’s helping with the noise, but this vibration in the house is horrible, it’s absolutely horrible. Nobody should have to live like that, and I can’t believe the government hasn’t intervened and sent someone to our house to test for dirty electricity or whatever it is. It’s unconscionable, it just is.

We didn’t want to speak out in December. Finally, I gave up and I started writing letters because I didn’t know what to do because now our property value is zero. If I could move out of there, I’d have a for sale sign, we’d be gone, but we can’t sell our house. We’re into the fourth month and a couple of weeks ago a wind company head office guy came and talked to us. We’ve talked to so many people. He said, “Okay, I’ll see you in a month.” I’m like, “A month? We’ve gone on far enough.”

Here we are, we can’t move. We have nobody helping us. Yes, they’re doing their best, but look at the size of the company and look at the number of turbines they have up in Canada, and they can’t fix that problem. If you guys are going to go push more through—and then, because I came out and starting speaking, I’ve got people all over the province phoning me and saying, “Help us. We’re not getting anywhere with our MPP. Nobody’s listening to us.” And I’m trying to help, I’m trying to get the word out... **Mr. Peter Tabuns:** I’m very sorry to hear of the experiences that you’re going through, because they clearly have had an impact on you. Can you tell me the name of the wind company?

Ms. Barbara Ashbee-Lormand: Canadian Hydro...**Mr. Peter Tabuns:** The acoustics report that was produced: Is that something that you would be willing to share with the committee?

Ms. Barbara Ashbee-Lormand: I don’t see why no **Mr. Peter Tabuns:** Do you get the vibration when the turbines are shut down?

Ms. Barbara Ashbee-Lormand: Yes, and it’s my thought—and they can’t figure it out. Mind you, nobody from the MOE has come to check, but there are buried cable transmission lines going up the side of our property and there are Bell wires, and there’s a theory that perhaps the transmission cables are inducing electricity into the Bell wire, which is coming into our home. It’s grounded in our circuitry so it’s going around our house. We have had, just last week, an electrical consultant test for dirty electricity and he did find dirty electricity at 13 volts, which may not sound like much, but it’s a lot "

It has been stated that the buyout agreement/contract, that Barb Ashbee and her husband later signed with the owners of the offending wind turbine project, included a non-disclosure "gag order" that prevents her from disclosing the name of the project, the owners, or the size and model of the turbines that were the alleged cause of their physical, emotional and financial distress.

Our independent research found the following information (1-3 below) that we believe documents that name of the offending wind energy project, the size type and model of the turbines involved, and the names and addresses of those property owners that were bought out by the owners of the wind farm. It is our understanding that Barb Ashbee ,and her husband Dennis, were the last property owners do secure a buyout and that other property owners are still suffering:

1) The **Melancthon EcoPower Centre** is a 199.5 [megawatt](#) (MW) [wind farm](#) in [Melancthon Township](#), near [Shelburne, Ontario](#). The centre, Canada's largest wind energy installation, is owned and operated by [Canadian Hydro](#).^{[1][2]}

Construction of the Melancthon EcoPower Centre began with the 67.5 MW Phase I in 2005 and achieved commercial operation in March 2006. Construction of the 132 MW Phase II of the project began in 2007 and achieved full commercial operation in November 2008.^[1]

2)



Source of photo and

Melancthon EcoPower Centre information (#1-2) above:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melancthon_EcoPower_Centre

3)

Fact Melancthon - \$1.75 million buy outs

Roy and Teresa Brownell
375557 6TH LINE AMARANTH
PT LT 29, CON 5, PT1, 7R787

Helen and Bruce Fraser
58234 COUNTY ROAD 17, RR6
PT LT 291, CON 2 SWTS, PT 2
7R924

Sandra Marie and Stephan
Williams
58232 COUNTY ROAD 17, RR6
PT LT 291, CON 2SWTS, PT 2,
7R4396

David and Sheryl Barlow
PT LT 1, CON 5 SWTS 157736
HWY 89

Walter Mark Benvenete
97121 4TH LINE MELANCTHON
PT LT 284 & 285 CON 4 SWTS
163913
(house removed)

Barbara Ashbee, Dennis Lormand
335498 7th line Amaranth,
Shelburne
PT of east half of LT 29 CON 7

Another issue that has come to the attention of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture is stray voltage. We appreciate the work that's being done by the Ontario Energy Board to put in the necessary steps and pro-

cedures to address this, but let's be clear: This is not witchcraft, this is not hoodoo; this is an actual problem that can be addressed in several ways. We need to ensure that proper collection wires are used to bring this energy to the transformer. We need to ensure minimum separation distances between collection lines and distribution lines go from five metres to 30 metres to not induce that stray voltage. And sometimes, the noise complaints that people have about wind turbines could be a result of stray voltage in their homes. Again, we need to get to the scientific base of getting this information out to where it can go.

More testimony from those adversely impacted by industrial wind turbine projects in the Ripley area:

G-548 STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT 15 APRIL 2009 /starting at page

Health and safety: We're like the first population of smokers who went to their doctors with health problems. This is the third official warning to the Liberal government of Ontario: There will be harm to citizens of all ages and gender, due to wind projects.

1650

Let's be very clear on one serious point: Each of the families has had the same two environmental changes in their lives since November 2007:

(1) Our hydro configuration has changed to now include the connection to unfiltered power from the turbines and its substation.

(2) The blades of the industrial turbines began to rotate over, near and above the height of our homes.

Sleep deprivation; sleep disturbances; poor-quality sleep; humming in the head by the ears; edginess; a feeling as if you've had five cups of coffee; bad temper; heart palpitations; heaviness in the chest; pains in the chest like needles; increased blood pressure, 217 over 124; uncontrollable ringing in the ears; earaches; sore eyes, like you have sand in them; digestive problems which continued for months; headaches which caused you to be bedridden; the sensation of your skin crawling or being bitten by bugs; sore joints; nosebleeds; sores on feet that would not heal until you moved out of your

home; inability to concentrate or form words; a severe feeling of being unwell; bedridden for days; depression; tiredness; anxiety; stress—these are the signs and symptoms we have experienced over the past 17 months. Note that the above all start to subside when you leave the polluted environment of your home. The health changes are individual. Even the pets are affected while in the home—losing hair, sore ears—but not when away from the home.

The long-term health effects have also started to show. There's an increased sensitivity to certain sounds and high-frequency lighting, such as in the local stores, and in this room as well. You feel ill upon entering the building. Hearing difficulty has occurred. What other effects will occur?

Just like the first group of smokers, we counted on the government we hired and paid our tax money to, to have intelligently had all the facts determined before any wind project began.

Who is accountable for the unseen health changes occurring within our bodies from basically living in a vibrating microwave? What protection is there for a developing two-year-old who cries endlessly and pulls at her ears when she's in her home, but not when she's away from the project? Who's accountable to the young family who are expecting their second child? What if there's a deformity or a miscarriage resulting from infrasound, low-frequency sound and the electrical pollution?

The health costs of four families have impacted the health insurance plan 61 times, strictly for health problems due to the two factors stated previously. I had a local hospital finance department calculate a rough estimate for the bill of one family member—\$5,000 for one family member. Fourteen ER visits; 19 doctor visits; seven specialist visits, for ear, foot and heart; blood work, six times; audiologist, five times; CT scans, twice; heart machines and stress tests, five; Doppler testing, one; X-ray, one; urine tests, one—do the math. This is just four families so far. Who's going to pay for the health costs due to the health effects of wind projects?

There's additional in the gold.

Mr. Glen Wylds: Thank you, Sandy. I'm Glen Wylds. I live in the middle of the Ripley wind farm. I'm going to talk about the financial impact, the cost, to us as the homeowners.

Each family has incurred additional costs from bud-gets for food, fuel, laundry and doctor visits while living away from our homes. Family events had to be held in restaurants. There is wear and tear on our vehicles. There is the extra cost of extensive phone bills from trying to get the problems fixed. There is the price of putting isolators on our homes to protect our families from the unfiltered power. There's the cost of going to meetings. There's loss of productivity due to sleep deprivation. A loss of three weeks from work occurred.

The market value of a property is determined by what buyers are willing to pay for it after it is exposed to the market for a reasonable period of time. Affecting market value is the saleability of a property. The more saleable,

CPCN not PTC

A lesser setback would amount to "nothing less than government endorsed property takings, eliminating the safe use and development of land without meaningful compensation."

1. It amazes me that these bat deaths didn't serve as the "canary-in-the-coal-mine". The very large and fast turbine blades produce bat-lung-rupturing extremes of air pressure. These same extreme pressure variants are what produce the high levels of infrasound which impact on the health of area residents.

The term CATVIE best describes the effect .. "Clear Air Turbulence Vortex Infrasound Effect".

1. Until cross-discipline studies are conducted (Health, Acoustics, Engineering, Statistical Analysis), we'll keep on spinning our individual wheels as we try to counter the pseudo-science BS of turbine proponents!

Impact of turbine noise on health and well-being

September, 2010 by Dr. Daniel Shepherd

Summary:

Dr. Daniel Shepherd was invited by the Ohariu Preservation Society in New Zealand to provide an evaluation of the impact of turbine noise on health and well-being. The report specifically references the proposed Mill Creek wind energy facility proposed to be built on rural land northwest of Wellington, New Zealand in the Makara and Ohariu valleys. His full report can be accessed by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page. The conclusions of his report are shown below.

10.6 Ruling against the Mill Creek proposal will financially disadvantage a minority of the community. Supporting the Mill Creek proposal will compromise the well-being of a great many more residents. In addition, those who elicit strong emotional reactions to the loss of amenity that will accompany the turbines will also likely exhibit high annoyance responses to the turbine noise that will encroach the Ohariu Valley soundscape. Furthermore, those individuals who are highly noise sensitive will likewise suffer from the turbine noise.

10.8 It is not clear to me that Meridian has undertaken sufficient duty of care in assessing the health impacts of turbines in the Ohariu Valley. For example, to the best of my knowledge they have not assessed prevalence of vulnerable groups (elderly, children) or traits (noise sensitivity) or considered factors that predict amenity values (e.g., length of residence). Nor have they reasonably dealt with the experiences of residents in the adjacent Makara Valley. There is a sense that they have attempted to suppress meaningful debate in the direct links between noise and health and instead present arguments based on fears of technology. While I have some sympathy for this argument in certain contexts (e.g., the placement of cell phone towers) the approach is not relevant to the current context.

10.9 Based on these observations (i.e., 10.8), based on data I have collected and analysed, and based on the current state of knowledge linking noise to impaired health in vulnerable persons, I opine that consent should not be granted for the proposed turbines in the Ohariu Valley.

Daniel Shepherd holds a PhD in psychoacoustics, a Masters of Science degree in psychology, a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and biology. His PhD dissertation was a study on the abilities of human observers to discriminate between low level sounds. Currently he is a Senior lecturer at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, lecturing in the areas of psychological assessment, biopsychology, and statistical analyses at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He has published papers on the psychophysical measurement of human hearing abilities and has presented at numerous international conferences on the topic.

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/31031>

2-7-11: Raytheon Co. has been selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop an advanced wind turbine modeling tool. The tool will provide an accurate assessment of

turbines' effects on radar systems throughout the U.S.

Wind farms can interfere with the radar tracking of aircraft and weather by creating a Doppler effect as they rotate, creating potential blackout zones.

http://nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.7302

www.abcbirds.org

“The real answer is that we simply don’t yet have enough data to reliably estimate cumulative impacts, but once acquired they will likely far exceed current estimates. The growing and disproportionate 'take' of species of conservation concern also appears to be an issue relative to the overall number of birds killed, and that is another cause for worry,” stated Dr. Albert Manville of the FWS’s Division of Migratory Bird Management.

“We are plunging head-long into wind power, but so far, very few studies have been conducted that show what scale of impact it will really have on birds,” said Mike Parr, ABC’s Vice President. “While American Bird Conservancy supports bird-smart wind power, we do not support the fast-tracking of wind projects without adequate environmental oversight or assessment that can help developers and the public be certain that significant numbers of birds will not be harmed.”

In the near future, the Department of the Interior is expected to issue industry guidelines on the siting and operation of wind power to reduce bird and other wildlife impacts. Whether these guidelines will be binding or not is a cause of major concern to conservationists. “We wouldn’t allow stop signs to be voluntary, so why would preventing the killing of birds, which violates the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, be voluntary?” said ABC’s Vice President of Conservation Advocacy, Darin Schroeder.

Another major concern about wind development is that certain sensitive species may be affected very significantly by wind build-out. These include the spectacular Golden Eagle, the declining Greater Sage-Grouse, and endangered species such as the Whooping Crane. These species can be impacted by transmission lines and the infrastructure associated with wind farms, or by the turbines themselves.

In addition, today, American Bird Conservancy requested a Congressional hearing to investigate the scale and impact of bird kills caused by wind energy. “The impacts to birds from wind power have gone unrecognized and unaddressed, and are wrongly dismissed by industry as insignificant. In the light of the rapid growth in the industry to meet federal renewable energy targets, ABC is requesting a Congressional hearing into the bird impacts of wind power,” added Schroeder. **“ABC supports bird-smart wind power, but without strong federal standards protecting birds, we fear a major, on-going new threat will be created. We still have time to get it right if we act now,” he stated.**

--

In China, the true cost of Britain's clean, green wind power experiment: Pollution on a disastrous scale

By SIMON PARRY in China and ED DOUGLAS in Scotland

Last updated at 10:01 PM on 29th January 2011

This toxic lake poisons Chinese farmers, their children and their land. It is what's left behind after making the magnets for Britain's latest wind turbines... and, as a special Live investigation reveals, is merely one of a multitude of environmental sins committed in the name of our new green Jerusalem



The lake of toxic waste at Baotou, China, which has been dumped by the rare earth processing plants in the background

On the outskirts of one of China's most polluted cities, an old farmer stares despairingly out across an immense lake of bubbling toxic waste covered in black dust. He remembers it as fields of wheat and corn.

Yan Man Jia Hong is a dedicated Communist. At 74, he still believes in his revolutionary heroes, but he despises the young local officials and entrepreneurs who have let this happen.

'Chairman Mao was a hero and saved us,' he says. 'But these people only care about money. They have destroyed our lives.'

Vast fortunes are being amassed here in Inner Mongolia; the region has more than 90 per cent of the world's legal reserves of rare earth metals, and specifically neodymium, the element needed to make the magnets in the most striking of green energy producers, wind turbines.

Live has uncovered the distinctly dirty truth about the process used to extract neodymium: it has an appalling environmental impact that raises serious questions over the credibility of so-called green technology.

The reality is that, as Britain flaunts its environmental credentials by speckling its coastlines and unspoiled moors and mountains with thousands of wind turbines, it is contributing to a vast man-made lake of poison in northern China. This is the deadly and sinister side of the massively profitable rare-earths industry that the 'green' companies profiting from the demand for wind turbines would prefer you knew nothing about.

Hidden out of sight behind smoke-shrouded factory complexes in the city of Baotou, and patrolled by platoons of security guards, lies a five-mile wide 'tailing' lake. It has killed farmland for miles around, made thousands of people ill and put one of China's key waterways in jeopardy.

This vast, hissing cauldron of chemicals is the dumping ground for seven million tons a year of mined rare earth after it has been doused in acid and chemicals and processed through red-hot furnaces to extract its components

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/moslive/article-1350811/In-China-true-cost-Britains-clean-green-wind-power-experiment-Pollution-disastrous-scale.html#ixzz1Cd94l0jv>

<http://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2952501>

The Telegraph

Promoters overstated the environmental benefit of wind farms

The wind farm industry has been forced to admit that the environmental benefit of wind power in reducing carbon emissions is only half as big as it had previously claimed.

It will be regarded as a concession that twice as many wind turbines as previously calculated will be needed to provide the same degree of reduction in Britain's carbon emissions Photo: PA

By Patrick Sawyer 10:28AM GMT 20 Dec 2008

[Comment](#)

The British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) has agreed to scale down its calculation for the amount of harmful carbon dioxide emission that can be eliminated by using wind turbines to generate electricity instead of burning fossil fuels such as coal or gas.

The move is a serious setback for the advocates of wind power, as it will be regarded as a concession that twice as many wind turbines as previously calculated will be needed to provide the same degree of reduction in Britain's carbon emissions.

A wind farm industry source admitted: "It's not ideal for us. It's the result of pressure by the anti-wind farm lobby."

For several years the BWEA – which lobbies on behalf of wind power firms – claimed that electricity from wind turbines 'displaces' 860 grams of carbon dioxide emission for every kilowatt hour of electricity generated.

However it has now halved that figure to 430 grams, following discussions with the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA)...

Dr Mike Hall, an anti-wind farm campaigner from the Friends of Eden, Lakeland and Lunesdale Scenery group in the Lake District, said: "Every wind farm application says it will lead to a big saving in the amount of carbon dioxide produced. This has been greatly exaggerated and the reduction in the carbon displacement figure is a significant admission of this.

"As we get cleaner power stations on line, the figure will get even lower. It further backs the argument that wind farms are one of the most inefficient and expensive ways of lowering carbon emissions."

Because wind farms burn no fuel, they emit no carbon dioxide during regular running. The revised calculation for the amount of carbon emission they save has come about because the BWEA's earlier figure did not take account of recent improvements to the technology used in conventional, fossil-fuel-burning power stations.

The figure of 860 grams dates back to the days of old-style coal-fired power stations. However, since the early 1990s, many of the dirty coal-fired stations have been replaced by cleaner-burning stations, with a consequent reduction in what the industry calls the "grid average mix" figure for carbon dioxide displacement.

As a result, a modern 100MW coal or gas power station is now calculated to produce half as many tonnes of carbon dioxide as its predecessor would have done.

The BWEA's move follows a number of rulings by the ASA against claims made by individual wind farm promoters about the benefits their schemes would have in reducing carbon emissions.

In one key adjudication, the ASA ruled that a claim by Npower Renewables that a wind farm planned for the southern edge of Exmoor National Park, in Devon, would help prevent the release of 33,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere was "inaccurate and likely to mislead". This claim was based on the 860-gram figure.

The watchdog concluded: "We told Npower to ensure that future carbon savings claims were based on a more representative and rigorous carbon emissions factor."

The ASA has now recommended that the BWEA and generating companies use the far lower figure of 430 grams.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/windpower/3867232/Promoters-overstated-the-environmental-benefit-of-wind-farms.html>

The Telegraph

Wind turbines 'less efficient than claimed'

Wind turbines are 25 per cent less effective than the renewable energy industry claims, according to research.

11:08AM GMT 02 Jan 2011

The John Muir Trust (JMT), one of Scotland's leading conservation bodies, has challenged the common assertion that wind farms run at an average of 30 per cent capacity over a year.

A study carried out for the Trust into the energy generated by dozens of wind farms, the majority of which are in Scotland, between November 2009 and last month, found they actually ran at 22 per cent of capacity.

Campaigners insist the figures, drawn from data provided by the National Grid, challenge the role of wind farms as an efficient source of renewable energy.

They said hundreds of wind farms had secured planning permission across Scotland based on inaccurate assumptions of their output.

"This analysis shows that over the course of a year, the average load factor fell well short of what the industry claims, yet the 30 per cent figure is peddled at every public inquiry into a proposed wind farm," said Helen McDade, head of policy at the JMT. "This data is needed to counter that hype."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/renewableenergy/8236254/Wind-turbines-less-efficient-than-claimed.html>

WIND BARGAINING

http://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local_news/article_2e8dfa2e-10e2-11e0-9076-001cc4c002e0.html

Patient homeowners in Gilliam and Morrow counties get paid by Shepherd's Flat

Posted: Sunday, December 26, 2010 3:17 am

By ERIN MILLS East Oregonian | [0 comments](#)

As the mammoth Shepherd's Flat wind farm makes a growing commotion on the hills above the Willow Creek valley, several residents are packing up or already gone.

"I told them I wouldn't sign any noise easement unless they bought me out," said Richard Goodhead, who retired with his wife, Joanne, to a 106-acre farm in the valley in 1997.

At first, Goodhead said, Patricia Pilz a representative from Caithness Energy — the company building Shepherd’s Flat — refused his proposal. She hoped he would take a \$5,000 check and sign a noise waiver like some of his neighbors.

“She said, ‘We’re not in the real estate business,’” Goodhead said. “I said, fine — I’m not in the windmill business.”

A month and several negotiations later, the company changed its tune. The Goodheads signed a final purchase agreement this week with the New York-based company, selling their land and home for \$800,000.

The Goodheads made a killing, according to the Gilliam County assessor’s office. A clerk reported their manufactured home and farm has a real market value of \$167,110.

No Caithness representative, including Pilz, responded to the East Oregonian’s repeated phone calls for this story. However, Pilz told a New York Times reporter last summer that Caithness does not change the “market price” for a noise waiver, because that would be unfair. The Goodheads tell a different story; they say Caithness offered them several deals before it caved to their request for a buyout. One was \$6,000 every year for about 20 years, another was the proceeds from one nearby turbine. All the offers required the Goodheads to sign a waiver allowing noise levels of up to 50 adjusted decibels at their residence.

Fifty adjusted decibels, or 50 dBA, is about the sound of a normal conversation in a room. Oregon’s industrial noise ordinance caps the allowable decibels for a wind farm at nearby residences at 36 dBA or 10 dBA above a measured ambient noise level.

The company that owns the wind farm to the south of Shepherd’s Flat, Invenergy, and its neighbors have fought over the noise rule for several months. The county planning commission heard hours of testimony and both parties appealed its decision to the county court twice. The issue still isn’t resolved; the next hearing will be sometime in January.

The other side of the story, of course, is how profitable Shepherd’s Flat will be for landowners and the county. Now a growing network of roads and concrete slabs, Shepherd’s Flat is already providing much-needed employment for an area suffering from the recession. During the construction phase, it will employ an average of 500 people. Upon completion, 35 will work at the farm full-time.

Once its 338 turbines are up and running, Shepherd’s Flat will begin paying property taxes. According to its tax arrangement with counties, called a strategic investment plan, it will pay more than \$5 million to Gilliam County and more than \$2 million to Morrow County every year for the next 15 years.

Thanks to Shepherd's Flat, a handful of landowners will retire in style. Industry insiders say they are paid up to \$15,000 per turbine per year.

Other neighbors of Shepherd's Flat who have sold their homes are Clyde and Alicia Smith and Arman and Sandra Kluehe. The Kluehes got less than they feel their home was worth, but they're not complaining. They learned of Shepherd's Flat shortly after relocating from the Willamette Valley and never relished the thought of living across a narrow valley from a forest of turbines. When Pilz offered them the \$5,000, they turned her down.

The Kluehes put their house on the market, but after months of no bites, they grew resigned. They continued to upgrade their home, installing a pellet stove and a sprinkler system for their new trees. They painted the house's trim. The painter was just finishing up one day when their real estate agent called. He said a buyer was ready to pay full price, cash, for the Kluehe's house.

They wavered for a moment — they had just invested nearly \$20,000 — but the agent said they could not back down or the buyer could sue.

"I just looked at my husband and said, 'We don't really have an option,'" Sandra Kluehe remembered. "We had five weeks, maybe six, to find a house and get out. It was very stressful."

The buyer was a Portland-based lawyer. A quick dig on the Internet revealed the lawyer worked for Caithness. Sandra Kluehe found out later the purchaser was actually a local landowner involved in the wind farm.

The Kluehes now live in Redmond, near Smith Rock State Park, where no wind turbines are allowed.

"It feels like a burden has been lifted from our shoulders," Arman Kluehe said. "There's like an oppression in that valley."

By buying noise easements, Caithness hopes to avoid a similar dispute. But the Goodheads are among those who don't want to live next to a wind farm for any price. Joanne Goodhead pointed out that the jury is still out on the health effects of turbines. The Oregon Public Health Office recently held "listening sessions" around the state to hear residents' concerns. The wind industry maintains that turbines are perfectly safe.

The Goodheads also wonder what will become of the valley's wildlife. The area's antelope population has noticeably declined since the Willow Creek wind farm came, they said. And a curlew nesting area will soon be surrounded by turbines.

"Everyone is rolling over and playing dead for (the wind companies), it's amazing," Joanne Goodhead said. "Anything that's quoted as 'green' is OK, whether it is or not."

Properties 'virtually unmarketable'

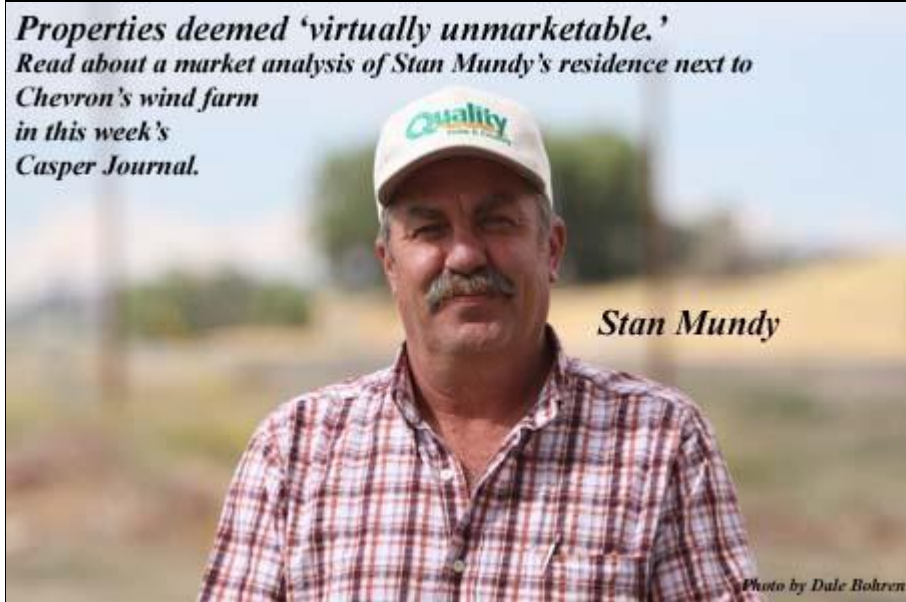
by Greg Fladager / Tuesday, September 21, 2010 3:26 PM MDT

A survey by a local realtor may have confirmed the worst suspicions of Stan Mundy, whose home is closest to Chevron's wind farm northeast of Casper.

Glen Taylor, of Equity Brokers in Casper, did a real estate survey Sept. 10, 2010, and concluded properties directly adjacent to the Chevron Wind Towers are now "virtually unmarketable" at "any realistic price."

In his report, Taylor said no residential properties have sold in his three-road survey area since October 2009, and 10 are presently on the market (five that were listed in the past two years didn't sell).

Taylor wrote, "No reasonable buyer would choose a property close to the wind towers over a property that isn't close to wind towers unless the price is so low that the investment would be a no brainer."



Taylor said in his report that rural property close to town is usually in good demand, and noted he's the agent for one parcel in the area. He has had over 50 inquiries on his listing in about two months, but 40 dropped interest after learning about the location.

"In follow-up with the inquiries, the number one reason for not having genuine interest in this property is because of the proximity of the wind towers," Taylor wrote in his report.

<http://www.casperjournal.com/articles/2010/09/22/news/news50.mundy%20story%209-22.prt>

Paul Thompson/substation noise/

And now that the ARB, an arm of the Ontario government, has upheld a claim for loss of property value due to the proximity of a hydro substation and a wind farm, can a host of court cases and class action lawsuits for noise contamination and property devaluation be far behind?

Bob Aaron is a Toronto real estate lawyer and board member of the Tarion Warranty Corp.

bob@aaron.ca. <http://www.yourhome.ca/homes/articlePrint/747191>

Why rise of wind farms is a ticking time bomb

Capacity has doubled but fears over quality remain

Dr Gao Hu , deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission's Centre for Renewable Energy Development and an author of the report, said that the wind-power boom on the mainland in recent years had left behind quality "time bombs" that, if not quickly and properly replaced, would blow up the industry's long-term growth.

Some turbines installed three or four years ago have already begun to show signs of ageing, with issues ranging from oil leaks and gearbox malfunctions to blades snapping, Gao said. They were supposed to last for a decade with little maintenance.

In China, more than 70 per cent of these troubled turbines were made by domestic manufacturers. Because they are made to meet lower standards than those overseas, "our nightmare is an outbreak of quality issues across the country", Gao said.

"It has not happened yet, but if it happens, the time is likely to be 2011 or 2012, a generally accepted make-or-break point for the turbines."

<http://www.scmp.com/portal/site/SCMP/menuitem.2af62ecb329d3d7733492d9253a0a0a0/?vgnextoid=90124e3e1baab210VgnVCM100000360a0a0aRCRD&ss=china&s=news>

MSNBC 10-20-10: WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is crediting its anti-recession stimulus plan with creating up to 50,000 jobs on dozens of wind farms, even though many of those wind farms were built before the stimulus money began to flow or even before President Barack Obama was inaugurated.

Out of 70 major wind farms that received the \$4.4 billion in federal energy grants through the stimulus program, public records show that 11, which received a total of \$600 million, erected their wind towers during the Bush administration. And a total of 19 wind farms, which received \$1.3 billion, were built before any of the stimulus [money](#) was distributed. ([See a list of the projects here.](#))

Yet all the jobs at these wind farms are counted in the administration's figures for jobs created by the stimulus.

In the coal country of eastern Pennsylvania, FAA records show, the last turbine on the 51-turbine Locust Ridge II wind farm in Mahanoy City, Pa., was erected on Jan. 1, 2009, the first

day a project could be eligible for a stimulus grant. But the other 50 turbines were built in 2008 — **31 of them before Obama was elected. The farm's developer, Iberdrola Renewables, the subsidiary of a Spanish utility, collected \$59.1 million in stimulus money.**



Noble Environmental turbine collapse - (2)

March 6, 2009

Credits: Michael Fellion

Description:

The Altona wind energy facility which went on line in early 2009 lost a turbine due to collapse. The project consists of 65 GE 1.5 MW turbines. No explanation for the collapse has been released. The turbine caused a fire when the nacelle hit the ground.

<http://www.windaction.org/pictures/20314>

Lastly, wind developers are procuring power purchase agreements that pay on average \$49 to \$57 per MWH with a 2 to 3% increase each year, over a normal 20 to 30 year contract term. A 1.5 MW wind turbine based on a 25% (Department Of Energy - 2008 national average) operating efficiency capacity rating at \$49/MWH would yield about \$160,965 in gross revenue annually. This doesn't include factoring in the generous production tax credits, grant money or additional allowances for carbon offsets. These are worth about another \$15/MWH or extra \$49,275 in gross revenue per year that the developer and/or utility company usually inherits, not the landowner

Turbines at NY's Maple Ridge facility

January

4,

2009

Credits: Wind Energy Ethics - www.stlawrencewind.org

Description:

An actual photograph of wind turbines erected in Lowville, NY at the Maple Ridge wind energy facility.



<http://www.windaction.org/pictures/19372>

Wind Energy Ghosts 2-15-10:

Although carbon credit schemes often assign profitable carbon credits to wind farm operators based on a theoretical displacement of carbon emitted by coal or natural gas producers, in reality these plants must keep burning to be able to quickly add supply every time the wind drops off. The formulae do not take into account carbon emitted by idling coal and natural gas plants nor the excess carbon generated by constant fire-up and shut down cycles necessitated to balance fluctuating wind supplies...

laws requiring large wind producers to be allowed to tie into the existing utility grid

"Renewable Portfolio Standards" forcing utilities to buy intermittent wind generated electricity.

"Renewable Energy Certificates" tradable separately from the electricity itself to sell to companies needing to meet the portfolio standards.

A 10-year "Production Tax Credit" that now equals \$.019/kWh

Accelerated depreciation allowing tax write-off using an accelerated 5-year double-declining-balance method (40% per year).

In early 2009 the Socialist government of Spain reduced alternative energy subsidies by 30%. Calzada continues:

"At that point the whole pyramid collapsed. They are firing thousands of people. BP closed down the two largest solar production plants in Europe. They are firing between 25,000 and 40,000 people...."

"What do we do with all this industry that we have been creating with subsidies that now is collapsing? The bubble is too big. We cannot continue pumping enough money. ...The President of the Renewable Industry in Spain (wrote a column arguing that) ...the only way is finding other countries that will give taxpayers' money away to our industry to take it and continue maintaining these jobs."

That "other country" is the United States of America.

Waxman-Markey seems dead, and Europe's southern periphery is bankrupt. But the

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/impact_rural_wind_farms/info.htm

December 30, 2010

HAMMOND NEW YORK— The town's Wind Committee voted 9-1 Tuesday evening to adopt the controversial Residential Property Value Guarantee and move it on to the Town Council as part of its proposed wind zoning law... Iberdrola representative Jenny Burke had just made available to committee members, which apparently was offered as an alternative to the value guarantee.

Good-neighbor agreements are made between non-participating land owners in the vicinity of wind turbines and the wind company, according to Ms. Burke, and can involve either monthly or annual payments in exchange for closer proximity. In response to a question from committee member Frederick Proven, Ms. Burke said such agreements typically apply to anyone living within 3,000 feet of a wind turbine but that it hadn't been decided for this particular project

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20101230/NEWS05/312309963>

Town Councilor regrets High Sheldon Wind Farm (Sheldon, NY)

October 31st, 2009 by admin

“I would compare my relationship with the wind developer to a relationship with the Devil himself. [Sheldon] is another example of why industrial wind farms do not belong anywhere near people”—Glenn Cramer, Town Councilor (Sheldon, NY).

INVENERGY

High Sheldon wind farm Noise Complaints

July 28, 2009

Credits: Wyoming County Citizens

Description:

Image of the High Sheldon wind facility taken from a farm in the town. The Invenergy facility consists of seventy-five 1.5 megawatt wind turbines (total 112.5 megawatts). The project went online in January 2009. Noise complaints have been filed by residents living within the shadows of the towers.

Source: <http://www.windaction.org/pictures/22487>



Town Councilor regrets High Sheldon Wind Farm (Sheldon, NY)

Posted By admin On October 31, 2009 @ 8:00 am In Uncategorized | No Comments

“I would compare my relationship with the wind developer to a relationship with the Devil himself. [Sheldon] is another example of why industrial wind farms do not belong anywhere near people”—Glenn Cramer, Town Councilor (Sheldon, NY).

[

grandfathered and there is no recourse against them even if the law were rewritten. Turbine location is very critical, as the sound travels at unpredicted distances and it is delivered by the wind.

Sound is a huge concern to many people living near these turbines. But, vibrations are another emerging problem. Turbines secured into the bedrock can pose a problem for neighbors and animals. One man told me that he could feel the turbines as he lay on the ground in his driveway and worked on the family car.

I wouldn't use Sheldon as an example of a successful wind farm. It is another example of why industrial wind farms do not belong anywhere near people. When someone from Sheldon supports the wind farm, ask him or her what he or she stands to gain financially from it. I think you will see a direct relationship. Some residents have gained from the wind farm, but it has been at the expense of their neighbors.

Glenn Cramer

Town Councilor

Sheldon, NY 10/30/09

Article printed from River City Malone: <http://www.rivercitymalone.com>

URL to article: <http://www.rivercitymalone.com/?p=3080>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.rivercitymalone.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/sheldon-ny-447x477.jpg>

[2] click here:

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20091030/OPINION02/310309974>

Inverngy / Blade failure at Grand Ridge wind site (photo below)

August 10, 2010

Description:

Two turbines at the 100.5 MW Grand Ridge Energy wind facility in La Salle County, Illinois, about 80 miles southwest of Chicago, experienced blade failures on July 23-24, 2010. A spokeswoman for Inverenergy Wind said that, in the event of high winds, the turbines are designed to come to rest with one blade pointing down and parallel to the base of the tower. According to Inverenergy, the winds came so quickly that the safety mechanism did not have time to engage.



Invenergy turbine blade failure (1)

March 26, 2009

Description:

Residents in Illinois photographed this recent blade failure at the Grand Ridge wind energy facility in La Salle County, Illinois, 80 miles southwest of Chicago. The Grand Ridge wind project employs 66 GE 1.5-megawatt wind turbines and was commissioned in late 2008.



<http://www.windaction.org/pictures/20477>

INVENERGY BUILDS WIND FARMS AND DOUBLES THEIR GAS-FIRED POWER PLANT...

SEATTLE TIMES

Originally published February 19, 2011 at 8:58 AM | Page modified February 19, 2011 at 3:23 PM:
http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2014276519_apwasatsopnaturalgas.html

Grays Harbor County natural gas-fired power plant OK to expand

Chicago-based Invenergy LLC can move forward with plans to double the capacity of a natural gas-fired power plant in Grays Harbor County.

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. —

Chicago-based Invenergy LLC can move forward with plans to double the capacity of a natural gas-fired power plant in Grays Harbor County.

Gov. Chris Gregoire on Friday approved a state panel's recommendation that the plant in Satsop be allowed to expand from 650 megawatts to 1,300 megawatts. The governor says the project will provide the region with energy benefits without significant environmental effects.

Invenergy wants to add two combustion-turbine generators and a single steam generator. The new permit requires the company to install measures to curb noise levels.

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council licenses major energy projects in Washington. It approved the expansion and sent the proposal to the governor last December.



Enel /Fenner wind turbine collapse

December 27, 2009

Credits: Ryan Petersen

Description:

A 329-foot wind turbine, base to blade tip, collapsed early Sunday morning, December 27, 2009 at the Fenner wind farm in Fenner, New York. <http://www.windaction.org/pictures/24818>

http://www.dailystandard.com/archive/story_single.php?rec_id=14300

Workers have begun making changes to the Fenner Wind Farm that the owners hope will get the turbines spinning by September.

Crews have been working to reinforce the foundations on 19 windmills since just after Memorial Day, said Enel North America spokesman Hank Sennott.

Enel officials have not yet determined what **caused a 187-ton Turbine 18 to fall in the early hours of Dec. 27.**

Workers will excavate each turbine's foundation before drilling holes to install 474 steel dowels. When finished, each base will be reinforced with four to six tons of steel and 10 truckloads of concrete.



Michelle Gabel/The Post-Standard
Scott Preston (right) and David Bajgerowicz, both of Fuller Excavating, clear away dirt near the foundation of a wind turbine in Fenner. Workers are reinforcing the foundations following the collapse of one of 20 wind turbines at the Fenner Wind Farm.

The plan was drafted by engineers who spent the last six months studying what happened at Turbine 18.

In the wake of the collapse, the developer said an online system that notes any faults or abnormal events in daily performance showed no indication that anything was wrong before the collapse.

Last month, **developers said they ruled out faulty construction** and were focusing the investigation on historical load and wind patterns.

"There's no road map for any of this," Sennott said.

Until the construction is complete, each turbine is surrounded by temporary orange fences.

The barriers are set back 325 feet from the base – the exact height of each turbine.

Contact Alaina Potrikus at apotrikus@syracuse.com or 470-3252.

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/06/workers_reinforce_foundations.html

(Enel) Madison County Wind Turbine Bends; wind turbine fails

One of the turbines at the Fenner Wind Farm hasn't been spinning since Wednesday night, because one of its blades has apparently been badly bent. ...A person who lives near the site says it sounded like a car crashing when the blade broke. There no word yet on when it'll be fixed.

November 15, 2007 in WSYR9

Madison County (WSYR-TV) - One of the turbines at the Fenner Wind Farm hasn't been spinning since Wednesday night, because one of its blades has apparently been badly bent.



It's located off Peterboro Road in Madison County. A spokesman for Enel North America, the company that owns the site, says they aren't sure how it happened. General Electric, who made the turbines, has a team on the site looking at the damage.

Crane at work site topples

11/8/2007

By [DARRIN STINEMAN](#) Salina Journal

LINCOLN COUNTY -- A 320-foot crane used to construct turbines at the under-construction Smoky Hills Wind Farm fell Wednesday morning while it was being moved from one site to another, said Glenn

Melski, vice president and manager of operations for Enel North America, one of the companies that's managing the project.

"Thankfully, no one was hurt, and we're trying to assess the situation and see how it affects the project," Melski said Wednesday afternoon. "We're investigating what happened. It's likely wind-related, but (the investigation) is very preliminary."

When the crane fell at about 10 a.m. Wednesday, winds at the site were blowing about 40 mph, Melski said. He said he didn't know of any other instances of cranes being toppled on projects Enel was involved with.

The 56-turbine, first phase of the wind farm, which is about five miles northwest of Ellsworth, had been scheduled for completion in December. Melski said he didn't know how much the crane incident would affect the project's schedule.

"It'll be a setback, but we're looking at mitigation plans," he said. "We won't know until we know whether the crane is repairable."

Asked the monetary value of the crane, Melski said: "I have no idea. They're definitely in the millions range."

Installation of the turbines began in September. The first phase of the project covers 10,000 acres and stretches nearly 10 miles from east to west along Interstate Highway 70. A second phase, which doesn't have a firm starting date, will bring the totals to 22,000 acres and 15 miles.

The first phase will generate about 100 megawatts of electricity annually, which is enough to power 30,000 to 35,000 homes. The second phase would add another 150 megawatts of capacity.

Massachusetts-based Enel North America is managing the project in partnership with TradeWind Energy, Lenexa.

n Reporter Darrin Stineman can be reached at 822--1416 or by e-mail at dstineman@salina.com.

http://www.saljournal.com/rdnews/story/crane_falls

More news on Enel...

- [Italy's renewable energy incentives need overhaul, Enel's Conti says](#) (08 February 2011)[[UK](#)]
- [Enel's IPO falls short of target](#) (29 October 2010)[[General](#) | [Europe](#)]
- [Fenner turbines turning](#) (12 August 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Wind power project: All Hatchet Ridge turbines up](#) (07 August 2010)[[Impact on Landscape](#) | [Impact on Views](#) | [California](#)]
- [Spain said to save \\$1.5 billion on wind power cuts](#) (09 July 2010)[[Tax Breaks & Subsidies](#) | [Europe](#)]
- [Italian budget takes some wind out of green market](#) (24 June 2010)[[General](#) | [Europe](#)]
- [Workers reinforce foundations on wind turbines in Fenner following tower collapse](#) (22 June 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Work begins on Fenner windmills](#) (22 June 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Company working to turn Fenner wind turbines on in July](#) (21 June 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Fall of Fenner windmill remains a mystery](#) (21 June 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]

- [Investigation into Fenner windmill collapse focuses on turbine foundations](#) (13 May 2010)[[Safety](#) | [Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Windmill down; Fences up](#) (05 May 2010)[[General](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Investigation into Fenner wind turbine collapse nearly complete](#) (05 April 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Fences go up around Fenner windmills as investigation of Dec. 27 accident continues](#) (19 March 2010)[[Safety](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Enel: Turbine collapse could have 'significant impact' on wind industry](#) (09 March 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Cause of collapse at Fenner wind farm still unknown as investigation continues](#) (01 March 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Investigators still looking for cause of wind turbine collapse](#) (04 February 2010)[[Structural Failure](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Data indicate turbine operated normally before collapse](#) (05 January 2010)[[Safety](#) | [New York](#)]
- [Company: Windmill didn't trigger alert with monitors before it fell](#) (03 January 2010)[[Safety](#) |

Please forgive these unorganized and incomplete comments, that need some serious edited. Once again there is not enough time to fully research, gather, properly format, and submit enough information to establish a strong basis for legal standing in the event these massive and destructive projects are inappropriately or unlawfully approved for our ruggedly beautiful and still wild area, *and* our low- income rural communities can manage to scrape together the funds *and* find an attorney willing and able to defend us from this aggressive and wholly unnecessary political /corporate /industrial assault. However, this planning group cannot take legal action.

In closing, on behalf of our constituents, we ask that you please take to heart the following definitions of Cumulative Impacts and Precautionary Approach, taken from the California EPA's page on Environmental Justice, and remember there are all kinds of pollution that can and effect the well being of the human body, soul, and mind, including noise, and visual pollution: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/ActionPlan/>

- **Cumulative impacts** means exposures, public health or environmental effects from the combined emissions and discharges, in a geographic area, including environmental pollution from all sources, whether single or multi-media, routinely, accidentally, or otherwise released. Impacts will take into account sensitive populations and socio-economic factors, where applicable and to the extent data are available.
- **Precautionary approach** means taking anticipatory action to protect public health or the environment if a reasonable threat of serious harm exists based upon the best available science and other relevant information, even if absolute and undisputed scientific evidence is not available to assess the exact nature and extent of risk.

Sincerely,

/s/

Donna Tisdale, Chair

619-766-4170