

Industrial Wind Turbines - *Our Concerns*

Economic Problems: “The only thing ‘green’ about wind is the money! “

- Grants & Subsidies for the Wind Developers (US Energy Information Administration – Direct Federal financial Interventions and Subsidies in Energy in Fiscal Year 2010)
 - In 2010, Wind received 42% of all federal subsidies for electricity production and produced only 2.3% of electricity generated.

Property Values

- Many Wind Farms residents find their homes un-saleable or virtually unmarketable. If homes are not able to be sold, the wind developer will tout that there are no changes in home value. No on records the fact that there are ‘no sales’. (Properties ‘virtually unmarketable Casper Journal 9/21/2010, ‘Wind turbines hurt homes’ resale value www.thewhig.com 9/17/2010.
- The problem for the towns/counties is that property values go down more in an area that is lifestyle-based than purely agricultural.

Jobs: as presented on ABC World New Tonight with Diane Sawyer, The Investigative Reporting Workshop and Watchdog Institute 2/8/10

- Very few jobs are in the US, lots are in China associated with manufacturing turbines.
- Most jobs created are temporary (during construction), Wind developers typically use their own ‘skilled’ labor
- The average number of jobs after construction is 2 (a maintenance and/or a security worker)

Abandoned Turbines

- There are thousands of Wind Turbines that have been abandoned by the Wind Developers. Dozens of wind farms in the Mojave Desert near Tehachapi pass has over 5,000 thanks to the wind rush of the 70’s & 80’s. They are left to rust and decay. Landowners and county agents should be concerned that the Industrial Wind Developers are contractually accountable for these and put \$\$ in escrow to protect the town/county/landowner. Most places fail to put in laws or requirements to require removal of non operational or abandoned turbines that then become an eyesore or safety hazard.

Safety Problems: Wind Turbine failures are a fact.

- Industrial Wind Turbines have been known to catch fire in the gear box which can be located 300+ feet off the ground. Who will fight that fire? To date no gear oil has been invented to withstand the pressures produced within these transmission failures in wind turbines. (W. DeRuyter, Steelco Northwest Distributors) Recently, the US government gave Dow-corning a big grant to work on this.
- Industrial Wind Turbines have been known to have blades detach and be thrown hundreds of feet. These are 150' long and can travel at speeds of 100+ miles per hour at the tip.

Environmental Problems

Local Impacts:

Wildlife (United States Government Accountability Office, Sept, 2005)

- Turbines are proven to kill birds and bats
- Turbines are proven to disrupt wild animals and natural habitats (many areas end up void of wildlife as you know it.

Environment

Wind plant infrastructure creates an industrial nightmare in wild and natural settings:

- Construction of 70 ft wide access roads
- Approx 4-6 acres of forest can be clearcut for each turbine
- Installation of new transmission lines
- Construction of power substations
- Excavations and concrete for turbine foundations are irremovable pool sized concrete bases
- Blasting is typical and has the potential to disrupt water flow to existing aquifers and wells downhill.

Technical Problems

Industrial wind can 'never' replace base load conventional power generation.

Wind does not reduce the dependence on foreign oil

- Wind is unreliable & intermittent
- Wind can only supply additional electricity, which is often more expensive

Health Problems

According to many doctors attending the International Symposium on Global Wind Industry and Adverse Health Effects in Toronto. Living near wind turbines can cause health problems.

Here are the findings reported by two of many doctors:

1. Wind Turbine Syndrome (A study by Dr. Nina Pierpont)

Sleep disturbance, Headache, Tinnitus pronounced “tin-uh-tus” (ringing or buzzing in ears), Ear pressure, dizziness, Vertigo (sensation of spinning or the room moving), Nausea, Visual blurring, Rapid heart rate, Irritability, problems with concentration and memory, Panic episodes associated with sensations of internal pulsation or quivering.

2. A study of the residents living near the wind turbines in Mars Hill, Maine, Dr. Michael Nissenbaum

His data suggests the residents are experiencing medical problems (sleep disturbances, headaches, dizziness, weight changes, increases in blood pressure and increased prescription medication use, all due to noise emissions from the turbines near their homes.

Large-scale wind turbines cause significant harm to wildlife, people, and the environment. In return, because of the wind’s low density, intermittency, and high variability, they do next to nothing for reducing carbon and other emissions or dependence on other fuels.