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Great Lakes Wind Truth

The Breeze

The official publication of the Great Lakes Wind Truth an alliance of citizens and organizations opposed to placing wind turbines in our Great Lakes.

Welcome! This is the first of I hope many informative newsletters on the truth about wind energy and industrial wind turbines. There is a lot of hype and sales talk being spread around by wind developers, and the power authority which is not exactly true. Like any sales pitch it has to be listened to carefully, salesmen do not have your best interest at heart only their bottom line.

I hope we can show what is true and the serious issues that have not been resolved about wind energy especially in regards to the projects planned for our Great Lakes. Great Lakes Wind Truth does not believe placing wind turbines in the Great Lakes can address our energy concerns. There are numeropus risks to the environment and water quality. Wind projects for the Great Lakes also present huge financial risks, not for the developers, but for the rate and taxpayers. Wind energy is not free nor will it reduce our dependence upon foreign oil, it will not reduce CO2 emissions, and it is not a reliable source of energy.

This newsletter is meant to educate. Issues of The Breeze will explain and provide references for all the issues we discuss so the reader will be able to verify our arguments and lead you to further truths about wind energy. **<<<**

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT! You can become a proud member of the Great Lake Wind Truth and tell everyone you are protecting the Great Lakes. There are two ways to join us. Just email tommarks@verizon.net your Name asking to join there are no membership fees, Or, visit Great Lakes Wind Truth on Facebook and become a Fan by clicking on the “Like” icon after our name at the top of the page. You will be put on our mail list to receive this newsletter and other alerts, information and updates.

Impacts Of Wind Turbines On Waterfowl

Ducks Unlimited Canada Newsletter EASTERN REGION (Ontario) Volume 31,Number 4, 2010

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is in support of environmentally sustainable sources of energy that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. DUC recognizes, however, that all forms of power generation entail environmental trade-offs, and that there are drawbacks to alternatives including wind turbine developments. Our organization is concerned about our sustainability of such developments and that they are implemented in geographic locations and in a manner that does not negatively impact waterfowl populations and the wetland and upland habitats on which they depend

DUC has significant concerns with the means by which, and the rate at which, renewable energy projects are being implemented in and adjacent to critical, continentally significant staging habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds. Research has shown

that direct impacts on waterfowl (mortality from flying into wind turbines) is generally minimal, but there is a lack of science investigating both the indirect impacts (disturbance, habitat fragmentation, etc.) and the cumulative impacts of multiple wind farms on the waterfowl and their habitat.

DUC has encouraged the Province of Ontario to address this uncertainty by conducting the necessary sound science that will concentrate on these issues. Understanding when and where wind developments are planned can be a challenge. As a result, DUC also recommends that the Province enhance the transparency of the regulatory process including the development of an improved method of engaging the public in consultations and being more responsive to the comments expressed.

DUC strongly believes that the approval process and scientific monitoring associated with wind turbine developments must be enhanced and as such, DUC will continue to promote and partner in relevant research initiatives to strengthen our knowledge and understanding of the impacts of wind turbines on waterfowl. However, until the impacts on waterfowl are better understood, DUC is calling on the Province to establish a moratorium on all wind turbines and renewable energy projects in areas providing continentally significant staging habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds. **<<<**

Lake Erie Wind Turbines Costly, Inefficient

Toledo Blade Article published December 07, 2010
By MARY McCLEARY

Green energy is all the rage, and Ohio is jumping on the bandwagon with little regard for financial considerations. The proposed offshore wind turbine project in Lake Erie is an example of wasteful spending in the name of going green and creating jobs.
Initially, this project is supposed to include five turbines - the first of their kind in North America. These turbines, to be built by 2012, will cost about $100 million and, advocates say, create as many as 600 jobs.

If the pilot project succeeds, 1,200 turbines will be built in Lake Erie over 20 years. The complete project will cost $31 billion and could create as many as 8,000 jobs, according to a recent economic impact study.

But the wind turbines are a bad proposition for Ohio. Of the $31 billion, only $7.8 billion will go toward wages; the rest will go to infrastructure, equipment, and other costs. In terms of wages, creating each job will cost $975,000.

During the 20 years of construction, state and local governments would collect only $587 million in tax revenue from the project. Thus, the initial $31 billion investment would not be recovered by taxes, excluding interest payments, for 1,050 years.
Since the life span of well-maintained offshore turbines is only 30 to 40 years, it will be impossible for investors, public or private, to recover what they put into the project. If government completely financed the project, it still would owe nearly $30 billion when the likely usefulness of the original turbines expired. If the initial cost is not enough of a deterrent, the uncompetitive price of energy that the turbines would produce should be. Electricity from the offshore turbines is expected to cost 23 cents per kilowatt-hour. By contrast, electricity from Ohio's land turbines costs roughly 9 cents per kilowatt-hour, while electricity from coal costs only 4 to 6 cents.

Because of subsidies from the U.S. Department of Energy, stimulus funds, and help from state government, proponents say Ohioans would not bear the brunt of these increased energy costs. But this is simply not the case. Ohioans would pay for the offshore wind turbines through their taxes, if not through consumer fees.
Finances aside, the turbines are impractical. There is skepticism about whether the turbines could withstand winter ice. Engineers believe waves and wind also could cause significant stress to the turbines' foundations.

State government faces an $8 billion budget shortfall next year, while many local governments struggle to make ends meet. This is not the time to undertake a risky project that would cost nearly four times as much as the projected state deficit.

Ohioans endure the seventh highest state and local tax burden in the country. Adding to that burden to fund unnecessary, impractical projects will prolong our state's fiscal pain.

The emerging alternative-energy industry creates some jobs and is more environmentally friendly than the traditional energy industry, but it comes with a high cost. Artificially propping up green energy with subsidies not only is expensive but also destroys jobs in Ohio's traditional energy sector.

Green energy might be the wave of the future. But until it can be produced more cheaply than traditional alternatives, it is a bad deal for Ohio taxpayers.

Mary McCleary is a policy analyst with the Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions, a conservative think tank in Columbus. **<<<**

Read *POWER HUNGRY* The Myths of “Green Energy and the Real Fuels of the Future” by Robert Bryce, author of Gusher of Lies.

The Long Island – New York City Offshore Wind Project is underway as federal and state officials meet for the first time after months of planning.

The renewable energy task force, comprising representatives of N.Y. Governor David Paterson, the Bureau of Ocean Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) and others, are preparing to lease areas of the state to develop offshore wind turbines.

"We will continue to work together to initiate the commercial leasing process that will enable New York to meet its renewable energy development goals and expand our nation's energy resource portfolio," BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich said.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg applied for a lease from BOEMRE over the summer to increase energy efficiency as part of the city's goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2030.

"Beginning the process of leasing the land beneath the ocean will get us closer to developing power from the Long Island – New York City offshore wind farm, which when built will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and promote economic development," he said.

The task force will lease an area off the Rockaway Peninsula about 13 to 15 standard miles (14 nautical miles) south of Nassau County, according to the Long Island – New York City Offshore Wind Project website. The 25-year lease will cost $200,000 per year.

The project
The LI – NYC Offshore Wind Project is a collaboration among New York state and city governments and private and public utility providers including the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), New York Power Authority (NYPA) and Con Edison. Click here to view the joint feasibility study between Con Edison and LIPA.

Its aim is to construct turbines that will generate 350 to 700 megawatts (MW) of energy and will potentially become the nation's largest offshore wind project.

A 350 MW wind facility operating at 40 percent produces enough energy for about 112,000 homes, according to the Long Island – New York City Offshore Wind Project website. The same wind facility would displace an estimated 540,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually, the same as taking 120,000 cars off local roads, according to the New York Public Service Commission.

The wind project has received support from many of the state's officials, including Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY) Nancy L. Zimpher.

"Governor Paterson's focus on a clean energy economy is aligned with the priorities in SUNY's strategic plan … and SUNY looks forward to continuing to partner with the state and industry to leverage these critical [energy] assets," she said.

A design professor at the City University of New York (CUNY), also a supporter, recently received $12,500 from the Economic Development Corporation to build a small-scale wind project in Red Hook, Brooklyn as a test site. Click here to read the full article.

Potential problems
The number of turbines the state plans to construct and the massive size of each turbine demand an offshore location. Studies made by the LI – NYC Offshore Wind Project say the wind project's damage to the marine environment will be negligible.

The exact location of the project is still unknown, but nearby residents and visitors of the Rockaway Peninsula may get a new addition to their ocean views and sounds.

Rockaway Beach in N.Y. attracts more than four million people a year.

Massachusetts is the first state to house an offshore wind farm, approved by the Obama administration earlier this year. Many Cape Cod residents have been vocal against the construction of wind turbines, criticizing their noise and unsightly landscape.

What comes next
The wind project will start operations at 350 MW and increase to 700 MW, anticipated to begin service around 2015 but possibly extending to 2016 or 2017 depending on the permit process. The exact cost of the project is still unknown but is estimated around $415 million for a 350 MW turbine project. As upgrades are made to 700 MW, the project will cost an additional $406 million.

The New York Power Authority continues to explore additional offshore wind projects around the New York state area in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. **<<<**

Wind Jammers at the White House

A Larry Summers memo exposes the high cost of energy corporate welfare

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 12, 2010

President Obama continues to advertise the $814 billion stimulus and its green energy subsidy programs in particular as unqualified successes. But a

remarkable memo from Mr. Obama's own advisers tells the real story, neatly illustrating what happens when his anticarbon agenda meets the political allocation of capital.

The eight-page October 25 memorandum to the President was written by soon-to-depart chief economic aide Larry Summers and senior policy aides Carol Browner and Ron Klain, and it's been kicking around Capitol Hill and industry circles for the last week. The trio walks through an interagency dispute about Energy Department subsidies for wind, solar and other forms of "renewable" power, which DOE claimed were being held up by the joint Treasury and White House budget office (OMB) reviews.

Recall that the stimulus transformed the government into the world's largest private equity firm. The many tools now at DOE's disposal include $6 billion to guarantee loans and another dispensation so that the department can convert an energy investment tax credit equal to 30% of a project's cost into a direct cash grant to green developers.

The Summers memo notes that these two provisions alone reduce "the cost of a new wind farm by about 55% and solar technologies by about half relative to a no-subsidy case." So taxpayers are more than majority partners in these private projects, except they get no upside.

DOE wanted the White House to cut OMB and Treasury out of deal-by-deal approval oversight so it could get the money out the door quicker. The department was coming under political attack "from Hill supporters and stakeholders for slow implementation," according to the memo, and impatient Democrats had already raided the $6 billion fund to pay for cash for clunkers.

But OMB and Treasury found severe problems with "the economic integrity of government support for renewables." Developers had almost no "skin in the game," meaning that their equity in projects was well below ordinary standards in the private market. They were also "double dipping," obtaining loan guarantees for projects that "would appear likely to move forward without the credit support" in the stimulus because of other subsidy programs. The reason for the roadblock was "an insufficient number of financially and technically viable projects."

Treasury and OMB singled out an 845-megawatt wind farm that the Energy Department had guaranteed in Oregon called Shepherds Flat, a $1.9 billion installation of 338 General Electric turbines. Combining the stimulus and other federal and state subsidies, the total taxpayer cost is about $1.2 billion, while sponsors GE and Caithness Energy LLC had invested equity of merely about 11%. The memo also notes the wind farm could sell power at "above-market rates" because of Oregon's renewable portfolio standard mandate, which requires utilities to buy a certain annual amount of wind, solar, etc.

But then GE said it was considering "going to the private market for financing out of frustration with the review process." Anything but that. The memo dryly observes that "the alternative of private financing would not make the project financially non-viable."

Oh, and while Shepherds Flat might result in about 18 million fewer tons of carbon through 2033, "reductions would have to be valued at nearly $130 per ton CO2 for the climate benefits to equal the subsidies (more than 6 times the primary estimate used by the government in evaluating rules)."

So here we have the government already paying for 65% of a project that doesn't even meet its normal cost-benefit test, and then the White House has to referee when one of the largest corporations in the world (GE) importunes the Administration to move faster by threatening to find a private financial substitute like any other business. Remind us again why taxpayers should pay for this kind of corporate welfare?

The memo's tone suggests that Messrs. Summers and Klain and Ms. Browner are on the side of the adults at Treasury and the budget office, and they propose several reforms. But they also say that "Failing to make progress on renewables loan guarantees could upset the Hill ([New Mexico] Sen. [Jeff] Bingaman, Speaker Pelosi)" and changes could "signal the failure of a Recovery Act program that has been featured prominently by the Administration."
Well, that answers our question. Meanwhile, the loan guarantee program continues apace. **<<<**

Perry Planners Continue Update of Turbine Rules

By Matt Surtel, The Daily News,
thedailynewsonline.com
December 16, 2010

PERRY NY — The town Planning Board is continuing to work on its updated wind turbine regulations, Chairman Douglas Good said Wednesday.

The Planning Board is considering changes which would essentially ban industrial-scale wind turbines in its boundaries.

Good said planners are considering regulations similar to those enacted in towns such as Warsaw.
The latter basically banned commercial wind farms by limiting height to 75 feet on parcels from one to five acres, and 125 feet on parcels five acres or more.

But Perry's planners want to ensure wind turbines could still be allowed for smaller-scale, private use

such as farms and businesses. A public hearing on the proposed changes was conducted Tuesday.

Wind energy has been highly controversial in the town since Horizon Wind Energy proposed the Dairy Hills Wind Farm in 2005.

Horizon ultimately froze the project in October 2009 due to its uncertainty. The Town Board this past May to declare the wind farm application null and void.

A 12-month moratorium on wind energy development was enacted a month later. **<<<**

JUST SAY NO TO OFFSHORE INDUSTRIAL WIND PROJECTS

It Is Time To Step Up And Join The Fight!

Jan 5, 2011
By Tom Marks

The New York Power Authority and wind developers often cite that the overwhelming majority of the public support for wind energy. That support is often founded in ignorance, People are too busy with the daily routines to study the complex subject of wind energy and power generation. They rely upon experts in the field and their elected representatives to protect their interests. You would think that your government would protect your health and welfare when it comes to issues like energy. Unfortunately they don't. How many times have you heard that politicians "owe" special interests, and the wind industry is a special interest group? They have bought many of the politicians in office with campaign contributions. Lobbyists for the wind industries have sold your elected officials a bill of goods for a technology that can not deliver what it promises. The support for wind by the general public is blind however once they learn the facts they become opposed to this wind folly. Nobody is looking out for your interests but you.

We are trying to stop global climate change by reducing CO2 emissions. Wind energy can not do that. Your elected representatives have been told by and wind industry whose trying to make a profit to tell you wind is free energy and cheap. Wind is by far not very cheap or free, coal and natural gas are just as free but it costs money to get the power to the grid and your home. However it is much cheaper to get coal or gas energy to the grid and to your home than it is for wind energy especially off shore wind energy.

Wind is variable, intermittent and unpredictable and can not supply power as our society demands as other conventional fuels like coal gas and hydro can.

Energy is a dirty business no matter what fuel is used. Coal has issues with mining, disposal of the ash and emissions. Gas likewise has many similar issues but the emissions are far fewer than coal. Hydro, which is very clean, drowns vast areas of habitat to create reservoirs of water to power the generators. Wind is no different it destroys vast areas of habitat for the wind farms, kills millions of birds and bats, contributes CO2 emissions because it has to be backed up by conventional power plants which must remain on stand-by regardless of the wind velocity.

The wind industry lobby has gotten our government to give them all sorts of incentives so there is no risk for the developer erecting wind turbines in our Great Lakes. The cost is being carried on your back; the subsides and incentives are paid from your taxes; the rates are 3 to 5 times higher for off shore power. Would you buy it? You have no choice! It is time you step up and join the fight! **<<<**

The Wind Subsidy Bubble

Wall Street Journal, December 20, 2010

Green pork should be a GOP budget target.

Ethanol isn't the only heavily subsidized energy source that won a multibillion dollar jackpot in last week's tax deal. The other big winner was the wind industry, which received a one year extension of a $3 billion grant program for renewable energy projects.

Talk about throwing good money after bad. Despite more than $30 billion in subsidies for "clean energy" in the 2009 stimulus bill, Big Wind still can't make it in the marketplace. Denise Bode, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association, had warned that without last week's extension of the federal 1603 investment credit, the outlook for the wind industry would be "flatline or down." Some 20,000 wind energy jobs, about one-quarter of the industry's total, could have been lost, the wind lobby concedes. For most industries that would be an admission of failure, but in Washington this kind of forecast is used to justify more subsidies.

But what have these subsidies bought taxpayers? According to AWEA, in the first half of 2010 wind power installations "dropped by 57% and 71% from 2008 and 2009 levels." In the third quarter, the industry says it "added just 395 megawatts (MW) of wind-

powered electric generating capacity," making it the lowest quarter since 2007. New wind installations are down 72% from last year to their lowest level since 2006. And this is supposed to be the miracle electricity source of the future?

The coal industry, which Mr. Obama's Environmental Protection Agency and Interior Department have done everything possible to curtail, added almost three times more to the nation's electric power capacity in the first nine months of 2010 (39%) than did wind (14%), according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The grant program that Congress has extended was created in the 2008 stimulus bill. It forces taxpayers to pay 30% of a renewable energy project's costs. Big Wind insisted on these grants because wind energy producers don't make enough net income to take advantage of the generous renewable energy tax credit.

The industry also wants a federal renewable energy standard, which would require utilities to buy power from green energy projects regardless of price. Without that additional subsidy, AWEA concedes that wind power will "stall out." It is lobbying for billions of dollars of subsidies to cover the cost of hooking off-shore wind projects to the electricity transmission grid. And now that the cap-and-tax scheme on coal and oil and gas has failed in Congress, the windmillers want the EPA to use regulation to raise costs on carbon sources of power.

Big Wind also has lobbying operations in state capitals, where it has been pushing state renewable energy standards. More than half the states—mostly in the West and Northeast—have enacted these mandates, which are already inflating home and business electricity bills.

According to an analysis by Chris Horner, an energy expert at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the stimulus bill's subsidies for renewable energy cost taxpayers about $475,000 for every job generated. That's at least four times what it costs a nonsubsidized private firm to create a job—a lousy return on investment even for government.

The wind industry claims to employ 85,000 Americans. That's almost certainly an exaggeration, but if it is true it compares with roughly 140,000 miners and others directly employed by the coal industry. Wind accounts for a little more than 1% of electricity generation and coal almost 50%. So it takes at least 25 times more workers to produce a kilowatt of electricity from wind as from coal.

Given this level of inefficiency, it's no wonder that wind and solar energy require at least 20 times more in government subsidies per unit of electricity generated than the average for coal and natural gas, according to a 2007 study by the Energy Information Administration.

The wind industry gave the vast majority of its campaign contributions this election cycle to Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Democrats. If Republicans are serious about shrinking the federal budget and ending corporate welfare, a very good target would be green pork, starting with wind. **<<<<**

NO GO FOR GLOW

REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS DECLINING, SO WHY RUSH TO SPEND BILLIONS ON WIND ENERGY?

By Suzanne Albright
Rochester, NY December, 2010

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a CO2 cap and trade program of 10 states (ME, MA, NH, VT, CT, RI, NY, NJ, DE & MD) went into effect 6/09/2009. RGGI applies to all fossil fuel power plants 25 MW or greater with the goal of stabilizing regional CO2 emissions @ about 188 million tons between 2009 and 2014, and reducing emissions by 2.5% annually from 2015 and 2018 to total a 10% reduction. In June 2010, RGGI first year data were published in a report called “RGGI Emission Trends”.

Published by Environmental Northeast (ENE), a nonprofit research and advocacy organization focusing on the Northeastern U.S and Eastern Canada, the report claims **2009 total emissions fell 34% below the RGGI cap of 188,076,976 tons, weighing in at 123,718,594 tons.** ENE reports **t**he driving force behind this substantial decrease is as follows:

1.ENERGY PRICES AND NATURAL GAS GENERATION: Over the past 3 years, low emission natural gas prices have been relatively cheap, resulting in increased utilization in the electric sector. At the same time, coal prices across the region have generally increased since 2003. To produce equal amounts of heat**, natural gas emits 44% less carbon than coal** and 33% less than fuel oil. Since 2005, when the RGGI cap was established, this trend has had a net decrease of 56.7 tons of carbon emissions.

2.NONFOSSIL FUEL GENERATION: Sources of nonfossil fuel including nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar have risen 15% since 2001, by over 23,000GWh. Of the over 12,400 GWh rise since 2005, the **majority** has come from nuclear (5,500 GWh), with 3,900 GWh from hydro, and with the remaining sources being landfill gas, wind and wood biomass.

3.ECONOMIC CONDITIONS & ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION: Although historically economic downturns have contributed to decreased consumption and thus decreased emissions, the direct link between economic growth and increased electricity consumption seems to be weakening. This is evidenced by stable electricity consumption during the economic growth period of 2003-2007, suggesting the success of energy savings programs and improved energy efficiency.

4.WEATHER: Interestingly, over the past 3 years, summer heat and humidity (as measured by the temperature-humidity index, or THI) has decreased throughout the RGGI region, resulting in decreased demand for air conditioning. If this trend reverses, demand-response programs which pay customers to reduce consumption when demand peaks, could result in a declining impact of hot weather emissions.

The report concludes that RGGI emissions have **decreased significantly** due to "cheap natural gas, increased non-emitting generation, more efficient use of electricity, and to a lesser extent, economic trends and mild summer weather".

The reader of this report can easily conclude:

-Where natural gas and hydro are the primary sources of electricity, carbon emissions are **already** dropping far below anticipated levels.

-Natural gas is "cheap" relative to other sources and low in carbon emissions.

-Current weather trends are resulting in less energy demand for air conditioning, which does not support a red flag reaction to global warming concerns.

Just during this month (December 2010), analysis used by National Grid to monitor power generation reported the amount of power produced by wind developments across UK fell to as low as **2.5% of potential generation capacity** while demand rose to its highest peak level. Electricity has had to be imported from abroad, likely from nuclear plants in France. Put this together with the report by ENE regarding decreased hot, humid summer demand for air conditioning in the RGGI region, one can further conclude:

-Because wind blows less or not at all during hot summer weather, wind energy doesn't work at those times. With the recent decline in heat and humidity anyway, peak demand in the summer is decreasing, and therefore there is no emergency to produce high cost alternative electricity.

-Wind energy is inefficient, unreliable, and unpredictable in the coldest weather.

As a non-scientist, non-engineer, I must ask those scientists and engineers, as well as politicians and lobbyists who are in the driver's seat of the wind power bus, WHERE ARE YOU HEADED WITH TAXPAYERS' MONEY? The road you are travelling ends abruptly at the edge of a very high cliff! Please put the brakes on before it is too late. As it is, our land and seascapes, fish and wildlife, human health, and regional economies are already being thrown under the wind energy bus.

As consumers and taxpayers, we must put a stop to this madness. Before billions more of our tax dollars are spent on this unnecessary degradation of our oceans and landscapes, before millions more raptors and other birds are needlessly slaughtered by turbine blades, become informed. Wind is not the answer. **<<<**

You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows

By Richard Littlejohn, Daily Mail UK

This is the season for quizzes. So -fingers on buzzers, here's your starter for ten. In percentage terms, how much electricity do Britain's 3,150 wind -turbines supply to the -National Grid? Is it: a) five per cent; b) ten per cent; or c) 20 per cent? Come on, I'm going to have to hurry you. No conferring.

Time's up. The correct answer is: none of the above. Yesterday afternoon, the figure was just 1.6 per cent, according to the official website of the wholesale electricity market. Over the past three weeks, with demand for power at record levels because of the freezing weather, there have been days when the contribution of our forests of wind turbines has been **precisely nothing**.

It gets better. As the temperature has plummeted, the turbines have had to be heated to prevent them seizing up. Consequently, they have been consuming more electricity than they generate.

Even on a good day they rarely work above a quarter of their theoretical capacity. And in high winds they have to be switched off altogether to prevent damage.
At best, the combined output of these monstrosities is equal only to that of a single, medium-sized, gas-fired power station.

To make matters worse, there is no way of storing the electricity generated on the rare occasions when they are working.

Yet the Government is plowing ahead with plans to erect 12,500 of these War of the Worlds windmills in the sea and across our green and pleasant. Some of them will be up to three times the size of the present structures.

Every time I drive up to North Norfolk, another crop of turbines has sprouted from the soil, disfiguring the scenery for miles around.

Swaffham, the picturesque location of Stephen Fry's TV series Kingdom, is virtually surrounded. None of them ever seems to be turning. They just stand there, ominously, like invaders from outer space laying siege to the town.

Billions of pounds are being wasted on these worse-than-useless blots on the landscape. We'd be -better off spending the money on snow ploughs.
While we're on the subject of snow, Britain's most tenacious 'climate change denier' Christopher Booker, occasionally of this parish, has just revealed the real reason why this country was so ill-prepared for the Arctic weather.

Airports, rail operators and local authorities all subscribe to the Met Office's long-term forecasts. And over the past few years, the Met Office has become evangelical about 'man-made global warming'.
Every weather forecast is now extruded through the prism of so-called climate change, even when all evidence points to the fact that the Earth is actually getting colder.

The Met Office's predictions are based on a computer model which assumes ever-rising temperatures — so much so that it forecast that this winter would be significantly milder than the past two years.
Even though the winters of 2008 and 2009 were ferociously cold, they were dismissed as 'random events'. The Met Office put the odds on a third harsh winter no higher than 20-1.

Those responsible for keeping our transport network running were stupid enough to swallow this bogus, optimistic forecast, and consequently failed to make proper provision for the blizzards, which duly followed.
This, of course, was the same Met Office which predicted a 'barbecue summer' shortly before Britain was hit by gales and widespread flooding.

For this wildly inaccurate and deliberately skewed service, the British taxpayer is charged a staggering £200million a year.

Needless to say, the head of the Met Office is not even a weatherman. He's a leading 'climate change activist' who buys into the propaganda pumped out by the fanatics at the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit (CRU) — exposed for blatantly suppressing evidence which contradicts their messianic belief in "global warming".

Back in 2000, the CRU's Dr David Viner told The Independent that winter snowfalls would soon be a thing of the past.

'Children just aren't going to know what snow is,' he predicted confidently.

Even when they are proved wrong, the warmists will never admit it. They simply move the goalposts — which is how global warming morphed into 'climate change'.

You can't argue with them. That's because 'climate change' isn't a -science, it's a religion. Sceptics are trashed as heretics.

The climate change lobby is a curious mix of cultists and cynical opportunists. As I write, Sky News is spotlighting a project on Humberside aimed at brainwashing -children into believing that wind is the fuel of the future.

Call Me Dave bangs on about all the jobs which will be created by the 'green economy' — ignoring the fact that almost all Britain's wind turbines are built and installed by foreign firms.

The defining characteristic of all fanatics is that they have no sense of the ridiculous.

According to the BBC, Town Halls across the country have been appealing to owners of 4x4s to offer lifts to 'essential staff' during the cold snap.

These would be the same 4x4s which these very same councils want to ban, because they cause global warming and kill polar bears. You couldn't make it up.

Let them slip and slither their way into work. I shall be saddling up the SUV and tilting at windmills. **<<<**

Spanish Household Power Prices to Jump

By DAVID ROMAN

MADRID—The Spanish government's move to raise household electricity prices by 9.8% from Jan. 1 could stoke inflationary pressures as the higher prices pass through households and into the larger economy.

The increase will affect around 17 million Spanish households that rely on the so-called "price of last resort," the only one still set by the government after the sector was liberalized in recent years, Spain's industry ministry said late Monday. This price is

available only to households using less than 10 kilowatt hours that decline to negotiate directly with power companies.

The increase adds to inflationary pressures facing consumers. Spain's consumer-price index rose 2.3% in November from a year earlier, a pace that is among fastest in the euro zone and above the European Central Bank's 2% ceiling for the region.
The ministry said the increase is justified by higher prices for fossil fuels, since natural gas—often shipped in liquefied form—is the main source of electricity in the country. It added the increase in electricity prices is in-line with hikes seen in recent months in other European countries.

Observers say the government is also trying to reduce the country's tariff deficit—the difference between prices charged by utilities and those paid by consumers. The tariff deficit, which is booked as revenue by the utilities, has effectively served as a government subsidy on power prices by enabling utilities to provide power to consumers at a price lower than the cost of production.

The deficit has been rising over the past decade as successive governments failed to increase power prices fast enough to keep pace with rising oil and gas prices, and now stands at over €15 billion ($19.74 billion). The deficit has also widened because of a surge in expensive renewable energy production—in particular wind and solar power—that has gone from almost zero to over 16% of Spain's power generation in 10 years.

Even after the recent cuts the government made to renewable energy subsidies, wind-power generation remains twice as costly as average-electricity generation, and solar power is close to nine times as expensive. The subsidy cuts are part of a government plan to lower the budget deficit to 9.3% of gross domestic product this year.**<<<**

Obama feels opposing winds on climate effort

Dec 29 - USA TODAY - By Robin Bravender -
Jan. 2 isn't your ordinary Sunday. That day, the Obama administration officially starts regulating greenhouse gas emissions, and critics have issued dire predictions of economic destruction.

With all the fiery rhetoric about how damaging the regulations could be, the White House is under pressure to fulfill its vow to tackle climate change while avoiding the appearance it's hindering job growth.
GOP lawmakers have launched a series of efforts to hamstring the Environmental Protection Agency -- and that's before the rules have officially kicked in. Those efforts are likely to increase in frequency and in force in the next Congress as Republicans claim the House majority and industries continue to lobby against the greenhouse gas regulations.

Incoming House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich., last week accused EPA of advancing a "long regulatory assault" against domestic energy producers.

"The EPA has its foot firmly on the throat of our economic recovery," he said. "We will not allow the administration to regulate what they have been unable to legislate."

President Obama and top EPA officials insist they would have preferred comprehensive climate legislation, but they say they're legally bound to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act after a 2007 U.S. Supreme Court decision ordered the EPA to determine whether the heat-trapping gases endanger the public. And within the confines of the law, the administration argues, it's doing the best it can.
So what actually happens Jan. 2? New and upgraded industrial facilities such as power plants and refineries will be forced to install technologies to curb their greenhouse gas emissions.

At first, the greenhouse gas rules will apply only to new and modified plants that would already trigger control requirements based on their emissions of other pollutants regulated by EPA, like soot or smog.
Starting in July, large plants will fall under EPA's rules based only on their greenhouse gas output.

Industry attorney Jeff Holmstead warned that long delays could occur as authorities work to issue greenhouse gas permits for the first time and as opponents of new projects challenge the emission control requirements in court. Holmstead served as EPA air chief during the George W. Bush administration. **<<<**

What living with industrial wind is like in Massachusetts

December 25, 2011

Dear Madam and Sirs,

As I write this, sitting at my desk looking out over my snow-covered woodland garden in the rear of my property, I also have a clear view of Falmouth’s Turbine #1 and the huge red crane that is assembling Wind Turbine #2. Every window on the back of my house has a great view of the Falmouth Industrial Park turbines.

I have a feeling of being overwhelmed by these machines. Nobody deserves to be subjected to this torment. Nearly every waking hour is spent being

aggravated by it or aggravating over what to do about it, or medical appointments because of it, or talking to people calling me about it or who come to my house to see it for themselves, or meetings to do with it, or Internet exchanges dealing with it, or seminars and symposiums on it, or reading articles and books about it. All this on top of my investing nearly $7000 fighting my own town over it.

I want my life back, and I am more than willing to fight for it. Persistence pays. The town sewage odor issue took 20 years. This is no less important to me. This is a matter of basic human rights. I learned one thing with the sewer issue: that town officials are not forever. Replacements can be seated soon enough, and not all people are mindless.

This is Christmas Day. What is so outrageous about wind turbine nuisance is that it continues each and every day. Christmas, Thanksgiving, every holiday, every special occasion. It takes zero time off from annoying people. It is a negative mood setter. Have friends over for a cook-out: no one likes this noise. Some of us are driven insane by it. What otherwise could be a perfect day in the garden becomes a day of resentment and anger towards the town and another fist full of pills taken for depression, anxieties, and hypertension.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at your Board of Health, December 20th, meeting. I do not agree with one board member's analogy of wind turbine noise vs. botulism, and how the one affecting everyone and the other only some people makes the wind turbine detriments more complex to deal with. What about blade and ice throw? There is a proper, safe distance to setback even though the ice or blade would not hit everyone.

Actually "the hit" of ice or blade would affect fewer people than the noise does. Just because the victim would bleed from the physical hit does not lesson the impact on the victim who is suffering from noise induced anxiety, depression, and pain.
What do you say when you find him hanging on the turbine fence with a .357 round in his head?

You are responsible for the the health of all the citizens of Falmouth, including the ones who are sensitive to the noise, shadow flicker, strobe lights, and whatever other annoyances are caused by wind turbines or anything else in Falmouth. Your list of duties clearly includes noise. The U.S Environmental Protection Agency says that "noise is a significant hazard to public health," and finds that an absolute noise limit fails to adequately protect the public health.

Many communities have adopted a rule that adequately protects the public health by establishing a relative standard that limits the noise caused by the operation of a wind energy system to no more than 5dBA above the ambient noise level (as measured at any point on property adjacent to the parcel on which the wind energy system is located). The Falmouth boards should have been looking into this back in 2004 when the wind turbine was being proposed. There was plenty of information back then to realize the detrimental effects of industrial wind turbines when sited too close to populations. The wind industry disclosed only the bright side of the picture. Town officials either had their eyes closed or outright just "hoped" that things would turn out okay.

Not enough research was done, or at least not heeded. The town took a huge risk, and now the consequences must be faced
.
You dither around wasting time. You <u>do not need</u> peer reviewed studies from Canada or Denmark or Australia to prove to you the detrimental affects of industrial wind turbines on human beings. You have your own neighbors living right here, in Falmouth, <u>whom you can speak to in person</u>.

- You can stand by their houses
- You can look in their medicine cabinets
- You can review their medical records
- You can witness their beds moved down to their basements

We are suffering <u>right here in Falmouth in real time</u>!
After every meeting, when the turbine issue is yet again postponed, we hear Neil Andersen and Colin Murphy cry out "*What am I supposed to do until then?*"
I have received several calls from Alfreda Wring, who lives on Dove Cottage Road in Falmouth. She says I described the noise perfectly in one of my (local) newspaper letters, and says how distraught she is over the noise of the wind turbine.

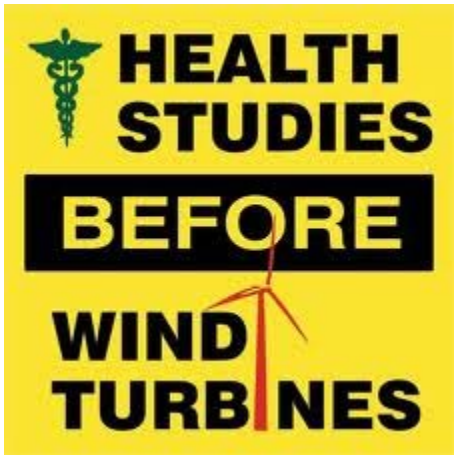
One could not make up her story. She complained to her doctor that she could not sleep because of the turbine sound. He told her to get earplugs. Then, while she was attempting to put them in, she tripped on her bedspread, fell, and broke her hip. That resulted in her having to go into a nursing home.

Then there is John Ford, who testified at a Cape Cod Commission hearing how terrible the noise is for him at over 3200 feet from Falmouth's turbine #1. Look at this list, and think about it:

Larry and Jill Worthington, Brian and Kathryn Elder, Neil and Elizabeth Andersen, Colin and Jennifer Murphy, Richard and Charlotte Nugent, Gyongyi Szabo, Gyorgy Frendi, Kathie and Day Mount, Mark Cool and Annie Hart Cool, Todd and Terri Drummey, Malcolm Donald, Beth Underhill, Chris Alves, Donna Hamblin, Douglas Smith, Loretta O'Brian, Maddi Tunidor, Nicole Mant, Patrick O'Conner, Robert Sagerman, Sue Hobart, Vincent Myette, and Barry and Diane Funfar.

These are all Falmouth people with real problems resulting from the town's irresponsible turbine siting. We all want our lives back. You are contributing to driving these people out of their minds and out of their homes. You are contributing to diminishing their life, and most certainly their quality of life.

And this list of harmed and suffering Falmouth citizens continues to grow. Turbine 1 is still in its first year of operation and Turbine 2 has not yet begun to operate. And just wait until the actual tax bills are mailed out. People will not have to be bothered by a medical ailment to claim a tax abatement over the proximity of the wind turbine. Falmouth will lose more in tax revenue than it gains in electricity generation.
And what has the town figured into their bottom line to offset vandalism? This is a huge problem anywhere these machines are forced into peoples backyards. There is a reason many European countries with more than two decades of experience with industrial wind turbines have now implemented regulations requiring setbacks of 1 to 1.1.5 miles.



It is an obvious fact that some of us are more sensitive to the particular character and quality of the sound generated by the turbine. This has been observed in many studies and been amply re-confirmed by many of us abutters of Falmouth's wind turbine. If I were the only affected person, I would simply pack up and move away. But there are many others. We have been clearly violated; our quality of life, our well being, our physical and mental health has been adversely affected.

The town will not alleviate this problem by shutting the wind turbines down between midnight and 3AM, when the wind is supposedly over some certain speed. This is the town's mitigation recommendation to date. (Further aggravating this is Acting Town Manager Heather Harper, when she berates us complainers for undermining the financial viability of her pet project.) Fact is, I am bothered in the daytime, others are bothered at night, some are annoyed 24 hours per day. Severe annoyance leads to all manner of negatives: stress, anxiety, depression. irritability, anger, migraines, nausea, emotional turmoil, broken concentration, blurred vision, dizziness, hypertension, nervousness, sleep disorder, palpitations, tiredness, suicide. One does not need a medical degree to produce this list.
I am 64 years old. I have been happy, sad, depressed, suicidal, at war, at peace, and everywhere in-between. This town is driving some of us crazy. (I am enclosing an article that is one of the best I have seen as to why there are such wide differences in perception of wind turbine noise.)

We have real issues. We have been harmed. Nothing is being done. At the very least these machines need to be shut down until a final solution is made.
All the town officials and town boards act like the noise problem from Turbine #1 is just going to disappear. Meanwhile there is wind Turbine #2 under construction, which anyone with half a mind knows will make the noise problem only worse.
This is ludicrous! This is local government at its stupidest!

Megan Amsler, in a recent *Falmouth Enterprise* article, highlighted areas in town where (energy) efficiencies can be raised, and pointed out that one such area is the current wind turbine which has been shut down at various wind speeds and times of the day to address noise concerns from neighboring residents. She says this has cost the town roughly $35,000 in generation—as though the noise problems we abutters experience are only an impediment to the town's financial bottom line. On the contrary, that wind turbine should not be in the town's finances! It was built without the necessary special permit, sited irresponsibly, and is being operated with no regard for many citizen's rights or well-being. Were it not for the 'green communities' hysteria, we would not be in this predicament.

The 1.65 MW turbines are too big for their site. Houses are too close. The homes were here first, some over thirty years. Our environment has been changed from a peaceful community, to being severely bothered and annoyed by an industrial power plant. How simple is that to grasp? Shut the turbines down and move them to a proper site. Everyone knows this! It's time for the town to throw in the towel and admit a mistake was made. Call it a day. Sell them before everyone catches on and realizes the inefficiencies of wind power. Persistence and "what is right" will win this issue. I have no doubt as to the outcome.

Sincerely,
Barry Funfar
27 Ridgeview Drive
Falmouth, MA 02540

Wind farms becalmed just when needed the most

Credit: By Louise Gray, Environment Correspondent, The Telegraph, www.telegraph.co.uk 1 January 2011

Wind farms in Britain generated practically no electricity during the recent cold spell, raising fresh concerns about whether they could be relied upon to meet the country's energy needs.

Despite high demand for electricity as people shivered at home over Christmas, most of the 3,000 wind turbines around Britain stood still due to a lack of wind.

Even yesterday , when conditions were slightly breezier, wind farms generated just 1.8 per cent of the nation's electricity — less than a third of usual levels.

The failure of wind farms to function at full tilt during December forced energy suppliers to rely on coal-fired power stations to keep the lights on — meaning more greenhouse gases were produced.

Experts feared that as the Government moved towards a target of generating 30 per cent of electricity from wind — while closing gas and coal-fired power stations — cold, still winters could cause a problem in the future.

Prof Michael Laughton, emeritus professor of engineering at Queen Mary University London, said wind turbines became still just when they were needed most, meaning that the country was reliant on imported oil or coal.

The wind turbines may even use up electricity during a calm period, as they were rotated in order to keep the mechanical parts working. There are more than 3,000 turbines in Britain and the Department of Energy and Climate Change planned to have up to 6,000 onshore and 4,000 at sea by 2020.

Charles Anglin, of Renewable UK, which represented the wind energy industry, said that over a normal year wind turbines were working about a third of the time. He said future energy plans took into account periods when wind turbines were still, just as current models had backup available for when nuclear or coal plants were down.

"There are periods, of course, when it is not windy but year on year we are seeing growth," he said.

Britain had 2 per cent of electricity from renewables in 2002, but that figure was now almost 10 per cent, with wind providing about half.

The Met Office said yesterday that there would be a bit more wind and unsettled weather, particularly in the North, this weekend, with colder weather returning tomorrow. The week ahead would be cold again, with overnight frosts.

It was confirmed yesterday that December had been the coldest since national records were first kept in 1910, with the average temperature little more than -1.5C (35F) **<<<**

Industrial Wind Turbines

- Kill Birds
- Kill Bats
- Scar the land
- Reduce property values
- Impact human health
- Create Wind Turbine Syndrome
- Are noisy
- Do not reduce CO2
- Can not replace any coal fired power plants
- Must be backed up by conventional power plants
- Can not meet society's demand for power 27/7
- Cause flicker in the setting or rising sun
- Do not reduce our dependency upon foreign oil
- Contain rare earth magnets only available from China
- Provide no economic benefit for ratepayers

Feds wind plan may zap Massachusetts; Ratepayers could see double-digit increases

Credit: By Jay Fitzgerald, Boston Herald, bostonherald.com 2 January 2011

Massachusetts electric ratepayers could get jolted by plans to open up huge swaths of federal waters south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket for more offshore wind farms.

About a million National Grid ratepayers are already expected to get hit with a 2 percent hike in their electric bills due to the planned Cape Wind project in Nantucket Sound.

But if 3,000 square miles of additional federal waters are fully developed, as envisioned by the U.S. Interior Department and the Patrick administration, then ratepayers could see double-digit rate hikes valued at tens of billions of dollars, business and industry experts warn.

"It's very expensive news for New Englanders," Robert McCullough, an energy analyst in Oregon, said of the announcement last week that the federal government is looking to lease deep-ocean waters for up to 4,000 megawatts of additional offshore wind development.

“We need to get our arms around the economics of these (offshore) wind farms,” said John Regan, a vice president at Associated Industries of Massachusetts, a harsh critic of the Cape Wind project’s costs.

Offshore wind farms generally have to charge much higher prices for electricity because their turbines are installed out to sea, dramatically increasing costs. At current prices, offshore wind energy costs about twice as much as land-based wind power and three times more than electricity generated by fossil fuels.

The 130-turbine Cape Wind project, which is expected to cost more than $2 billion to build, will have a maximum power capacity of about 468 megawatts.

Using the Cape Wind rate prices as a model, then full development of the designated area south of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket could lead to a 17 percent rate hike for electric ratepayers, according to calculations by the Herald.

Most observers don’t expect a full 4,000-megawatt build-out in the federal waters. But a two-thirds build-out could lead to an 11.2 percent hike in electric rates, based on Cape Wind’s prices. A one-third build-out would lead to a 5.6 percent hike in rates.

The full cost of Cape Wind’s power is expected to come in at about $5.4 billion over 15 years – and 4,000 megawatts of additional wind power would cost about $45 billion if the same Cape Wind rates are used.

Knowing the unpopularity of such high prices, federal and state officials are vowing to invest in new technologies that will lower the price of offshore wind in coming years. The U.S. Department of Energy is hoping that prices could be cut by nearly two-thirds by 2030.

Ian Bowles, Gov. Deval Patrick’s former energy and environmental czar who played a key role in pushing wind power in Massachusetts, said prices for future offshore wind won’t be nearly as expensive as Cape Wind.

“We have every reason to think prices will come down,” said Bowles, who stepped down last week as Patrick’s environmental chief. He noted that the price of solar power has fallen 50 percent in recent years – and the same should happen to offshore wind.

Bowles also indicated that it’s unlikely all of the potential 4,000 megawatts of offshore wind power will be developed.

But McCullough, an analyst who testified against wind turbines off the shores of Block Island, said the entire deep-water leasing idea is “amateurish” and “all unnecessary.”

While the prices of offshore wind may come down, the prices of other clean-energy sources will also fall with technological advances, always keeping offshore wind the more expensive option, other experts say. **<<<**

Hammond wind panel OKs property guarantee
TURBINE ZONING: Iberdrola counsel says proposed law likely will prevent development

By MATT MCALLISTER
JOHNSON NEWSPAPERS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2010
ARTICLE OPTIONS

HAMMOND — 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.

Committee member and wind farm leaseholder Michele W. McQueer cast the lone dissenting vote.

With the move, the committee appears to have taken direct aim at the company most interested in locating a wind farm in Hammond.

In a recent letter from Iberdrola Renewables to the committee, Mark Epstein, senior counsel, wrote, "We believe that if the Committee chooses to pursue the RPVG, it will prevent any development of windpower facilities in Hammond."

In a Wednesday e-mail, Iberdrola Communications Manager Paul Copleman wrote, "We are disappointed in the Committee's decision to recommend the Residential Property Value Guarantee in its current form. While we appreciate and welcome the Committee taking a close look at the concerns expressed by some community members, we have explained the significant and potentially prohibitive burden such a RPVG would place on both members of the community and any company wishing to open a business in Hammond."

"We look forward to continuing to working with the Committee, but most likely won't reach any decision about the project's viability until Hammond adopts zoning laws governing wind energy."

The agreement, drafted by Richard K. Champney, committee member and real estate attorney, was reviewed over the past several weeks by all committee members, who offered their suggestions. Many members of the public also were consulted, according to Mr. Champney, who said he had received a horde of phone calls and e-mails, none of which offered opposition to his proposal.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion to incorporate the value guarantee into the final committee report was made by Merritt V. Young and seconded by Ronald R. Papke.

The revised document includes changes in Section 13, "Exclusive option of any residential property owner living within close proximity (2 miles) to a wind turbine," where a property owner has a once-in-a-lifetime right to be reimbursed for his or her real property and 5 acres surrounding that residence at the appraised value, if he or she follows the provisions listed in the document, including:

■ Property owners must notify guarantor within 90 days of issuance of an industrial wind farm permit.

■ Property owners must have been the legal owner of real property at the time permit was issued.

■ Property owners and the guarantor will enter into a 30-day cooling-off period where property owner discusses entering into a good-neighbor program; if it is not possible, they will continue to complete the agreement application.

■ Guarantor will consider relocating wind turbines out of a 2-mile radius of the property owner's residence.

■ If property owner and guarantor have not reached agreement within 60 days, the property owner orders a certified property appraisal that can be used as cost replacement value.

■ If still no agreement, a second and/or even a third appraisal can be ordered that then will be averaged with the first to determine the final controlling value the property owner will receive as a buyout from the guarantor.

This option cannot be used in conjunction with any future guarantee of the sale of a residence.

In further discussion before moving on to the next issue, there was mention made of a good-neighbor agreement that 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 because a turbine layout has not yet been established. **<<<**

Windmills Are Killing Our Birds

One standard for oil companies, another for green energy sources.

By Robert Bryce

On Aug. 13, ExxonMobil pleaded guilty in federal court to killing 85 birds that had come into contact with crude oil or other pollutants in uncovered tanks or waste-water facilities on its properties. The birds were protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which dates back to 1918. The company agreed to pay $600,000 in fines and fees.

ExxonMobil is hardly alone in running afoul of this law. Over the past two decades, federal officials have brought hundreds of similar cases against energy companies. In July, for example, the Oregon-based electric utility PacifiCorp paid $1.4 million in fines and restitution for killing 232 eagles in Wyoming over the past two years. The birds were electrocuted by poorly-designed power lines.

Yet there is one group of energy producers that are not being prosecuted for killing birds: wind-power companies. And wind-powered turbines are killing a vast number of birds every year.

A July 2008 study of the wind farm at Altamont Pass, Calif., estimated that its turbines kill an average of 80 golden eagles per year. The study, funded by the Alameda County Community Development Agency, also estimated that about 10,000 birds—nearly all protected by the migratory bird act—are being whacked every year at Altamont.

Altamont's turbines located about 30 miles east of Oakland, Calif., kill more than 100 times as many birds as Exxon's tanks, and they do so every year. But the Altamont Pass wind farm does not face the same threat of prosecution, even though the bird kills at Altamont have been repeatedly documented by biologists since the mid-1990s.

The number of birds killed by wind turbines is highly variable. And biologists believe Altamont, which uses older turbine technology, may be the worst example. But that said, the carnage there likely represents only a fraction of the number of birds killed by windmills. Michael Fry of the American Bird Conservancy estimates that U.S. wind turbines kill between 75,000 and 275,000 birds per year. Yet the Justice Department is not bringing cases against wind companies.

"Somebody has given the wind industry a get-out-of-jail-free card," Mr. Fry told me. "If there were even one prosecution," he added, the wind industry would be forced to take the issue seriously.

According to the American Wind Energy Association, the industry's trade association, each megawatt of installed wind-power results in the killing of between one and six birds per year. At the end of 2008, the U.S. had about 25,000 megawatts of wind turbines.

By 2030, environmental and lobby groups are pushing for the U.S. to be producing 20% of its electricity from wind. Meeting that goal, according to the Department of Energy, will require the U.S. to have about 300,000 megawatts of wind capacity, a 12-fold increase over 2008 levels. If that target is achieved, we can expect some 300,000 birds, at the least, to be killed by wind turbines each year.

On its Web site, the Wind Energy Association says that bird kills by wind turbines are a "very small fraction of those caused by other commonly accepted human activities and structures—house cats kill an estimated one billion birds annually." That may be true, but it is not much of a defense. When cats kill birds, federal law doesn't require marching them to our courthouses to hold them responsible.

During the late 1980s and early '90s, Rob Lee was one of the Fish and Wildlife Service's lead law-enforcement investigators on the problem of bird kills in Western oil fields. Now retired and living in Lubbock, Texas, Mr. Lee tells me that solving the problem in the oil fields "was easy and cheap." The oil companies only had to put netting over their tanks and waste facilities.
Why aren't wind companies prosecuted for killing eagles and other birds? "The fix here is not easy or cheap," Mr. Lee told me. He added that he doesn't expect to see any prosecutions of the politically correct wind industry.

This is a double standard that more people—and not just bird lovers—should be paying attention to. In protecting America's wildlife, federal law-enforcement officials are turning a blind eye to the harm done by "green" energy.

What is it all worth?

Economic Impact from Wildlife Watching

If there was ever an argument to protect our wildlife habitats it could be made by the economic impact that results from watching wildlife. In the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Agency they reported that expenditures were $45.7 BILLION! Wildlife watching surpassed fishing with $42.2 billion in expenditures. These are just expenditures, the impacts are difficult to calculate but most experts feel that for every dollar spent there is at least a two dollars in stimulus to the economy. The expenditures support retail stores, hotels, restaurants, and various other incidentals. In the study it reported wildlife watchers spent $23.2 billion on equipment like binoculars, clothing, field guides, maps, cameras and electronics. Trip related expenditures are $12.8 billion, and other expenditures are $9.6 billion for items like magazines, club dues, contributions to wildlife causes, and habitat plantings and restoration.

In the study it was determined that 71.1 million people or 25% of the US population participated in recreational wildlife watching, over 65% are urban residents and 23 million made trips expressly to watch wildlife. While hunting and fishing saw a decline in participation from 2001 to 2006 watching wildlife increased 6%.

There is little argument that most wildlife observers are bird watchers. More people participate in bird watching than any other pastime. What impact will wind turbines have on birds? Will placing turbines in our Great Lakes interfere with migrations and the daily activities of birds that live on the lakes? If birds avoid areas where turbines have been placed will that in turn affect the economic impact, locally, that bird watching has? There are environmental services provided by birds, which we can not place a value on … they are priceless. Birds eat insect pests and pollinate flowers. Birds uplift our spirits with their songs and beauty. If it were not for birds would we appreciate music? **<<<**

Web links….

Spain looses jobs to renewable energy….
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzFlO6Bk-C0

Steel Winds are Broken, NY's Wind Farm on the shore of Lake Erie http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A773toLrCkc

Wind Turbine Fire…
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKkTUY2slYQ

Wind Turbine "explodes"
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqEccgR0q-o

Lackawanna NY turbine gear failure
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liNIqYNHRXE

Interested in joining the fight? To start is simple just join Great Lakes Wind Truth, it is free. We will send you our newsletter, updates, and actions we can all do to stop Industrial Wind Turbines from being put in our Great Lakes. Email…tommarks@verizon.net Or become a Fan of Great Lakes Wind Truth on Facebook by clicking on the Like icon next to our name at the top of the page.

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