

Wind generation fraught with problems

Dear Editor,

If you research commercial wind generation online you will quickly learn that this activity is fraught with serious problems and would not even be considered for Chowan County without the numerous government tax credits, subsidies and alternative energy mandates.

Wind is not economically viable and European governments that in the past enthusiastically promoted wind energy are now backing off. Unless a way can be found to store the energy created by wind, existing fossil fuel power plants must be kept in operation to fill in for the time that wind is absent and these same plants must be taken off line when winds are high and the de-

mand for electricity is low—an inefficient and uneconomical way to run an electricity grid. The higher costs are ultimately borne by you and me while companies like Apex profit handsomely. However, our politicians have decreed we WILL have wind, and it IS coming to Chowan. Each turbine will generate \$5000+ per year in leases; landowners can't be faulted for wanting to cash in, but the process that Apex uses to recruit local political support for wind is designed to be as opaque as possible while they woo those who can approve the permits.

Chowan County citizens need reasonable protection from the documented ill effects of wind tur-

bines (if you haven't heard of infrasound, look it up.) An arbitrary 30-day period to review the ordinance is shortsighted. Would the same timeframe be applied to a projected nuclear or coal power plant?

It appears to me that political considerations are driving this rather than the public good. Since no wind generation company has so far filed for permits, why not take the time to do the proper homework? It is likely there are many suitable locations in Chowan where wind turbines can coexist with their neighbors—vet those locations.

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G.H. 3-11-15