

Wind Turbines: More Cons than Pros

Several people have written to the Editor of this paper about the possible construction of wind farms in the Chowan/Perquimans area. They have pointed out the inherent problems and disadvantages of the gigantic turbines which do not outweigh the few advantages such as clean energy and the fact that there is no charge for wind.

What proponents will not tell you however, or will minimize, are the serious disadvantages a wind farm would bring. A few of the drawbacks are listed below, not necessarily in order of importance:

- High cost of manufacture, repair and maintenance of the turbines
- Relatively low usable energy output considering that at night and on weekends not as much electrical power is needed as during a workday. The electricity cannot be stored and has to be used immediately. Net production is only a puny 20 - 28% of capacity.
- Back-up generators have to be started to make up for the power deficiency when there is no or light wind.
- The use of enormous amounts of fiberglass resins made from not eco-friendly fossil fuels along with steel and aluminium is needed for the manufacture of wind turbines.
- Eye pollution. Picturesque landscapes turn into garish fields of industrial windmills.
- Noise pollution. Several studies indicate that the loud noise generated by the blades of the turbines can be potentially dangerous for people and animals.
- These studies also discovered that wild animals stayed away from areas where wind farm were located.
- Bird kills. The killing of great numbers of small and large migrating and local birds. One of your readers in this column belittled this serious problem but the fact remains that each turbine kills about 360 birds annually, including bats and eagles.
- Neodymium Magnets. An often overlooked issue is the use of Neodymium Magnets in wind turbines. The magnets come almost exclusively from China and create extensive local water and air pollution during manufacture.

The wind farms, which are uneconomical and not eco-friendly, are highly subsidized by tax payers money. Do not build the Chowan /Perquimans wind farm.

Clean wind is only clean until it enters the blades. After that it is dirty wind.

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