




**STEBEN COUNTY  
INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY**

*Drafting Agency  
of Change*

TO: Rick VenVertloh, LaBella Associates  
Tom Hagner, Ecogen LLC

FROM: Kathy Warren   
Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft GEIS

DATE: May 20, 2005

Enclosed please find comments received this week on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (Items 15-20).

Also enclosed are comments received by the IDA but not addressed to the IDA (Item 6).

Thanks.

**Steuben County IDA**

ECOGEN 020

**From:** "Kris Allison" <kalliso1@rochester.rr.com>  
**To:** "scida" <scida@empacc.net>  
**Cc:** "Kevin Kispert" <kakisper@gw.dec.state.ny.us>; "Alice Sokolow" <Sksajs@aol.com>; "Ruthe Matilsky" <rmatilsk@physics.rutgers.edu>; "Terry Matilsky" <matilsky@physics.rutgers.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2005 11:13 AM  
**Subject:** Ecogen's Noise Assessment

Dear Mr. Sherron,

After looking over Ecogen's noise assessment portion of their DGEIS I found there is data missing.

I am the owner of 6652 Baker Rd. which is one of the seven Ecogen noise testing locations.

There is no data represented for 6652 Baker Rd. in appendixes 3,4,6,or 7 of Appendices F

Appendixes 6 and 7 are of special concern because they deal with Ecogen's Second Level Noise Impact Evaluation which included an assessment based on the Modified Composite Noise Rating Method. This was necessary because at four locations the First Level Noise Impact Evaluation indicated that at low wind speeds the FLNIE would be exceeded at night. This occurred at 6652 Baker Rd. Ecogen goes on to justify exceeding the limits established in the Modified Composite Noise Rating Method based on data in appendixes 6 and 7. Therefore, Ecogen submitted an assessment that has 1/4 of the available relevant data missing in regard to this issue.

Ecogen's assessment says on page 21 of Appendices F that data collected from all six locations is represented in appendixes 3 and 4. They measured from seven locations. On page 22, the report then states that appendix 3 details data collected at all seven receptor locations.

I would like to remind you that your agency recently found the Ecogen DGEIS to be complete and adequate for public review. Likewise, the NYSDEC has said that Ecogen's noise assessment provides an objective and thorough analysis that is sufficient to start the public review process.

Significant also, if anyone is interested in actually reading the document, is the fact that the data provided in appendix 8 on 6652 Baker Rd., 11796 Block School Rd., and 2809 Emerson Rd. refutes Ecogen's conclusion regarding "Quiet Area" and "Noisier Area" setbacks as described on page 41 and 42 of Appendices F. 6652 Baker Rd., 11796 Block School Rd., and 2809 Emerson Rd. are depicted as being in a "Windy Area" in Figure 3.7-1 and deserving of a 300m setback. Appendix 8, page 2 shows that such a setback would result in 7-12 dB level increases in 4 out of the 5 measured wind speed conditions at night at these locations. In fact, these "noisy/windy" locations still show an increase in noise levels of 7-10.4dB at 420m at night (the chosen setback for "quiet" locations). Therefore, when Ecogen says on page 42 of Appendices F that "A setback of 300m will minimise the risk of increasing ambient noise levels by more than 6dB for ANY operating condition of wind turbines" at noisier locations, they are obviously not basing this statement on what their data tells them. Although Ecogen's determination of the appropriateness of a 420m setback for even "quiet/sheltered" locations is arguable, it is my intention here to point out only that which I found to be incomplete, nonsensical, or just plain missing.

Furthermore, Ecogen explains on page 32 Appendices F, "for a separation distance of around 255 (225) metres from the nearest wind turbine, a quiet location may be subject to an increase in the ambient noise levels of 8-9 dB whereas a noisier location may only be subject to an increase of only .4-3dB" in daytime conditions. Here, 2809 Emerson Rd. would match Ecogen's description of a quiet location. However, according to Figure 3.7-1, 2809 Emerson Rd. is in the heart of a "windy area" and deserving of only a 1,000' setback. The confusion continues on page 33 Appendices F, where Ecogen says, "locations close to Route 53 experience a lesser increase in ambient noise levels and that a separation distance of 225m will meet the First Level Noise Impact Evaluation." Here, Ecogen is describing 6154 St. Rt. 53 and 5231 St. Rt. 53. According to Figure 3.7-1 both are located in sheltered areas and should get 1,375' setbacks, despite the fact that the FLNIE was satisfied at 225m for daytime conditions. Figure 3.7-1 is the only place that I found where Ecogen actually shows us what locations are deserving of the 1,375' or 1,000' setbacks. On page 33 of Appendices F, Ecogen says 6154 St. Rt. 53 should get a 300m setback. That is the opposite of what Figure 3.7-1 says, 6154 St. Rt. 53 is in a "sheltered area" and would

get a 1,375' setback. I have read over Ecogen's assessment many times and I honestly don't know how they would classify 6652 Baker Rd. (the general lack of data adding to this), 11796 Block School Rd., and 2809 Emerson Rd. I assume I should go by Figure 3.7-1, but this is totally inconsistent with what Ecogen describes elsewhere's. This is information that should be clear, concise, and make sense when comparing different parts of the assessment. What has been submitted is far from that.

What I am trying to point out here is that I cannot get any useful information from Ecogen's assessment because it just does not make sense. Ecogen details the mCNR method summaries in tables 4 and 5 on pages 36 and 37 of Appendices F. These summaries are based on "Quiet Area" data. However, I assume, Ecogen used data from locations described as "Windy or Noisy Areas" that are depicted in Figure 3.7-1 as deserving only 1,000' setbacks. I can't figure out if the "Quiet Area" tables 4 and 5 on page 36 Appendices F includes 10962 Roloson Rd. (a sheltered/quiet area on Figure 3.7-1) along with 2809 Emerson Rd. (windy/noisy) and 11796 Block School Rd. (also windy/noisy). I have already pointed out that Ecogen just "left out" the data on 6652 Baker Rd. (shown as noisy/windy on Figure 3.7-1, but is really quiet at night). Therefore, I am completely lost as to how Ecogen came up with the data for the "Quiet Area" tables 4 and 5 on pages 36 and 37 of Appendices F.

These inconsistencies must be addressed! Ecogen is coming up with thresholds from the analysis in Appendices F and will apply the setbacks as shown in Figure 3.7-1 based on that analysis. The two do not support each other. The purpose of this letter is not to make a comment on the substantive content of the DGEIS but just to point out that parts of it are missing and/or unintelligible.

What we have here is (excluding 10962 Roloson Rd.), 1/3 of the most controversial data and the data that Ecogen bases its setback recommendations on, is non-existent. In fact, (again, excluding 10962 Roloson Rd.), 6652 is one of only two properties on which noise level increases rose above 10dB at 420m during night-time conditions. Again, this is the data collected on a location that is described in Figure 3.7-1 as being a windy area and deserving of only a 1,000' setback. On 6652 Baker Rd., 213 of the data represented as Ecogen's noise assessment is missing. Furthermore, Ecogen seems to draw conclusions for setback conditions for quiet areas from data gathered at noisy locations and vice versa.

Please explain and advise me of how you plan to remedy this situation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Allison  
32 Trestle Trail  
North Chili, NY 14514

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG Anti-Virus.

Version: 7.0.308 / Virus Database: 266.11.9 - Release Date: 5/12/2005

SINCE  
1920



# MERCURY AIRCRAFT INC.

AIRCRAFT TECHNIQUE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

AT *The Cradle of Aviation*  
*Hammondsport / New York 14840*



May 5, 2005

ECOGEN 021

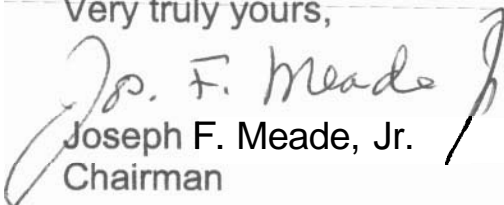
Mr. James P. Sherron  
Executive Director  
Steuben County IDA  
7234 Route 54 - P.O. Box 393  
Bath, New York 14810-0393

Dear Jim:

I have been following the proposed windmill farm in the Prattsburgh area with great interest. As the head of Mercury Aircraft for over 50 years I have seen many changes in the world economy as well as the local economy. We at Mercury Aircraft have succeeded over our long history because we have embraced innovation and change. It is evident that this country has come to a crossroad in history and also must embrace innovation and change in the form of energy independence. Alternative sources of energy must be found and utilized to reach this country's goal of reducing reliance on Mideast oil, along with protecting our delicate environment.

I believe all sources of alternative energy sources should be explored. In our area solar is not particularly a good resource but wind that has built up after traveling over the great lakes provides our area with a great wind energy resource. I applaud the work SCIDA has done in this area of great need and hope to see towers of independence erected in the near future.

Very truly yours,

  
Joseph F. Meade, Jr.  
Chairman

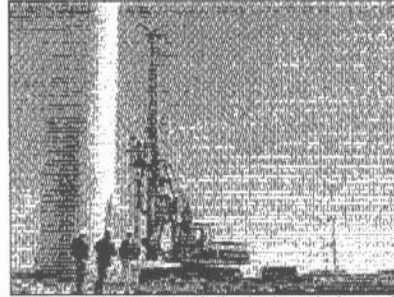


ECOGEN 022

Serving North  
Central Illinois

# Newstribune

online



**Engineers** Hiro Hashiuchi, Joe Stevens and Brian Roach watch as a specially-designed piece of heavy equipment drills holes and injects a grout mix into the holes this week at Crescent Ridge wind farm west of Tiskilwa.

*NewsTribune photo/Craig Sterrett*

## **Engineers stabilize Bureau County wind towers**

Friday, April 15, 2006

By Craig Sterrett and John Thompson, [ntprinceton@ivnet.com](mailto:ntprinceton@ivnet.com)

Under the watchful eye of engineers from four firms, work crews are stabilizing bases for many of the wind turbines at a Bureau County wind farm.

Nineteen of the 33 wind turbines at the Crescent Ridge wind farm near Tiskilwa have been identified as having problems around their foundations, said Brian Roach, project manager for Wind Energy Constructors, the California-based company hired to build the turbines.

The problem came to light in December when settling was detected at turbine No. 1 — the turbine farthest to the north.

The settling caused the wind turbine tower to lean.

Since then, rumors about problems with the towers have flown around Bureau County, as have many theories of what might be done to correct the problems.

Roach said engineers from the four different engineering groups only agreed in the past two weeks on a method for correcting the problem.

According to Roach, the problem arose only in some of the places where 30-foot-deep holes were dug for the tower foundations. In many cases during excavation, the walls of the holes were collapsing, and holes surrounding the foundations became wider.

"Some of them, we had a lot of collapsing trying to get down 30 feet," he said. "So we had a large hole that we had to fill with sand."

After tower No. 1 started leaning, the builders and engineers suspected the sand and soil around the towers might not have been firm enough for the towers.

To fix the problem, crews had to remove the "suspect" sand and replace it with 16 five-foot-diameter, interlocking columns of a soilgrout mixture around each of the 19 affected turbines. The columns will surround each of the tower foundations and extend down 24 feet to the top of the 6-foot-thick underground concrete bases of the towers, according to the engineer from the owners' side, Hiro Hashiuchi.

Hashiuchi, a civil engineer with San Diego-based Eurus Energy, watched Wednesday as a worker operated a specially designed piece of heavy equipment — a cement injector mounted to a drilling rig mounted to an excavator chassis — to drill holes and inject the grout-and-soil mixture to form the columns. Before the mixture was sent to the machine, it was dumped from a cement mixer into a circulator (like a mixing bowl), and then pumped into a shaft on the drill rig.

Roach said it might take three or four truckloads of the grout mixture to fill each of the columns.

Hashiuchi said the soil in the Bureau County location is stiff clay known as "glacial till," whereas in many places in the American West, workers have to use dynamite to blast holes for wind turbine foundations. Joe Stevens, an engineer for San Diego-based Garrad Hassan wind energy consultants, also was on the site, representing the investors in the Crescent Ridge project. He was monitoring the project for them and making sure the remediation work succeeded.

"They're (investors are) still there waiting for the project to finish," Hassan said.

Roach said now that the engineers agree on what caused the problem various contractors are working together to correct it.

"We do know the root cause and we don't want 10-20 years from now for it to show up again," Roach said. "I've never had this (problem before), and we've been building turbines since the 1980s."

So far, said Roach, the company has repaired four of the 19 turbine foundations. As for the leaning tower, Roach said the engineers and workers would not try to fix it until the other 19 are finished.

"The jury is still out on how exactly to fix it," he said. "But it will be excavated and brought upright, not taken down."

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(18)

ECOGEN 023

DEAR MR SHERRON -

I AM A LANDOWNER ON A  
HILLTOP IN THE TOWN OF ITALY,  
IT IS VERY SCENIC AND UNSPOILED.  
WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP IT THAT  
WAY. NO WIND TURBINES PLEASE.

YOURS TRULY

Henry Binkowski

RECEIVED  
MAY 18 2005

HENRY BINKOWSKI,  
29 COLUMBIA PKWY  
WEST SENECA NY

RD OF EDUCATION

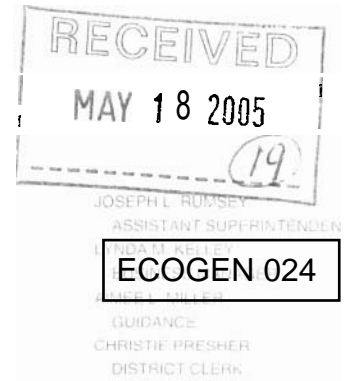
**PRATTSBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

JEFFREY A. BLACK, SUPERINTENDENT

PRATTSBURGH, STEUBEN CO., N.Y. 14873

TEL: 607-522-3795

FAX: 607-522-6221



May 13, 2005

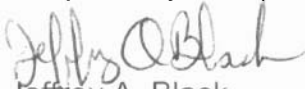
James Sherron, Director  
Steuben County IDA  
7234 Rte. 54 North  
P.O. Box 393  
Bath, NY 14810

Dear Mr. Sherron,

As we review the documentation put forth on the proposed Prattsburgh area wind farm project, we respectfully ask that you consider our concerns for the effect on the property valuations of the school district after a PILOT agreement expires. We ask that there be an agreement made with local towns as to the method of assessment of value after the PILOT arrangement expires so that long term planning can be made and state aid dollars can be predicted.

In addition, we ask that if the project does go forward, the contractors are cognizant of bus transportation routes and times so that bringing students to and from school is not disrupted.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeffrey A. Black  
Superintendent

## ***Wind Farm and School Finance Issues***

- It is a purpose of the Prattsburgh Central School Board of Education to represent the interest of the school district residents by enabling the district to offer a quality educational program in a fiscally prudent manner. It is not the purpose or role of the Board of Education to make policy regarding economic development in the community or to address environmental impact. These roles belong to other governmental agencies.
- The Prattsburgh Central School District, by board resolution on January 21, 2003, resolved that "the tax exemption made available by Section 487 of the NYS tax law shall not be applicable within the boundaries of the Prattsburgh Central School District with respect to any solar or wind energy system constructed subsequently".

### ***Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT)***

- In a letter from NYS Senator Jim Wright, Chair of the Senate Energy Committee, he provided the school district with information on bill S6212 signed into law by Governor Pataki in October 2002. This legislation allows school districts to opt into PILOT arrangements for solar and wind energy systems. In this instance, the assessed value of the development would not be placed on the tax rolls for a period of fifteen years and the developer would make agreed upon payments to the school district. The Prattsburgh Central School District has had no direct negotiations with any energy development company.

### ***Industrial Development Agency (IDA)***

- The local Industrial Development Agencies and the wind project developer can create a PILOT agreement. In this case, the assessed value of the development would not be placed on the tax rolls. In this scenario, there is no positive or negative impact on state aid to the school district for the life of the agreement.
- The New York State Education Department State Aid Unit has indicated to the school district that "According to existing statute, the existence of a PILOT agreement does not directly affect state aid to school districts. In other words, a potential increase or decrease in taxable real property value is not in any way impacted by the fact that a PILOT agreement was made in conjunction with the increase or decrease in property value."

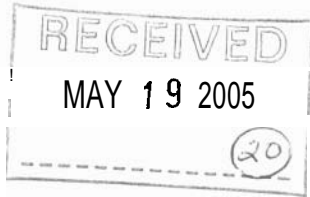
### ***In Years to Come***

A concern of the Board of Education lies in what happens after the multi-year agreement expires either in a direct PILOT or IDA arrangement. There is a possibility that the assessed value of the wind turbines at that time could come onto the tax rolls. At that time, the development would be taxable but could also result in a decrease in state aid.

### ***What Can Not Be Predicted***

- The formula for state aid to schools may change many times in the next twenty years.
- Either the direct PILOT or IDA agreements could be extended through additional legislation.
- What impact could there be on student enrollment if changes are made to the town infrastructure.

ECOGEN 025



To Whom It May Concern

RE: Windmills

It is a long road we have already taken to get to this point.I have the following points to make:

1. The setbacks outlined for the Prattsburg project are very inadequate. 400 feet from a property line when the towers are over 400 feet tall is crazy. If the seasonal property owners only get a 400 foot setback and fulltime residents get a 1000 foot set back, what happens when a part-timer retires to his Prattsburg property? We both pay equal taxes. The setback issue needs to be addressed. A 4000 foot minimum is needed. What happened to the New York State fall down rule?
2. Noise. We requested a noise study as outlined by the D.E.C. But were informed that the D.E.C. had removed this requirement. Our property in Prattsburg is ultra quiet now, 1000 feet from the road and now 400 feet from the site of two windmills? How can anyone say the noise level in our area will not be unbearable without testing? We picked Prattsburg to retire for the quiet country setting.
3. Wildlife. No one can tell us the affect on all wildlife. Eagles, pilated woodpeckers, hawks of all varieties, deer, turkeys,bears,etc,etc,.....no body knows.
4. Liability. Ice throws, falldown zones, power lines who's fault is it?

This is a very inhabited area, why not pick an area that's not more wide open?  
It is obvious that this unzoned rural area was targeted for it's undeveloped zoning regulations.  
Why let these developers take advantage of this rural town government?

Thomas C. Johns  
7594 Fifth St.  
Sodus Point, NY 14555

cc SCIDAV  
ECOGEN

**Steuben County IDA****ECOGEN 026**

**From:** "Riders' Rest" <ridersrest@usadatanet.net>  
**To:** "Nancy Wahlstrom" <emanancyw@empacc.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2005 8:33 AM  
**Subject:** Why not write in? WHAM Radio

Regarding another breathless Lonsberry show to go pro windfarms - the timing was perfect and no doubt planned within the Lambertz intent.

Glenn Lambertz - who resides in the Village of Prattsburgh and won't be negatively affected by windfarms, works with him (Bob Lonsberry). He has had years of opportunity to share his favorable opinion with his co-workers. Lambert's wife also runs the Global - Prattsburgh Windfarm information office as an employee of a wind developer. Prattsburgh politicians will enjoy family owned lease payments and our Supervisor is delerious with spending - new fire hall, new town hall, new town barns! Whee - spend-it!!!! These little towns are so agog

WHAM is big - and big-mouthed on Republican opinion (read their bios - many of you share the same committments). You just can't enjoy airtime with a somewhat intelligent jackass like Lonsberry. He is first and foremost, an entertainer.

However, Nancy; I do think that sending your letter out to the group - encouraging others to state their view by providing information and personal concerns- would show by numbers alone that we are not all hopefully awaiting wind energy solutions in the Finger Lakes and help to focus on that it is incredibly expensive for little electricity and that coal back-up for reserve is needed. Finance and political waste usually intrigues. Share that millions of tax dollars and special interest spending with low rate of return is involved in windfarm funding.

Heck. throw in that many of the developers are out of country, turbines are manufactured overseas and Hillary Clinton is for windfarms and you may catch his ear!

A reminder that these industrial turbines in such numbers are of no comparison to the individual, if unsightly, personal turbine he kept referring to in Greece. Windfarnis that provide electric to their home towns deserve consideration rather than to the grid and on to NY City. Upstaters in general are sick of NYC riding on our backs and tax dollars. Maybe you should also add that those dam Rochester people he mentioned should go back to the city are the very people who fund the majority of Prattsburgh and other small towns - by paying exorbitant taxes on their over-assessed recreational properties and can't vote or run for public office in the town that shuns their consideration but not their tax dollars.

Reference to ice throw risk on his NEW princess bride and little prince (if turbines were a few hundred feet from HIS home is a nice touch. It is easy to throw insults at listeners if he is unlikely ever to experience the impact personally. Like the Lambertz's - so detached and full of righousness.

It should make sense that 435'+tall turbines 400 feet away from neighboring property could likely be a great risk. That rationale doesn't require great minds.

Although Lonsbeny parroted that no one has been killed by ice throw, surely he could re-consider the reasoning he lacks in this comment. He needs to consider that industrial machines of this size, number, proximity to homes located in ice-building climate like our ridgtops and hillsides of NY have NOT been used for statistics. The remarks of Senator Alexander (below) may even make sense to Lambertz and Lonsbeny both - IF they read them. After all - entertainment has little to do with facts. but facts are what we need now.

The reference to bird kill is also statistically flawed. Comparing stats from desert windfarms or small windfarms really can't be used when compared to our location, which is a major migratory path. Just look at the numbers of birds and bats killed in Wisconsin, Washington, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Enough to initiate action to shut them down during migration seasons.

I found it humorous that Mr. L. was so rebulican critical about the sanctity of marriage and family values, until a younger woman stole his heart (or other body parts) and his "new" family became #1. It shows that the man is dual - maybe dual enough to retract a few statements if rational e-mails or letters were sent directly to him.

Several people called me encouraging me to call in but we remember him from the past. Trying to talk to him is futile, like trying to discuss philosophy with a Pomeranian with diarrhea.

His bark is often thoughtless and irrational and usually worse than his bite - unfortunately, thousands listen to WHAM's arrogant talk show hosts and they have the ability to foster anger, hatred and righteousness, which seems what the media seems most into these days. When Lounsberry gets mail, he reads it and it does seem to trigger some rationality and conscience - sometimes.

5/17/2005

Give it a try people - it might be therapeutic - it may even help. You can even use our letter.  
bob@lonsberry.com

Regards,  
Cynthia and Richard Cole  
Riders' Rest  
Prattsburgh, NY

### **Remarks Of Senator Alexander - Windmill Legislation Introduction**

**May 13th, 2005** - I am here today to introduce - along with the senior senator from Virginia, Senator John Warner - the Environmentally Responsible Wind Power Act of 2005.

Our legislation provides for local authorities to be notified and have a role in the approval of the siting of tens of thousands of massive wind turbines that will be built in America under current policies. It also ensures that the federal government does not subsidize the building of these windmills - which are usually taller than a football field is long - within 20 miles of a military base or a highly scenic location, such as a national park or offshore.

Senator Warner and I introduce our legislation today because next week the Senate Energy Committee is scheduled to begin markup of one of the most important pieces of legislation of this session, an energy bill. The Energy Committee's work - combined with the work of the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Finance Committee - should this year produce a clean energy bill that will, over time, lower prices of natural gas and oil and reduce our dependence on overseas oil.

This will be legislation for American blue collar workers, for farmers and for homeowners. It is urgently needed. Natural gas prices are the highest in the industrialized world. Gasoline prices are at record levels. We cannot keep our jobs and our standard of living if we do not put in place policies that will provide our country with new steps toward conservation and an adequate supply of low cost, reliable, clean, American-produced energy. Senator Warner and I both intend to be in the middle of this discussion. He is a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I am chairman of the Energy Subcommittee.

I am grateful for and am greatly encouraged by the leadership of the Energy Committee Chairman, Senator Domenici, and the ranking Democrat, Senator Bingaman, and the committee staffs, who have worked especially hard to create a framework for a more aggressive, bipartisan piece of legislation.

One part of our energy debate will be about wind power, which is the subject of our legislation today. This is because several of our colleagues have proposed something called a Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS, which would require power companies to produce 10 percent of all their electricity from renewable sources by 2025. These renewable sources are wind, hydro, solar, geothermal and biomass. Today these renewable sources produce about 9 percent of U.S. electricity needs. This RPS is not to be confused with a Renewable Fuel Standard - which is a requirement that gasoline contain a certain percentage of ethanol. A Renewable Fuel Standard is entirely different from a Renewable Portfolio Standard and may well be part of the final legislation.

It is important for our colleagues to know that a Renewable Portfolio Standard or RPS is all about wind. There are very few opportunities to build new dams and expand hydro power, which produces 7 of the 9 percent of renewable power we use today. Of the remaining 2 percent of renewal power sources, current subsidies aren't enough to increase solar power by very much. More research and development is needed to make biomass more efficient. And there is limited availability of geothermal power, that is. drawing power from water that is heated underground.

Which leaves wind power. Experts agree that the bottom line is that a requirement that electric companies produce 10 percent of their electricity from renewable energy, if it could be achieved at all, would mean that about 70 percent of the increase would come from wind. In other words, we would go from producing about 1 percent of our electricity from wind to 7 or 8 percent.

Testimony before our Energy Committee and most other sources suggest that to produce this much wind energy in the

United States could require building more than 100,000 of new, massive wind turbines. We have less than 7,000 such windmills in the U.S. today, with the largest number in Texas and California.

Testimony also indicated that, even without the RPS, if Congress continues its sustained generous subsidy for wind production for the next 10 years, it will guarantee that the U.S. has about 100,000 of these windmills by 2025. According to the Treasury Department, this wind subsidy, if renewed each year for the next five years, would reimburse wind investors for 25 percent of the cost of wind production and cost taxpayers \$3.7 billion over those 5 years. General Electric Wind, one of the largest manufacturers of wind turbines, has experienced a 500 percent growth in its wind business this year due to the renewal of the wind production tax credit last year.

I want to make sure that my colleagues know that there are serious questions about how much relying on wind power will raise the cost of electricity, questions about whether there are better ways to spend \$3.7 billion in support of clean energy, questions about whether wind even produces the amount of energy that is claimed. My studies suggest that at a time when American needs large amounts of low-cost reliable power, wind produces puny amounts of high-cost unreliable power. We need lower prices; wind power raises prices. We will have an opportunity in our debates and further hearings to examine these questions.

But the legislation we offer today is about a different question: the siting of 100,000 of these massive machines.

The idea of windmills conjures up pleasant images - of Holland and tulips, of rural America with windmill blades slowly turning, pumping water at the farm well. My grandparents had such a windmill at their well pump. That was back before rural electrification.

But the windmills we are talking about today are not your grandmother's windmills.

Each one is typically 100 yards tall, two stories taller than the Stature of Liberty, taller than a football field is long.

These windmills are wider than a 747 jumbo jet.

Their rotor blades turn at 100 miles per hour

These towers and their flashing red lights can be seen from more than 25 miles away.

Their noise can be heard from up to a half mile away. It is a thumping and swishing sound. It has been described by residents that are unhappy with the noise as sounding like a brick wrapped in a towel tumbling in a clothes drier on a perpetual basis.

These windmills produce very little power since they only operate when the wind blows enough or doesn't blow too much, so they are usually placed in large wind farms covering huge amounts of land.

As an example, if the Congress ordered electric companies to build 10 percent of their power from renewable energy - which as we have said, has to be mostly wind - and if we renew the current subsidy each year, by the year 2025, my state of Tennessee would have at least 1,700 windmills, which would cover land almost equal to two times the size of the city of Knoxville.

If Virginia were to produce 10 percent of its power from wind and the subsidies continue, it would probably need more than 1,700 windmills. These windmills would take up enough land to equal the land mass of three cities the size of Richmond, Virginia.

In North Carolina, to supply 10 percent of electricity from wind if the subsidies continue, it would take up the landmass of the Research Triangle - the Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill area.

According to testimony before our committee, in Tennessee and Virginia, these windmills would work best and perhaps only work at all along ridge tops.

So, if present policies are continued, we could expect to see in hundreds of football field sized towers with flashing red lights atop the blue ridges of Virginia, above the Shenandoah Valley, along the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, on top of Signal Mountain, and on top of Lookout Mountain and Roan Mountain in Tennessee and down the Tennessee River Gorge, which the city of Chattanooga has just spent 25 years protecting and now calls itself the scenic city.

I hope that we decide, Mr. President, that there are better ways to provide clean energy than to spend \$3.7 billion of taxpayer

dollars over the next 5 years on windmills. I hope we decide that we need a real national energy policy - instead of a national windmill policy.

I hope we decide that there are better and cheaper ways to discuss carbon.

At least there are some important questions to answer

What will this do to our tourism industry? Will 10 million visitors a year who come to enjoy the Great Smokies really want to come see ridge tops decorated with flashing red lights and 100-yard tall windmills?

What happens to electric rates when the federal subsidy disappears?

Who will take down these massive structures if we decide we don't like them or if they don't work?

Who is making the money on all this?

Why are some of European countries who pioneered wind farms now slowing down or even stopping their construction in some places?

Clearly there are more sensible ways to provide clean energy than spending \$3.7 billion of taxpayers' money to destroy the American landscape.

\$3.7 billion would provide us enough money to give 185,000 Americans a \$2,000 subsidy to buy a hybrid or clean diesel vehicle - which would about double the number of hybrid cars expected to be sold in the U.S. during 2005. Hybrid cars burn about 60 percent of the amount of gasoline than conventional cars burn.

\$3.7 billion would provide enough money for loan guarantees to help launch a dozen new clean coal gasification plants and help transform the marketplace with a new technology for clean, American produced energy that would lower natural gas prices and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

For 3.7 billion we could provide loan guarantees for at least a half dozen new technology nuclear power plants and have a billion dollars left over for research and development on the recapture of carbon that might be produced by coal plants or to encourage conservation practices.

Just by way of comparison, a nuclear power plant such as TVA's Sequoyah nuclear plant would produce about the same amount of energy as the windmills which a RPS and tax subsidy would build in Tennessee - and the electricity would be available even when the wind wasn't blowing.

While we are debating the wisdom of wind policies, these massive turbines are being built across America, 6,700 of them so far, 29 of them in Tennessee. The Tennessee Valley Authority recently announced it had signed a 20-year contract with a group of investors from Chicago to build 18 huge windmills atop a 3,300 foot ridge on Buffalo Mountain in East Tennessee.

So the purpose of our legislation is to give citizens the opportunity to have some say in where these massive structures are located in their communities and to make sure that the Congress does not subsidize the destruction of the American landscape near our national parks or other highly scenic areas or build such tall structures dangerously close to our military bases.

First, the bill ensures that local authorities are notified and have a role in the approval of new windmills to be built in their areas of jurisdiction. This means that at the same time a proposed windmill is filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC would notify the local authority with zoning jurisdiction.

Within 120 days, under our bill, local authorities may support or oppose the project. If they support it, the windmill may qualify for FERC market-based rates (allowed to charge wholesale prices) and may be exempt from a series of regulations that restrict the operations of public utilities. If local authorities oppose the windmill, it may still go forward, but subject to regulations (called PUHCA) and unable to charge wholesale rates or issue a qualified rate schedule. If no action is taken by the local authority, the FERC process would proceed as though the authority were in support.

I believe it is crucial that local authorities have a chance to consider the impact of such massive new structures before dozens or hundreds of them begin to be built in their communities. In many other instances involving the location of facilities generating power, state and local governments have developed laws giving citizens an opportunity to comment or even stop the location of facilities they don't want. Our legislation gives communities that do not now have such laws the chance to do

that. Then this legislation sunsets in 7 years.

Second, our legislation provides protection to highly scenic areas and to military bases. It does so by eliminating tax subsidies for any windmill within 20 miles of a World Heritage Area (which includes many national parks), a military base or offshore.

Under the bill, placement of a windmill within 20 miles of such a site shall also require the completion of an environmental impact statement. Further any windmill that is to be constructed within 20 miles of a neighboring state's border may be vetoed by that neighboring state. In other words, if the neighboring state can see it, and don't want it, they can veto it.

I believe that during our debates we will find there are better ways to produce a low-cost, reliable supply of American energy than by spending \$3.7 billion over the next 5 years requiring power companies to produce energy from giant windmills that raise electric rates, only work when the wind blows, and destroy the American landscape.

The legislation that Senator Johnson and I have introduced, the Natural Gas Price Reduction Act of 2005, includes support for aggressive conservation, new clean coal gas plants, new supplies of domestic natural gas, and, for the time being, easier import of liquefied natural gas.

I believe there is an important place in our energy bill for renewable fuels, such as ethanol. And I believe there is an important place for renewable energy sources. For example, the legislation Senator Johnson and I introduced a few weeks ago would increase from 10 to 30 percent the tax credit for commercial investments in solar technology that generates electricity, heats or cools a structure, uses fiber optics and illuminates a building, or provides solar process heat. It provides a similar 30 percent tax credit for a solar system that heats a home. **But** it is important to keep in mind that, aside from wind, renewable energy can only provide about 3 percent of America's total energy needs over the next 20 years.

In the United States of America, Mr. President, the wholesale destruction of the American landscape is not an incidental concern. The Great American Outdoors is an essential part of the American character. Italy has its art. Egypt has its pyramids. England has its history. And we have the Great American Outdoors.

While we debate the merits of so much subsidy and reliance on wind power, we should at the same time protect our national parks, our shorelines and other highly scenic areas, and we should give American citizens the opportunity to protect their communities and landscapes before it is too late.

Not sure if anyone heard the very long discussion on wind turbines on the Bob Lonsberry show today at 11 or 12 on WHAM. He was very pro land owners rights to have the turbines. Brought up many of the misguided propaganda issues of the wind industry. If anyone knows him, or knows someone who does, they may want to try to educate him on correct thinking with regard to this issue. Some people from Prattsburgh did call in against them and he had the following comebacks.

How long have you lived there – implying that old time landowners were the ones with the turbines and new residents (who do not have the right to protest) do not want them

How have they gotten along so well in Holland – since they have had them for years

Has anyone died from ice throw, If someone gets killed, they can sue

The energy is free and will save our environment.

He really needs to hear the other side of this issue. He has a very forceful presentation. Not sure if he will speak of it again. I did not hear all of it. I was in my car on the way to an appointment and missed it. I think he also has email connection on the WHAM website.

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