

MOUNTAIN MESSENGER MARCH 26, 2005 2

Wind turbines not the answer

Dear Editor:

Please allow me to share a recent correspondence that sheds light on the effects of high mountain wind power facilities on local residents:

"I live in Tucker County approximately 1.5 miles from the Backbone Mountain wind turbines and have tried everything to get used to them. A brief visit to one of the viewing areas certainly gives no true impression of what it is like to be forced to live with them. We have now suffered for

three long years under their hideous shadows. They have taken over the entire landscape and are in our sight no matter where we go day or night. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The movement is impossible to ignore no matter how hard we try and the noise they make travels miles and miles down the mountains and hollows disturbing people who cannot even see them from their homes. I compare the noise to Chinese water torture or fingernails on a chalkboard or water dripping in a pan. Even on the calmest summer nights the endless drumming goes on; windows closed, pillows over the head, it is still inescapable.

While we were led to believe this would be a clean, quiet, pristine, and environmentally friendly way to address energy problems and give a huge boost to our ailing economy, I feel we have been tricked. There appears to be no recourse or plan to compensate us for property value losses, erosion of our quality of life, or mental anguish. Besides these 44 wind turbines, thousands more are in the pipeline! God help us!"

I would never sentence anyone to such an existence no matter where they live. And I cannot believe our Public Service Commission or Legislators want to either. Indeed, we have to face up to our

energy situations in the U.S./WV, but is creating more suffering the way we want to go? Surely, national leadership for conservation during a transition period of incited research and expedited engineering equal to space travel, biomedical, and communication technology is preferable. West Virginia has and continues to give more than its share. I think it is time to clean up our act (creating new jobs in the process), protect what little we have left, and perhaps insist on a few sacrifices, if necessary, somewhere else.

*Linda Cooper, President
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