

The Wind Towers: I'm for them; I'm against them - Part II

Dear Editor:

Several months ago, I wrote a letter to the editor proposing that the Wind Towers be moved back, away from the main range of the Allegheny front. I hoped to make the Greenbrier County community aware of the impact that these Towers would have. I would like to acknowledge those who called and thanked me for raising their awareness. Since then, there have been many information meetings, and the greater community of West Virginia, including politicians, farmers, Real Estate agents, firefighters, and landowners (to mention a few) have become concerned about the long term impact that the Towers will have on them and the next generation to come.

In keeping with this theme, the folks in Rainelle, Alderson, White Sulphur Springs, etc. have also become aware of the impact that the Towers will have on their lives. While they may not "see" them, they will be effected. Consider this: bats, those beneficial creatures that cohabitate with us and eat multitudes of insects, including mosquitoes, will be endangered. Recently, the Towers in Tucker, County, WV, killed

thousands of bats. If you enjoy gardening, hunting, and other outdoor activities, the mosquito population will increase by leaps and bounds.

Let me propose another alternative that has been recently discussed. Westvaco, our corporate neighbor for many years, has created a great deal of animosity since trying to increase their profits through the lease of their land for Wind Tower development. In a recent trip to Washington State I learned that many land companies, such as Georgia Pacific, are converting their land holdings into small second-home sites or homesteads, thus making more money in a few years that the wind Towers would generate in many, many years. This proposal is more in keeping with the current trend in Greenbrier County, and would only involve a fraction of Westvaco's land holdings.

I feel that it is important for all of us to seek other alternatives to the existing plans that have been proposed. The long-term welfare of our State and its population is at stake. This issue belongs to all of us!

*Alan Rudley
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