

The wind towers: I'm for them; I'm against them

Dear Editor:

This newspaper has had little discussion about the proposed wind power facility. I refer to the 300 to 400 wind towers that are approximately 300-500 feet in height. These will have a major impact on the "view shed," land values and wildlife, especially if you live west of Route 219 and particularly in the Williamsburg Valley, in the Spring Creek watershed and in southern Pocahontas County. I would like to offer your readers some food for thought.

I have lived in northern Greenbrier County for over 30 years and was drawn here by the rural atmosphere, friendly people, and relatively unspoiled nature of the mountains. Clearly, the area has changed. Lewisburg has grown, and tourism and vacation and retirement homes have created growing pains for the community. With careful planning and foresight this development has not necessarily been bad. In fact, growth has had many positive effects. But, in my opinion, the towers will have a serious negative impact on us for decades to come and their

placement needs to be reviewed.

How will the future of our local economy be changed? Currently, similar towers in Tucker County, WV, have been met with problematic responses. Land values have decreased and the unsightly nature of these towers have discouraged people from moving into the area. Do we want that?

Let me make this perfectly clear. I'm for wind power. We need clean, renewable energy and the towers will provide that. But their location, on the main range of the Allegheny front where they will literally be in people's backyard, is offensive. Why not place them west of Cold Knob on the old strip mine sight, closer to the road to Richwood and the existing power lines? While the elevation is not quite as high, it is close to 4,000 feet with plenty of the necessary wind! Such a plan, to relocate the towers, would be an excellent alternative and needs to be seriously considered.

Respectfully,
Alan Rudley
Renick

MOUNTAIN
MESSENGER
AUGUST 27,
2005
←