

Wind mills no benefit to anyone

Dear Editor:

A few years ago, my cousin Steve Echols of Monroe County was confronted by a stranger near his home and dairy farm. He was told by the arrogant man that a power line would be built over his farm. He said there was nothing Steve and his family could do about it. Several meetings later, the power line was moved elsewhere.

Some projected wind power towers (131) are going to be built in the Williamsburg-Cold Knob area of Greenbrier County with the same determined arrogance, over the objections of residents/landowners.

The object of this project is not power generation, but corporate GREED. It is essentially a tax write-off scheme and not an energy conservation project.

These 400-foot generators are unsightly and noisy. Once the European construction crews have assembled the towers, they leave. There might be a few maintenance people based in North Carolina with a telephone answering service.

The generators run when the wind is perfect. They only generate 20 percent of their rated capacity to send out to the power grid. West Virginia gets absolutely nothing in terms of taxes and compensation for the immediate loss of home and land values.

The original developers take their money and run. The windmills are sold to other corporate entities with no regard to continuity, maintenance, or responsibility. Shares of the corporations are sold to others for tax credits. This is a classic case of corporate GREED. It will be of no benefit to anyone in the state of West Virginia.

John Echols, DDS