

## Negative Impacts Associated with Industrial Wind Farms

- As a result of the construction process, the ridgelines where industrial wind turbines are placed must be blasted and bulldozed to make way for roads, 50x 50 concrete pads at depths of 10 feet, and 1 to 6 acres of land must be clear-cut of trees. According to British Petroleum/Dominion Resources, some turbines will be anchored with concrete and steel 30 plus feet down into the bed rock of the mountain, potentially damaging underground water sources.
- Recent studies have shown that property values decline as a result of their proximity to industrial wind farms.
- Industrial wind sites have negative visual aesthetic impacts which can affect tourism and the enjoyment of the scenic beauty of an area.
- Birds and bats are killed and maimed by the tens of thousands by spinning blades, interrupting migratory and nesting areas and destroying natural habitats of wildlife. Hunting and scouting by wildlife lovers will be seriously impacted.
- NOISE #1 complaint of nearby residents. The constant vibrations and swooshing sounds made by wind turbines have been known to cause stress and interrupt sleep.
- Strobe and flicker effects create annoyances to residents living nearby. Towers are required to have flashing red and white lights that light up the night sky.

**Support The**

## Ridgeline Protection Ordinance!

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The **Mountain Preservation Association** is a group of local concerned citizens in Tazewell County, Virginia which seeks to preserve and protect the natural scenic resources of our area from the destructive development of industrial wind turbines.

The MPA needs volunteers, organizers and donations to help stop the destruction of our beautiful mountains. Get involved and help protect our communities from this unwanted invasion!

**For More Information Contact:**  
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**Visit our website!**  
**[www.nowindmills.com](http://www.nowindmills.com)**

## Industrial Wind Farms in Tazewell County

An inefficient, destructive energy source and its potential impacts on us

*Industrial wind power in the eastern United States exemplifies American business at its worst. Spawned, then supported by government welfare measures at considerable public expense, it produces no meaningful product, yet provides enormous, virtually risk-free profit to a few wealthy investors. It will not reduce air pollution or the combustion of fossil fuels.*

*- Jon Boone, August 2004*

### Attention: Citizens of Tazewell County

British Petroleum (BP Wind Energy North America, Inc.) and its partner Dominion Resources have purchased 2,560 acres of land in Tazewell County. British Petroleum, Dominion Resources, Invenergy and other wind companies are also securing leases and easements with local property owners. Initial plans are to construct 60 plus wind turbines on the top of East River Mountain from the outskirts of Bluefield, Virginia west to the Springville area.

The proposed wind turbines are 400-450 feet tall, almost ½ the height of the Empire State Building. The construction of these industrial wind turbines will dwarf the apparent height of the mountain itself and will permanently alter the ridgeline and scenic view-shed of East River Mountain.

If county officials allows this proposed project to more forward, more than 500 wind turbines could potentially be constructed all over Tazewell County's scenic ridgelines.

## Large Scale Wind Farms An Inefficient Form of Alternative Energy

*The U.S Department of Energy reports that wind power has the potential to contribute 1.2% of our energy demand by the year 2030. To achieve this miniscule contribution to energy needs, the federal government subsidizes the construction of wind farms through production tax credits and accelerated depreciation schedules. This essentially passes along a majority of the cost of construction of wind farms to taxpayers.*

*-Gillespie County (Texas)  
Development Commission Report on  
Industrial Wind Farms*

● Due to the intermittent nature of wind, wind farms only create energy when the wind blows. Energy plants using fossil fuels must therefore be ramped-up and ramped-down to meet the requirements of the grid. This effect is somewhat like a car in stop-and-go traffic. This means that industrial wind farms can actually cause pollution rather than reducing it.

● Wind turbines are not efficient energy producing machines. The PJM Interconnect power grid, of which Tazewell County is a part, reports that during the peak usage months of June, July and August wind turbines only operate at 13% efficiency. In order to operate, wind turbines must actually draw significant amounts of electricity from the power grid.

● The majority of the power consumed in the Eastern United States is used by the urban centers on the Atlantic seaboard. Offshore regions of the eastern seaboard have the best potential for the harnessing of wind power. The mountainous regions of Appalachia are not ideal locations for wind turbine sites, and yet energy companies seek to build them here. WHY?

● Energy companies desire to build inefficient wind farms are not out of need, but to obtain huge tax subsidies along with federal and state tax breaks, and cap and trade emission credits. A 2008 report by the US EIA concluded that some federal Wind Power subsidies amount to: \$23.37 per megawatt-hour, Coal - \$0.44, Natural Gas - \$0.25, Hydro - \$0.67, and Nuclear - \$1.59.

● This will not lower your power bill!

### Educate Yourself about the Issues:

[www.nowindmills.com](http://www.nowindmills.com)

[www.wind-watch.org](http://www.wind-watch.org)

[www.vawind.org](http://www.vawind.org)

[www.stopillwind.org](http://www.stopillwind.org)

[www.windaction.org](http://www.windaction.org)

[www.wvmcre.org](http://www.wvmcre.org)

