

THE TRUTH ABOUT 'WIND FARMS'

Did you know. . .

... that the term 'wind farm' is a **clever public relations ploy** that has been accepted by the unwitting public and press. **'Wind farms' are** in fact vast **industrial facilities**.

... that the pursuit of windpower **will not reduce our dependency on foreign oil?** Only 1% of the electricity produced in Kansas, and 3% nationally, is generated directly from petroleum.

... that windpower **will not** significantly reduce **greenhouse gases?**

... that building hundreds of wind turbines **will not prevent one coal or nuclear plant** from being built? That's right: wind energy **can not replace** a single traditional **"base load"** generation facility (natural gas, coal, nuclear, hydro). This is true because **wind turbines are limited by the intermittency** of wind and function at best only 38% of the time. They can **never be relied on** to provide electricity on demand. The 'wind farm' at Elk River in Butler County produced **power only 16% of the time** last July when demand was at its highest.

... that it is **not** a question of **either** windpower **or** traditional electric generation? **Baseload capacity must be built** (coal, natural gas, nuclear) **regardless of** the number of **wind turbines** in operation.

... that the majority of wind projects are **foreign owned?** In Kansas fifteen of the seventeen existing and proposed industrial wind facilities are owned by **Italian, British, Portuguese, German and Spanish** utilities. The Smoky Hills project, along I-70 in Lincoln County, is owned by Enel.SpA of Rome, Italy.

... that these 'wind farm' developers are **granted** the power of **eminent domain** to build transmission lines without any public input?

... that the **cost** of new transmission lines and back up systems AND new conventional baseload capacity plants **will** ultimately **come out of rate payer's and tax payer's pockets?**

... that wind developments are **highly subsidized by** the average American **taxpayer?** Wind facilities are being **built for tax avoidance purposes**, not because of their environmental, energy or economic benefits. Tax breaks, subsidies and accelerated depreciation benefits have more value to "wind farm" developers and owners than the revenue from the sale of electricity they produce.

... the bottom line; **two thirds to three quarters of the capital cost** to build industrial wind projects can be **recovered** by the developer investors **through federal tax shelter provisions and credits**.

... that 'Payment in lieu of taxes' (**PILOT**) **payments** to counties are really **bribes** that are **unenforceable** and can be **withheld at the whim of the wind developer's bottom line** or when the project changes hands?

... that **large national contractors**, like Mortenson, bring in their **own crews** and materials when they build wind facilities, leaving **little work for local contractors?**

... that **only a handful of** maintenance **jobs** are created at each wind facility?

... that 'wind farms' **reduce** neighboring **property values?**

... that the wind industry has been **accused of affecting** the **health** and quality of life of residents who live near their facilities? Because of these problems, health and safety officials now recommend that turbines be at least a mile and a half from occupied structures.

... that extremely large turbine **blades create** a flicker/strobe effect that can lead to **neurological problems** in certain individuals?

...that industrial **wind turbines can interfere with television reception, cell phone reception, and radar?**

... **that the pursuit of windpower will industrialize hundreds of square MILES of agricultural land and unique and irreplaceable native prairie habitats?**

... that in some locations wind **turbines kill large numbers of** nocturnal migrant **birds, raptors, and bats?**

... that building 'wind farms' will **damage** the breeding **habitat** of the diminishing Kansas greater **prairie chicken** population, the signature bird of the Tallgrass Prairie?

... that the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife has **warned** that the number of 'wind farms' planned for the Great Plains is a **serious threat to** the survival of the last 266 **Whooping Cranes?**

... that the construction of 'wind farms' could split the Chase County community between those who want to industrialize the Flint Hills and those who want to preserve their natural integrity.

Kansas Wind Alert
Promoting the Truth about Wind Energy
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