



FILE

Power Siting Board

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Steven D. Lesser, Chairman

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January 3, 2011

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Ohio House of Representatives

Louis W. Blessing Jr.
Ohio House of Representatives

Tam Sawyer
Ohio Senate

Jim Davis
6675 Champion Rd.
Shelby, Ohio 44875

Re: Black Fork Wind LLC / Wind Powered Electric Generation Facility
Case No. 10-2865-EL-BGN

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for contacting the Ohio Power Siting Board regarding Black Fork Wind LLC's proposed installation of a wind turbine electric generating facility located in Crawford and Richland Counties, Ohio. The OPSB's mission is to support sound energy policies that provide for the installation of energy and transmission infrastructure for the benefit of the Ohio citizens, while promoting the state's economic interests and protecting the environment and land use.

As a standard procedure with all siting projects, the applicant must notify the public in newspapers of general circulation that it is proposing to build a major utility facility. Therefore, on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at Shelby High School, 109 W. Smiley Avenue, Shelby, Ohio, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Black Fork Wind LLC hosted a public informational meeting to present information concerning the project and to gather public input.

However, at this time, Black Fork Wind LLC has not filed for an application demonstrating environmental compatibility and public need with the Ohio Power Siting Board. However, should Black Fork Wind LLC apply with the Ohio Power Siting Board, our staff will begin their investigation of the application. Resulting from the investigation, staff will make in its report recommendations as to whether the proposed facility will best serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The applicant will again notify the public in area newspapers of a public hearing where the public is invited to attend and residents impacted by the project may give sworn testimony involving the case.

As we appreciate all input into the siting process, once an application is filed, your document will be shared with members of the Board and placed in an official docket for the case. From that time, should you wish to view activity involving the application, please visit our web site at www.OPSB.ohio.gov.

Again, the Board thanks you for your interest.

Very truly yours,

Kim Wissman, Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board

KW: dgd

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December 29, 2010

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Members,

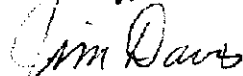
I am writing in opposition to Black Fork Wind Energy, Case No.10-2865-EL-BGN and other such rural wind farms proposed for Ohio. I write to each of you on the board, to ask that you consider the body of new evidence which brings into question the entire issue of global warming and the idea that more government and corporate greed will make it better. Please think about what you are doing to our state in the long run, and oppose the development of wind farms. Please prevent the destruction of mid and western Ohio.

I strongly believe that there was a political price paid in Ohio, and many other states, which resulted, in part, from the wasteful spending of our tax dollars for subsidizing these projects which have proven to be failures at every level. I also believe that the average citizen of this great state does not want the landscape changed in this way. We don't want our government, federal or state, mandating use of large sums of our tax dollars to fund even more government and corporate greed in the name of green energy, jobs growth, or whatever current title they choose to award tax credits given to lobbying advocates.

At this point in our history, you have been given the authority and many, many reasons to save our state from ruin. I am a life long resident of Ohio and believe that "keeping OHIO Beautiful" is much more important than the possibility of a fractional degree of change in temperature and all the scare tactics that go along with such a movement.

You are extremely important to me and all the other residents of Ohio who don't even know yet what is about to land in their countryside. Please don't be pushed by politics and uncertain rhetoric.....Ohio's natural landscape will certainly be destroyed if you do. No waivers should be granted in the application process, and this application should be denied based on the lack of need. The current mandates are not achievable, and should be repealed. Without the mandates, there is no reason to pursue wind generation over less expensive gas or clean coal. Please read and consider the attached, recent articles published in the Wall Street Journal.

Sincerely,



Jim Davis
6675 Champion Rd.
Shelby, OH 44875
kajb6675@wildblue.net

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

The Wind Subsidy Bubble

Ethanol isn't the only heavily subsidized energy source that won a multi-billion dollar jackpot in last week's tax deal. The other big winner was the wind industry, which received a one year extension of a \$3 billion grant program for renewable energy projects.

Talk about throwing good money after bad. Despite more than \$30 billion in subsidies for "clean energy" in the 2009 stimulus bill, Big Wind still can't make it in the marketplace. Denise Bode, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association, had warned that without last week's extension of the federal 1603 investment credit, the outlook for the wind industry would be "flatline or down." Some 20,000 wind energy jobs, about one-quarter of the industry's total, could have been lost, the wind lobby concedes. For most industries that would be an admission of failure, but in Washington this kind of forecast is used to justify more subsidies.

But what have these subsidies bought taxpayers? According to AWEA, in the first half of 2010 wind power installations "dropped by 57% and 71% from 2008 and 2009 levels." In the third quarter, the industry says it "added just 395 megawatts (MW) of wind-powered electric generating capacity," making it the lowest quarter since 2007. New wind installations are down 72% from last year to their lowest level since 2006. And this is supposed to be the miracle electricity source of the future?

The coal industry, which Mr. Obama's Environmental Protection Agency and Interior Department have done everything possible to curtail, added almost three times more to the nation's electric power capacity in the first nine months of 2010 (39%) than did wind (14%), according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The grant program that Congress has extended was created in the 2008 stimulus bill. It forces taxpayers to pay 30% of a renewable energy project's costs. Big Wind insisted on these grants because wind energy producers don't make enough net income to take advantage of the generous renewable energy tax credit.

The industry also wants a federal renew-

able energy standard, which would require utilities to buy power from green energy projects regardless of price. Without that addi-

tional subsidy, AWEA concedes that wind power will "stall out." It is lobbying for billions of dollars of subsidies to cover the cost of hooking off-shore wind proj-

ects to the electricity transmission grid. And now that the cap-and-tax scheme on coal and oil and gas has failed in Congress, the wind-millers want the EPA to use regulation to raise costs on carbon sources of power.

Big Wind also has lobbying operations in state capitals, where it has been pushing state renewable energy standards. More than half the states—mostly in the West and Northeast—have enacted these mandates, which are already inflating home and business electricity bills.

According to an analysis by Chris Horner, an energy expert at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the stimulus bill's subsidies for renewable energy cost taxpayers about \$475,000 for every job generated. That's at least four times what it costs a nonsubsidized private firm to create a job—a lousy return on investment even for government.

The wind industry claims to employ 85,000 Americans. That's almost certainly an exaggeration, but if it is true it compares with roughly 140,000 miners and others directly employed by the coal industry. Wind accounts for a little more than 1% of electricity generation and coal almost 50%. So it takes at least 25 times more workers to produce a kilowatt of electricity from wind as from coal.

Given this level of inefficiency, it's no wonder that wind and solar energy require at least 20 times more in government subsidies per unit of electricity generated than the average for coal and natural gas, according to a 2007 study by the Energy Information Administration.

The wind industry gave the vast majority of its campaign contributions this election cycle to Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Democrats. If Republicans are serious about shrinking the federal budget and ending corporate welfare, a very good target would be green pork, starting with wind.

Green pork should be a GOP budget target.

A Wind Power Boonedoggle

by: Robert Bryce

December 22, 2010

Wall Street Journal

After 30 months, countless TV appearances, and \$80 million spent on an extravagant PR campaign, T. Boone Pickens has finally admitted the obvious: The wind energy business isn't a very good one.

The Dallas-based entrepreneur, who has relentlessly promoted his "Pickens Plan" since July 4, 2008, announced earlier this month that he's abandoning the wind business to focus on natural gas.

Two years ago, natural gas prices were spiking and Mr. Pickens figured they'd stay high. He placed a \$2 billion order for wind turbines with General Electric. Shortly afterward, he began selling the Pickens Plan. The United States, he claimed, is "the Saudi Arabia of wind," and wind energy is an essential part of the cure for the curse of imported oil.

Voters and politicians embraced the folksy billionaire's plan. Last year, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he had joined "the Pickens church," and Al Gore said he wished that more business leaders would emulate Mr. Pickens and be willing to "throw themselves into the fight for the future of our country."

Alas, market forces ruined the Pickens Plan. Mr. Pickens should have shorted wind. Instead, he went long and now he's stuck holding a slew of turbines he can't use because low natural gas prices have made wind energy uneconomic in the U.S., despite federal subsidies that amount to \$6.44 for every 1 million British thermal units (BTUs) produced by wind turbines. As the former corporate raider explained a few days ago, growth in the wind energy industry "just isn't gonna happen" if natural gas prices remain depressed.

In 2008, shortly after he launched his plan, Mr. Pickens said that for wind energy to be competitive, natural gas prices must be at least \$9 per million BTUs. In March of this year, he was still hawking wind energy, but he'd lowered his price threshold, saying "The place where it works best is with natural gas at \$7."

That may be true. But on the spot market natural gas now sells for about \$4 per million BTUs. In other words, the free-market price for natural gas is about two-thirds of the subsidy given to wind. Yet wind energy still isn't competitive in the open market.

Despite wind's lousy economics, the lame duck Congress recently passed a one-year extension of the investment tax credit for renewable energy projects. That might save a few "green" jobs.

But at the same time that Congress was voting to continue the wind subsidies, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reported that property tax breaks for wind projects in the Lone Star State cost nearly \$1.6 million per job. That green job ripoff is happening in Texas, America's biggest natural gas producer.

Today's low natural gas prices are a direct result of the drilling industry's newfound ability to unlock methane from shale beds. These lower prices are great for consumers but terrible for the wind business. Through the first three quarters of 2010, only 1,600 megawatts of new wind capacity were installed in the U.S., a decline of 72% when compared to the same period in 2009, and the smallest number since 2006. Some wind industry analysts are predicting that new wind generation installations will fall again, by as much as 50%, in 2011.

There's more bad news on the horizon for Mr. Pickens and others who have placed big bets on wind: Low natural gas prices may persist for years. Last month, the International Energy Agency's chief economist, Fatih Birol, said that the world is oversupplied with gas and that "the gas glut will be with us 10 more years." The market for natural-gas futures is predicting that gas prices will stay below \$6 until 2017.

So what is Mr. Pickens planning to do with all the wind turbines he ordered? He's hoping to foist them on ratepayers in Canada, because that country has mandates that require consumers to buy more expensive renewable electricity.

How do you say boonedoggle in French?

Original file here:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1000142405274870436800457602731066469583...>



December 22, 2010
Ohio, Opinions

How does your windmill turn now?

By Robert Brems Sr., Coshocton Tribune, www.coshoctontribune.com 22 December 2010

When I saw that photo of the ice-encrusted lighthouse at Cleveland's Lake Erie harbor entrance in Saturday's paper and on the Internet, the first thing that came to my mind was, "What a great place for a series of wind turbines." I can only imagine that the renewable energy visionaries who are touting eastern Lake Erie as the future home of an Ohio wind farm were thinking the same thing. The wind was really great last week. Those wind turbines would be generating their designed output for sure — if they weren't frozen solid.

Maybe it is just me, but I have trouble taking a wind farm seriously along the shore or somewhat offshore of eastern Lake Erie. Things like lake effect snow and that lighthouse picture just seem to scream at me, "Don't do that!" I'd think the engineers and electric utility planners would come to the same conclusion; however, it seems that green-colored glasses have a way of obliterating common sense. Of course, there is a lot of money available out there to chase pipe dreams in the pursuit of greenness, and many are happy to take that money to the bank.

As I've written before, Ohio is just not a place where wind energy or solar energy has any chance of being a sensible major electricity source. However, the key term here is sensible. It is certainly possible to provide about 6 percent of Ohio's electricity from renewable, Ohio-based, energy sources by 2025 as required by Senate Bill 221 passed in 2008. However, the cost to do that will be high, and electricity consumers and/or the taxpayer will have to pay for it one way or another. Hopefully, we will have the sense and courage to learn from our European friends who have already been down this road and are drastically cutting back their government subsidies for renewable energy-generated electricity because consumers are balking at the cost.

I don't know if Gov.-elect Kasich has revisiting Senate Bill 221 on his to-do list, but in my mind it is a no-brainer, just as scuttling the low speed 3-C rail line was.

Robert Brems Sr. is a former citizen member of the Coshocton Tribune Editorial Board.

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