



**PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF THE DOWNEAST LAKES WATERSHED
(PPDLW)**

Why Mainers Should Oppose Industrial Wind Power Development in Maine

- 1. It is electrical generation that we do not need. Period.** The State of Maine currently generates more electricity than it uses and exports the surplus out of state. Even economic development models that project high growth do not absorb all of the state's current production capacity in the next 30 years.
- 2. Industrial wind development in Maine will not replace fossil fuel baseline plants.** Due to the intermittent and unpredictable nature of wind for electrical generation, all the megawatts of potential wind power must be duplicated with megawatts from reliable, baseline generation in order for the electrical grid to balance and provide electricity to meet on-demand needs without brown-outs.
- 3. It is a myth that wind-produced electricity is "free".** Due to the high investment cost compared to the low output, wind-produced electricity is so expensive that in a free-market economy, it could not compete with other sources of electricity.
- 4. It is a myth that wind-produced electricity is "green".** It is not "green" because fossil fuel baseline plants must be in place and when these are operating at greatest efficiency, they are less polluting. When wind-produced electricity enters the grid, these plants must be throttled back or placed in "spinning reserve" mode, operating at inefficient levels and creating greater pollutants. Isn't it ironic that when the grid receives kilowatts from wind turbines that the grid is forced to produce more air pollution? Furthermore, the construction of industrial wind complexes requires the cutting down of huge areas of forestland, reducing nature's ability to process CO₂ and putting our water sources at risk through erosion, silting and the use of herbicides.
- 5. Wind turbines do not result in a net "savings" of energy.** Because it takes so many wind turbines that produce so little electricity, it actually consumes more energy to manufacture the steel towers and install them than any wind tower will produce in comparable energy in its useful lifetime, which is only 20 years. Because the turbine must continually rotate so it doesn't freeze up, each turbine uses an enormous amount of petroleum-based lubricants.
- 6. There are severe environmental trade-offs incurred with industrial wind site development.** It entails creating a 3-6 acre clearcut for each turbine site, blasting and leveling, digging down to bedrock and pouring tons of concrete to anchor each tower. An extensive network of 50' wide roads must be created up to and across ridgelines to get these huge components into place. All of the turbine sites and powerlines will be kept clear of vegetation through the regular application of herbicides, affecting brooks, lakes and groundwater. Siltation of streams and lakes will occur from the resulting erosion. Lastly, important wildlife habitat will be fragmented and ruined.

7. There are severe impacts on the lives of people living near industrial wind turbines.

Despite what the wind developers say, the negative health effects of turbine noise, known as 'Wind Turbine Syndrome' are well-documented. The noise is relentless when it is windy, as experienced by people living with the turbines in Mars Hill. Read their testimony in letters here: <http://www.windaction.org/faqs/15115>

The turbines affect people in these ways: Symptoms include sleep disturbance, headache, tinnitus, ear pressure, dizziness, vertigo, nausea, visual blurring, tachycardia, irritability, problems with concentration and memory, and panic episodes associated with sensations of internal pulsation or quivering which arise while awake or asleep.

Source: Dr. Nina Pierpont, Wind Turbine Syndrome: A Report on a Natural Experiment. Is this what we do to people's lives to build something we do not need?

8. Supporting industrial wind in Maine means supporting the folly of Gov. Baldacci's Wind Task Force, which was a "stacked" group intended to deliver everything the wind industry lobbyists wanted. The ill-conceived and rushed report of the Task Force is now in statutory form. It expedites the permitting process of LURC and the DEP and limits public input on decisions that change the landscape of rural Maine. To reach its goal of 2,700 megawatts of installed wind capacity by 2020, will entail well over 50,000 acres of land and blasting away 350 miles of ridgetops, creating industrial sprawl all over rural Maine, without a single kilowatt being used in Maine.

9. Supporting industrial wind sites will cost you money. There is a disconnect between the Task Force goal of laying waste to rural Maine with industrial wind sites and the users of electricity in Southern New England: the inadequacy of the existing transmission lines through Maine to handle surges of wind energy on windy days. Also, Aroostook County, where many potential sites are located is connected to Canada, not the rest of New England. The answer? A \$1.4 billion dollar proposal to upgrade and expand transmission lines. This cost will show up in your electricity bill for decades to come. You will pay dearly for something we don't need and for something from which we derive no benefit.

10. Supporting industrial wind sites supports wealthy investors and corporations raiding the public treasury. According to the US Energy Information Office in 2007, wind energy is subsidized at a cost of \$690 million, which worked out to \$23.37 per megawatt produced. This compares to federal subsidies of 67 cents for hydroelectric and 25 cents for fossil fuel per megawatt produced. The industrial wind industry would not exist without Federal grants, Federal loan guarantees, tax increment financing, production tax credits, extremely accelerate depreciation, guaranteed access to markets, and the ability to sell so-called renewable energy credits. It is an incredible array of money making schemes and scams on the taxpayers and ratepayers. Thus, the industry is not about creating "green" energy and saving the planet. It is about creating 'green' money for wealthy investors and corporations. If industrial wind sites had to be built with only the usual standards of the free market economic system, there would never be a single one built.

Maine has spent decades dutifully protecting the natural beauty of her mountains and ridgelines. Don't let a few politicians and corporations destroy them for their own selfish interests.

Please, help us stop this insanity!!!