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Little benefit to wind power

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I do not understand the current push for industrial wind development in Vermont.

Wind turbines, if built in Vermont, will have no effect on the conventional power systems (nuclear, hydro, grid purchases) that are currently in operation, nor will they prevent the construction of new conventional power plants as demand grows. That is because we need conventional power generation when the wind is not blowing at the proper speed.

At best wind power replaces some fossil fuel use when the wind is blowing — but in Vermont we burn very little fossil fuel. The wind generation might replace some nuclear generation (though it is my understanding that it is difficult to ramp down a nuclear plant and then have to ramp it up again) or hydro.

So why build wind turbines here? We tear up lots of land, place roads and power lines on our ridgelines, limit the access to wilderness areas because the power facility must be fenced and endanger wild life.

This makes no sense to me — we pay an enormous cost for virtually no benefit.

We need to reduce fossil fuel use by developing fuel-efficient cars. Cars burn oil. We don't burn oil to make electricity in Vermont.

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