

## Wind power very costly

### To the editor:

I've read statements in recent media articles where Noble Environment wind salesmen have called themselves "leaders in the industry."

My current research shows the only thing Noble and wind power companies like them may be leaders in is blowing hot air. In almost all areas, they exaggerate the positives of wind power and down play the negatives. Wind companies prey on poor people and poor communities. Proponents of wind are being suckered every day by misinformation campaigns, and one small town board east of here has already been corrupted. (Stay tuned for more) Ignorance can be educated, but unfortunately, stupid is forever. It seems many local and state elected people are beyond education.

A most recent example of this sham has been made obvious on all New York resident's electric bills. On all future electric bills, you will find an "RPS" fee. This fee is charged to "offset high cost" of producing "cheap renewable energy." Power companies are required to charge that fee by the authority of a Pataki APPOINTED committee. Non-elected people have the authority to charge us fees and elected officials don't have say in where that money goes. Your RPS fees are handled over to the same people who tell you wind energy is cheap and will keep your prices low and stable. This year these companies will receive over \$120 million in free money. These parasites can't make "cheap power" without government money because cheap wind power is the most expensive means of production. They lie and they laugh all the way to the bank. Anyone with a brain can see this is TAXATION WITHOUT

REPRESENTATION. A Noble representative goes to board meetings with his hands out begging for tax breaks and then drives around in a bright yellow Hummer instead of a fuel-efficient hybrid vehicle. Wind people are leaders making tax-free money, not energy.

It would require 78,750 wind turbines operating for one year to save one day's worth of U.S. oil imports.

According to Noble environmental, a 1.5 MW General Electric turbine can never actually produce 1.5 MW, since its safety cut-off is below the wind speed needed to reach 1.5 MW.

1.5 MW turbine in fact has a net useable output less than some PTO (powertake off) tractor generators. A General Electric study (March 2005) of its 1.5 MW turbines discloses that in NY State they get only 10 percent overall efficiency. (Noble plans to install GE 1.5 MW wind turbines in Malone, Brandon, Clinton, and Ellenburg). This means consumers are paying for 3 kw-hr for every 1 kw-hr they actually get. (G.E. report, posted on the NYS Energy Research & Development Authority website). 67 turbines would provide barely enough electricity to power 10 light bulbs in 33,000 homes if wind is not blowing, nothing is powered.

A \$400,000 PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) from Noble is approximately 2 percent of the company's tax free income. Only a pittance (\$88,000) of this \$400,000 would go to the Town of Malone.

According to Malone meteorologist Dave Werner using a 40' anemometer, the average wind speed in Malone in 2004 was 6.3 mph and for 2005 it was 5.8 mph. Hence, contrary to what the wind salesmen asset, Malone does not appear to have commercially viable wind. They make money from tax-free handouts, not wind. Wind power is more expensive; National Grid (formerly NiMo) charges 12 to 15 percent extra to the customer for wind energy.

Call your elected officials to stop this before it's too late.

**Mike Fournier  
Malone**