

Jeff Herholdt,
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Jeff,

Thank you for your short letter of the 27th June regarding wind projects in Grant County.

In that you noted that a rigorous environmental review process must be completed before any wind project can be approved. With respect to the NedPower project at Mt Storm in Grant County I have looked for public records of such a formal review and environmental submissions but so far I have failed to locate those. Perhaps you can provide me with references to that and the related decision documents?

What I do have is a map of the NedPower project area and a draft of the deployment overlaid on satellite imagery showing a 14 mile long and half-mile wide clear-cut through this mountain top area, with five 450ft high turbines straddling each high top. I would be interested in confirmation of the validity of such plans (enclosed, and also available online from <http://uswindpower.info>).

You also state in your letter that “in some applications, renewable energy may also prove to be beneficial to meet future energy requirements”. This has a future tense to it. I presume this means that you are aware that today wind power costs over 4 cents per kilowatt hour to produce, while the commercial rate is 3 cents. In other words wind power is 30% more expensive and therefore loses money?

In that regard I would draw your attention to the work and reports of the Energy Commission in the UK available from this URL link:
<http://uswindpower.info/050626%20SDC%20Wood%20Fuel%20for%20Warmth.pdf>
which describes how wood pellet furnaces are seen as a renewable energy source that delivers many times more available and sustained power than wind power projects.

In your capacity as Manager of the Energy Efficiency Program I would be interested in your views on the comparison between wood energy potential for West Virginia compared to wind power and which has the greater benefits for long term energy generation and job creation and revenue within West Virginia?

Yours sincerely,

David RR Webber,
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Cc: Joe Manchin III, Governor