

DOMINION POWER WITHDRAWS WIND POWER APPLICATION

Dominion Mount Storm Wind Inc. withdrew its application to the Public Service Commission for a permit to build a wind farm in Grant and Tucker counties to generate electric power. While the Highlands Conservancy has had some active interest in other proposed wind farms, it had taken no position on this proposal.

In a Jan. 3 letter, Dominion lawyer Lee

F. Feinberg stated the company hired consultants to conduct several studies about the impact the wind farm would have on the local viewshed, on wetlands and on rare or endangered species including birds, flying squirrels and salamanders. "Dominion Mount Storm believes that some of the analyses and studies that are necessary for the project will not be fully completed by a date that will provide the parties and the [PSC] sufficient time to fully review the application and participate in a hearing," Feinberg wrote.

Judy Rodd, executive director of Friends of Blackwater, said "Dominion apparently realized they were building in a unique and sensitive habitat when they found 15 flying squirrels on the site. They withdrew their application. "We think other wind companies should look carefully before they locate in these sensitive areas," Rodd said. "If they say they are trying to protect the environment, why aren't they protecting migratory birds and endangered species?"

Critics of wind farms include many local landowners in northeastern West Virginia who believe huge towers will permanently scar some of West Virginia's most beautiful scenery. The proposed site, withdrawn from PSC consideration by Feinberg's letter, is located south of W.Va. 93, between the Mount Storm power plant and the town of Davis.

This is an abridged version of a story which

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