

OUR READERS WRITE

Please allow me to respond to the April, 2005, issue's letter from Linda Cooper which claims to shed light on the effects of high mountain wind power facilities on local residents.

A West Virginian by choice for over a quarter century, I've raised two sons in southern Calhoun County, approximately 50 miles down wind from Nitro's famous coal-fired power facility not to mention all the other Ohio River coal-based facilities. This region has the highest average pH rain in the country over 10 times more acid than average not to mention the particulates (mercury, selenium, etc.) And volatile organic carbons precipitated by that rain.

I should not have to familiarize this Voice's readers with the huge environmental ecosystem costs of coal exploitation. I can not help but juxtapose Ms. Cooper's wind complaints with the experience of many thousands of coal field residents. I wouldn't mind visiting Ms. Cooper to experience what she claims are such horrors of wind power generation. In return, I would suggest that Ms. Cooper trade homes for a month with a coal field resident so that she might get a bit of perspective. At the moment she comes across to me as very similar to all the Cape Cod and island yacht owners who fought so hard against a 10-mile offshore wind system which would have impinged upon their pristine viewshed without, of course, looking back at their gluttonous boats.

Certainly conservation and self-reliance are far preferable to generating more electricity. But I have to wonder how many of the antiwind folk are generating their own power. I very strongly suspect that they are sucking up the electricity generated by the coal plants destroying West Virginia's hills and raining down pollution on me. Sorry, but this is a hypocritical as Bush II and his buddies. Can you seriously compare the ravages of coal to those of wind? They are orders of magnitude apart. When you anti-wind folk have your own clean electrical systems in place, then I'll listen to your concerns.

The ecosystem destruction wrought by coal totally dwarfs the negative effects of wind. And, as wind becomes more wide spread, many of its problems can and are being ameliorated as opposed to A clean coal euphemisms. While we're at it, kindly send some of these wind developers down my way. I've got some hilltops on which a couple wind towers would look great. Then I could a little feel like I'm helping take the pressure off coal field folk.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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