

Speaker # 1  
Chris Cole

To the EFSEC committee.  
Re: Desert Claim Proposal

4/11/2018

My first inkling that something suspicious was afoot was when two men were looking for something at the edge of my property along the road next to my fence. My partner, Roger drove down to find out what they were doing and the answer was that they were seeking markers and photographing the turbines. On contacting the former president of the Sun East Property Owner's Association, he had also noticed and had questions about markers that were up above on the shared road for the owners, about a mile north of my place and at higher elevation. It appears that these men had traversed and apparently trespassed beyond the very visible warning sign at the Sun East entrance which states that only property owners are allowed. I don't know whether or not permission to enter had been granted.

We wonder again if our statements are just another effort in futility. With the county and most of residents opposed to the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project site, the final decision that was left up to Governor Gregoire, who was soon to leave office and not be living here, our fate was sealed and we are now left with the constant eyesores in view with now more to come. My feeling is that the governor was viewing the east side of the Cascades with the eyes of west-side, over-populated and harried occupants but without the view and insight of local folk that cherish the open spaces that are anything but desolate and certainly not land to be exploited. In addition, the site now inundated with turbines is above a forever-spoiled scenic highway that once was an incredibly beautiful landscape. One

woman who wrote a letter to the editor of the Daily Record complained that the turbines obscured her view of Mt. Stuart. Where she was during the public testimony is unclear but my response was: “We told you so but where were you before with the several years’ long struggle to oppose these towers?”

The photos that were taken from my yard, with my permission, for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project informational layout showing how the turbines could appear from my elevation were, as most panoramic photos, deceptive as compared to the actual perception from our eyes. A half-mile distance is nothing in this open country. By the photos depicted, the turbines are a long way away. From my kitchen window, they are enormous. That is how they appear and my home is several miles and a canyon away. It’s all in the perception depending how a photo is projected and the reality witnessed. The folks with homes on Reecer Creek may, most likely, have the worst of it for impact. More larger and powerful turbines proposed and in place, and the reality of their potential disturbance is, to us, overwhelming.

Our prior arguments backed up with testimony from a variety of scientists and folks already subjected to the effects from turbines were sadly deemed irrelevant. The smoke from the Taylor Bridge Fire resulted in many forced evacuation across the northern slopes here, including Sun East residents, along with many farm and ranch animals trailered out with the generous help of friends and family and anyone available with such equipment. Information from the fire fighters and pilots operating helicopters and the retardant-dumping airplanes should be consulted as to how the smoke-shrouded turbines

affected their efforts.

The placement decision for these towers was taken from us and imposed by others. Will this be the same results?

As we stated many, many, times, there are less offensive areas to place these turbines. Wild Horse area is one of them. Desert Claim territory is not one of them and it isn't even desert. I believe that, that - is the perception of those not living here subjected to the towers.

During the previous public meeting, our local county representative on the council, Ian Elliot, asked if the KVVPP bird kill had been documented. The representative was unable to provide an answer at the time and would look into it. How can the dead birds and bats be counted? They are most likely easy meals and edible treats for coyotes and other wildlife that consume them. The count becomes uncountable, invisible and an obscure and tossed-away vitally important fact of impact.

Perhaps none of us that oppose these turbines matter, but, at least our voice has been raised to hopefully, be documented, even if not heard nor taken seriously.

Thank you,

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