Dear Jack,

I recently finished reading the book "The Wind Farm Scam" by Dr. John Etherington, Ecologist at the University of Wales, who has devoted himself to researching renewable electricity generation, in particular, wind power. Europe has had a longer and more intense experience with wind farms than our country has. Now many countries in Europe including Spain, England, Germany, Portugal and more are realizing that they have made huge mistakes. They spent billions in taxpayer money to ruin the beauty of their countryside and make the electricity rates so high they can't afford them. Here are some excerpts:

"Enthusiasts (and lobbyists enriched by subsidies) who have rushed into extensive wind farm developments will be seen in due course to have taken public opinion for a colossal ride, although this may take some years to emerge". {Lord David Howell and Dr. Carol Nakhle}

"Statistically the implication is that only a small proportion of the total wind generation can be relied on to be available at any one time, perhaps falling to no more than 4% of installed capacity. So there we have the problem. Would you continue to visit a shop which was often and unpredictably closed and when open could rarely supply you with a desired commodity and at twice the supermarket price? Of course not, and the only way such an establishment could avoid bankruptcy would be legislation to keep it open and a constant drip-feed of cash from another source to cover the losses incurred by the constant closures and repeated failures to supply goods, despite high costs."

"Wind power has been promoted for political/environmental reasons and wind developers have benefited from substantial subsidies, leading to exaggerated claims. A reality check is needed."

"Possibly the most publicized case of a wind turbine noise problem in Britain is that of the Davis family of Spalding in Lincolnshire. When the construction of Deeping St. Nicholas wind farm was proposed, just 930 meters from their farmhouse, Julian and Jane Davis initially had no objection. However, after the eight 2.0 MW turbines became operational in summer 2007 the Davis's discovered that pervasive noise was intolerable. 'By May 2007, we were forced to abandon our home as a place in which to live and sleep'. The problem has been recognized as rendering the house valueless."

"The noise...was to those who could not mentally shut it out, an obstacle to pleasant experiences decreasing the joy of daily life at home...creating a feeling of violation that was expressed as anger, uneasiness, and tiredness".

"The consequence is that a sensitive minority may be tormented by the legal, but in my view quite unreasonable, activity of wind power developers."

"The wind farm is noisy, it is a visual blight, it does create shadow flicker, it has resulted in very little benefit to the local economy, it has not resulted in an increase in tourism and negotiating with PowerGen Renewables and Wind Prospect to try to resolve the problems has been a most unpleasant experience for all those involved. Simply put, we want our quality of life back."

"They are money factories which industrialize the landscape for no other significant purpose."

"The Highlands are being humiliated by wind farm developers who insist they are saving the environment. They lie; they are here to make a profit. Wind farms produce very little intermittent electricity. Most of the time they do not work. How can the blade of a bulldozer ripping up 6,000 years of beautifully preserved archaeology be saving the environment? How can the turbine blades smashing a golden eagle be saving the environment? How can the government of Scotland destroy such a prize? And use public money to do it? "

THE WIND FARM SCAM is available at Amazon.com

Gregg Hubner