

Decommissioning Concerns by Wendy Crabtree

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My name is Wendy Crabtree and my farm is located at [REDACTED] Bradley.

I would like to be specific with you about how close my land is to the proposed Crocker Wind Project, LLC. However, these tower locations are frequently shifted, and their placement appears to be etched in jello. There has been little, if any transparency about their final locations.

There are many concerns about this Industrial Wind Park, and how it affects the health, safety and welfare of those of us who live here. One major concern is the cost of decommissioning the wind turbines. Once those oil covered blades stop spinning, we are left with a graveyard of rusty towers littering our landscape. High maintenance, high rates of failure and fluctuating weather conditions render wind turbines expensive and inefficient. So, many are abandoned, leaving spinning junk littering the land. The blades only turn until the government subsidies run out. These obsolete towers are a safety hazard, and who then is liable for injuries suffered until the towers come down?

Who pays for taking these eyesores down? Research about decommissioning in Illinois, West Virginia and North Dakota places that cost from \$85,000. to over \$200,000. per turbine. There is little real salvage value, and removal is a huge expense. Materials must be divided for disposal; fiberglass blades and oil, grease and electrical materials hauled off to landfills. The metal parts must be cut into 3-4 ft. sections to sell to a scrapyard. In addition to the tower itself, fences, transmission lines and a concrete base filled with rebar must also be removed. What about land reclamation? Who is responsible for repairing the damage? Without properly planned and funded decommissioning, the wind merchants will take the money and run, leaving area residents to clean up and pay for their mess.

The history of wind projects tells us that this project will be sold and then sold again. We have no way to know who will own this project when it is time for it to become decommissioned. We must have some protection against Big Wind and corporate greed. I strongly urge you to turn this application down until a performance bond is in place to completely fund the decommissioning of this project. It's an insurance policy and the only protection we have for the safety and welfare of area residents.

Thank you for your time.