

In May the American Wind Energy Association hosted the Windpower 2018 conference in Chicago. Analysts at the conference called the period between 2021 and 2026 the “valley of death”, and though forecasts vary, many expect that new onshore wind capacity additions” will slow if not grind to a halt.” This is because of the phase out of the production tax credit to zero in 2020.

In August of 2017 another article in the Wind power publication, quoted: “The wind industry is showing little interest in a 40% PTC by 2018. Some industry players have opined that when the PTC drops to 40% of its current levels, tax equity transactions that serve to monetize the credit will become less attractive to developers and other financing structures, such as traditional project debt financing, may supplant tax-equity financing. “

So I would expect in December 2018 when Congress makes their annual budget deal, the production tax credit for wind energy will be extended again, and our 3 representatives in Washington D.C. can again count their money from the Big Wind Lobby.

I recently read an article written by Patrick Pope, President and CEO of Nebraska Public Power District. He reported that” on January 16 that electricity from the 8 wind farms in Nebraska were producing less than 1% of their needed power”. So it’s pretty simple to see wind will never replace anything because it’s intermittent and unreliable.

And then, from Hunter Roberts, energy policy advisor to Governor Dugaard: “We have an open-door policy meeting with developers, working with them to ensure our regulation is reasonable and responsible. I would not be surprised if over the next three years we see up to 2,000MW of new wind power here.”

According to the stats on proposed wind projects, it takes about 200 acres of land per megawatt, so those 2000 MW of wind turbines will encase about 400,000 acres of prime South Dakota real estate, WHERE PEOPLE LIVE. Of course, the politicians never talk about the people living in these areas, health problems, property devaluation and loss in quality of life. They just talk about megawatts. Why? Because this tax scheme is based on megawatts. The production tax credit, the taxes the “state” collects, the taxes delivered to the county and schools, are all based on megawatts. It’s a revolving door of taxpayer money. Wind turbines are nothing more than subsidy meters. Nobody that gets electricity from wind doesn’t already have it. Nobody that pays an electric bill has ever received a decrease in their rate because of wind. Actually, their rates go up.

And then to add insult to this insanity, one of the big issues in our gubernatorial race is our declining pheasant population and our loss of habitat. Would turning 400,000 acres of peaceful and quiet rural South Dakota into an industrial electrical generating plant help that situation? We are losing our wildlife and will be losing our tourism industry with the Governor's blessing.

Our tax hungry bureaucrats are turning our state into the worst of Iowa and Minnesota, wind turbines as far as the eye can see. Talk to any out of state hunter, he'll tell you, it's not about shooting the birds, it's about the peace and quiet, the tranquility of our state that brings them back. It's about our state's beauty. But our leaders are all about megawatts and taxes. Taxes, taxes, taxes.

Dakota Range I and II are just another in a series of potential wind farms to be built, and after the Crocker Wind Farm permit was granted last week, it's already written on the wall what is going to happen. It's hard for a South Dakota citizen and taxpayer to understand why people who are trying to protect their homes, their health and quality of life have to fund tens of thousands of dollars to hire lawyers to represent them at these hearings and are at a disadvantage from day one. The multinational corporations have all the power, money, lawyers and lobbyists. They just paid off Ducks Unlimited in North Dakota a half a million dollars. How can we fight them? How can this be fair? Germany has just decided to abandon their wind energy projects after spending 1.1 trillion dollars because it did not cut carbon emissions even close to their goal and has raised electricity prices dramatically. Why are we following in their footsteps? The whole wind energy movement is a taxpayer scam. Some people understand it and some don't. But when they pull the production tax credit and the AWEA calls it a "valley of death", that should tell you something. I would hope the Public Utilities Commission could see through this scam and protect the people of South Dakota and stop this nonsense. Because in a few years it will stop on its own, but only after many peoples quality of life has been destroyed.

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