

May 30, 2011

Wasco County Planning Commissioners  
Wasco County Planning and Development  
Public Works Building  
2705 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Dear Planning Commission members,

The proposed changes to the Wasco County Comprehensive Plan and Wasco County Land Use and Development Ordinance conflict with the stated purpose of the WCLUDO (section 1.020) as they do not (1) promote public health, safety or general welfare, (2) conserve natural resources, or (3) conserve, stabilize, and protect property values.

Specific concerns:

**Page 19-26: OAR 345-022-0080 – Scenic Resources**

**5. Natural Resource/Wildlife Protection:** “The energy facility has been designed and will operate without significant adverse impact to natural resources identified in the Wasco County Comprehensive Plan, WCLUDO, or by any local, state or federal wildlife agency.”

When UPC proposed its project on Seven Mile Hill, one of the impacts that could not be mitigated was the loss of the pine oak habitat. This is a unique and important habitat, and wind turbines should not be permitted in these areas.

Identified resources should not be limited to those listed in LUDO and the Comprehensive Plan and should include those listed by any local, state or federal wildlife agency as proposed. These should include the impact on raptors, which are federally protected, bats, and wildlife in the big game winter range and sensitive wildlife overlay zone.

The proposed changes to Section 5 should not be weakened for the benefit of the industry at the expense of our natural resources.

**Page 19-27: Surveys**

The ordinance should state that the applicant will pay the cost of any required surveys but not be the one responsible for contracting for the survey or providing the information on potential impact. The applicant should pay the county to have an independent entity with no connections to the wind industry conduct any surveys. For wind studies, this could be the same entity the State Department of Energy uses. Similarly, wildlife surveys should be conducted by someone not hired by the applicant.

This will prevent the situation that occurred in 2007 when UPC proposed its Cascade Wind project on Seven Mile Hill. UPC did not follow Oregon's noise regulation procedures. As one example of this, the Oregon sound measuring method limits the measurements to winds of no more than 10 MPH. The winds were 18 MPH all the time on the 2 days that UPC monitored. The measurements were taken with enough wind present to seriously discredit the background measurements. There were other violations as well. In addition no noise measurements were taken on the west side of the ridge.

**Page 19-34 (6) Shadow Flicker**

If there is an adverse impact, require the turbine to be nonoperational during certain periods of time. As shadow flicker is a problem both indoors and outdoors, planting a tree is a not a viable solution. In addition, a tree would take years to get to the size where it would provide any blockage. Shadow flicker should not be allowed on non-participating landowners property without written permission.

**Page 19-35 c. Setbacks:**

**(2) Non project boundaries:**

Due to the potential danger from ice and blade throw, the turbines should be at least 1200 feet from any public road or property line.

**(3) Resource Zone Dwellings:**

In regards to public health and safety, one mile setbacks are proposed for the nonresource lands but only ½ mile for residents in the resource lands. The health and safety of these residents will be jeopardized due to the inadequate setbacks. Why should there only be safe setbacks for some? One and a half mile setbacks are routinely used in Europe to prevent noise pollution.

Wind turbine estimates regarding noise should include the cumulative impact of all the turbines.

Low frequency noise should also be measured. Unlike high frequency noise, low frequency noise can be amplified when it passes through the walls of a building, making it typically an indoor issue and one that has been linked to decreased quality of life, sleep loss and headache.

Topography and placement of wind turbines on ridge tops can amplify the noise and need to be taken into consideration. Hilly and mountainous terrain can cause turbine noise to be heard at greater distances. Placing wind turbines on ridgetops can impact raptors, which are federally protected and often use these areas as flyways. Consider that the tip of the wind turbine blade reaches speeds of over 140 MPH under normal operating conditions, while the raptor is flying with its head down, looking for prey.

In the introduction to the Comprehensive Plan, it states "Once land has been committed to a particular use, it is usually physically impossible, or economically impractical, to reclaim it. Therefore, all options must be carefully considered prior to a land use decision. This is the purpose of planning." Residents of other areas that have had to live with improperly sited wind turbines are finding themselves involved in

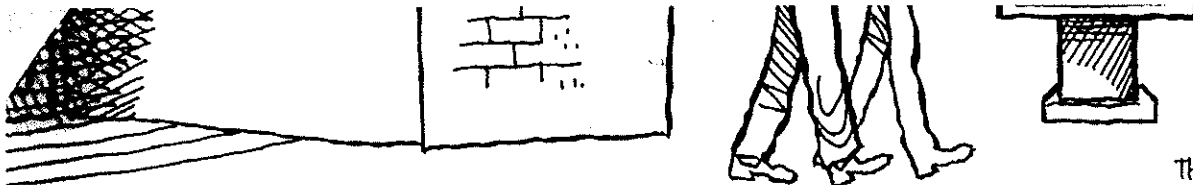
litigation that goes on for years with no resolution. Hillsides blasted away, property values decimated, and the liveability of homes destroyed. This is the certainty that the developers and residents will have if the ordinance is hastily adopted.

Sincerely,



Sheila Dooley  
816 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Attached are a newspaper article and an email describing the experience of residents living too close to wind turbines.



**STAHLER**  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH  
2007.

The Dalles Chronicle 7/3/07

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Protections needed

**to the editor:**  
Freedom and justice for all," so we sometimes, however, it becomes necessary to spell out who we mean by "all." It happens when a group of people is singled out because other people do not associate with them, or do not like them. Fortunately, we have laws to protect our freedoms. The proposed non-discrimination ordinance is meant to preserve our freedoms. The ordinance states: "It is the policy of Clatsop County, Oregon, to eliminate discrimination based on race, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity." The current law does not clearly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The resolution does not apply to organizations whose primary function is religious. I am thankful to live in a country that provides protections for our freedom and protects us all from being discriminated against. I am in support of the proposed ordinance.

Joella Bullock  
The Dalles

## Volunteers do it all

**to the editor:**  
We live in a time where there seems to be a shortage of bad news. But there are still places where you can see neighbors helping neighbors. Such as Meals on Wheels. If you are not familiar with this organization, it consists of some of the kindest, most caring people you will ever meet.

Each day they manage to deliver high-quality meals to homebound people as well as providing a noon meal in the dining room at 1112 West Ninth Street.

The thing I find truly amazing, is a fact that is often mentioned by the director of M.O.W. (whom I am a bit partial towards).

The fact is, that whole operation depends on volunteers who not only deliver meals, but also provide a sense of comfort to the loved ones of those who receive meals, knowing each day around noon someone will be by to check on them.

The list of volunteers goes on, in the dining room, fund raising on Thursday night bingo, etc. There is not enough room to list all these special people involved.

I know they are short of drivers. So if you have one hour a month, give them a call at 298-8333.

Gary Patton  
The Dalles

## They do have noise

**To the editor:**  
I am writing this letter to your newspaper just to help you make your difficult decision about putting a windmill project in your area.

My husband and I built our dream retirement home two years ago behind Mars Hill Mountain in northern Maine. We loved the quiet serenity of the area. We were told by UPC that the mills were going on the front (west side) of the mountain and that we would never see them, much less hear them! We are now looking at 11 mills from our house (in close proximity).

We have found, now that the mills are running, that UPC Wind Company has misstated and misled us as to the effects of the turbines. We were told there would be no noise!! That statement is on their website.

Sometimes the noise from the turbines is loud enough to hear in the

house! It has been described like sneakers in a dryer. Other times it sounds like a plane engine over the house. This is a constant drone that is always there in varying degrees.

The people of this town have always had access to the mountain for hiking (Mars Hill was part of the northern international extension of the Appalachian Trail), picnics and 4-wheeling. UPC guaranteed us that after they were built and the blasting done we would have our access returned to us. Now, the ridge and roads are covered with no trespassing signs and the 4-wheel trails blocked off. This is all under the loop hole of safety issues.

The windmills have changed the quality of our lives. We spend less time outdoors. We enjoy our porch and decks less. We sleep with the windows closed and run the house fans.

Our property value has dropped 20 to 30 percent and we have no choice but to live with it or sell and hope we can get enough out of it to relocate.

We are certainly not against wind power, but there is definitely a down side to it when the turbines are built too close to residences!!

Please, do your research. It wasn't done here and we believed what the wind company (UPC) told us.

Carol and Merle Cowperthwaite  
Mars Hill, Maine

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Dalles Chronicle welcomes letters. These should be signed, free from libel, and include the writer's telephone number (which will not be printed) and address for verification. Writers are limited to one letter per month and 400 words per letter. All letters are subject to editing. Opinions from writers with reputable qualifications may also be considered for guest editorial status, and are limited to 800 words. Letters may be delivered to 315 Federal St., The Dalles, OR 97058, or e-mailed to [tdchron@eaglenewspapers.com](mailto:tdchron@eaglenewspapers.com).

# President should listen to these generals

While much of the press was consumed with the tumult of the immigration bills, the presidential campaign, and Paris, little attention has been paid to the May 10 letter from the plainspoken Gen.

Director George Tenet for defending in his new book "the secret CIA interrogation and torture techniques," which he oversaw, they cite: "water boarding, sensory deprivation, sleep deprivation and stress positions — conduct we used to call war crimes"

cruits). ... If we forfeit our values by signaling that they are negotiable in situations of grave or imminent danger, we drive those undecideds into the arms of the enemy."

As of this writing, we are still awaiting a presidential executive order with

can't remain secret. Or can they?

According to a March 25 New York Times story, a previous draft of this executive order was rejected by the State Department, which considered it too broad and left

ly trying tricks. After with I have pla partner' would he shift.  
In the table, W sponded ( Note that down thr West car spades or North out one h clubs wa balancing this inter call shou card poin six-card si After S trump, W have cue-t his two- though, he understar not occur Although task for fa heart, he points by l diamond c on the boa called for grabbing l his two t must have er's queen shifted bac this game I Again V play of the had dropp South's que known de not a falsec continued contract by  
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MAIL

Re: Wind Turbine Update

Tuesday, May 24, 2011 5:34 AM

"Perrin" &lt;mtntodds@pioneerwireless.net&gt;

"Sheila Dooley" &lt;sdooley3300@yahoo.com&gt;

Hi Sheila,

Mars Hill folks have gotten very quiet. It has been over 4 years since the turbines went on-line here and things are still not resolved. Resolved, of course, is a rather interesting term when it comes to wind turbines. We are still in the midst of a law suit. We have attended two days of mediation with a third expected sometime in the not to distant future. We hope that it can be settled but are ready for a fight which will drag this process out for another couple of years.

Things have not changed, turbines are what they are and we will be affected for the life of the project. They are running the best that they probably ever will. I fear what will happen as the project ages and/or the money runs out to maintain it. The only thing that allows many of the families here to maintain any sanity is that the wind does not always blow and we get small breaks in the noise and shadow flicker that offer a glimmer of how things used to be. If the noise was at its high spectrum all the time no one under 3500 feet downwind would be able to stay in their home. Shirley Fletcher called yesterday to say that the turbines were the loudest that she has ever heard. People just don't seem to understand how affected these people are. If it was something that you could get used to I think that after 4 1/2 years we would start to see the anger, frustration and rage begin to wane. People here are tired and discouraged.

There is a medical study that should be out sometime this year about the affect on health from these projects in the state of Maine. It includes Mars Hill, Vinalhaven and Freedom. Dr. Michael Nissenbaum and/or a nurse practitioner visited each community and preformed quite a lengthy process of interview and questionnaire that should begin to paint a clearer picture of how people are affected. I understand that it is being peer reviewed and will go to publication soon. There are also a couple of noise experts from here in the state who are taking an in depth look at the issue of turbine noise and will be key in getting stricter regulations put in place here in Maine. It is a slow and torturous process to get meaningful change in our capital.

I am so happy that you fought and were successful in keeping UPC/First Wind out of your community. I read a story last night that I will attach to remind us all that most developers are out for self not the communities that they rape or the greater good.

Best wishes for the task ahead.

Wendy

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The link only works by subscription.

Fabulous editorial from Saturday below:

5/21/2011

So Much For The Green Economy

- > When the locals in Vermont and northern New Hampshire were being
- > romanced by large corporations to allow wind projects and their
- > unsightly towers to be installed on our northern ridges, the PR men