

Tazewell County Wind Energy - Myths and Facts

Myth: No New Tax Revenue – the county will receive taxes on the turbine equipment, but as their values depreciate (over a few years to \$0) the county will receive \$0 in taxes.

Fact: For example a 60 MW (30 – 40 turbines) will generate approximately \$600,000 in property and real estate taxes in year 1 for the locality, depreciating over time for roughly 20 years. Year 5 - \$464,914; Year 10 - \$273,674; Year 15 - \$176,531; Year 20 - \$180,989.

Myth: My property values will decline if a wind facility is located near my property or home.

Fact: There have been a number of studies done related to property values near wind farms. One study, by Ben Hoen and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, covers about 10 communities nationwide and utilizes rigorous statistical methods. Preliminary analysis finds no statistical evidence of a negative impact on home values near wind facilities.

Myth: Wind turbines don't operate when they are needed most and that they use more energy than they produce (that they have a low efficiency rating or that they are net users of electricity.)

Fact: The wind turbines only produce electricity when the wind is moving through the facility. Currently, Dominion and BP Wind Energy are measuring wind speeds on East River Mountain. As of right now, the data shows placing a wind facility atop of the mountain would indeed harvest significant energy from the wind and construction of the facility would be a prudent business decision by both of the companies.

Wind farms will use energy off of the grid. However, the wind farm's consumption of energy is roughly 2 MW, far less than what the wind farm will produce at about 60 MW. Therefore in this case, the net would be +58 MW.

In addition, coal fired power stations or natural gas power stations both use electricity from the grid. However, they all produce much larger amounts than they use.

Myth: The proposed wind farm is located on national forest land as many older maps depict.

Fact: The proposed East River Mountain wind farm is located on privately owned land and not on any government held public lands.

Myth: A proposed wind project will adversely impact the coal business in Southwestern Virginia

Fact: Wind power is an important supplementary power source for base load generation; it does not replace base load generation, like coal and nuclear stations. In fact, the Virginia Mining Association stated that wind and coal can work together to provide electrical power without adversely impacting one another.

Myth: Dominion/BP plans to study or build a wind facility in Burkes Garden.

Fact: We are not pursuing wind farms at Burkes Garden and turbines won't be visible from Burkes Garden. Other than our proposed project on East River Mountain, we are not considering other wind energy projects in Tazewell

County at this time. We are evaluating other potential sites in the Southwestern Virginia region, but none would be visible from Tazewell County.

Myth: What happens at the end of the wind turbines' lifetime? And what if Dominion and BP elect not to re-service the turbines for another 25-year of service? Do I have look at the non-operating wind turbines on East River Mountain forever?

Fact: If BP and Dominion elected not to re-service the turbines for its next lifetime, we will be held responsible for removing the wind turbines and roads on East River Mountain – even in the unlikely event that one or both companies become bankrupt. Before the companies proceed with construction, they will enter into a de-commissioning agreement with the county that requires the turbines to be taken down.

Myth: Large access roads and turbine platforms on the tops of ridges will cause problems with water drainage that could lead to flooding and endanger everyone who lives below the ridges across the country.

Fact: We are required to prepare an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan with the Commonwealth to address any concerns. We will utilize best management practices to minimize any impacts to local streams and ground water during and after construction.

Myth: Blasting away of mountain tops in order to place wind turbines on the ridge top will destroy the mountains.

Fact: The ridgelines are not expected to be significantly altered from conditions. Tree cutting will be minimized to the greatest extent possible and done only where the turbines and access roads will be placed. The site access road will be gravel (smaller than Route 460; approximately 36 feet during construction and graded back to 18 feet post-construction); foundations of the turbines will consist of poured concrete in small areas of the ridgeline.

Myth: Wind turbines provide no real benefit in our dependency on foreign oil and easing global warming.

Fact: Since wind energy requires no fuel, deploying wind energy can assist in reducing the effects of rising fuel costs, both foreign and domestic. Wind energy produces no emissions and consumes no water! In addition, a growing number of green companies seek to relocate to areas with renewable energy facilities.

Myth: No new jobs will be created.

Fact: A 60 MW Wind Farm would create 150 construction jobs during the 8-month construction period. \$10 million in local products and services (gravel, concrete, etc.); 10 - 15 long-term jobs during the operation of the wind farm.

Myth: Each turbine will require 4 to 6 acres of cleared space.

Fact: Most turbines are generally spaced between 750 and 1,500 feet apart. Additionally, while some developers have taken the easy approach to site preparation and over-cleared timber for ease of construction, many others have taken a proactive approach and worked with the turbine manufacturers, transportation companies, and site contractors to reduce the amount of clearing to only what is need to safely/efficiently develop the site. While this makes logistics and construction a challenge, BP and Dominion are committed to this approach. Moreover,

existing timber and agriculture practices can and does exist between the spacing of the turbines in the United States.

Myth: Dominion/BP will use eminent domain power for wind generation in Tazewell County

Fact: Landowners can decline or can participate in our project. We are in early stages of negotiation with many landowners; we do have leases secured with several. Thus far, support from landowners has been high.

Myth: The proposed Dominion and BP wind farm will pollute nearby streams and rivers and may lead to increased flooding.

Fact: Wind farms in general utilize very little chemicals, lubricants, etc. and do not generate any appreciable amount of hazardous waste. We at Dominion and BP understand locating a wind farm atop a ridgeline, with steep slopes, shallow soils, and potentially high quality water sources located down slope of the project is a concern for citizens. However, with the proper planning, project design, and utilization of current state-of-the-art stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) BP and Dominion feel that these important resources can and will be adequately protected from degradation. Further, BP Wind has taken the initiative to create a risk assessment model that will identify “at risk” turbine locations and then provide secondary containment areas to guard against any oil/chemical transport in the event of a highly unlikely leak from a turbine.

Myth: Dominion and BP will spray herbicides on the mountaintops to control vegetation.

Fact: No such chemicals will be utilized on-site during or after construction as part of the wind farm. Maintenance clearing around the turbine and along access roads will be limited to mechanical methods.

Myth: Companies proposing this project have no real vested interest in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Fact: Dominion’s corporate headquarters are located in Richmond, Virginia and is one of the oldest electric companies in country. Additionally, the company delivers power to over 2 million customers and maintains and operations over a dozen energy generating facilities in the Commonwealth.

BP Alternative Energy has a corporate office located in Charlottesville, Virginia and operates and develops approximately 100 projects in 26 states.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call Hank Seltzer with BP or James Beazley with Dominion:

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Web site - <http://www.dom.com> Keyword - Virginia Wind Projects