



Rocky Forge Wind – the Truth

Electricity Generated

What Apex Says

- Enough electricity will be generated to provide power for up to 20,000 homes

The Truth

- Only about 8,000 homes can be powered.
- Interconnection to power grid is only sized for 10.1 MW, far below the 75 MW rated capacity of the turbines.

Wind Resource

What Apex Says

- Rocky Forge has proven wind resource

The Truth

- According to data from Apex, the winds at Rocky Forge are at the minimum speed and frequency that would support wind turbines.
- In Virginia, the period of highest demand for electricity is the summer, the period when winds are at the lowest.

Property Values

What Apex Says

- Wind turbines will not lower property values

The Truth

- Decreased property values up to 60% have been documented at many different locations around the country.

Community

What Apex Says

- They work to become community partners and establish long-term relationships

The Truth

- Apex refused to provide electronic versions of permit application to the public or to extend the public comment period.
- Is being sued in many states.
- Once tax credits have been extracted they sell to other companies.
- Landowners must sign non-disclosure agreements.

Noise

What Apex Says

- Sound from turbine blades is a “whoosh”, no louder than a kitchen refrigerator or air conditioning unit at a distance of 1,000 feet.
- Infrasound (low frequency) does not result in any physiological health effects and is minimal and of no consequence.

The Truth

- The most noise is produced by the generator turned by the blades, and for the turbines that Apex is using that is 105 dB (a power mower or chain saw) at the source.
- The analysis done by Apex used a computer model that is not meant for modeling noise in mountainous areas.
- The studies cited are more than 5 years old. Numerous recent studies have shown there are severe physiological health impacts including
 - Sleep deprivation
 - Dizziness
 - Heart palpitations
 - Infrasound carries further than audible sound

Location

What Apex Says

- Compatible with existing land use

The Truth

- A special exception permit had to be issued by the Botetourt Board of Supervisors because the Comprehensive Plan states: *Preserving scenic views and vistas is particularly important for Botetourt County. The County’s scenery is critical to the rural character and is one of its most distinguishing features. The Blue Ridge Mountains are a national attraction and derive their popularity from spectacular views. Tourism and nature-based leisure draw on the beauty of the region and have significant economic impact. Furthermore, County residents value the beauty of their natural surroundings on a daily basis.*

Wildlife

What Apex Says

- Low risk for wildlife impacts

The Truth

- Mountain ridges are some of the most environmentally sensitive and important areas in Virginia. The potential impacts to protected and endangered species is enormous.
- Rocky Forge is located in the Buffalo Creek – Purgatory Mountain Wildlife Corridor.
- Migratory route for many birds, including the protected Golden Eagle.

Water Quality

What Apex Says

- Nothing

The Truth

- Construction activities will result in significant erosion and runoff problems.
- Sinking Creek, Mill Creek, and others in the area are pristine trout streams.
- Drainage patterns will be drastically changed.
- Blasting could easily disrupt aquifers.
- Spills of oil and hydraulic fluid could seep into underground water.

Fire Hazard

What Apex Says

- Nothing

The Truth

- Turbine fires occur 10 times more often than reported by the wind industry.
- A turbine fire could easily start a forest fire that could destroy hundreds or thousands of acres.

Light Pollution

What Apex Says

- Nothing

The Truth

- The FAA will require aircraft warning lights on the turbines. These lights must be no more than ½ mile apart. Given the number of turbines and their spacing this means every other turbine will have lights.

Please visit

www.VirginiansForResponsibleEnergy.org

for more detailed information about the impacts that Rocky Forge will have on the environment and the citizens of Botetourt, Rockbridge, and Allegheny counties.