

# Birds, Bats, People Losers In Rocky Forge 'Scheme'

June 13, 2016

Editor, The News-Gazette:

In response to N-G's editorial regarding Rocky Forge Wind (RFW):

First, while it may be true that a wind plant that produced 78.2 MW could provide electricity for 20,000 homes, the reality is that the electricity RFW will generate is not even close to 78.2 MW. Analysis of actual wind data from a nearby weather station reveals that, at best, only a fraction of that amount of electricity will be generated. At the open house held last month, Apex's Tyson Utt admitted that the "20,000 homes" was not based on the actual wind data obtained from the RFW site. Rather, it is based on a 1/3 capacity factor used by the industry regardless of available wind.

The editorial states that studies have not "found much evidence of the presence or passing of eagles in this area" However, telemetry maps produced by the USGS and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries indicate that there are Golden Eagle flyways and concentration areas on, and in the vicinity of, North

Mountain. Constructing turbines on North Mountain is a direct threat to this protected species.

The editorial embraces Apex's claim that from a distance of one mile, the sound would be "less than ambient noise heard in the forest." So why have people around the world had to abandon their homes because they couldn't tolerate the noise and infrasound? Is it just showmanship on their part? The Apex sound study for RFW used a model not intended for mountainous terrain and there was no actual sound generation to simulate the noise produced by 25 gigantic turbines.

The editorial erroneously states "In order for tax credits to be claimed the project-would have to produce revenues."

Wind projects are financially viable only because of federal and state incentives funded by taxpayers, and those incentives are paid whether or not the turbines produce electricity. RFW is an LLC, and as such the profit, losses and tax credits flow directly to the investors. RF does not need to make one dollar. When RFW

takes the 30 percent Investment Tax Credit (ITC), their investors can take a 30 percent tax credit on their personal tax returns on the amount they invested. In addition to the ITC, by selling RFW (and, according to an investor, it will be sold) and using accelerated depreciation, subsequent owners and the investors continue to reap tax benefits. RFW does not need to generate any energy for investors to continue to use it as a tax dodge.

The losers in this scheme? The birds, the bats, the people living near North Mountain, and, lest we forget, the taxpayers.

We are Virginians for Responsible, Energy. Our conclusions are based on extensive research of this project and other industrial wind facilities sited on mountain ridges. We invite the News-Gazette and its readers to form opinions based on the facts and not on Apex's propaganda.

JEFF SCOTT,  
STEVE NEAS  
and DENISE M. NEAS  
On behalf of Virginians for  
Responsible Energy,  
Lexington