

Lane

West Virginia Public Service Commission
Sandra Squire, Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 812
Charleston, WV 25323

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W VA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Re: Case Number 05 1740 - E-05

Dear Ms. Squire;

Where is the wind when you need it most?

It is August 1, 2006. A hot, humid, muggy air mass has blanketed the eastern seaboard. In cities along the east coast, afternoon temperatures soar in excess of 100 degrees with heat indexes reaching 110 and higher. Electricity power grids across the region strain to meet the huge demand and some companies report numerous power outages as a direct result of this demand. One modest company, BGE, that supplies electricity to Baltimore and the surrounding area, reports record consumption of 7,099 megawatts of energy between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., smashing the old record set just last July. It is days like this when electricity is needed the most.

At the same time, at the 4,842 ft. summit on Bald Knob, AccuWeather's online weather station reports winds gusting to just 5 mph – too little to turn the massive rotors of today's windmill generators and too little to result in any electricity generation at all. Any windmills close by, would be standing idle when the demand for electricity to the power grid was at its highest.

It is a fact that wind cannot be relied upon to produce a constant supply of electricity, nor can it be relied upon to produce electrical energy during times of peak demands. Yet the proponents of wind energy associated with the Liberty Gap proposal, seemingly eager to reap lucrative tax incentives and large profits for themselves, state that their proposal is for the "greater good" to "provide more power for the rest of the United States".

Despite two unsuccessful applications before the West Virginia Public Service Commission for the construction and operation of a windfarm on Jack Mountain, we should expect that there will be more. We all want the best for our local community, the state and the nation, but do we really want to make the sacrifices required and suffer the negative impacts when wind energy cannot supply any power when it is needed the most?

Clearly, in light of the facts, the Liberty Gap proposal should remain dismissed by the WVPSC. Please do not allow our precious natural resources to be damaged just because a few opportunistic individuals want to profit at the expense of the rest of us.

Charlie Banda



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