

My NYSERDA Meeting Comments (12/12/07)

Good morning. My name is John Droz, and I live on Brantingham Lake in the western part of the Adirondacks. Although I'm listed as being from BCA I am actually a member of several organizations here: AFPA, RCPA, FOLA, etc.

Although I am a NYS resident and taxpayer, I am here today primarily wearing three other different but related hats. I am a **physicist** who is used to investigating complex issues (like wind power) in a thorough, organized, and logical manner.

I am a **financial expert**. For example, through implementing some of my investment ideas, I was able to retire at 34 from a management position at GE. I've subsequently taught several financial management classes. I am now one of the leading financial people in the state working on trying to fix the NYS property tax assessment situation. *It's a mess.*

Thirdly, I am also an **environmental activist**, and have worked on a variety of environmental issues for over 25 years — like improving surface and ground water quality standards in NYS. I am also coordinating a so far successful, three year effort by local citizens against Nestle Corp, who is trying to extract billions of gallons of water from a local aquifer for a new bottling facility.

Most of you are probably not aware of it but as an environmental activist I also happen to have become one of the foremost experts in the state on septic systems. A wag might say that my extensive experience in dealing with effluent gave me a substantial head start in understanding my current main focus: the wind power business. *Who knows?*

Anyway, as a scientist, economist, and environmentalist I am strongly **opposed** to industrial wind power. And no, there are no wind power developments proposed for my community, so this is not a NIMBY matter.

The fundamental reason for my opposition is that:

wind power fails to deliver the goods.

By this I mean that:

- 1) wind power is **not** a scientifically sound solution to help with global warming. and
- 2) wind power is **not** a commercially viable source of energy on its own; and
- 3) wind power is **not** environmentally responsible.

Those three basic criteria haven't been selected to make wind power look bad, but are what should be used to evaluate the legitimacy of **any** proposed new alternative source of energy.

Maybe it has been too long since I got out of graduate school, but my recollection of how science is *supposed* to work is this:

When a new idea is proposed as a potential solution of a problem, it is up to the solution proponents to PROVE its efficacy — *not the other way around.*

Here we have businessmen and investors *proposing* wind power as part of an energy “solution” to global warming. So the ball is in their court as to providing independent, objective **proof** that wind power **is** a viable solution from all pertinent perspectives. THIS HAS NOT YET HAPPENED.

I can fully appreciate the predicament that RPS puts NYSERDA into, but that is a **political** problem. This political quandary does not absolve NYSERDA from their charter responsibility (see *website quote below: my emphasis*), and that is: **to present energy issues to the NYS public in an objective and balanced manner.**

So far NYSERDA’s presentation of wind power has **not** been **objective or balanced**. I am here today — now wearing the hat of an optimist — in hopes that this can be fixed.

Thank you.

About NYSERDA

(This excerpt is from: <<<http://text.nyserdera.org/About/default.asp>>>)

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is a **public benefit corporation** created in 1975 under Article 8, Title 9 of the State Public Authorities Law through the reconstitution of the New York State Atomic and Space Development Authority. NYSERDA’s earliest efforts focused solely on research and development with the goal of reducing the State’s petroleum consumption. Subsequent research and development projects focused on topics including **environmental effects of energy consumption**, development of renewable resources, and advancement of innovative technologies.

Currently, NYSERDA primarily **is funded by state rate payers** through the System Benefits Charge (SBC). ... Part of this funding went into the creation of New York Energy SmartSM which helps to maintain momentum for the State’s efforts to develop competitive markets for energy efficiency; demand management; outreach and education services; research development, and demonstration; low-income services; and **to provide direct economic and environmental benefits to New Yorkers.**

NYSERDA strives to facilitate change through the widespread development and use of innovative technologies to improve the State’s energy, economic, and **environmental** well-being. In fulfilling its mission, NYSERDA’s workforce reflects its public service orientation, **PLACING A PREMIUM ON OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS** and collaboration, as well as reaching out to **SOLICIT MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES** and share information....