



PRESS RELEASE
November 13, 2011

FRIENDS OF POCOSIN LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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Photo courtesy of Mike Dunn

Is It The OLF All Over Again? STOP AND THINK!

WIND AND WILDLIFE

Former No OLF communications director, Doris Morris is asking citizens, the NC Utilities Commission, and government officials to stop and think before permitting an industrial wind generating facility from being located within sighting area once desired by the US Navy for an outlying landing field (OLF).

...Can wind and wildlife unify together? This is a question that needs to be answered. Let's Stop and Think..... before it's too late.

Wind energy facilities are a positive source of energy but wind turbines (windmills) must be located in areas that will avoid and minimize negative impacts to wildlife.

"We fought the Navy for seven years and finally won that battle, and now somebody wants to do almost the same thing in nearly the same place," said Joe Albea, producer of Carolina Outdoors Journal television show and a principle figure in the OLF fight. "It's a 'green' industry and that's good, but they want to site an industry at a place it doesn't need to go".

Impacts on wildlife are not limited just to the turbines. There are several factors to consider: the turbines, the noise, the lights at night, the loss of feeding resources, etc. Roads will be constructed to build and maintain the machines, and power line corridors cut to transmit the energy to a substation.

Each utility-scale wind turbine will requires about an acre of cleared land around it, half of which will be an impermeable surface. The wind turbines will require road access, which will mean roads constructed to build and maintain the machines, and power line corridors cut to transmit the energy to a substation.

How will this affect the wildlife habitat for the Pocosin Lakes NWR?, the tourists? Don't we owe it to ourselves to STOP and THINK?

A permitting process has begun for a wind energy facility, to be located next to the Pungo Unit of the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The array of turbines will consist of 49 towers of about the same height as the Washington Monument.

"We worked with determination and persistence to protect this area from the potential OLF. Let's not move to hastily, without having all the facts on the table" stated Doris Morris, VP Friends of Pocosin Lakes NWR.

While the Board of the Friends of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is NOT opposed to the generation of electricity through wind power, we ARE concerned about the possible effects on the migratory waterfowl and bird population at the refuge due to the proposed location of these turbines.

We would like to have the process slowed down long enough to garner all the available information on possible bird mortality and migration deviation caused by wind farms, introduced for consideration BEFORE the permitting process proceeds any further.

In order to accomplish this goal, it is imperative for all those interested in the protection of the migratory waterfowl and other avian wildlife to become involved. You may help in two ways:

First, to make a short written request to the N.C. Utilities Commission, asking them to withhold approval until the studies, mentioned above, are available for their consideration.

Written statements on the project may be filed with the

**Chief Clerk
N.C. Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4325
Project: PANTEGO WIND ENERGY, LLC (EMP-61)**

Docket No. EMP-61 Sub 0

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a Wind Facility of up to 80MW & Petition for Registration Statement 09/02/2011

Secondly, there is an opportunity for the public to make comments. PLEASE consider attending the N.C. Utilities Commission hearing, on November 17, at 7:00 PM, in the District Courtroom of the Beaufort County Courthouse in Washington.

Requests and statements to the Commission should be sent as soon as possible! All communication should display Docket No. EMP-61 Sub O.

For more information: visit www.pocosinlakesfriends.org
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