

The Honorable Joe Manchin III,
Governor of West Virginia,
State Capitol Building
Charleston WV 25305

July 7, 2005

Dear Governor Manchin,

I have just returned from a July 4th trip to Mount Storm and the Allegheny Front highlands. I wish you could have shared this trip with my family; perhaps you would consider an invite to visit with us to see first-hand yourself? Ours is a modest camp in an area shared by many working families from West Virginia who all have a love for the unspoilt wilderness. We are privileged visitors to an area really owned by deer, wild turkey, black bear, frogs, toads, salamanders, birds, bats and a whole host of treasured wildlife that pass around and through our camps.

In order to bring this picture to people's minds-eye I have created a website – <http://uswindpower.info> where you can see some of the pictures and maps for yourself.

I am completely aghast that \$300M is about to be spent to tear a 14 mile long, half mile wide clear-cut across this fragile and exposed environment to erect a wind energy mine. I just hope that before the bulldozers are unleashed to wreck havoc on this area that you can inject some sanity and common sense to the situation by halting the project.

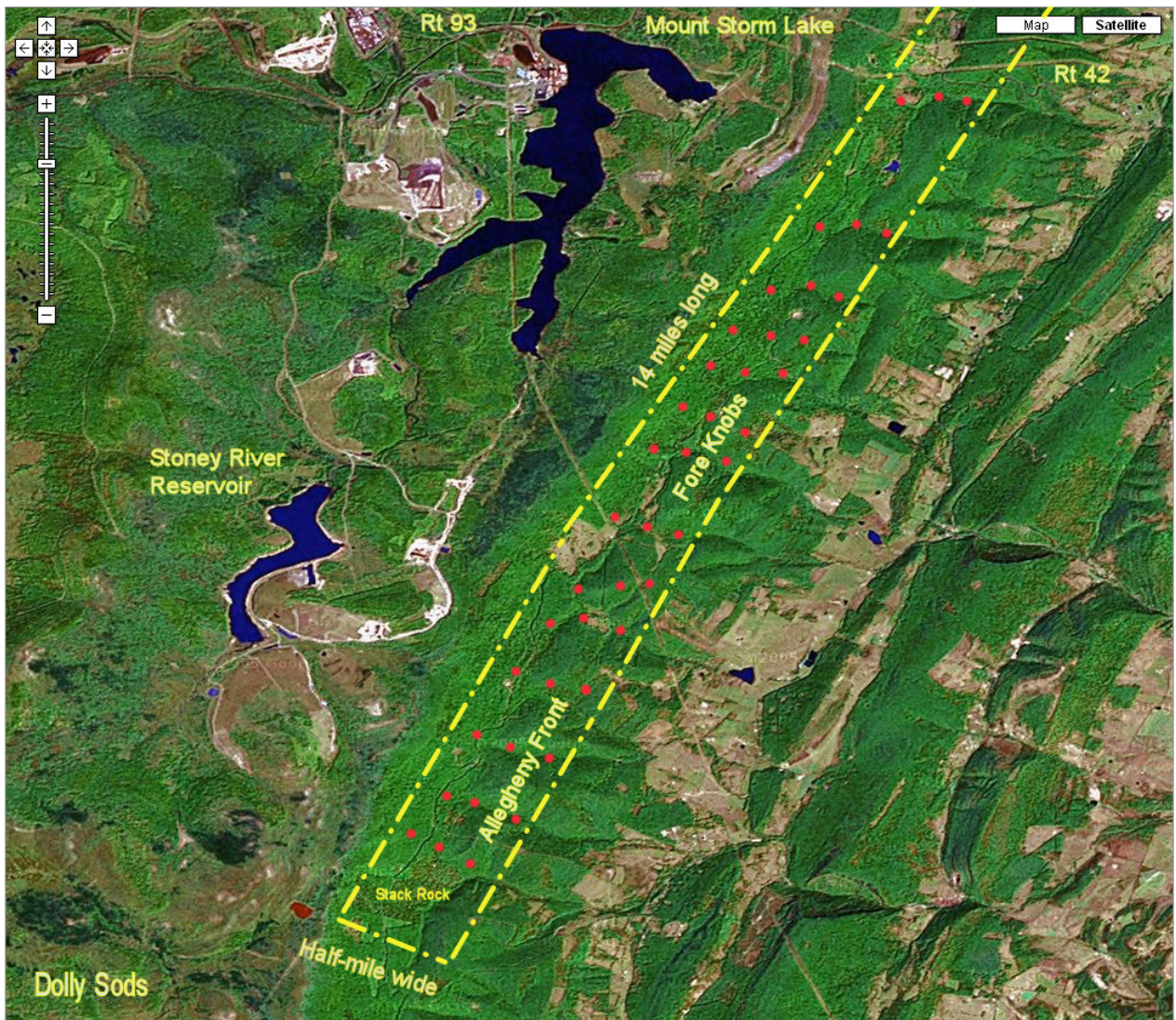
Your office represents the ultimate trustee for the State of West Virginia; your voice is the voice of those of God's creatures who cannot speak, write letters or vote, but live on Allegheny Front and struggle against adversity to raise their families and live their lives in freedom down through the millennium too. Yours is the voice that speaks out after the slick lawyers have twisted reality and bent procedure to advantage their clients against the clear and common sense and best interest of citizens, the land and the State. Do no harm is the clear overriding principle that is being broken.

If you read the environmental impact assessments provided by NedPower to the PSC review board - <http://uswindpower.info/NedPowerDecision.doc> on page 17 it is stated that "the project should not require a federal environment impact study because NedPower expects that the USACE will issue the project a Section 404 NWP". Page 19 then states "In conclusion, Dr. Canterbury stated that if NedPower implements his recommendations set forth in his testimony and in his Phase I report, then the project will have minimal impact on birds".

That's very nice and reassuring. What exactly is "minimum impact"; 10 killed per year, 100 per year, 1,000 per year, 5,000 per year? If each of the 200 turbines kills 5 birds a year each, that is 1,000 additional deaths that are not occurring today. Life as we know is a balance and tipping the balance can result in oblivion and disastrous environmental degradation. Whereas today populations may be stable, they will not be when confronted by this extra stress. Unfortunately this also applies to the non-birds of the area such as bats, and it ignores the impact on land animals of a 14 mile long swathe cut across a fragile environment. As the report

also notes his assessment is based on Dr Canterbury's very brief short term visit to the area. One has to conclude that this is not science; it's a drive-by shooting.

Why such an obvious large-scale wind mining operation is being given exemptions when any visit to the area by even a lay person tells a different story is completely beyond comprehension. The satellite imagery available from Google maps shows how devastated this area is from human interference already; it does not need another debilitating blow. Instead we should be finding ways to spend \$300M to heal and restore the area.



Also, one has to question the competence and structure that is NedPower LLC – Limited Liability Company, Delaware? Despite owning the <http://nedpower.com> website since 2000, they have not even constructed a simple informative website, instead the link is empty. How can one expect them to run a \$300M project when they cannot even construct a simple website? Notice also their preference for minimalist information. These are not the actions of a company intent on openness, community building, and environmental good or long term responsibility. They are the actions of a covert business group that is intent on pursuit of profit

first, minimizing their liability, slick legal structures, ensuring a rapid exit strategy and minimal public scrutiny and discussion. How will local landowners feel when they discover each turbine on their land is a \$1.5M white elephant that they are responsible for when the executives behind NedPower LLC has moved on to their next cash cow project?

Worse is the fact that wind power projects actually provide little to no substantive power generation – the whole supposed purpose in the first instance of wrecking the landscape and harming the habitat! They actually are not viable without subsidies to sustain them. Once those subsidies are gone will West Virginia pay for the clean-up, removal and restoration of the area?

In this regard wind energy mining pales compared to **wood fuels** as is detailed in this report here: <http://uswindpower.info/050626%20SDC%20Wood%20Fuel%20for%20Warmth.pdf>

Spending \$300M on such wood energy projects would clearly bring much more direct benefit to West Virginia and the environment than what is being proposed for wind energy mining. And this makes sense. Trees can capture energy much more efficiently than giant manmade wind turbines; clearly comparing a 14 mile long, half mile wide hill top full of trees with the wind turbine mine shows that immediately. And the trees offer all the other advantages of carbon dioxide buffers, habitat for wildlife, erosion prevention, and recreational areas for the community.

I urge you halt this NedPower project and to direct the Manager of Energy Efficiency Program, Mr. Jeff Herholdt, to urgently report to you on how West Virginia can instead develop sustainable energy programs, such as a wood energy program.

Sincerely,

David RR Webber,
25404 Clearwater Drive,
Damascus, MD 20872.

(the owner of mountainside property adjacent to VEPCO Lake, Mt Storm, WV where 200+ wind turbines are about to be constructed).

<http://uswindpower.info>

Cc: Jeff Herholdt