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From: Carrie Shepard [mailto:cashepard@live.com]

Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:11 AM

Subject: Please Help Keep NH Green!: Industrial Wind is Deadly to Animals a serious threat to environment and Human Health

Feds look other way as wind farms kill birds -- but haul oil and gas firms to court

By Barnini Chakraborty

Published December 17, 2012

FoxNews.com

Wind turbines in Vermont. (AP)

Washington – Lights left on during a foggy night last year at a West Virginia wind farm are thought to be behind the grizzly deaths of nearly 500 songbirds.

It was the third time it happened -- and each time, the federal government looked the other way.

Fast forward to last week Following the deaths of a dozen migratory birds in Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska several years back, a Denver-based oil company was fined \$22,500. The company was also ordered to make an additional \$7,500 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The disconnect demonstrates what critics call a blatant double standard that has to change. While the federal government aggressively pursues oil and gas companies for wildlife deaths, it often gives wind producers a pass.

Proponents say going soft on the wind industry allows it to compete. But environmentalists say, in this instance, it's unacceptable.

"The playing field is not leveled," American Bird Conservancy spokesman Bill Johns told FoxNews.com, recalling the West Virginia incident. "If there had been a serious consequence the first time, there wouldn't have been a second time and a third time. All they do now is go, 'Whoops, my bad' and it's forgiven."

The most recent mass bird kill in West Virginia didn't involve collisions with wind turbines at the sprawling 61-tower complex but instead resulted from a combination of exhaustion and collisions with the substation as the Connecticut warblers, yellow-billed cuckoos and Virginia rails got trapped in the light's glare and circled in mass confusion before dying.

The ABC is among a growing group that believes the government is playing favorites and does not hold the wind industry to the same standards as other energy generators.

The wind sector has had an exemption from prosecution under two of America's oldest wildlife-protection laws: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Eagle Protection Act. A violation of either law could result in a fine up to \$250,000 or two years imprisonment. To date, the Obama administration -- following in the footsteps of the George W. Bush administration -- has not prosecuted a single case against the wind industry. What they have done is gone after oil and natural gas providers for similar infractions.

"How does an industry kill more than 2,000 eagles and not be fined once?" Johns said. "It's a head scratcher."

A few months ago, the Justice Department brought charges against Oklahoma oil company Continental Resources as well as six others in North Dakota for causing the death of 28 migratory birds in violation of the Bird Treaty Act.

Continental CEO Harold Hamm called the move "completely discriminatory."

Continental was accused of killing one bird "the size of a sparrow" in its oil pits. "It's not even a rare bird. There're jillions of them," Hamm said during an interview with The Wall Street Journal.

Yet in central California, 70 golden eagles were killed by wind turbines at Altamont Pass, without prosecution. The findings follow a 2008 study by the Fish and Wildlife Service that estimates wind farms kill nearly a half million birds per year in the United States. The department has since backed off from that number but requests for clarification by FoxNews.com were not returned.

“They are thumbing their noses at the environmental mess they are making,” Johns said.

A study funded by the Alameda County Community Development Agency estimated that 10,000 birds – almost all that are protected by the migratory bird act – are being killed every year at the wind farm in Altamont Pass, Calif.

“The Altamont Pass wind farm does not face the same threat of prosecution, even though the bird kills at Altamont have been repeatedly documented by biologists since the mid-1990s,” Robert Bryce, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute’s Center for Energy Policy and the Environment, said.

“Biologists believe Altamont, which uses older turbine technology, may be the worst example. But that said, the carnage there likely represents only a fraction of the number of birds killed by windmills,” Bryce told FoxNews.com.

In 2009, ExxonMobil pleaded guilty in federal court to killing 85 birds that came into contact with crude oil and other pollutants in uncovered tanks and wastewater facilities on its property. The birds were protected by the federal act and the company agreed to pay \$600,000 in fines. Over the past decade, federal officials have brought hundreds of similar cases against big energy companies operating across the country.

Oregon-based electric company PacifiCorp was ordered to pay \$1.4 million in fines for killing 232 eagles that were electrocuted by power lines in Wyoming.

In March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released new guidelines for land-based wind developers trying to avoid or minimize impacts to birds and their habitat. But bird advocates say it’s an empty gesture because the guidelines are voluntary and wind farms are not required to follow them.

The backlash against the wind industry is spreading to issues across other parts of the country.

In October, 60 residents of Herkimer County in upstate New York sued the owners and developers of a 37-turbine wind farm. They claim the turbines are bigger and noisier than developers had promised and say the farm is decreasing property values in the area and causing health problems.

Noise from the property has at times clocked in above 72 decibels, 22 decibels more than local law allows. Iberdrola Renewables owns the project and has installed some noise-reduction equipment on a handful of turbines but not on all of them.

Complicating matters with the wind industry are the ongoing negotiations with the Obama administration and House Speaker John Boehner over spending cuts, tax increases and other ways to avert the looming fiscal crisis.

The wind industry has benefited from a tax credit that some say rigs the energy market. Whether to continue the tax credit, which is set to expire on Dec. 31, has become a bargaining chip in D.C.

The credit was created 20 years ago to help wind compete with other sources of electricity generation such as coal, hydropower and natural gas. The wind industry says it still needs help from the taxpayer and warns thousands of jobs could be in jeopardy if the credit is allowed to expire. Supporters bill wind generation as a clean energy that doesn’t tap into water supplies and warn that letting the credit expire would mean a death sentence for the industry.

Critics say it’s time for the industry to stand on its own or call it quits -- having benefited not only from the production tax credit but a de facto grant of immunity from federal prosecution under some of the country’s oldest wildlife laws.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/12/17/us-wind-farms-under-fire-for-bird-kills/?test=latestnews#ixzz2FRsMhgy8>

Hundreds of migrating birds die at Laurel Mountain wind farm



Kenny Kemp

About 500 migrating songbirds died earlier this month at a power substation serving the Laurel Mountain wind energy development near Elkins.

By **Rick Steelhammer**

ELKINS, W.Va. -- Lights left on at a power substation on a foggy night during the fall migration season are believed to be responsible for the deaths of nearly 500 songbirds earlier this month at the new AES Laurel Mountain wind farm near Elkins.

"From a bird conservation perspective, it was a very bad event," said Kelly Fuller, wind campaign coordinator for the American Bird Conservancy, a national bird conservation group headquartered in The Plains, Va.

More than half of the birds involved in the incident were blackpoll warblers, with Connecticut warblers, yellow-billed cuckoos, sora and Virginia rail among other species reportedly found dead near the substation

The bird kill occurred Oct. 2-3, according to Division of Natural Resources spokesman Hoy Murphy

The bird kill did not apparently involve collisions with wind turbines at the 61-tower complex, according to a preliminary investigation. Instead, the deaths reportedly occurred from "a combination of collisions with the substation and exhaustion, as birds caught in the light's glare circled in mass confusion," according to a release from Fuller's organization.

The incident occurred during a period of fog and poor visibility.

Night-migrating songbirds flying in such conditions without a horizon to follow, or without recognizable patterns of light to indicate the sky above, or dark to indicate the ground below, can become "trapped" by steady burning lights. In such cases, the area below them appears lighter, due to the lights, while the sky above appears darker, reversing the birds' sense of up and down. Birds can circle such lights long enough to die of exhaustion or collide with a structure.

Murphy said AES is drafting a final report on the incident, which will be submitted to the DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Further comment from the DNR was not expected until after that report is reviewed.

Fuller said the Laurel Mountain bird kill was the third involving migrating birds, fog, and lights being left on overnight at West Virginia wind farms.

On Sept. 24 at NedPower's Mount Storm wind farm, 59 birds and 2 bats were killed. Thirty of the birds were found dead in the vicinity of a single wind turbine that was reported to have internal lighting left on overnight.

On May 23, 2003, 30 birds were killed at Mountaineer Wind Energy Center on Backbone Mountain in Tucker County, after lights were left on at a substation during a foggy night.

The three wind farms with the bird kills operate at night, while West Virginia's fourth operational wind farm, Beech Ridge Wind Energy in Greenbrier County, is prohibited by court order from

operating at night between April 1 and Nov. 15. Beech Ridge has not experienced large bird mortality events, Fuller said.

"Wind energy has the potential to be a green energy source, but the industry still needs to embrace simple, bird-smart principles that would dramatically reduce incidents across the country, such as those that have occurred in West Virginia," Fuller said.

"The good news is that it shouldn't be hard to make changes that will keep these sorts of unnecessary deaths from happening again, but it's disturbing that they happened at all," she said.

"It has long been known that many birds navigate by the stars at night, that they normally fly lower during bad weather conditions, and that artificial light can draw them off course and lead to fatal collision events. That's why minimizing outdoor lighting at wind facilities is a well-known operating standard."

Fuller said the bird kills reinforce the need for "mandatory federal operational standards, as opposed to the optional, voluntary guidelines that are currently under discussion."

According to the American Bird Conservancy, the West Virginia bird kill numbers fly in the face of industry assertions that wind turbines kill, on average, two birds per year.

"Some West Virginia conservation groups have suggested that other wind farms in the state should shut down their turbines at certain times and seasons to protect birds," Fuller said. "Given the recurring bird kill problems, that idea needs to be seriously considered, at least during migration season on nights when low visibility is predicted. A wind farm in Texas is doing just that, so it is possible."

Reach Rick Steelhammer at rsteelham...@wvgazette.com or 304-348-5169.

The Whooping Crane, condemned to extinction by windfarms: The only sustainable population of whooping cranes in the wild is declining, concurrently with the invasion of their migration route, the Central Flyway, by over 2,000 wind turbines and their power lines. Nearly one hundred of these critically-endangered birds were lost this year, i.e. one third of that population.

Yet the US Fish & Wildlife Service continue to approve more wind farms in that migration corridor. The extinction of the Whooping Crane in the wild won't take long.

Another massacre comes to light



SPAIN: 40 to 60 great bustards killed by the power lines of the Villasilos windfarm.

This compares to a previously estimated population of 260 individuals, immatures included, for the whole province of Burgos. The Villasilos area being the principal habitat in the province for these heavy, 10-14 kilo birds, where most of them show up at one time or another, the windfarm is actually acting as an ecological trap, a population sink for this endangered species. This is how “carefully” the wind industry places its windfarms. – STEI

Source —> the Spanish Ornithological Society SEO/Birdlife

<http://www.seo.org/2012/04/24/el-grupo-local-seo-burgos-localiza-12-avutardas-muertas-bajo-un-tendido-electrico-en-la-zona-de-castrojeriz/>

Golden Eagle to become extinct in US – 5 Jan. 2012

Windfarms threaten the Golden Eagle in the US

Eagles have been killed in large numbers by wind turbines, e.g. 3.000 golden eagles over 25 years at the huge Altamont Pass windfarm near San Francisco. It was built on the very hills where young, transient “goldies” come from all over California to hunt and interact. This is causing a decline in the California population of golden eagles.

See ANNEX (A) of the following

article: www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=4242

White-tailed Sea Eagles are being killed by windfarms in Norway, Sweden, Germany, Japan, Scotland and the Netherlands; Bald Eagles in Canada; Golden eagles in the US, Sweden, Scotland and Spain; Wedge-tailed Eagles and White-bellied Sea Eagles in Australia; eagles from 5 different species in Spain, all condemned to disappear because of the government’s “green”

policy: www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=3071

In Australia, the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle will become extinct because of a biased, faulty and misleading environmental study which permitted the construction of 7 windfarms in its habitat: www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=4382

The eagles and millions of other birds (and bats) are being decimated worldwide by windfarms and their power lines. Yet it has been demonstrated that wind turbines are redundant, as they need the help of fossil fuel power plants to be

viable: <http://www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=4540>

Wind farms to wipe out California Condor Kern County blinded by greed

Save the Eagles International (STEI) issues a biodiversity warning concerning the California Condor. Having spent tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers’ money to recuperate the species, politicians are now allowing its habitat to be invaded by hundreds of wind turbines, of the kind that are killing 2,000 vultures a year in Spain (1). But if Spain has a population of 40,000 vultures, there are only 400 California condors, most of them likely to have close encounters with Kern County’s projected wind turbines at some point in their long lives – unless the birds are kept captive, as

many presently are. **The North-American Platform against Windpower (NA-PAW)** and the **World Council for Nature (WCFN)** hereby join STEI in this warning.

As reported by Forbes Magazine last month, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists have alerted Kern County officials to the fact that most of the wind projects on their drawing board, as well as at least one existing wind farm, are a threat to the Condor. “The service requests that the county of Kern exercise extreme caution in developing wind energy within the Tehachapi area **because it falls within the range of the California condor**,” has warned senior biologist Raymond Bransfield (2). But county officials are now poised to approve lethal wind turbines where condors fly. Humans are not treated differently: health and other adverse effects on local residents are also being overridden to meet Sacramento’s green energy targets.

“Condors can travel **200 miles in a day**”, said Jesse Grantham, the California condor coordinator for the Fish & Wildlife Service, “as the bird forages for food or takes a road trip on a whim to satisfy its curiosity. The condor has evolved to be **attracted to novel objects and activity** as it must constantly scour vast landscapes for its dinner” (2). Adds Mark Duchamp, president of STEI: “in view of this, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to predict they will be attracted to wind turbines, and die in their arms as do golden eagles. Dead birds under the turbines will be another fatal attraction

Vultures and other raptors do perch on wind turbines, even when the blades are moving claims Duchamp: “we have pictures and a video documenting the fact. Condors will be likely to perch as well, and accidents will inevitably happen. Even if they did not attempt to perch, they are likely to get struck while looking down for food: a world-famous video shows a griffon vulture being hit by a blade while circling above a wind farm in Greece.” (3)

The Fish & Wildlife Service has opposed many projects in Kern County, **but county officials deny that condors fly where FWS biologists say they do**. Through denial of expert advice, they have given the green light to dangerous projects. Forbes Magazine gives the Catalina wind farm as an example: “We do not agree with your conclusion that California condors are ‘absent’ from the project area,” wrote Diane K. Noda, a field supervisor, in a letter to the county” (2). Yet the project was approved, and others just as nefarious, not to speak of a mega power line across condor habitat, laments Save the Eagles International. Last October the Sierra Club and two other environmental groups sued Kern County over its approval of a 300-megawatt NextEra Energy Resources wind farm that state and federal officials warn poses a high risk to condors (2).

Duchamp warns that golden eagles too are at risk in Kern County, as many wind turbines will be placed in their breeding ranges and dispersion areas, the latter being hunting grounds shared by young eagles, like Altamont Pass in Northern California. “The cumulative effect on California’s golden eagle population will be disastrous”, he says.

When asked how come no condor deaths have ever been reported at the existing Tehachapi wind farm, Mark is quick to reply: “the fact that none were reported does not mean that none have been killed. It is no secret that, in the wind business, some employees are making embarrassing evidence disappear. Even the renowned **Spanish Ornithological Society** recognized the fact.” (4)

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References:

(1) – An estimated 2,000 vultures are killed annually by wind turbines in Spain.
www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=2968

(2) – **Forbes Magazine**, January 16, 2012, “Wind VS. Bird”.
<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2012/0116/feature-mark-tholke-wind-farm-california-tehachapi-mountains.html>

Among other quotes: “**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists**, meanwhile, have told county officials and developers that most of the multibillion-dollar projects on the drawing board, as well as at least one existing wind farm, threaten the condor,

according to **agency records FORBES obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request.**”

(3) – **Video** of a turkey vulture perched on a moving turbine: <http://www.epaw.org/multimedia.php?lang=en&article=b3>

- **Video** of a griffon vulture struck as it circles: <http://www.epaw.org/multimedia.php?lang=en&article=b2>

(4) – **The Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO/Birdlife)** wrote (translation): we were able to verify the occulting of bird carcasses by wind farm employees, who perhaps thought that their jobs depended upon the number of birds being killed in their wind farms, and that behaviour reduces the mortality rate shown in monitoring studies.

Keepers of the Blue Ridge

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HELP PROTECT OUR RIDGE TOPS FROM DESTRUCTION BY THE WIND INDUSTRY

Photo Gallery

Wind Energy is NO FRIEND to the environment.



Commercial wind projects cause considerable collateral damage. A single turbine requires clear cutting 3-5 acres to provide room for construction and to reduce wind turbulence during operation. Loss of interior forest habitat is even greater, 15-20 acres per turbine. Interior forest, defined as forest habitat that is more than 100 meters from a clearing, is essential for maintaining viable populations of many birds and wildlife. It is often necessary to blast bedrock which has the potential to disrupt water flow to existing wells downhill.



The 3 sections of the wind turbine's tower on the ground are each nearly 100 ft. long.





The small narrow roads in rural communities are not designed to withstand tractor trailers carrying up to 80 metric tons, and can result in horrible road damage. The cost of repairing this damage will of course be passed on to the taxpayer.





Transporting turbine blades.



The North Carolina Coast is a target for the wind industry too.



Wind Towers are subject to metal fatigue and the effects of ice and wind, parts and whole blades have torn off because of malfunction, flying as far as 8 kilometers and through the window of a home in one case. Whole towers have collapsed in Germany (as recently as 2002) and the U.S. (e.g. Oklahoma, May 2005)



**"I can think of no proposed project more devastating to fish and wildlife, and the local economy than plunking a wind farm in the middle of the Nantucket Sound."
- Ted Williams, Audubon Magazine (May 5, 2004)**



The U.S Fish and Wildlife Services estimate that European wind power kills 37 birds per turbine per year. Extrapolating that figure to 50 turbines equals the potential for a small wind plant to kill almost 20,000 birds over a 10 year period.



Turbine related fires are not uncommon. A single turbine may contain up to 200 gallons of oil; the transformer at the base of each turbine may contain another 500 gallons of oil. In rural areas even a spark can easily develop into a large fire before discovery is made and fire-fighting can begin.

**"To the Wind Industry and Wind Developers, rural America is no different than a third world country. They enrich a few landowners, pay for a school or fire truck, persuade some of the locals with their good intentions, pit the rest of the people against each other, then they take what they want."
- Eric Rosenbloom, Vermont Writer and science editor.**



The Wind Industry, Wind Developers, and a few land owners get rich at tax payers expense and force the rest of the community to become a live in power plant.



Suggested Videos

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Wind farm noise does harm sleep and health, say scientists

Wind farm noise causes “clear and significant” damage to people’s sleep and mental health, according to the first full peer-reviewed scientific study of the problem.



Research has proved there windfarms can have a direct impact on sleep and mental health Photo: GETTY



By [Andrew Gilligan](#)

9:00PM GMT 03 Nov 2012

 [679 Comments](#)

American and British researchers compared two groups of residents in the US state of Maine. One group lived within a mile of a wind farm and the second group did not.

Both sets of people were demographically and socially similar, but the researchers found major differences in the quality of sleep the two groups enjoyed.

The findings provide the clearest evidence yet to support long-standing complaints from people living near turbines that the sound from their rotating blades disrupts sleep patterns and causes stress-related conditions.

The study will be used by critics of wind power to argue against new turbines being built near homes and for existing ones to be switched off or have their speed reduced, when strong winds cause their noise to increase.

The researchers used two standard scientific scales, the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index, which measures the quality of night-time sleep, and the Epworth Sleepiness Scale, which measures how sleepy people feel when they are awake.

“Participants living near industrial wind turbines had worse sleep, as evidenced by significantly greater mean PSQI and ESS scores,” the researchers, Michael Nissenbaum, Jeffery Aramini and Chris Hanning, found.

“There were clear and significant dose-response relationships, with the effect diminishing with increasing log-distance from turbines.”

The researchers also tracked respondents’ “mental component scores” and found a “significant” link – probably caused by poor-quality sleep – between wind turbines and poorer mental health.

More than a quarter of participants in the group living near the turbines said they had been medically diagnosed with depression or anxiety since the wind farm started. None of the participants in the group further away reported such problems.

Each person was also asked if they had been prescribed sleeping pills. More than a quarter of those living near the wind farm said they had. Less than a tenth of those living further away had been prescribed sleeping pills.

According to the researchers, the study, in the journal *Noise and Health*, is the first to show clear relationships between wind farms and “important clinical indicators of health, including sleep quality, daytime sleepiness and mental health”.

Unlike some common forms of sleep-disturbing noise, such as roads, wind turbine noise varies dramatically, depending on the wind direction and speed. Unlike other forms of variable noise, however, such as railways and aircraft, it can continue for very long periods at a time. The nature of the noise — a rhythmic beating or swooshing of the blades — is also disturbing. UK planning guidance allows a night-time noise level from wind farms of 42 decibels – equivalent to the hum made by a fridge.

This means that turbines cannot be built less than 380-550 yards from human habitation, with the exact distance depending on the terrain and the size of the turbines.

However, as local concern about wind farm noise grows, many councils are now drawing up far wider cordons. Wiltshire, for instance, has recently voted to adopt minimum distances of between 0.6 to 1.8 miles, depending on the size of the turbines.

Dr Lee Moroney, director of planning at the Renewable Energy Foundation, said: “The UK noise limits were drawn up 16 years ago, when wind turbines were less than half the current size. Worse still, the guidelines permit turbines to be built so close to houses that wind turbine noise will not infrequently be clearly audible indoors at night time, so sleep impacts and associated health effects are almost inevitable.

“This situation is obviously unacceptable and creating a lot of angry neighbours, but the industry and government response is slow and very reluctant. Ministers need to light a fire under their civil servants.”

The research will add to the growing pressure on the wind farm industry, which was attacked last week by the junior energy minister, John Hayes, for the way in which turbines have been “peppered around the country without due regard for the interests of the local community or their wishes”. Saying “enough is enough”, Mr. Hayes appeared to support a moratorium on new developments beyond those already in the pipeline.

He was slapped down by his Lib Dem boss, Ed Davey, the Energy Secretary, but is unlikely to have made his remarks without some kind of nod from the top of Government. George Osborne, the Chancellor, is known to be increasingly skeptical about the effectiveness of wind power, which is heavily subsidized but delivers relatively little reduction in carbon dioxide.

Wind farms generate about a quarter of their theoretical capacity because the wind does not always blow at the required speeds. Earlier this year, more than 100 Tory MPs urged David Cameron to block the further expansion of wind power.

Whatever the Government decides, however, may not matter.

The Sunday Telegraph has learnt that the EU will shortly begin work on a new directive which may impose a binding target for further renewable energy, mostly wind, on the UK. There is already a target, which is also Government policy, that 20 per cent of energy should come from renewables by 2020.

But Brussels is considering imposing an even higher mandatory target to be met over the following decade, according to Gunther Oettinger, the EU energy commissioner. “I want an interesting discussion on binding targets for renewables by 2030,” he said earlier this year.

Two weeks ago, a senior member of his staff, Jasmin Battista, said that Mr Oettinger was “open to” forced targets, though no decision had been made.

The European Parliament has voted for mandatory increases in renewables by 2030 and Mr Davey has also said he favours them. The issue will be considered at a European Council of Ministers meeting next month.

Wind Farm Called Giant Pain in the Neck

By MARLENE KENNEDY Courthouse News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CN) - Dozens of neighbors of a \$200 million wind farm sued the companies behind it, claiming noise and lights give them migraines, make them nervous and keep them up at night.

[Read Courthouse News' Environmental Law Review.](#)

Their dogs bark too much, dairy cows are less productive, and TV and Internet services are interrupted, the 60 plaintiffs claim in Albany County Supreme Court.

All live within a mile of the Hardscrabble Wind Power Project, northeast of Utica in the rural communities of Fairfield, Middleville and Norway.

Iberdrola USA and a slew of affiliates are named as defendants, along with Hardscrabble Wind Power, Atlantic Wind USA and affiliates, engineering consultant CHM2 Hill and staff acoustical engineer Mark Bastasch.

The property owners claim the defendants "carelessly and negligently failed to adequately assess and/or test the site of the Hardscrabble project to determine whether the subject project would be feasible and/or produce reasonable benefits to the community."

They say the wind farm - with 37 turbines that stand 476 feet tall - is too large, too noisy and too close to their homes.

The 74-megawatt project began producing electricity in January 2011, according to the website of Iberdrola Renewables, an affiliate of Iberdrola USA. The project is touted as "home-grown" because the blades and tower sections for the turbines were made in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Iberdrola USA, which provides gas- and electricity-delivery services to 2.4 million customers in New York and New England, is a subsidiary of Spain's largest utility, Iberdrola S.A., which owns hydroelectric, fossil-fueled, nuclear and renewable power-generation facilities worldwide.

The plaintiffs accuse the companies of negligence, private nuisance, trespass and strict products liability. They seek punitive damages, saying that "all of the defendants acted willfully, recklessly, were grossly negligent, and/or acted with a conscious disregard with regard to each of the allegations set forth in this complaint."

The 49-page complaint details a litany of damages from each plaintiff, from headaches and stress to sediment in drinking water and airport-like noises.

Plaintiff Diane Abele says she has lost profits from her dairy farm "because the cows have been less productive since defendants built the turbines."

Plaintiffs Bernadette Baylor and Richard Baylor Jr. say they have been unable to sell their house and land since the wind turbines were installed. They claim that because of the turbines' noise, they abandoned their home, now rent another, and were forced to file for bankruptcy.

Plaintiffs Andrew McEvoy and Theresa McEvoy bought their property in 2002 and 2 years later bought alpacas "with the intention of building an alpaca farm," according to the complaint. But since the

turbines were built, they suspended the operation, into which they had invested "considerable time and money."

Plaintiff June Salamone "has increased headaches, nervous/tension feelings of panic and anxiety, dizziness, and sleep disturbance due to the wind turbines," the complaint states. "The thumping and whooshing sounds from the turbines permeates through plaintiff June Salamone's body" and she "cannot get an uninterrupted night of sleep."

All of the plaintiffs claim they have "suffered a significant loss of use and enjoyment" of their property and "a negative impact on the value of the property."

They say the wind farm operated at just 22.8 percent of capacity last year, "contrary to the intent and purpose of creating significant renewable energy," as the defendants proposed.

They also claim the wind farm was built "because of huge governmental subsidies to the benefit of the defendants" and "little or no benefit to the public."

The plaintiffs worry that "when the turbines become old and no longer function ... Herkimer County may be left looking like a vast industrial junkyard."

Rural Herkimer County, just east of Utica, includes large swaths of the Adirondack Mountains.

"Plaintiffs allege that all of the defendants have caused significant damage to the plaintiffs and that such damage is substantial, irreparable, and was proximately caused by the acts of the defendants as set forth in this complaint."

The plaintiffs are represented by Jeff DeFrancisco and Melody Scalfone, with DeFrancisco & Falgiatano in Syracuse.