

## Noyes, Thomas G. (DNREC)

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**From:** Geoffrey Pohanka <gpohanka@pohanka.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 09, 2017 5:43 PM  
**To:** Noyes, Thomas G. (DNREC)  
**Subject:** wind power.....working group public comments

Dear Mr. Noyes,

I would like to add my comments for the offshore wind working group's study of options for Delaware coastal wind power.

I have owned a home at the beach located at 25 Surfside Drive, Bethany Beach DE 19930 since the late 1970s. I am very concerned that the construction of wind turbines that will be visible from the beach will have a negative impact on the value of my home and on the local economy. While I do not rent my home I believe that those who do will experience reduced demand and rental income if the wind turbines are located closer than twenty-four miles from the coastline.

The primary industry along the shore is tourism. Most vacationers as well as property owners do not want to look out over the horizon and view six hundred foot tall wind turbines. Does one need to destroy nature to try and save it? Imagine someone who owns a condo on the twelfth floor of Sea Colony in Bethany Beach. They probably worked all their lives to be able to purchase it and then have the time to enjoy it. The visibility of an offshore wind farm that is closer than 24 miles distant will be even more disturbing from such a height.

A study by North Carolina State University found that wind farms located near shore would have a big (negative) impact on coastal tourism. Many beach goers are likely to stop coming to Delaware in the summer and instead travel other coastal areas such as in New Jersey or the Carolinas where the ocean view remains free of dozens of man made wind towers.

The cost of offshore generated wind power is often the most expensive form of energy. This high cost energy will replace lower cost energy, making Delaware a more expensive place to live and work. This could cost Delaware jobs since energy costs make up a significant portion of the cost of manufacturing. The jobs created by the construction of the wind turbines will mostly be short term. Long term jobs will consist of a few maintenance positions. The wind turbines will cost the state more jobs than they create.

Wind power does not replace conventionally fueled power plants since wind is erratic and unpredictable. Existing power plants must remain operational in the event that the wind stops blowing. Germany heavily relies on wind power but has yet to significantly reduce its CO2 emissions because of this. German electricity also costs at least three times more than in the USA.

The benefits of offshore wind power are few ,if any.

The negatives are quite large. Is it worth the risk to potentially destroy the one industry that is renewable....coastal tourism.

I hope not.

Geoffrey Pohanka

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