Protect Our Water Economy and Resources

Who We Are:

Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition is non-profit organization of concerned citizens, residents and business owners, committed to protecting Lake Michigan, one of our state and nation's greatest natural resources. We oppose any industrial offshore wind power plant proposals that could negatively impact Lake Michigan's waters, regional economy, shoreline ecosystem, and quality of life. Through education, research, and public dialogue we will work with elected officials to protect Lake Michigan and surrounding communities while encouraging safer, more efficient, clean energy solutions and jobs for Michigan's future.

Our Position:

First and foremost we want to protect Lake Michigan - **No Mistake in the Lake**. We believe Havgul-Scandia, or any entity proposing wind power plants in Lake Michigan, must be held to the best available technological standards in construction, operation and decommissioning. Any technology used throughout the lifetime of offshore wind factories must be thoroughly demonstrated to be safe, reliable, cost effective and nonpolluting, **prior** to permitting. All phases, from zoning, to construction through decommission, must be in compliance with the best available scientific standards and federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to the long-term safety of our water, economy and environment. Wind developers must demonstrate the proven financial ability to undertake the project as well as pay for any damage to the Lake's ecosystems, shoreline, and all decommissioning expenses.

Our Concerns:

Public Trust Violation

- Currently, the revised Aegir projects propose allocating - two 50 square mile areas of "public trust" bottom land in Lake Michigan for use by private, for-profit corporations, without competitive bidding,

Environmental Hazards

- Lake Michigan and its associated dune and wetland ecosystems are a unique ecological resource -- one of our state and nation's greatest natural treasures. Many millions of taxpayer dollars are being spent to restore our Great Lakes – most recently $10 million to restore contaminated Muskegon Lake, one of many federal Areas of Concern.
- Industrial power plants in the midst of this fragile freshwater ecosystem could degrade or destroy vital habitat for migratory birds and other pollinators, bats, waterfowl, fish and other marine life. Bats, for example, are susceptible to death by barotraumas.
- Each turbine contains up to 200 gallons of lubricant – what would happen to our Lake's freshwater if there were a leak? How would a turbine be repaired in winter if ice caused it to malfunction?

Safety Hazards

- The projects pose a potential risk to the thousands of recreational boaters who use our local harbors for their livelihood and leisure - a possible "accident waiting to happen."
- Additionally, in an article by Richard A. Kessler, published January 28, 2010, a Consumer's Energy spokesperson was quoted* citing concerns about ice in Lake Michigan as a reason NOT to install wind turbines there.
  (*http://www.rechargenews.com/energy/wind/article204741.ece)

Aesthetic Pollution

- Each of the two Aegir Projects represents an expansive industrial complex of 50-100 5 MW or 10 MW wind turbines, which could each reach more than 500 feet tall, each project covering a 50 square mile area - each project larger than the city of Grand Rapids.
- Anticipated safety devices such as FAA required flashing lights, as well as Coast Guard required lighting and fog horns would cause visual, noise and light pollution.
- Turbine hubs (nacelles) can be as big as a bus on 5 MW units.

Economic Effects

- Locally we could be faced with tremendous economic losses for fishermen, tourism and other businesses, and a loss of property values and the tax base for the region.
- Because of the high cost of constructing, maintaining, and decommissioning offshore wind turbines, wind-generated electricity is extremely expensive.
- The proposed projects would be a net cost to the public, as its developers would receive many millions of our tax dollars in Government per kilowatt subsidies. A NY Times, April 26, 2010 article states "the current price tag for a fully installed offshore wind system is estimated at $4,600 a kilowatt, nearly double the $2,400-a-kilowatt price for a land-based wind system". "Production tax credits and other incentives have driven the cost of land-based wind power to less than 5 cents a kilowatt-hour in some places, and that's still more expensive than other sources like coal and hydropower".
- Wind energy DOES NOT replace coal, hydropower, or nuclear power plants. Wind is intermittent and requires cycling of reliable sources to compensate for its lack of consistency. Michigan DNRE is currently considering permitting a new clean coal power plant in Holland.

What Can You Do?

- We invite you to join us by becoming members, **v**olunteers, donors—or we hope--all three.
- Please contact us at info@protectwithpower.org or call 231-709-9231
- Visit www.protectwithpower.org and become a registered user so that you may receive notice of upcoming events of interest.
- Donate at our website or mail checks to: Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition, P.O. Box 772, Pentwater, MI 49449. Thank you!

For more information, please go to: www.protectwithpower.org