

COMMENTS

TO: BOCC
RE: WCLUDO Chapter 19
FROM: Gary Casady
DATE: January 18, 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Thank you for the privilege I have had of serving on the Commercial Energy Advisory Group for Wasco County Planning Department on the rewrite of Chapter 19 of WCLUDO. I would like to submit the following comments regarding the proposed current version of Chapter 19.

Section 19.030 A. 1. c. (1) Review Process. Review Authority.

If BOCC is designated by EFSC to provide information that will assist EFSC to make the best informed decisions possible, it follows that provision for comment and appeal would be a wise way to gather important information. I therefore recommend that such provision be made in this review process.

Section 19.030 D. 1. c. (3) Setbacks. Resource Zone Dwellings.

I propose the following setback language: "Wind turbines shall be setback a minimum of 1.5 miles from all resource zone approved dwellings utilized as permanent residence for individuals and families. If it is deemed that a particular project requires waivers in order to be viable, such waivers may be requested."

I recommend this for the following reasons. This proposal properly addresses the siting issue in a way that meets the needs and goals of all parties concerned:

1. The vision of Wasco County, "To preserve and enhance the beauty, livability, and economy of Wasco County."
2. The stated goals of Chapter 19 of WCLUDO
 - Encourage renewable energy production
 - Utilize clear and objective standards
 - Establish a clear, consistent and accountable application process
 - Collaborate and coordinate with agencies and other stakeholders
 - Protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Wasco County; and protect the resources identified in the Wasco County Comprehensive Plan.
 - Focus development in areas which minimize conflict with other permitted uses
 - Protect investments in property by ensuring that incompatible uses do not occur on adjacent properties
3. Gives equal protection to residents of both resource zones and non-resource zones
4. Clearly shows where development can and cannot be done. It eliminates potential ambiguities.
5. Addresses the issues raised in the newly released Strategic Health Impact Assessment on Wind Energy Development in Oregon by the Office of Environmental Public Health, Oregon Public Health Division. Consider the

following quotes from this document: “There is some evidence that wind turbine sound is more noticeable, annoying, and disturbing than other community or industrial sounds at the same level of loudness.” (p.6,49) “The new sound level could be perceived as approximately four times louder than background sound levels. Typically an increase in long-term sound levels of this magnitude would be expected to cause widespread annoyance and complaints.” (p. 8, 48) “Sound from wind energy facilities in Oregon could potentially impact people’s health and well-being if it increases background sound levels by more than 10 dBA . . .the potential impact from wind turbine sound could range from moderate disturbance to serious annoyance, sleep disturbance and decreased quality of life. Chronic stress and sleep disturbance could increase risks for cardiovascular disease, decreased immune function, endocrine disorders, mental illness and other factors.” (p 51).

6. Addresses the concerns of the majority of citizens of Wasco County as demonstrated in the attached petition. The petition I am submitting speaks loudly that the citizens of Wasco County are in agreement of the 1.5 mile setback. 181 people have signed this petition. Imagine 181 people in this room requesting for a 1.5 mile setback. I was honestly surprised at the eagerness with which people signed this petition. I talked face to face with 109 of these people, each for a period of 15-45 minutes. (The remaining 72 signatures were obtained by my colleagues.) Keep in mind this was door to door, in the spare moments I could muster together. The vast majority of these people did not know me at all. The 181 signatures are the result of 188 contacts. Statistically, this is 97% of the people contacted being in favor of a 1.5 mile setback. The six who did not sign gave the following reasons:
 - One said, “I am sick and tired of this (expletive deleted) Scenic Area (expletive deleted).”
 - One said, “I have simply come to hate ordinances and regulations of any kind.”
 - Two were maintenance people on an area wind energy facility.
 - One lady said, “My son is a supervisor for Siemens. He would hang me if I even thought of signing such a thing.”
 - One was a Wasco County employee.

Taken as a sample of Wasco County, I believe it is safe to say that at least 90% of the citizens of Wasco County agree that wind towers should be a minimum of 1.5 miles from all residence in all zones.

Respectively submitted,

Gary L. Casady

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