

# The Ghost of Enron

To understand the current “wind farm” craze, look no further than the late Ken Lay and his Enron



Wind subsidiary, touted prior to exposure of their fraud and bankruptcy as “the world’s only fully-integrated wind power company”. In 1999, lobbyists for Enron Wind and others helped push Senate Bill 7 through the Texas Legislature, taking the first steps in “deregulating” our electric bills to the mercy of their “free market”, and requiring that utilities purchase 2,000 mega-watts of their expensive and unreliable “renewable” energy.

Wind power, however, did not die with Enron. It lives today, promoted by powerful corporate and financial interests, feeding off federal tax credits and accelerated

tax write-offs. General Electric (GE) purchased Enron’s wind turbine manufacturing business, while Florida Power and Light (FPL) and others purchased Enron’s wind farm projects and adopted their business model. All now push for expanded tax credits. They succeeded last year in extending the inflation-adjusted 10-year federal production tax credit (now \$.019/kWh) to projects starting-up through 2007, and in raising the “renewable” energy purchase requirement in Texas to over 5,000 mega-watts by 2015.

In pursuit of the tax-subsidized high-returns, FPL industrial wind projects are now threatening to destroy the scenic areas of Cooke and Montague Counties north of D-FW, as they have in southern Taylor County near Abilene, where outraged ranchers and landowners have filed a lawsuit seeking damages. Monstrous wind projects destroy our environment, while pretending to be saving it.

Is wind power the “clean and free” energy solution claimed by its promoters? Is it going to replace a single fossil fuel or nuclear plant? The answer, unfortunately, is “No”. The basic problem is that Low Wind = No Electricity. Our wind is too low to produce any electricity up to 35 % of the time. Unpredictable, unreliable wind generated electricity can never exceed the amount of our grid’s instantly available, conventionally-powered back-up reserve capacity (12.5% of peak load demand), or brownouts and blackouts would result. The lights would go out whenever the wind died down. It can never be more than a grossly inefficient and expensive, minor player in meeting our electrical needs. The money would be better spent on cleaning-up our reliable coal plants, building new and safer nuclear plants, improving the efficiency of air conditioners, lights, and industrial equipment, and promoting conservation. But that would be hard work for only modest profits. Wind power is a feel-good, phony solution to our very real energy and environmental problems that remain unaddressed. For Enron, it was just another opportunity to manipulate the legislature, to restructure the system in order to loot the public.

We can’t look to our federal, state, or county governments to save us from these cynical pseudo-environmentalists. There are presently no regulations governing their activities in Texas. No hearings, no permits, no set-backs, no requirement that they tell the truth. Our only hope is to educate our neighbors to the facts about wind power, the squandering of investment capital, and the destruction wrought to our quality of life by these needless and irresponsible projects.

**Please help, before it’s too late. We know you love this area as much as we do.**



**The North Texas Wind Resistance Alliance**

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