

12-0034-E-C

12 Prospect Street  
Elkins, WV 26241  
February 20, 2012

Sandra Squire, Executive Secretary  
Public Service Commission of West Virginia  
201 Brooks Street, PO Box 812  
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

3 Protest Original (s)

Dear Secretary Squire:

Please investigate the massive bird kills done by huge industrial wind turbines on Laurel Mountain in Barbour and Randolph Counties last fall. As a member of the Brooks Bird Club, I believe it is my duty to let you know that this sort of destruction is not acceptable. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act [MBTA] protects birds against this sort of criminal violation.

The 400 foot turbines and the road that connects them have destroyed the natural environment on Laurel Mountain. That situation cannot be reversed, but citizens have a right to expect the Public Service Commission [PSC] to do everything possible to protect migratory birds. If it is a matter of turning off lights to avoid killing birds, AES should be required to take such action or pay large fines when they fail to do so.

More research needs to be done on the effect of wind turbines on birds. We know that the immense turbines endanger eagles and hawks soaring on the up drafts over the mountain tops (see Don Heintzelman [donsh@enter.net](mailto:donsh@enter.net), a specialist studying raptor migration patterns along the Appalachian wind corridor). Spinning blades entrap and kill thousands of the bats (see Tom Kunz, et al). How should we protect birds?

Providing renewable energy is an important national goal that can be achieved without further damage to the natural environment and historic preservation in West Virginia. However, the industrial-scale wind turbines have destroyed the natural ecology along 8,500 acres of ridge line on Laurel Mountain. They are harmful to the environmental health and historic tourism in our state. The PSC should stop preventable bird kills.

Please protect the migratory birds flying over the Laurel Mountain turbines and all other turbines in West Virginia.

Sincerely,

*Heather Roberts Biola*

Heather Roberts Biola, Ph.D.

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE 

P. O. Box 194  
Philippi, WV 26416

Ms. Sandra Squire  
Executive Secretary  
Public Service Commission of WV  
P. O. Box 812  
Charleston, WV 25323

Dear Ms. Squire:

I am writing in reference to the massive bird kill by wind turbines on Laurel Mountain. I've never been in favor of the wind turbines on our mountains. They distract from the beauty of the mountains, mountains that define us in West Virginia. There are other factors that do not benefit us as well. A friend of mine said as we drove to Elkins one day, "aren't those (wind turbines) beautiful?" I, very emphatically, said "no." I am sad that she cannot see the implications of such but I am gladdened by the fact that people like those associated with the Laurel Mountain Preservation Association do know and care. Also, from what I understand, we will not benefit financially for all the years that they remain on our mountains. Many times, we tend to put financial interests above our ecological interests, which can be harmful "in the long run."

However, I am still opposed to the wind turbines that are responsible for such large losses of birds and I support a full investigation of the massive bird kill (PSC Case Number 12-0034-E-C).

Thank you for anything you can do to provide support for this bill.

Sincerely,

  
Shirley J. Daniels

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PO Box 192

Franklin, WV 26807

February 21, 2012

Ms. Sandra Squire, Executive Secretary  
Public Service Commission of West Virginia  
P.O. Box 812  
Charleston, WV 25323

Re: PSC Case Number 12-0034-E-C

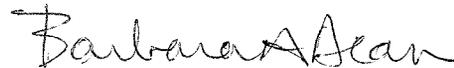
Dear Ms. Squire,

I am writing this letter as an appeal to you to do whatever you can to stop the massive killing of endangered and protected birds by the AES wind project on Laurel Mountain. Please do listen and respond appropriately to the voluminous protests from the public, and especially to the information provided by the USFWS regarding AES' failure to comply with the MBTA.

These birds are our national resource and must be protected. Their demise, particularly at the expense of a scientifically proven failed technology called "wind energy" is unthinkable. Please do what you can in support of the Public Service Commission, the public, and our children and grandchildren, and ensure that the right choices are made.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Dean  
304-358-2755