

NYSERDA Conference Comments by John Droz (12/12/07)

Good morning. My name is John Droz, and I live on Brantingham Lake in the western part of the Adirondacks.

As you know, all of us here wear different hats at different times. One minute you are a parent, the next a sibling, later an employee, then a doctor's patient. I mention this as these multiple perspectives can sometimes get us confused. At least I know I can be.

So, although I am a NYS resident and taxpayer, I am here today primarily wearing three other different but related hats. I am a **physicist** who is used to investigating complex issues (like wind power) in a thorough, organized, and logical manner.

I am a **financial expert**. I've taught many financial management classes. Through my own ideas I was able to retire at 34 from a management job at GE. I am now one of the leading people in the state working on trying to fix the NYS property tax assessment situation.

I am also an **environmental activist**, and have worked on a variety of environmental issues for some 25 years — like improving lake and groundwater quality standards in NYS.

I also happen to be one of the foremost experts in the state on septic systems. A wag might say that my extensive experience in dealing with effluent gave me a substantial head start in understanding the wind power business, which is currently my main focus. *Who knows?*

Anyway, as a scientist, economist and environmentalist I am **opposed** to industrial wind power. The fundamental reason for this is that **wind power fails to deliver the goods**.

By this I mean that:

- 1) wind power is **not** a scientifically sound solution to help with global warming, and
- 2) wind power is **not** a financially viable source of energy on its own, and
- 3) wind power is **not** environmentally responsible.

Those three basic criteria haven't been selected to make wind power look bad, as they should be used to evaluate the legitimacy of **any** proposed new alternative source of energy.

Maybe it has been too long since I got out of graduate school, but my recollection of how science is *supposed* to work is this:

When a new idea is proposed as a potential solution of a problem, it is up to the solution proponents to PROVE its efficacy — *not the other way around*.

Here we have businessmen and investors proposing wind power as part of an energy "solution" to global warming. So the ball is in their court as to providing independent, objective **proof** that it is a viable solution from all pertinent perspectives. NOT HAPPENED.

I can fully appreciate the predicament that RPS (<www.dps.state.ny.us/03e0188.htm>) puts NYSERDA into, but that is a **political** problem. This political quandary does not absolve NYSERDA from their charter responsibility (see reverse, emphasis is mine), and that is:

to present energy issues to the NYS public in an objective and balanced manner.

So far NYSERDA's presentation of wind power has **not** been **objective or balanced** (e.g. <www.powernaturally.org/Programs/Wind/toolkit.asp>). I am here today — *now wearing the hat of an optimist* — in hopes that this can be immediately fixed.

Thank you.

[For MUCH more information on any of this, please feel free to contact me at "aapjohn@northnet.org" or 315-348-8428/-8551.]

About NYSERDA

(ref <<<http://text.nyserda.org/About/default.asp>>>)

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is a **public benefit corporation** created in 1975 under Article 8, Title 9 of the State Public Authorities Law through the reconstitution of the New York State Atomic and Space Development Authority. NYSERDA's earliest efforts focused solely on research and development with the goal of reducing the State's petroleum consumption. Subsequent research and development projects focused on topics including **environmental effects of energy consumption**, development of renewable resources, and advancement of innovative technologies.

Currently, NYSERDA primarily **is funded by state rate payers** through the System Benefits Charge (SBC). These SBC funds were allocated towards energy-efficiency programs, research and development initiatives, low-income energy programs, and environmental disclosure activities. Part of this funding went into the creation of New York Energy SmartSM which helps to maintain momentum for the State's efforts to develop competitive markets for energy efficiency; demand management; outreach and education services; research development, and demonstration; low-income services; and **to provide direct economic and environmental benefits to New Yorkers**.

NYSERDA strives to facilitate change through the widespread development and use of innovative technologies to improve the State's energy, economic, and **environmental** well-being. In fulfilling its mission, NYSERDA's workforce reflects its public service orientation, **PLACING A PREMIUM ON OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS** and collaboration, as well as reaching out to **SOLICIT MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES** and share information.

NYSERDA is committed to public service, striving to be a model of efficiency and effectiveness, while remaining flexible and responsive to its customers' needs. NYSERDA's programs and services provide a vehicle for the State to work collaboratively with businesses, academia, industry, the federal government, environmental community, public interest groups, and energy market participants. Through these collaborations, NYSERDA seeks to develop a diversified energy supply portfolio, improve market mechanisms, and facilitate the introduction and adoption of advanced technologies that will help New Yorkers plan for and respond to uncertainties in the energy markets.

NYSERDA is governed by a board consisting of **13 members**, including the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Chair of the Public Service Commission, and the Chair of the Power Authority of the State of New York. The remaining nine members are appointed by the Governor of the State of New York with the advice and consent of the Senate and include, as required by statute, an engineer or research scientist, an economist, **an environmentalist, a consumer advocate**, an officer of a gas utility, an officer of an electric utility, and three at-large members.