



## Bill Morehouse

P.O. Box 122, Beechner Road  
Cohocton, New York 14826

*Please keep our hills and sky turbine-free*

[www.cohoctonfree.com](http://www.cohoctonfree.com)

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Dear Gregory,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter and interest in your home town's situation. I agree with you that the wind power issue "has taken a grip on Cohocton" and is generating a lot of controversy. After conceding that most people wouldn't want any kind of industrial power plant in their neighborhood, you ask two bottom line questions:

- 1) "But, if you had to have a choice between a nuclear reactor, a coal plant, a dam, or a wind turbine, which would you prefer?" and
- 2) "But, what form of power generation would you be willing to accept in Cohocton?"

Of course, as you go on to point out, Cohocton lacks the natural resources necessary to support industrial nuclear, coal, or hydro power. And actually, I would add, our wind resources aren't really ideal either.

But the question I have is this, Why should Cohocton be interested in being the site of an industrial power plant at all? Western New York is already supplying far more clean electricity to the grid than we are consuming through our hydro plant at Niagara Falls and nuclear plant in Rochester. In addition, Cohocton is a residential, agricultural, and recreational community that is known regionally for its unspoiled natural beauty. As you point out so eloquently, "There are very few places that have the charm that Cohocton does." Why do we want to permanently spoil this with 52+ giant industrial wind turbines?

The answer, I believe, is several-fold. First, we weren't interested in the slightest until a few landowners started having private conversations with wind speculators and some money appeared on the table – not much, but enough to spark an interest. Second, a group of local citizens began to buy into the growing global warming panic that's making the rounds and has been drawn into a "we're going to help save the planet" frame of mind. Third, your home town has become badly polarized into pro and con factions, and people in the YES faction don't want those nasty people in the NO faction to win.

It's a sad situation, Gregory, because I personally think the whole wind power thing is an energy scam, fueled by venture capitalists – some well-intentioned and others just interested in the money – who are running with the latest fad science and preying on vulnerable communities like ours. Wind power is unreliably variable, out of phase with our energy needs, costly to build on a per usable MW basis, more expensive than other energy sources, much noisier and more environmentally intrusive than advertised, promoted with highly questionable tactics, and generally not what the doctor ordered.

So my bottom line response to your questions about developing industrial power in Cohocton is: We don't have to make a choice of which kind to have. We can and should choose to remain a community that doesn't have an industrial power plant of any sort in it. Thanks for writing. Please let me know what you think as you continue your research into these matters.

God bless you in your studies and career!

[bill@cohoctonfree.com](mailto:bill@cohoctonfree.com)

(585) 314-1144