Hope or Hype?

According to a press release published on the YES! Weblog, Clipper Windpower has signed a contract with a subsidiary of UPC Wind to supply 50 Clipper 2.5 MW wind turbines for projects UPC plans to develop in the northeastern U.S. during 2007. People locally have apparently been told these are for Cohocton. The article goes on to say, "UPC Wind is one of the world's largest and most successful wind power companies. Formed in 2001 to pursue wind energy development, financing, construction, operation and ownership in North America, it is currently developing over 3,000 MW of wind power projects."

How much of this announcement should we believe?
- 3000/2.5 = 1200+ turbines UPC is supposedly "developing," of which 42+ are slated for Cohocton. We wonder how many of UPC's other projects have been told the 50 Clipper turbines are for them. And just where are all the rest of these projects?

- We're told that UPC "is one of the world's largest and most successful wind power companies." But can anyone point to even one turbine UPC has actually erected in the continental US?
- How long will unsubstantiated promises be accepted as truth?

It seems that folks in the YES group will believe almost anything UPC Wind tells them, and we're sure UPC has more promises to back up these. But what about the rest of us? Many of us are not ready to allow the intrusive, noisy, unsightly industrialization of our hills in exchange for UPC's inflated promises of money, jobs, social relevance, and saving the planet. We just don't believe their stories.

Would you like to read more about this? Stop by and check us out online at www.cohoctonfree.com. While you're there, be sure to visit our "Updates" section. We keep hoping that more and more people will wake up and see what's happening in our community for what it is. We appeal to our Town leaders to declare a Moratorium and open a genuine community dialogue with all of our citizens, both pro and con.

