

## How Much Noise?

An article in the *Bangor Daily News* last month reports the reaction of neighbors when the **new Mars Hill Project** turbines were started up: "They turned on tower Number 9, and almost immediately it made enough noise that it was like, 'Oh my gosh, that can't be right,'" Wendy Todd said. "It all depends on the wind speed and direction, but the best way to describe it is you step outside and look up thinking there's an airplane. It's **like a high-range jet, high-low roar**, but with the windmills, there's a sort of on and off 'phfoop... phfoop... phfoop' noise." That's one "phfoop" or more every two seconds as the turbine's three blades rotate from 10 to 22 revolutions per minute.

### ***What does this have to do with us in Cohocton?***

***- Mars Hill - "the biggest wind power operation to come to New England" - is UPC Wind's first project on the US mainland and has 28 much smaller turbines than the ones proposed for Cohocton.***

***- "That is competitively sensitive information that we are not at liberty to share," UPC public representative Ric Tyler said.***

***- "I don't know if they saw it, but it was in the permit," Mars Hill Town Manager Ray Mersereau said. "Not everyone, including myself, read every part of the permit."***

The article goes on: **The noise is loud** enough, Todd said, that she can hold her cell phone outside her home and the person on the other end of the call can **clearly hear the sound...** "One night, I kept wondering why the furnace wouldn't shut off and then I realized it wasn't that, it was the windmills outside," Merle Cowperthwaite said. He feels particularly pessimistic... "The only thing we've got going for us is we're getting older and that means we're getting deafer," he said.

**Is this what we want on our hills?** For more background, stop by and check us out online at [www.cohoctonfree.com](http://www.cohoctonfree.com). Visit our "Updates" section for links to the full *Bangor News* article and other relevant items. Ponder and test our ideas before you make up your mind.

