Parade of Lies

The Ironworkers' Business Agent in Rochester, Mike Altonberg, is one of the latest people locally to have his eyes opened up to the deceptive business practices of UPC Wind. Many of us have been seeing their lies quite clearly over the past 18 months, while others continue to swallow lie after lie without even blinking their eyes. They continue to believe that UPC Wind is a company who will hold to their word, even when they have violated it over and over; that Chris Swartley is a man of ethics, even a prophet, not an industrial salesman of con-man proportions; and that UPC's promised PILOT payments are fair and just, not thinly disguised political bribery.

What lies are we talking about?

- That their turbine projects are agricultural enterprises ("farms" not industrial installations), built by a private firm that would never claim to be a public utility (unless it was to their advantage).
- That they are entitled to bribe our town with depreciated PILOT payments because their projects are supposedly "green" instead of paying taxes proportionate to the projects' earnings.
- That their projects will be quiet (based on patently fraudulent noise studies by Hessler, et al), not disruptive to the environment, and visually unobtrusive.
- That they will seek and obtain individual building permits for each tower before starting any construction, giving landowners the right to work out siting problems unit by unit.
- That their projects will be constructed by local workers, etc...

How can local people be so blind? Unfortunately, at least one Finger Lakes town will probably have to fall prey to this kind of corporate deception so that everyone in the region can see the results and keep the wind developers out of their area. It's sad that Cohocton may prove to be the "forerunner" in this way. Can't we wait and let someone else take the fall? Our hills, sky, and wind won't go away. Let's take back our Town this November. Visit us at www.cohoctonfree.com, check out our "Updates," and then help us recall Cohocton from the brink.

