

Is This a War?

Until this past spring very few of us in Cohocton had heard about UPC Wind's plans to develop a large industrial wind power plant on our hilltops. Then we received a friendly letter from the developer outlining their proposed project and inviting us to review their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) online and visit their new Community Outreach office downtown. Suddenly, an 800+ page proposal for a \$125,000,000 project was in front of us, asking for community input prior to approval. Landowners who had not been consulted began to recognize that this project had some serious deficiencies, and opposition began to develop.

Have you felt the level of tension rising since then?

- At first, leaseholders who thought the project was as good as approved expressed their opinion that approval should be a simple confirmation of their rights as landowners.

- Soon, however, angry accusations of "harassment" appeared and supporters began stealing yard signs, mounting an escalating ad campaign, ridiculing neighbors who disagree, withdrawing from open dialogue, and even arriving at public meetings armed.

- And lately the self-designated "Leader of the Pack" has begun describing his involvement in military terms.

We don't see things in quite such an inflammatory way. In our minds, this is not a war and our neighbors are not our enemies. There are legitimate differences of opinion being expressed and a legal project evaluation process outlined by the State that we all have to follow.

Would you like to think about this a bit further? Stop by and check us out online at www.cohoctonfree.com. We're some of your thoughtful neighbors and, along with you, we'd like to see our town have the best future possible. Ponder and test our ideas before you make up your mind. Then let our Town leaders know where you stand.

