

## Thump, thump, thump

Two weeks ago the Cohocton Planning Board uncritically accepted UPC Wind's FEIS (**Final Environmental Impact Statement**) without further review and appears to be poised to grant "Special Use Permits" (zoning variances) giving the developer local approval to go ahead as planned. Since then **we've seen the voluminous FEIS** and done a preliminary review of some of its revised findings.

### **What improvements does the FEIS contain?**

- *Absolutely none. Unsurprisingly, it's more of the same self-serving project justification that we've seen all along.*
- *Hessler's "new" noise study fails to correct its underlying fatal flaw: a totally inaccurate assessment of ambient noise (at least 5 dBA high). However, it does tell us that the Clipper turbines are much louder at the low thumping frequencies than previously estimated - up to 120 dBA - a fact that is glossed over in the sound projection contours.*
- *Revised visual impact studies note that the most dramatically negative impacts are where turbines are within ½ mile of the viewer (where most residents on the hills live). But simulations showing turbines this close are hard to find. Why? Won't fit on a page?*
- *Shadow flicker studies only measure impacts at one window in a house, not on the landscape within view of each dwelling.*
- *PILOT payment estimates - negotiations with SCIDA are still incomplete - keep getting smaller. What is SCIDA's status, anyway?*

**Are we really ready to approve this project?** If it gets past the legal, political, logistical, and economic hurdles that lie ahead with ongoing local concerns, the PSC, and **limited availability of Clipper turbines**, what will we have? Defaced hills cluttered with looming industrial machines that make **disturbing thumping noises** night after night. And the promised PILOT payments? How small will they turn out to be?

Visit us at [www.cohoctonfree.com](http://www.cohoctonfree.com), and make sure you come out to **this week's Planning Board meeting** on Wednesday night at 7 pm to find out how our leaders handle UPC's Special Use Permit request.

