Where is the Wind Blowing?

NYSERDA and NYISO commissioned a joint study back in 2003 to investigate the potential of wind power in New York State. GE Power Systems Energy Consulting did extensive research and published their preliminary results in a 128-page Phase I report in January 2004, followed by their final 171-page Phase II report in March 2005. In the meantime, UPC Wind was signing up leaseholders for a project in Cohocton. What did the NYSERDA reports conclude?

"The results show that the effective capacities, UCAP, of the inland wind sites in New York are about 10% of their rated capacities, even though their energy capacity factors are on the order of 30%. This is due to both the seasonal and daily patterns of the wind generation being largely 'out-of-phase' with NYISO load patterns. The offshore wind generation site near Long Island exhibits both annual and peak period effective capacities on the order of 40% - nearly equal to their energy capacity factors."

GE Energy Consulting, 3/4/05

Unfortunately, these findings weren't available to UPC Wind while they were developing their plans and have been conveniently ignored since then. In the year following the publication of this report, the developer has continued to forge ahead, promising energy output and estimated PILOT payments based on a 30% capacity rather than the more accurate 10% factor. If this project is approved locally, there will be lots of disappointed people in town, Albany, and on Wall Street.

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. Remember, there's always more than one side to a story. Ponder and test our ideas before you make up your mind.

