

Problems in the Winter?

We've lived in Upstate NY for a long while and pretty much gotten used to the winters here, which are the butt of many jokes around the country. We're used to **dealing with snow and ice**, sanding and salting the roads. We scoff when we read reports about places in warmer zones that become "paralyzed" when a few inches of snow fall. Bring it on, we say! **But then the Ice Storm hit in 1991**, followed by another one in 2003. This fall Buffalo is reeling from its own ice storm disaster. Could weather like this have **a negative effect on wind turbines**?

"Wind Power Production in Cold Climates" says Yes!

- The conference report from Finland is circulating in Wisconsin where the public service commission was forced to relocate homeowners living close to utility-owned turbines because of noise.***
- It says that icing and aerodynamic imbalance can have serious implications on the life of wind turbines, reducing their effective life span by 50% or more. Apparently the weight of icing, coupled with the deteriorating effect of repeated freeze-thaw cycles, causes the components to wear out much faster than usual.***
- Three wind farms in the United Kingdom have already been closed for safety reasons, all of which were tied to cold weather that resulted in metal fatigue in the turbine towers.***

Many places have cold winters, some a lot colder than ours, but we have an unusual combination of humidity and temperature that produces ice storms. **Nothing about this is addressed** in UPC Wind's proposal. What will happen when their towers and turbines begin to fail years ahead of schedule or **collapse** in another freak ice storm?

We think it's time for a Moratorium on wind power development in our area. There are too many unanswered questions. For more on this topic and others, visit us online at www.cohoctonfree.com. Browse around and visit the **new "Updates" section** of our site to read the latest news. Then let our local leaders know how you feel.

