

# Resolving NIMBY/Local Opposition in Wind Farm Developments

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February 12, 2004

Course 11.942

# Development of NIMBY and Institutions

- General understanding of the basic concepts underlying NIMBY
- Comprehending public reactions to the various process of wind farms planning and development
- NIMBYism is a local oppositional response to intrusive land uses
- NEPA is a structured mechanism with which to formerly address local concerns

## Historical View of NIMBY

- Irrational
- ↓
- Selfish
- ↓
- Prudent
  - Move beyond blaming the opposition

- 1) Not willing to accept any risks: just uncertain of the risks, just as experts are.
- 2) Self-interest – looking out to maximize one property value.
- 3) Organize resources to provide a different voice to scientific reports.

## Cognitive Liberation of NIMBY Movement

- Continual adjustment of opposition to respond to the problem
  - Chemical weapons disposal in Madison County, Kentucky
- How are issues defined
  - Framing of the Question
  - Approach and attitude of institutions affects credibility of opposition

1) This is not something that will go away once certain issues are addressed.

# Traditional and Untraditional Aspects of Wind Developments

- Traditional
  - Majority of impacts felt locally
  - Imposed from outside region
  - Broad-based support for abstract idea
  
- Untraditional
  - Local benefits to public health
  - Value of ascetics is main Issue
  - Divided support by environmental community
  - Once installed, increases acceptance controversial

## Common Arguments on Wind Developments

- Cons
  - Renewable energy cannot solve our energy problems
  - Wind turbines are unreliable and expensive
  - Wind turbines spoil the scenery and cause noise pollution
  - Wind Turbines kill birds
  
- Pro
  - Renewable energy is an alternative to other energy sources
  - Climate change must be taken seriously
  - Wind energy is limitless, non-polluting and safe

Wolinsk (2001)

# Attributes of Wind Developments

- Size of a project doesn't indicate any relevance to prediction of attitude (Erp 1997)
- Attitudes towards developer, local decision makers and decision process have significant impact on public attitude
- General lower acceptance of project under planning and construction phase, but attitudes change once project is finished
- Rural vs City Dwellers

## Further Complexities

- Sites developed have high value within the community
- Proposals develop rapidly with inadequate local consultation
- Lack of coordinated national planning policy



## Institutional Problems

- Institutions need to reflect these unique attributes of wind development
- Complex attitudes should be reflected in process design

## Steps to Address NIMBY

- Smaller scale, community based projects
- Means of compensation for local community
- Step learning curve