

OtS Graphics and Signs

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Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District – Sierra Front Field Office
Attn? New Comstock EIS Project Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

REF: Opposition to the New Comstock EIS Project

Good day:

I am writing this letter to advise you of my concerns and why I oppose the windmill project. I am not opposed to wind generated power as a concept, but I oppose the location of where they want to place the windmills.

1. VISUAL POLUTION:

Virginia City is a National Historic District and just received a federal designation as one of the twelve most distinctive historical places in the US to visit. People visit here for the scenery and the “old west” ambiance that both the town of Virginia City and the surrounding geography and terrain present. The scenic quality cannot be matched. To place 300 plus foot towers within visual distance of the community will disturb the visual quality and impact of the area.

2. NOISE POLUTION:

Audible levels of low frequency hums, “whooshes”, etc. will create sound pollution that be a constant annoyance to the residents of our community and will have an impact on the tourist trade not to want to return once they have been here.

3. V&T RR CORRIDOR VISUAL POLUTION:

Two counties, the state and the federal government have put a lot of money into the restoration project of the V&TRR. If any of these windmills can be either seen or heard from the railroad corridor between Virginia City and Carson City it will negatively impact the quality of the visual experience and thereby impact tourism.

4. SOUND TRAVEL:

Sound travels both up grade and down grade in the Virginia City area depending on such things as wind or lack thereof. Sound generated by the windmills will travel into the community as did their (surreptitious) test site in Bullion Canyon a year ago that generated much talk and curiosity about what the low frequency hums were that could be heard about town. A lot of investigation time went into trying to track down that low hum from their test site. (see articles in the *Comstock Chronicle*)

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Impact to the back country roads and trails which would be widened would generate increased off road/back road travel. Impacting potential for WILDFIRE, impact to NATURAL DRAINAGES, ANIMAL ECOSYSTEMS (deer, mountain lion, small animals, birds). Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles are just now gaining ground on re-habiting this area and the Virginia Range exactly where they want to put these windmills. These devices will deeply impact the eagle habitat in the area. Natural springs, riparian areas, migration patterns and possible impact to any endangered species in the area. Destruction and impairment of NATIVE VEGETATION and ground covers. SOIL EROSION due to access roads and windmill “footprints”.

6. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Earthquake damage to the structures would leave debris in the wildlands, possibly causing wildland fires, etc. This would have to be cleaned up by the county at county expense and be a danger to persons travelling in the area of the debris. Protection of the windmills from wildland fire would place impact on the fire services of both the county and the state. Snow loads and high wind impacts on the devices could be damaging or destructive.

7. ACCESS TO HISTORICAL SITES:

Access to historical sites in the area would be impaired and the visual impact to those historical sites (Jumbo) would be destructive. Increased ability to travel into back country will generate more vandalism to historic sites and ruins in the area.

8. TOURISM

Virginia City is solely dependant on tourism. As a business advertising cooperative and as a Tourism Authority we have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to promote, brand and attract tourists to this National Historic District. The impact to tourism would be devastating as a historic community. Negative impact to tourism will trickle down to impacting county government from a loss of sales taxes and business licensing to both the county and the state. Loss of businesses means loss of property taxes as well as loss of jobs; loss of residential and on and on. Loss of tax base means greater recessionary impact.

9. NATURAL STORM DRAINAGE

Natural drainages will be impacted by the increased travel in the area, enlarged roads, construction equipment, tower footprints and personnel in the area.

Windmills in this historic district that have **any** degree of visual or auditory impact will destroy this historic district as a viable historic district business community for tourism purposes....mark my words.

Again, I do not oppose windmill projects, in fact I am in favor of alternative energy sources but NOT in or near VIRGINIA CITY. Take them to the north end of Storey County at the industrial park where it belongs or out in Nevada's many empty valleys where there is plenty of wind and there is appropriate ground for such a project.

Sincerely,

Joe Curtis

Business Owner

Mark Twain Bookstore, C Street

OTS Graphics and Signs, C Street

Chief, Virginia City District Volunteer Fire Department

Secretary, Comstock Firemen's Museum (VFD)

Board of Directors: Virginia City Tourism Authority

Board of Directors: Comstock Cable Television System

Director, Storey County Department of Emergency Management

Chair, Storey County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Member, Storey County Board of Equalization