



December 4, 2009  
Letters, Oregon

## Tossing out ‘crumbs’

In response to Mr. Lewis’ letter regarding the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm, it is questionable as to where he obtained his statistics.

Horizon claims the 300-megawatt Antelope Ridge project will generate enough power for more than 90,000 homes, but Mr. Lewis stated it will generate enough power for 69,980 homes. Neither is correct since wind projects only provide power 10 percent to 21 percent of the time per the Department of Energy, which equates to approximately 18,900 homes for this project.

Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is nothing more than wind power propaganda. Per DOE only 1 percent of the electric power in the USA is generated by fossil fuels.

Regarding the jobs that have been generated due to wind power, most are temporary. History has shown long-term jobs are one for every 15 wind towers with many being specialized provided by the wind tower manufacture that travel in and out of the site. In fact, records show there are only two Horizon employees at Elkhorn.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports in 2008 that wind power was subsidized at \$23.34 per megawatt hour while natural gas at .25, coal at .44, hydro at .67 and nuclear at \$1.59. Wind power is the biggest recipient of tax dollars.

As for real estate devaluation, numerous studies across the U.S. have shown that property values drop as much as 26 percent for property within 5 miles of a wind tower. This was further substantiated when a questionnaire was sent out in a major wind farm area.

Odds are that wind towers will never be retrofitted after they become obsolete since there will be no tax subsidies and other more reliable sources will be available.

Wind farms rape our environment and take advantage of rural communities by tossing them a few crumbs of tax revenue while being awarded generous tax credits.

Dennis Wilkinson

Cove

La Grande Observer

[www.lagrandeobserver.com](http://www.lagrandeobserver.com) <sup>[1]</sup>

4 December 2009

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[1] [www.lagrandeobserver.com](http://www.lagrandeobserver.com): **<http://www.lagrandeobserver.com/Opinion/Letters/Letters-and-Comments-for-December-4-2009>**

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