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COMMENT #1

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General Comment

Just like a cow with lipstick and a bath is going to look much better than its unwashed fellow cow, but it is still a cow .

How 'GREEN' is the FOOTPRINT of a WIND TURBINE? Less clean than Gas or hydroelectric plants energy and bad for environment, bad for wildlife, bad for Humans. Uses more earth minerals than any other energy. Only works 17 to 35% of time..

NOT SAFE, Wind turbine requires an astounding amount of toxic rare earth minerals, primarily neodymium and dysprosium, which are key components of the magnets used in modern wind turbines. most common uses is in the generators . Environmental damages, consider that mining one ton of rare earth minerals produces about one ton of radioactive waste, according to the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security. 13,131 MW of wind generating capacity means that between 4.9 million pounds (using MIT's estimate) and 6.1 million pounds (using the Bulletin of Atomic Sciences estimate) of rare earths were used in wind turbines installed in 2012. 2 megawatt (MW) wind turbine contains about 800 pounds of toxic rare earths called neodymium and 130 pounds of dysprosium. mined by children in Africa and Chile..

NOT SAFE, Between 4.9 million and 6.1 million pounds of radioactive waste were created to make these wind turbines. That means the U.S. wind industry may create more radioactive waste in year than our entire nuclear industry produced in spent fuel. few are paying attention to the wind industrys less efficient and less transparent use of radioactive material via rare earth mineral excavation in China.

NOT SAFE, Not only do rare earths create RADIOACTIVE waste residue, but according to the Chinese Society for Rare Earths, one ton of calcined rare earth ore generates 9,600 to 12,000 cubic meters (339,021 to 423,776 cubic feet) of waste gas containing dust concentrate, hydrofluoric acid, sulfur dioxide, and sulfuric

acid, [and] approximately 75 cubic meters (2,649 cubic feet) of acidic wastewater. .

The wind industry is dependent on rare earth minerals imported from China, the procurement of which results in staggering environmental damages. not one step of the rare earth mining process that is not disastrous for the environment. That the destruction is mostly unseen and far-flung does not make it any less damaging. Wind energy poses serious environmental risks availability of REEs appears to be at risk based on a number of factors. Of particular significance, one country (China) controls 98% of current supply (production). Historically, much lower levels of market concentration have harmed manufacturing firms. in 1978 Zaire controlled 48% of the cobalt supply and yet political unrest in Zaire resulted in a disruption to global supply that became known as the Cobalt Crisis REEs have come under global scrutiny due to environmental and social conditions under which they are mined, further increasing their supply risk.

Each Turbine needs 45 tons of steel rebar and 630 cubic yards of concrete, cast iron, turbine contains more than 8,000 different components , 116-ft blades atop a 212-ft tower for a total height of 328 feet. The blades sweep a vertical airspace of just under an acre. Vestas V90 from Denmark has 148-ft blades (sweeping more than 1.5 acres) on a 262-ft tower, totaling 410 feet. The tallest wind turbines in the U.S. have been installed in Texas the Vestas V90 turbines are 345 feet high, Gamesa G87 from Spain, with 143-ft blades (just under 1.5 acres) on a 256-ft tower, totaling 399 feet. steel tower is anchored in a platform of more than a thousand tons of concrete and steel rebar, 30 to 50 feet across and anywhere from 6 to 30 feet deep. Shafts are sometimes driven down farther to help anchor it. Mountain tops must be blasted to create a level area of at least 3 acres. model, the nacelle alone weighs more than 56 tons, the blade assembly weighs more than 36 tons, and the tower itself weighs about 71 tons a total weight of 164 tons. The corresponding weights for the Vestas V90 are 75, 40, and 152, total 267 tons; and for the Gamesa G87 72, 42, and 220, total 334 tons.

Health Hazards of Noise and vibrations are generated by these huge monster machines and topped with flashing lights.

Wind turbines are not safe, high-voltage electrical devices with large moving parts, estimated that for every 100 turbines, one blade will break off (see Larwood, 2005). In winter, heavy sheets of ice can build up and then fall or be thrown off. Access to the land around wind turbines is usually restricted, even to the landowner.

The 5,700 turbines installed in the United States in 2009 required approximately 36,000 miles of steel rebar and 1.7 million cubic yards of concrete (enough to pave a four-foot-wide, 7,630-mile-long sidewalk).

Wind require heavy government subsidies to be competitive with normal electricity generators so a Dutch word for Greenie power seems graphic : "subsidieslurpers" (subsidy gobblers).