



'ANGUS BARKS'

By Jeff Francis
AEG Executive Board

Oil, Wind & Power

The dramatic hike in home heating oil prices this winter – now over \$2/gallon – directly impacts our household budgets. New England is the nation's largest regional consumer of home heating oil.

The current hike of gasoline prices past \$2/gallon will impact prices nationwide for all products and services delivered by truck and airline.

The working stiff who pumps his own gas on the way to work, is listening for some political leadership willing to challenge the big oil companies who manipulate these price hikes. So far the silence is deafening.

The power brokers, who arrive at work in chauffeured limousines, describe our predicament as a simple market adjustment, and their news outlets simply shift the blame to the Arab world.

AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVE

The Cape Wind project would provide a local energy source for Massachusetts residents. It is large enough to generate the equivalent of 75% of Cape Cod's electricity, which is currently produced by oil burning power plants. Local 201 and other unions support Cape Wind because it will:

- 1) **provide decent jobs** – potentially in our Gearplant. Massachusetts has lost more manufacturing jobs per capita than any other state.
- 2) **be clean and renewable** – The oil, coal and nuclear plants in our backyards pollute our communities and raise our cancer rates. Windfarms are non-polluting.
- 3) **reduce dependence on foreign oil** – European countries understand this and are buying windpower in a big way. They see more clearly than we do how the alliance between Big Oil and royal Arab dictators can strangle the world economy.

OPPOSITION

The two most powerful politicians in Massachusetts, Democratic Senator Ted Kennedy, and Republican Mitt Romney, oppose Cape Wind. They are not happy that the Army Corps of Engineers has legal authority to approve this project. They argue we need a better process, more study, and more regulations. This is a transparent effort to kill Cape Wind thru delay.

GE WEARS WHITE HAT

Windpower is a key growth market for GE in the 21st century. (They smell money to be made.) GE's entrance into the industry will bring better materials and designs, and give confidence to investors considering windfarm proposals.

After all, we work for a company that brought a new idea, electricity, to the 20th century. Electricity became the single most important technological change to transform both workplace and household.

LOCATION LOCATION

Cape Wind did not choose Nantucket Sound just to piss off a lot of wealthy beachfront property owners. They surveyed the New England coastline for a spot close to existing transmission lines, in water shallow enough to build in, far enough off the coastline to be in Federal waters, outside shipping lanes, that had minimum impact to the environment, with wind steady enough to turn 130 turbines.

PATRIOTS DAY CONCLUSION

This fight is not about whether the windmills will be an ugly steel forest or a beautiful tourist attraction. We are fighting for a small slice of energy independence in a world dominated by powerful oil interests. We have every right to demand our political representatives do the right thing for the citizens of Massachusetts.

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