by Rick Steelhammer
from the Charleston Gazette

A tract of privately owned land in northern Greenbrier County is being eyed as the site for what could become the largest wind-powered electrical generating plant in the East.

Kenetech Windpower of Livermore, CA, is interested in installing up to 1,200 wind turbines, capable of producing as much as 400 megawatts of electricity, along a series of wind swept, 4,000 foot ridges in the Cold Knob Mountain area between Richwood and Rupert.

The area's strong prevailing winds, remote locale and proximity to existing power transmission lines make it a prime candidate for wind power, according to John U. Huffman, Kenetech project development manager.

Surface mining and timbering have taken place on the tract, a large portion of which is owned by Westvaco.

Wind power production fits well with the logging and mining activity that's taking place," Huffman said. "Any visual impact would be minimal, since miners and people involved in timber harvest are about the only people who would see it."

Property owners in the area, a blend of corporate and individual landholders, would receive royalties from wind power produced on their land.

Surveys are being conducted to determine whether a large area in the eastern part of Richwood and Rupert is suitable to an existing power transmission line it make it a prime candidate for wind power, according to John U. Huffman, Kenetech project development manager.

Kanawha County is mostly to the northeast.

The perfect source of energy.

The wind power industry, limited mostly to California in the past, has recently discovered West Virginia. A California-based company, Kenetech Windpower, is planning a large "wind farm" in West Virginia. The San Francisco company is the largest manufacturer and producer of windpower in the United States. It currently operates

by Joe Carney

Things are never simple. Take windpower, for instance.

To an environmentalist, this should be an easy, cut and dried issue. Windpower is non-polluting, clean and renewable. The perfect source of energy.

The wind power industry, limited mostly to California in the past, has recently discovered West Virginia. A California-based company, Kenetech Windpower, is planning a large "wind farm" in West Virginia. The San Francisco company is the largest manufacturer and producer of windpower in the United States. It currently operates

WIND TURBINES ON THE MON?

4,500 of the 8,000 wind turbines at the huge Altamont Pass Wind Farm near San Francisco.

The West Virginia project is planned on 80,000 acres located south of Richwood and north of Route 60, mostly in Greenbrier County. The small town of Canaan is about the center of the project.

Most of the 80,000 acres, 40,000 acres are located within the boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest.

This presents a dilemma. Windpower is good. However, of all the places available in the United States, why does Kenetech Windpower need to take 40,000 acres in the Monongahela National Forest?

Is the comparatively small amount of electric peaking power generated worth 40,000 acres?

Let's throw in another complication. The 40,000 acres is within the "Proclamation Boundary" of the Mon Forest but is still private property.

When the U.S. Congress created the Mon Forest in 1911, it established a Proclamation Boundary. Property can be purchased from willing sellers within the Proclamation Boundary. The first land purchase was in Tucker County in 1915, and the Mon Forest now contains approximately 901,000 acres.

This is a similar arrangement to the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, where Congress authorized a 24,000 acre boundary and the first 85 acre parcel was purchased in August, 1994.

The 40,000 acres is presently owned by Georgia Pacific and Westvaco, large timber companies.

The land could someday be sold to the Mon Forest, just as the 40,745 acre Mower tract was acquired from Mower Lumber Company in 1987-88.

If the land is leased to Kenetech Windpower and covered with wind turbines, access roads and powerlines, it is doubtful that the land would be suitable to be included in the Mon Forest.

Depending on the wind turbine spacing and the open, treeless area required around each turbine, entire ridges could be permanently cleared of trees.

According to Kenetech Windpower, the total project could generate approximately 500 megawatts of electricity. A megawatt is one million watts, or enough electricity to power 10,000 lightbulbs of 100 watts each.

The John Amon power plant, a coal fired plant near Charleston, has a generating capacity of 2,900 megawatts in comparison.

Each wind turbine, with blades spreading over 100 feet in diameter, will generate up to 400 kilowatts (a kilowatt equals 1,000 watts) enough to power 105 homes.

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Each wind turbine, with blades spreading over 100 feet in diameter, will generate up to 400 kilowatts (a kilowatt equals 1,000 watts) enough to power 105 homes.

The total project will consist of approximately 1,200 wind turbines, enough to supply 125,000 homes.

The electric power will be sold to existing electric companies, such as Appalachian Power and Monongahela Power. Kenetech Windpower notes that the wind farm will provide peaking power, not base load capacity.

If we assume that approximately half the electric power will be from the 40,000 Mon Forest acres, about 250 megawatts would be generated. Is this relatively small amount or any amount of electricity worth 40,000 acres of the Mon Forest? Will this set a precedent for wind turbines in other parts of the Mon Forest (that's where the mountains and high winds are in West Virginia)? Does Kenetech Windpower, which expects to generate about $1.3 billion in revenue by the year 2000, really need to use this 40,000 acres in the Mon Forest?

Kenetech Windpower first proposed to construct wind turbines in the Canaan Valley.

After being told about the special significance of that area, they looked elsewhere.

Kenetech Windpower has initiated several meetings with members of the environmental community to ask our concerns regarding the proposed wind farm site south of Richwood.

Since the 40,000 acres within the Mon Forest is still in private hands, there is probably no legal way to stop the wind turbines, ridge top clearing, power lines and access roads from being constructed there. However, if Kenetech Windpower is sincere, as they claim, about listening and responding to our concerns, a large outpouring of sentiment to spare the Mon Forest may change their minds.

In my opinion, the wind turbine project should be constructed on property that is outside the Mon National Forest.

If you wish to express your opinion directly, please contact Kenetech Windpower, Inc., 1620 1 Street, N.W., Suite 210, Washington DC 20006, telephone (202) 833-8954, John U. Huffman, Project Development Manager.

If you would like more information, want to get involved in this issue, or would like to be kept informed, please contact Joe Carney in Charleston, WV at 344-2597. See page 7 for map and more on Kenetech.
from the heart of the mountains—
by John McFerrin

Good Bye Cindy

Karen and I got married at dusk on the Autumnal Equinox, 1990. Although it was partly for convenience, it was not entirely so. A marriage ceremony is a transition. It is appropriate to have that transition at the same time as the transition from one season into another.

Now both the Conservancy and I are in another transition. Our wonderful president for the last six years has stepped aside I find myself the new president.

Cindy was a wonderful President. She has a precious combination of a warm and generous spirit united with an energy and dedication to the issues that are so important to the Conservancy. Although I am sure that by now she has had as many accolades as her modest nature can stand (although not nearly as many as she deserves), please allow me one more: she was such a fine President that I find myself in awe at the task of following in her footsteps.

This, of course, raises another question: if we already had such a fine President, why did we need a new one?

At its simplest level, we need a new President so that we can avoid wearing Cindy out. There is always a danger in this or any organization of allowing our best, most dedicated members to assume more and more responsibility until those members drop from sheer exhaustion. Although Cindy could probably have been president for life as far as I was concerned, we owe it to her to give her a rest.

Even were it not a good thing for the Cindy, we should have new leadership anyway.

In the long run it is a good thing for the Conservancy to have new leadership. Moving new people into leadership roles gets more people more involved. It keeps the organization fresh and alive. Were we to have the same leadership year after year, decade after decade, we would eventually turn into a tired, worn down organization stumbling along after tired, worn down leaders.

Doing things this way we avoid that problem. Like Joe DiMaggio and Sandy Koufax, Cindy is leaving before she becomes visibly tired and worn down.

So this is a time of transition for me personally and for the Conservancy. It is a time when we fondly watch one time fade only to be replaced by something which is different. Cindy gets a chance to take a well deserved rest. The Conservancy gets a chance to develop some new leaders.

Like any transition, a change in the presidency can make for an unsettled time. At the same time, a time of transition can lead to new and exciting changes.

I look forward to making the transition and helping the Conservancy move forward.
A Downstream Network
by Joan Sims

Downstream Alliance is the newest organization to join the Highlands Conservancy and the National Environmental Association. It is a community watershed organization in northern West Virginia to create an organization to work together on their common goals. The idea took off, and the community activists from Mingo County, Preston, and Taylor counties were later joined by several scientists. Downstream Alliance meets on September 16th. Richard di Potro gave Craig Mains of Downstream Alliance information about the grant for the organization to monitor and map the quality of streams and rivers in Preston County, using sampling of the stream's macroinvertebrate population. With the help of many people, a large section of the Chattahoochee River has been studied, and this has helped the project. The scientists are now working on mapping the impact of acid mine drainage and acid rain on this watershed. Downstream Alliance has

To the Editor,
On October 14, 1994 I went with Frank to the Fall Meeting at Canaan Valley. We were really interested in the field trip that was part of our Fall Review. Our hosts, the Dunbar family of the NWR, made arrangements for a demonstration of the way they catch a representative sample of the fish that live in the creek. Arguably, this is the best estimate of the biological health of a creek. Usually, it tells Don what's for the fish to eat. Results: Fish gillrane turned up tiny pools in the tiny creek. Tiny fish Sculpins are tadpole-like, and some fish might find them ugly. That's a judgment call.

Black-backed Duc are "just minnows", but are astonishingly beautiful fish with a flaming red lateral stripe, to people who've never looked at them before. Larger fish: Brown Trout Brook Trout Some were just a few inches long. Dun said they had hosted this year. But some were 6-8 inches, looking far too big to live in this tiny creek. "One year older", said Dun. The trout fisherman among us were quite turned on. There were lots of nourishing bugs, like assorted caddis-fly larvae. For many of us, this was an education in the way that smallest of streams contributes to the aquatic community of all streams. Thanks, Don.

Get a handle on ORVs
Appalachia - Science in the Public Interest has just released the first part of its series on reports on Off Road Vehicles. This section tells of the various types of vehicles used off highway and on the wild and scenic terrain, their impact on soils, vegetation and animals, and regulations and enforcement by public agencies. It is available for $14 from them at Room 55, Box 243, Livingstone, KY 40445-9506

Conservancy Receives Donation in Memory Of George R. Clarkson
Robert and Donna Simms of Terry, NY, recently made a donation to the Conservancy in memory of George R. Clarkson, son of Roy Clarkson, Professor Emeritus at West Virginia University. The Conservancy extends its sympathy to the family of George Clarkson and thanks to the Simms for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

A Shocking Refug by Scyre Rodden
For one of the field trips that were part of our Fall Review, our volunteer member Don Gasker of the DNR put on a demonstration of the way we can conduct a sort of census of the fish in any creek. Near the White Grass Center, a tiny brook runs down the hill, with occasional small pools. Most of us thought it was too small to have any fish of interest. Don knew better. He fired up his little backpack electric generator, which connects to two wires that can be stretched out in the water by a set of four well-calibrated poles, that volunteers can handle safely.

Procedure:
- Turn on the electricity, spread out the wires.
- Scoop up any fish whatever that are shocked into turning bell-up.
- Put them in a transparent bag of clear creek-water.
- Identify them.
- Log them into a notebook.
- Admire the beautiful little creatures.

Wait till they recover their senses (not long).

Return them to the creek, with apologies and best wishes.

Also: Don had not assembled a calibrated size, with which he could catch a representative sample of the bugs that live in the creek. Arguably, this is the best estimate of the biological health of a creek. Usually, it tells Don what's for the fish to eat. Results: Fish gillrane turned up tiny pools in the tiny creek.

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The Plan for Canaan

Well, we have 86 acres under our belt, only 20 odd thousand to go. The plan is to restore and USFWS has studied this acquisition question. Here is a selection from their Land Protection Plan for the Valley. Project Description

The Valley's high altitude and cold, humid climate have maintained a unique reflect brook ecosystem which supports and assemblage of plant and animal life considered unusual for its location in the eastern US. Many species found here are at or near the southern-most edge of their ranges. Forty different wetland and upland plant communities exist in the Valley, consisting of 580 different species of plants. The valley's diverse habitats support equally diverse wildlife populations, with 288 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes known or expected to occur there. Land Acquisition Policy

The Service's established policy is to purchase willing sellers, within the approved acquisition boundary, as funds become available. The Service will continue to operate under this long-standing policy, as supported by our land acquisition record. The Service's intent is not to speculate nor to prevent speculation, but to protect the unique resources of the area, as lands become available over the long-term. The Service is required by law to appraise properties at fair market value, based on comparable sales of similar types of properties. The Service can then negotiate with landowners that may wish to sell lands or interests in lands.

Methods to be used by the Service to accomplish protection for wildlife resource areas identified in this Plan include Fee Acquisition,

Clearcuts on the Monongahela, (again)

Cynthia Schiffer, the District Ranger for the Mon River on the White Sulphur Springs and Cheat Ranger District, has decided to commence a set of projects in the Paddy Knob Opportunity Area (A 6.1 mile long corridor for remote wildlife habitat, semi-primitive, non motorized recreation). This area lies to the north and east of Frost, WV right on the border. The name comes from the highest peak in the valley, consisting of over 5800 acres, managed as a state land with Virginia. The projects consist of:

Full clearance 'harvest' - 260 acres
Two stage clearance harvest - 60 acres
Herbicide - 158 acre
Take 1.5 miles off road inventory, rebuild and build 4.3 miles of road
Remote Bird Rookery habitat, Wildlife openings - 12 half-acre clearcuts
Report an appeal this decision by November 15.

Write to her at the ranger district office, 410 East Main Street White Sulphur Springs WV 24986

I'm not making this up - bill

Boycott Boise Cascade

Boise made the highest bid for a tract of ancient national forest known as the Sugarloaf timber sale in the Siakoo Mountains of Oregon. The actions have been working very hard to save this area for years now, but Clinton has gone ahead and decided to move the time line. Many conservationists are initiating a boycott of Boise cascade. I'll join in, I wonder how many companies we are expected to be boycotting now.
We have completed the transition from having a River Planner, in managing the study via a team approach," said Durham. "We are working towards completing a review of the files and documents, and, very importantly, we are reviewing the public record to date. And we are beginning to put together the preliminary staff work that will form the DEIS for public comment.

Once comments are received and analyzed, Forest Service staff will prepare a final legislative environmental impact study and the Secretary of Agriculture will make a recommendation to the President and Congress.

An extended comment period that begins after the holidays is good news for all who want the opportunity to comment on the importance of protecting headwater streams that tumble through some of the highest, most scenic terrain in the Appalachian Mountains—one of the oldest regions in the world and one of great biological diversity.

Overall, this means heads up! West Virginia Rivers Coalition will continue to keep you informed about the progress of this vital issue.

A Letter on Acid Mine Drainage

being fragments of a letter from Citizens Coal Council to the Honorable Nick Rahall and Secretary Babbitt:
The Citizens Coal Council (CCC) wishes to take this opportunity to call your attention to the Clean Streams Initiative: A Proposal to Clean Up Streams Polluted by Acid Mine Drainage and Prevent Future Pollution in the Appalachian Ecosystem. We base our comments primarily on the testimony of the Environmental Consultant Indicted May 26, 1994. Many of these comments are based upon experience in West Virginia, but should be generally applicable elsewhere in Appalachia.

OVERVIEW

The CCC generally applauds the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) for the beginning to address the scourge of acid mine drainage (AMD) through the Appalachia Clean Streams Initiative (ACSI).

We like much of the language in the proposal and we hope it means what it says. However, we remain skeptical, to say the least, based upon failures of government agencies that we have observed in the past. These failures include: failure to prevent, failure to adjust bonds, failure to fail, and failures of all those failures. All these failures are summed up as the government's lack of political will to enforce the law. We will address those further later in this letter.

The culture at OSM must change to one of respect and commitment to enforcing the law. This includes aggressive policing of liability on operators, owners and others who profit or profited from any mining which produces damaging AMD. This also includes aggressive action by OSM in overseeing the practices of the several states to ensure compliance with the law. Congress, in passing SMCRA, recognized that coal states would never enforce acceptable standards on their own industries and that only federal enforcement backed by strong citizen participation could prevent the states from competing to achieve the lowest possible costs and standards for their local coal industries. The coal industry and many states have never fully accepted SMCRA and in fact have fought its implementation every step of the way. They continue to fight it today and take every opportunity to weaken federal involvement.

Dave Callaghan stated, "I don't believe in effluent standards."

By way of example, some of our members attended a meeting held on August 17, 1994, at West Virginia State University to the subject of a soon-to-be-forfeited AMD-producing permit. When questioned as to what discharge standards the state would commit to meeting after forfeiture, West Virginia DEP Director David Callaghan stated, "I don't believe in effluent standards."

In follow-up questioning, he made it clear that his opposition to the discharge of AMD was based on the following:

1. It is too costly for local utilities to treat.
2. It is highly corrosive. (High acidity)
3. It is toxic and toxic to fish. (High levels of heavy metal contamination, in particular, mercury.)

As noted by our member, this is in contrast to the philosophy of the state's own DEP, which has adopted a policy of making all surface waterways fishable and swimmable.
Regional EPA Director in Fall Review

Kostmayr on the Corridor -

Write him today

On Corridor H, Peter Kostmayr has said many things for himself, as many as possible in such an opportunity, but not enough for them. He has been working on the Freeway of the Future for the last year, the new EPA-OSHA Acid Mine Drainage Initiative, Acid Rain and Oil and Gas Brine Permit conditions. As usual there was far too much to talk about and far too little time.

The West Virginia Organizing Project

by Elaine Perkey

West Virginia Organizing Project is a non-profit, member-controlled organization which believes that individuals should have a voice in determining the laws that govern their daily lives. West Virginia Organizing Project was formed to teach people the skills necessary to work with others within their own communities to change the balance of power as we know it now.

We also have committed ourselves to educate communities about their issues (which they choose) by involving as many as possible in work-shop-type training and tactical research practices. We believe the only way for people to be in control of their own lives is to take ownership by doing things for themselves, as opposed to having someone come in and do it for them.

Frank and Lorene Parsley's water well was sunk due to damage from a coal company's underground mining activity. The company had drilled a replacement well soon after sinking the original one but had not maintained the 350 foot deep well saying that it was not their responsibility. The Parsley's had water for nearly a year before the well went dry and more determined than ever to get something done.

"I had been going to WVOP meetings and just voicing my opinions and was advised to file a citizens complaint with the Office of Surface Mining. That did it! They came out, cited the coal company and told them to work with me and do whatever it took to get water in both mine and my neighbor's houses."

"I'm a member of WVOP and I'm not physically able to do a lot but I told them I'd do what I could because it takes two to tango. I'm trying to get a difference, Lorene said.

After three years of fighting the

us Saturday morning.

Not being a group to pass up such an opportunity, they gladly worked in some time before taking off on our various outings. About thirty of us met Mr. Kostmayr for nearly an hour and a half, bending his ear and listening to his perspective on numerous issues and concerns such as Canaan Valley, the recently released Dioxin study and Apple Grove, Corridor H, the SCS Dam proposed for the North Fork of the Hurley River (the topic of our Fall Review last year), the new EPA-OSHA Acid Mine Drainage Initiative, Acid Rain and Oil and Gas Brine Permit conditions. As usual there was far too much to talk about and far too little time.

Parsley's and their neighbors, Tim, have good water courtesy of Marrowbone Development Coal Company. Lorene Parsley was already familiar with the citizen's complaint process but she just had not thought about using it against a coal company. Things were a little better.

"We live for months with a drug-line from that strip mine running over top of our house. We were so afraid that it would come loose and end up in our bedroom. We lost sleep and Edward had to take to the emergency room for problems caused from all the stress we were under," said Susie Ooten.

The Ootens had red dust, rocks, and other debris from mining blasting flying through the air over the property. They had called several agencies to get something done but nothing seemed to work. OSM sent someone out but excepts were made about some of the equipment being needed to test the air and groundwater. DEP also sent someone out but nothing positive for the Ootens was reported. There had been newspaper coverage of the story but things were just a standstill.

The Ootens occupied one day I was nearly in tears as I called the West Virginia Organizing Project office to see if there was anything I had overlooked. It seemed that I had done everything Edward and I could think of.

"They asked me if I knew what a citizen's complaint was and when I told them that they didn't, they explained it all to me and taught me how to write one. I tried to get them to do it for me but they assured me that I could do it. So I did," Susie said.

Edward reported that one complaint got more action than most of all the others and had done over the just eighteen months.

Although there has not been a favorable conclusion to their problem, the Ootens believe the road that got them where they are in their battle has been worth it all. Through different trainings and one-on-one conversations with WVOP Staff and support from other members like themselves, the Ootens are able to keep on fighting for what they believe is their right to compensation for damages from the coal company.

"It just feels real good to know that there is somebody you can go to who will help you just because you need help," said Lorene. "It tells everyone about WVOP. I'm proud to be a member and Edward wouldn't have it any other way."

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Although there has not been a favorable conclusion to their problem, the Ootens believe the road that got them where they are in their battle has been worth it all. Through different trainings and one-on-one conversations with WVOP Staff and support from other members like themselves, the Ootens are able to keep on fighting for what they believe is their right to compensation for damages from the coal company.

"It just feels real good to know that there is somebody you can go to who will help you just because you need help," said Lorene. "It tells everyone about WVOP. I'm proud to be a member and Edward wouldn't have it any other way."

Parsley's and their neighbors, Tim, have good water courtesy of Marrowbone Development Coal Company. Lorene Parsley was already familiar with the citizen's complaint process but she just had not thought about using it against a coal company. Things were a little better.

"We live for months with a drug-line from that strip mine running over top of our house. We were so afraid that it would come loose and end up in our bedroom. We lost sleep and Edward had to take to the emergency room for problems caused from all the stress we were under," said Susie Ooten.

The Ootens had red dust, rocks, and other debris from mining blasting flying through the air over the property. They had called several agencies to get something done but nothing seemed to work. OSM sent someone out but excepts were made about some of the equipment being needed to test the air and groundwater. DEP also sent someone out but nothing positive for the Ootens was reported. There had been newspaper coverage of the story but things were just a standstill.

The Ootens occupied one day I was nearly in tears as I called the West Virginia Organizing Project office to see if there was anything I had overlooked. It seemed that I had done everything Edward and I could think of.

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Kenetech's Raptor Study

A Raptor Migration Study is Underway in Northern Greenbrier County

by Ron Perrone

Proposed: Between 150 to 1,200 wind-powered turbines on ridge tops between Rainelle and Rupert to generate electricity for West Virginia and out of state utilities. Is the idea ecologically sound? Kenetech Windpower needs to know because of past problems with raptor mortality associated with wind turbines at other locations.

The resulting Kenetech-sponsored study is a landmark in West Virginia and one that forces environmentalists to higher levels of knowledge. The proposed wind power project would be on private land. On private property, an owner may level a forest and build a factory, a farm, or a parking lot. If threatened or endangered species are not jeopardized, the government has no jurisdiction beyond zoning ordinances and taxation. It is to Kenetech's credit that they are involving HawkWatch International and other environmentally oriented individuals and groups to help determine the propriety of the site. They have repeatedly expressed the desire to not repeat the mistakes they made in California.

The study group I am involved in is gathering data to establish if there is a migration path through the study area. We are also gathering data on the populations and species distribution of the resident birds. This initial stage of the study will run through November.

If we can make the spring, we will be out there again for the migration north. The data will be interpreted by Dr. Ed Michaels of West Virginia University and also by HawkWatch. There is chance of one more autumn study period in 1995 to compensate for any shortcomings in this year's study.

Together with Dr. Michaels and Josh Lipton, our HawkWatch team leader, we are inventing the methodology we need. When we are done, we hope to have solid information that will enable Kenetech, their potential partners, and the people of West Virginia to make informed decisions concerning the project. The list of concerns includes the potential design of the towers, their exact locations, power line grid design, and possible mitigation procedures to compensate for unforeseen biological damage.

There are social considerations as well. The utilities which may run the plant have their own agendas which must be understood. The state government has one too. In a larger context, we citizens need to look at ourselves. Opposition to a potential alternative power source by a public that has failed to make a commitment to energy conservation is irresponsible scape-goating.

I do believe this, as long as we are "on the grid" we had better take an active role in designing that grid or else that role will be played by those for whom environmental concerns are secondary to profit and power.

from The Raptor Chapter
published by the Three Rivers Raptor Center
HC 74 Box 279J
Brooks, WV 25501

Fire on the Mountain
(from page one) in the East," Huffman said. "But buying wind power also would help them meet their Clean Air Act emissions goals and voluntary reductions in greenhouse gases." One of the most important air pollutants that wind power also could help utilities meet peak power needs, Huffman said, since wind blows hardest during the winter heating season.

An added incentive exists in the form of a federal 1.5 percent per kilowatt-hour production credit for the first 10 years of a new wind power life.

American Electric Power officials have expressed an interest in installing the plant, according to an industry trade paper, the Electric Power Daily.

If a decision is made to proceed, there would be few regulatory hurdles to clear, since wind power generation produces no emissions and discharges no water.

The project would be built in phases, with each new increment involving about 50 megawatts, or approximately 150 turbines.

The Greenbrier County site would make use of a new generation of wind turbine, the 333-VS, which features three 33-meter blades and produces electricity for 3.5 to 5 cents per kilowatt hour- about the same price as coal.

Kenetech recently installed 75 of the turbines for a southwestern Minnesota power company and has executed contracts for other wind turbine sales in Maine, Texas, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, Ukraine, Spain and Germany, Huffman said.

More than 500 of the $350,000 turbines will have been built by the end of this year, and another 500 are on back order.

The turbines are currently assembled in Livermore, Calif., but an eastern assembly plant might be added, possibly in West Virginia, if sales justify the move, Huffman said.

At maximum capacity, the wind turbine farm in Greenbrier County would employ about 40 people, he said.

A predecessor of Kenetech, US Windpower, proposed developing a 50-megawatt site on Cabin Mountain, overlooking Clinch Valley, three years ago, but concern over the viewscape and the presence of a major migratory bird flyway put that project on the shelf.

"We want to make sure that they proceed carefully, and take time to determine whether or not the Greenbrier County site is an important flyway for raptors and other migratory birds," said Sheila McIntyre, president of the Vandalia Audubon Society.

A 1992 study of wind turbines in the Ahuhaman Pass area of California, the most highly concentrated assembly of wind power generators in the nation with more than 7,000 units, showed that an estimated 500 birds of prey, including 78 golden eagles were killed during a two-year period, according to Audubon magazine.

Dr. Michael, a biologist and professor at West Virginia University, has been hired to coordinate baseline studies of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians in the area. A fall migratory study is now under way.

Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide Now Out

Edition 6 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide is now available. This edition is bigger and better than ever, with 368 pages, 96 pages of maps, 49 photographs, 177 trails totalling 812 miles, and a new full color cover. West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is the publisher. Authors are Allen De Hart and Bruce Sundquist (same as edition 5). Allen has hiked all the trails of the Monongahela N.F. over the past few years. Bruce was the editor for the first four editions. The hiking community and the U.S. Forest Service provided trail reports and photographs. Edition 6, like edition 5, also provides information for ski-touring and backpacking.

The growing throngs of visitors and the public at large regard the Monongahela National Forest as a "Special Place." And indeed it is. The hiking, backpacking, and ski-touring opportunities it provides are among the best in the eastern U.S. The more outstanding areas are becoming known far and wide - Otter Creek Wilderness, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Flatrock Plains, Roaring Plains, Blackwater Canyon, Spruce Knob, North Fork Mountain, Shaver's Mountain, Laurel Fork Wilderness, Cranberry Back Country, Cranberry Wilderness, among others.

Profits from the sale of these guides support a wide variety of worthy environmental projects in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. To order your copy of Edition 6 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, send $12.85 (this includes $2.90 first class shipping) to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy PO Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321

West Virginia residents must add $.60 sales tax. (total of $13.45)

I have included a __check__ __money order__ for the amount of

$_________ to WVHC for __________ copies of the Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide.

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:

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The Highlands Voice, November 1994 - Page 7
West Virginia Organizing Project

(from page 6)

Residents formed the group and filed a citizen's complaint with the federal OSM, met with a representative from Congressman Nick Joe Rahall's office, and bargained with the Governor and Nick Joe Rahall's offices with phone calls. West Virginia Organizing Project believes that the way to ensure its mission and purpose in the future is to include a plan now to involve young people in the organization in a decision-making role. Not only do these younger people have a lot of energy to lend to projects, they seem to have a longer vision than most older people. They are a very important part of what this organization is about.

Pat WVOP has an Education Committee that is chaired by a member of the West Virginia Youth Alliance, Dave Brock. Dave is 20 years old and worked as an intern with the organization in Logan, WV for the summer. He got involved with WVOP when he received an invitation to attend one of their membership meetings.

"That meeting pretty much summed it up for me," he said. "They were there to help people who needed it, and they loved the idea of having youth involved. That made me feel pretty good."

Dave says that the organization will be around for a long time and he hopes to be a part of it after he finishes school at WV State College where he is majoring in Communications and Film Making.

"I've definitely learned a lot in this internship, and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with the WVOP Staff," says Dave. WVOP's Mining Committee just recently sponsored a workshop on Strip Mining Law which was a big success. "We were pleased to see such a good turnout and everyone was interested," said WVOP Mining Committee member Redith Blankenship.

"Mining Laws are good, but they've just not been enforced properly," said committee member John McFerrin. "The only way things will improve is if we organize," said Jack Candill of Tugalo who became a member of WVOP the week following the workshop.

WVOP took ordinary workshop training one step further by encouraging participants to apply the laws to the problems they were facing. The people took back advice to help them in their individual struggles.

Wille Stollings, a retired coal miner who attended the workshop said, "If I'd had something like this to go to when I first started fighting the coal company, it would have saved me a lot of time and trouble and I could have had my case settled a whole lot sooner." For more information about West Virginia Organizing Project, write: West Virginia Organizing Project PO Box 1921 Logan, West Virginia 25601 Or you may call the office at (304) 752-0901.

Voices from the past.....from past VOICES

November 1979

"Weekend Review -- Freezing Success...All tours were well attended and enjoyed by those who participated. The chicen-barbeque froze out in the 25° temperature, but those who braved the chilling winds to sample the culinary creations of the Elkins Jaycees were amply rewarded."

Skip Densmore RE: public meeting in Lewisburg: "Sentiment about flooding on the Greenbriar, particularly in Marlinton, was expressed, but most people felt that flooding could be stopped without having to dam the River."

Ed Light RE: "The Rockefeller Amendment" to the Federal Surface Mine Act..."The Governor and WV DNR (mining regulatory agency) are fundamentally opposed to key provisions of the Federal Act, e.g., mountain top removal regulations, ground water protection, Public Participation, Valley fill design standards, Deletion of sensitive areas from mining. Dave Callahan, DNR Director was quoted as saying the "federal regulations are unreasonable." In Appalachia we don't have any trouble with (ground) water here. "The public should not be involved in decisions relating to adjustment of bond amounts. "Detailed information on fish and wildlife resources should not be required on a mine permit application." In the Governor's comments, he expressed his opposition as well: Determination of hydrological consequences of mining would cause "extreme delay and would be of little value." The WV Legislature added its two cents worth in a Concurrent Resolution that contained the following: "The Legislature of the State of WV protests and deplores the condition caused by the rules and regulations of OSM...and encourages the WV DNR to resist unwarranted Federal interference in the WV mining reclamation program...regardless of the requirements of the national rules developed by OSM."

November 1984

Geoff Green RE: Corridor H "The WVVC favors improving the existing road system without constructing a 100-plus mile interstate type highway."