

I “enjoyed” the video of the Manasquan town meeting of August 21. I was very impressed by the speakers. As everyone realizes our primary foe is lack of information. I have the following two comments;

1. The BPU may easily dismiss any claim that the power lines will cause leukemia or other diseases. If the power lines are carrying direct current electricity, the electromagnetic fields around them will be unidirectional and less toxic than magnetic fields generated by conventional alternating current power lines. The use of direct current transmission lines is new and little is known about the health effects and exposure limits from these power lines. Secondly, the magnitude of the electromagnetic field generated by these powerlines is dependent on the voltage and current running through them and the number of lines in each trench. Is there any specific information on what is being planned? The problem is we don't know what is planned, what the surrounding residents will be exposed to, and what the allowable exposure is.
2. Economics of power generation: It is my understanding most public utility rate contracts allow the utility to recover their capital cost plus a return on their investment. Therefore, if a windmill breakdowns and is replaced , tility will make a profit on the original windmill plus a profit on the new replacement windmill. This gives the utility company no incentive to employ conservative designs of the windmills, power lines, and any other associated equipment to insure the environment will be protected.