

Alternative Energy Source: Wind power
Stakeholder: Fossil fuel representative

My name is John Ragan and I am Executive Vice President and Regional President of the Northeast section of NRG Energy, a company that owns a coal and oil plant in Indian River in Millsboro, DE. Delmarva Power in DE was recently asked to accept bids on projects for increasing energy production in DE and we submitted a proposal to build an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) coal plant, which is much cleaner burning than a typical coal plant. In a combined cycle power plant a gas turbine generator generates electricity and the waste heat is used to make steam to generate additional electricity via a steam turbine; this last step enhances the efficiency of electricity generation. We proposed a plant that minimizes air emissions, minimizes the disturbance of undeveloped land, minimizes the reliance on outside and more expensive sources of power, and maximizes the job opportunities for Delaware citizens. The wind farm they are proposing to build is an unreliable source of energy and would make residents be forced to buy power from elsewhere. Wind is intermittent and does not blow all the time. This doesn't happen with coal because the United States has such an abundant supply. NRG has offered to shut down two of its oldest operating units at Indian River, which would cut down on carbon and other emissions. The state has monitoring plans for the Millsboro-Indian River area, where lung cancer incidence (the rate at which people get cancer) was 17 percent above the national average.