

Alternative Energy Source: Wind power  
Stakeholder: Homeowner on the coast

My name is Anne Mundel and I have a house on the beach in Lewes, DE. We just had a town meeting about building an offshore wind facility in Delaware. The wind farm that they are planning to build will be about 7 to 10 miles offshore and the wind turbines could be more than 400 feet tall. The town council is giving the residents a month to decide if they want to allow construction of the wind farm or if they want to file a petition to protest. I just received a survey in the mail from a group of scientists from the University of Delaware asking me how I feel about this issue. I am divided on the issue. I feel that continued burning of fossil fuels is linked to global warming and the United States must look to alternate sources of fuel and energy. Wind power is safe and releases no pollutants into the atmosphere. The scientists told us at the meeting that they chose locations to build the turbines so they wouldn't interfere with bird migration or with ship passage. However, the wind farm will obstruct my view of the ocean and it is going to be expensive to build. They told me that on a clear winter day, the turbines might look like toothpicks on the horizon, about one-half inch in size. My electric bill will probably go up about \$5 a month, but it could be more. I worry that this could affect the property value of my house if I decide to sell it in the future.