

The Allegheny Ridge Wind Project on the Allegheny Front is in an Important Bird Area. These photos were taken in the headwaters of Bob's Creek, which is classified as a class A "wild trout stream" by PA Fish and Boat Commission and serves as a high quality, cold-water fishery. Photos were taken in late March, 2008, unless specified otherwise.



This is the forest in the headwaters of Bob's Creek.



Boiling Spring – a source for Bob's Creek



Soil that was spread on top of the gravel along this section of the road is eroding away.

Fiber mats were used to stabilize the banks along this watercourse.



As you look at more photos of the Allegheny Ridge Wind project, think about the information provided before construction was approved by DEP:

Area of Disturbance:

On August 10, 2005, Shoener Environmental Inc., the engineers for Gamesa, stated the following in the Cultural Resource Notice that was sent to the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission:

"The area of disturbance around each windmill tower will be about one acre. Gravel roads, with a maximum width of 45 feet, will be constructed to access the windmill towers. Power lines will be buried under the roads. Once completed, the permanent footprint of each wind turbine generator including associated road and ancillary facilities will be less than one acre per windmill site."

Although the gravel roadway is 45 feet or less, the cleared corridor is much wider. Why weren't the dimensions for the overall clearings submitted? The cartway is actually less than half the width of the clearing in many areas.

The statement that the permanent footprint of each turbine, including roads and infrastructure, will be less than one acre per windmill site is also incorrect. Since the clearing around each turbine is about an acre, the roads and substation add many more acres to each turbine's impact.

Erosion Controls:

Shoener Environmental Inc. also prepared the Storm Water and Erosion Control Narrative for the Allegheny Ridge Wind project. Listed below are just 2 of the techniques promised to control erosion. On page 9 of the narrative:

Permanent ground cover is essential for providing continued protection against soil loss and water pollution. All surface areas will be protected from erosion velocities of water and wind. The following permanent erosion control measures are included in the plan.

- 1. Permanent vegetation*
- 2. Grading of cut and fill slopes to no more than 1 feet or more horizontal for every 1 foot vertical.*

Why are the erosion control measures incomplete? There is a lot of exposed soil without any protection from erosion.

Who monitors the construction site of a wind project to determine if controls are in place, and if they are working adequately? How often are they inspected?



The new roadway blocks the natural flow of surface water in this area. Trees not adapted to such wet conditions are dying.

Since this section of roadway was not “crowned” properly, it serves as the main channel for runoff.



Wide, 100 – 150 ft. corridors cut through the forest, act as avenues for invasive plants and animals, and impede natural migrations of invertebrates and amphibians.



The needless cutting of the forest on this curve of road served as a dumping area for the rock and soil from a steep bank cut on the other side of the road. This area was also used as a dumping group for stumps. Note that water is channeled onto the road due to improper sloping of the mounded dirt.

This clearing measured 150 feet wide.



Straw bales were placed in this disturbed area around a turbine, but were never used to stabilize the soil.



This is the same area showing the rotting straw bales, but taken one month later than the preceding photo.



Are these best management practices? Runoff is channeled into a ditch along the road with 433 yards between culverts. Where is the wildlife mix that is supposed to be seeded as a ground cover?



Thin strips of rubber are embedded across the road, but ineffective in stopping sediment-laden runoff.





Erosion and sedimentation controls are ineffective, poorly designed, and inadequate for a watershed of this caliber. Cleared areas ranged from 41 feet to 150 feet in width. Some of the corridors included a thin layer of topsoil tailgated in place beside the roadbed, but much of it is exposed soil, vulnerable to erosion.



It would be interesting to calculate the additional amount of oil/gas resources used by ATV riders as they race along the roads of the Allegheny Ridge Wind facility. The constant roar from ATVs and clouds of dust add even more noise and air pollution to the environmental damage caused by the industrial wind facility.

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