

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: your article "Blow the power myths" (Mar. 4th 2005)

Having read the enthusiastic comments of Minister Andrew Davies returning from his trip to Navarre, I think the Welsh people are entitled to know the truth:

1) Navarre has the highest concentration of wind turbines per capita in Spain: 1,030 of them, for only 555,000 inhabitants. It spoils much of the landscape of that once-charming province (I have seen them).

2) While claiming the wind towers are "beautiful, elegant, etc." Navarre politicians spared the hills surrounding the city of Pamplona, where they live.

3) At the request of the government, a monitoring study was performed by a biologist, Dr. J.M. Lekuona, in 2000-2001. Surveying one third of the turbines during a year period, he estimated avian mortality for just 368 machines to be as follows:

- 409 griffon vultures
- 24 golden eagles, eagle owls, booted eagles, sparrow hawks and kestrels
- 6,000 other birds, from doves to migrating songbirds
- 650 bats

The report was then tampered with by the addition of a summary that was long on disinformation, and included this outright lie: "It has been estimated that the mortality per turbine/mo was 0.03 specimen". And not a word more about mortality statistics, which the conscientious reader must struggle to find (converted to ratios on pages 88 and 89 of a long and technical report).

- see: www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=1223

And for good measure, the report was shelved without publication by the Navarre government. Luckily, an employee with a conscience leaked it out. And later, in 2003, Dr. Lekuona confirmed his figures to GURELUR, to IBERICA 2000, and to me personally in an interview with the Navarre government (April 27 2003)

<http://www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=896>

4) After complaints from biologists, ecologists, representatives of the tourism industry, and from citizens in general about the disastrous effect on the

landscape, the birds, and tourism, the government declared a freeze on new developments.

5) Having invested public funds in EHN, which manufactures the turbines, Navarre officials are now desperate to find foreigners who will buy their machines.

Hence the move to lure Welsh politicians, and Welsh taxpayers' money.

The rosy picture presented by Minister Davies is essentially spin.

But should we be surprised?

Sincerely yours

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