

## OPB

### Governor Blocks Central WA Wind Farm

By Austin Jenkins

OLYMPIA, WA 2007-06-22 Wind energy may sound good on paper. But wind farm projects on the South Oregon coast, near The Dalles and in Central Washington have generated fierce opposition.

Friday, Washington Governor Chris Gregoire refused to approve one such controversial project. Olympia correspondent Austin Jenkins explains why.

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Windfarm opponents often complain the soaring towers and turbines are a blight on the landscape.

That's been a key concern with the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project near the town of Ellensburg in Central Washington.

Now Gregoire has ordered a state council to find a compromise. Her key question is whether the windmills can be built further away from nearby houses.

But Kittitas Valley resident Mike Robertson says a further setback won't solve the problem.

Mike Robertson: "Just minor tweaks to setbacks is unacceptable. If she wants to move them a mile, that's fine. But if you look at the project there wouldn't be anything left if you did that."

The company developing the wind farm -- Horizon Wind Energy -- says the Governor's decision comes as a surprise. The project had received the approval of the state's Energy Facility Siting Council.