

DER looks at wind power for Cumberland park

HARRISBURG - The Department of Environmental Resources is considering installation of a wind powered electric generator at the Kings Gap Environmental Center in Cumberland County.

"The time is right for the department to explore alternative energy sources for state parks, forestry

offices and other DER facilities," said DER Secretary Clifford L. Jones.

Paul Gipe, a wind energy consultant, is conducting a study for the department to determine if the use of wind powered generator at the environmental center can be economically justified.

Gipe, of Harrisburg, said the minimum wind speed

needed for a wind turbine to function properly is nine miles per hour. He said he will determine if the Kings Gap site is suitable by Jan. 1, 1980.

"Pennsylvania has the largest concentration of windmill manufacturers in the country, including General Electric, Westinghouse, Alcoa and the

Energy Development Co.," Gipe said.

"If the Kings Gap facility is producing more electricity than it uses, the power will be sold back to the utility. No storage batteries are needed."

Excess electricity generated by the wind turbine will go directly into the utility grid. When the

wind is blowing, the electric meter actually can be reversed and at times of low wind, electricity will be drawn from the utility lines.

Jones said the department is looking into wind power, solar power and other alternative energy sources in an effort to promote the use of non-polluting,

renewable sources of heat and electricity.

The wind turbines that could be used at Kings Gap use two, three or four propellers to generate electricity and can cost from \$5,000 to \$30,000, depending on the size.

The Kings Gap Environmental Center sits on a mountaintop, so it is a logical site for a wind generator, Gipe said.

"If the Kings Gap project is successful, we may well move on to constructing windmills at other parks," Jones said.



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Potato grower charged

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Potato grower Thomas O. Conklin of Bridgehampton, N.Y., has been charged by the U.S. Attorney with moving potatoes from fields infested with the golden nematode in violation of Federal statute and U.S. Department of Agriculture quarantine regulations.

The charges brought against Conklin involved 11 separate instances of potatoes moving to locations in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The golden nematode is a tiny, destructive eelworm that can reduce potato yields, if not controlled. It is easily spread in soil that may cling to potatoes, machinery, nursery stock and other items.

Regulations of the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service provide that potatoes grown on infested fields be moved only under conditions that minimize the chance of spread. In the United States, the nematode is found only on Long Island and in a small area in up-state New York.

Maximum penalty for each of the 11 counts Conklin is charged with is \$500 and a year in prison. Arraignment is scheduled for November.

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