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The Trident Winds Project as Proposed is Premature

An article about the Trident Winds proposal was posted to the San Luis Obispo Tribune website on 04 July 2017 at 18:18 PDT.

"Proposed wind farm off the coast could generate 1,000 megawatts"

By Christine Heinrichs Special to The Cambrian <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article159627114.html>

This article discusses the proposed likely use of the Vestas V164 8.0 MW offshore wind turbine which has a specified tip height of 187 meters, or 613 feet. The V164 turbine generator should be classed as an experimental prototype as the manufacturer's news release "First V164-8.0 MW turbine installed at Burbo Bank Extension" was dated 08 September 2016 - less than 10 months ago. <http://www.mhivestasoffshore.com/first-v164-8-0-mw-turbine-installed-burbo-bank-extension-2/>

Other nations such as Germany and the southern part of Australia have experienced harmful and expensive problems with integrating wind power into their power distribution grid. California should be cautious about inserting large amounts of wind power, which is subject to random changes in the wind field, into the California power grid. If the wind velocity is too low - or too high, the output drops to zero.

Offshore wind generation using experimental wind turbines, which will likely experience unanticipated mechanical breakdowns in the corrosive marine environment is a poor plan. The Vestas specification sheet issued in 2011 for the V164 claims a lifetime of only 25 years. Such a short lifetime will impose unexpected O&M costs upon California ratepayers. Furthermore, the "deathprint" (the number of lives of service people maintaining these huge turbines lost per terawatt-hour of electricity generated) of these novel offshore wind generators being serviced in the challenging marine environment is likely to be significantly higher than any land-based wind turbines.

Furthermore, the adverse impact of these huge wind generators both California sea birds and California large mammals is unstudied as a result of this being an experimental wind generator just now being installed in the United Kingdom. The adverse impacts need to be carefully documented - and mitigation measures implemented to protect our birds and sea animals. Based on California's experiences with terrestrial wind and solar generation, this will not be a quick research project.

Furthermore, the large, rotating wind turbine blades could possibly cause navigation problems for seagoing vessels.

In summary, rather than trusting the claims of a salesman, these issues - and likely others that stakeholders will uncover - should be carefully investigated before commencing such a controversial project.