



No more NIMBY?

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In many places the people that live there would like their neighborhoods to remain largely unchanged. This is particularly true when new and unsightly items are proposed that would change the landscape, or when potentially risky new industries are proposed near homes or work. In its simplest form we call it NIMBY. (Not In My Back Yard). Thus it is with the Boston area in the Globe today, where there are protests cited on the location of both a new LNG port and a training windmill. I posted a picture of the impact of windmills in [an earlier picture post from the UK](#).

Unfortunately it does not make sense to place some energy generators far from the intended user. There are many small sources of energy, solar panels, ground-source heat pumps, windmills and small-scale hydro-electric and biodiesel facilities, that may be most viable if located near the end user. This will have a significant impact on the look of the neighborhood, and will require some change in the general attitude to energy generation. It is not an insurmountable problem, it will, however, add another interval of time between the time that we realize that we are going to need all these small contributors, and the time that they can be installed.

On an unrelated thought: the plane to and from Alaska flew over the Athabasca tar sands.

There was some talk, while we were in Alaska, about the coming gas pipeline from the North Slope. Local politicians want it to follow the current oil pipeline (though for technical reasons it will have to be a much different pipe). On the other hand industry seems convinced that the line will run down through Canada into the Mid-west. The little thought that popped into my head is that there is a concern that there will not be enough natural gas to continue to operate the oil sand extraction process as it gears up from its current 1 mbd of oil toward 2 and perhaps even 5 mbd. Well here comes a pipeline carrying gas that will be passing relatively close. One wonders if the world would rather that this gas were to be used as a natural gas supply or if, instead, it were put towards generating more fuel for cars and our mobile society.

Have a Happy Fourth!

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