

Confessions of Energy Legends:

Wind Power Technically, Economically Inefficient - Can't Really Replace Natural Gas in Electricity Sector



A sharp dressed Oil Billionaire breezed through Columbus, Ohio yesterday as part of a US tour asking citizens and civic leaders to pressure lawmakers for a “new deal” scale transmission

grid expansion “from sea to sea and border to border.”

This grid overhaul idea has surfaced before, but this time it has rock star status. It starts with Al Gore and his highly successful, multi-pronged global warming catastrophe platforms, and ends with iconic windmills and a silver tongued Texan named T. Boone Pickens. Wind and solar are the darlings of America’s eco-imagination these days, gathering favor as “the way forward to save a planet in peril.”

But faced with a simple question about the Pickens Plan in the midst of a Town Hall style gathering with all the ingredients of a wind power pep-rally, both Pickens and AEP Chief Michael Morris backed off like worn out rock stars from a mob of screaming teenagers.

When asked what electricity generation fuel they envisioned for load balancing once the NG has been diverted to the transportation sector (a pillar of [The Pickens Plan](#)) Boone responded “I don’t want to replace natural gas with wind... I would say that you use natural gas for power generation *and* a transportation fuel... natural gas will last for 20 to 65 years. Then you’re going to have to get on the battery.” Not a positive word for wind.

The follow up comment from AEP’s Michael Morris was even more damning for the fading fame of the towering turbine: “Today wind is electrically inefficient and economically inefficient but it won’t always be. We’ll crack that equation - Thank you.”

Strangely, at that moment I pictured the executive as Elvis, dressed in sequins and shades – a thin disguise of hype and glamour desperately trying to mask the fatal flaws beneath. “Thank you. Thank you very much.”