## More, larger, more powerful. Windturbines will now really breakthrough in Nederland.

Rough translation from Dutch of article "Meer, groter, krachtiger. Windmolens gaan nu echt doorbreken in Nederland" by Carel Grol in the "Financieële Dagblad" (≈ Dutch equivalent of Australian Financial Review) on 7 January 2019.

In the coming years wind turbines will definitely breakthrough in Nederland. Everywhere in the country permits have been given out. In addition the turbines get more power.

It took some effort to stay within the budget. "But really it was not as bad as we thought" says Gerlach Velthoeven chairman of the "Burgerwindcooperatie West-Betuwe" (≈ citizens wind co-op in West-Betuwe). After years of preparation their windparc will be build this vear. "The contractors can deliver. Perhaps there is some delay with Liander (a grid operator) that has to connect us to the network".

The windparc at freeway-node Deil will have 11 turbines. At the closed rubbish dump near Geldermalsen there will be three. Together they will be good for the electricity of 60,000 households. That are relative modest windparcs; in the Noordoostpolder are tens of turbines in a line, straight after each other.

But the arrival of these windparcs later this year fits a trend. During the years 2016, 2017, 2018 relative few were built. Windturbines onshore have to generate in 2020 roughly 6,000MW, spells out the "energy akkoord" (an energy policy accepted by the government 5 *vears ago*). That goal will definitely not be achieved by Nederland. At this moment there is just under 3,400MW onshore (more than 5% of the Dutch electricity usage according to the government). So there is still 2,600MW short.

"In the end Nederland will satisfy the goal" says expert Steven Velthuyzen from Bosch & Van Rijn, a windenergy consultancy based in Utrecht. "If needs be it happens two years later". Certainly he sees a large increases in building of windparcs in the next two years. The last three years there was in Nederland "net" about 300MW added. Many turbines older than 15 years are replaced: in the Wieringermeer tens of turbines have been removed and also in Flevoland old turbines are removed. New is larger and larger is more lucrative, so is the rule of thumb of windturbines.

Due to replacement of turbines the so-called net increase in capacity was not so large. And according to Velthuyzen it took so long because it took time to get policy done at province and council levels.

Two years ago the Nederlands Windenergie Associatie ( $\approx$  *Dutch windenergy association*) stated that the rate of installing had to increase. That so few windparcs were added can be blamed at the State and provincial governments. "They too few windturbines were made possible". The Association wanted that the State quickly removes the planning impediments for developments. Provinces had to stop putting extreme regulations in place for windturbines.

Now there is a choice of windparcs, as in the West-Betuwe, were finance has been organised and the construction can start soon. According to Bosch & Van Rijn will this year a start made with turbines that will have 977MW capacity. The onshore wind capacity will increase 25% as result -- if everything really will be built and finished this year. Apart from that it does not mean there will be more turbines, all mainly large turbines.

There is also opposition. Especially in the northeast. At Veendam and Stadskanaal it has escalated a lot. There are the villages Tweede Exloërmond and Gasselternijveenschemond, where soon there will be turbines with tip height of 210m. In this region sabotage and violence are to be taken into account. "But in Nijmegen and in Flevoland large windparcs are possible" said Jop Fackelday, PvdA-deputy ( $\approx$  Labor Party MP) of the province Flevoland, at the start of December to the Financieële Dagblad. In other words if citizens are well engaged in planning and also financially can profit from the turbines, any resistance can be managed. In this sense the opposition in the Veenkoloniën is rather the exception than the rule.

Another obstacle is the logistics. People and materials. Economists talk about a tight labour market. The construction industry has a howling shortage of people, just as for the network operators. Aliander, Stedin and Enexis (*three network operators*) have to prioritise their work. So, not everything will be finished.

In the Betuwe, that is an Alliander region, they took note that the netoperator the biggest stumbling block is. The windturbines themselves just order from the factory, will be delivered on location. "In a week there will be a turbine" knows Velthoeven. He says a windparc is not a residential estate development, within a few weeks all turbines will be erected. "We know that connection to the network is difficult. But, the construction will just go ahead. Even without connection to the network we can do test runs".

