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EB-2010-0253

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Pat Foster

24/9/10

September 19, 2010

Ms. Kristen Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli,

I wish to comment in regards to File # EB-2010-0253 Plateau Wind Inc. and the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

We live on a 100 acre farm (Cty. Rd 2).
We are owners/taxpayers of the road allowance on Grey County Road 2. Grey Highlands council is trying to protect us from the impact of I.P.C.-Plateau's proposed transmission lines.

There are several concerns regarding the Plateau Project and it's accompanying transmission lines. Problems specific to the transmission lines involves concerns regarding visual impact, potential health and safety problems and possible challenges involving the resale of this property.

Aim not I.P.C.-Plateau presented a visual impact meeting (May 25, 2009). I do not recall the potential route of the transmission lines to have been included at this time. It would have been beneficial to have known this.

A proper public meeting (with a panel of presenters and an audience) was frequently requested, but consistently turned down by I.P.C. (a renewable energy generator).

The visual impact of 45-50ft. poles along County Rd. 2 is a concern. We have added an enclosed sun-porch to the front of our house. We have a pristine view and feel that the poles will impede.

Health concerns are elaborated in the following comments:

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The Enbridge Wind Development north of Kincardine moved the electrical lines that service homes and farms from their poles onto the wind turbine poles and installed these electrical lines under the wind turbine collection lines. Families living within the project were fine until this happened. Now many suffer from tinnitus, headaches and sleepless nights, because of high frequency electrical pollution being induced from the wind-turbine lines onto the electrical lines servicing their homes.

This section of County Rd. 2 presents some weather challenges in regards to overhead wiring. According to Mr. W. Pol (I.P.C.), at a municipal council meeting, tower 7 has the potential to "ice-up". The access road from turbine 7 leads to County Rd. 2. This section of County Rd. 2 from Centre Line A, almost to our laneway, has high snow banks and often fills up during a storm. Shelburne Police will close this section of County Rd. 2 by parking a cruiser at the intersection of Centre Line A and Grey Rd. 2. Another cruiser may be parked in our laneway. Presently there are no hydro poles along this section of County Rd. 2. Perhaps this is because of potential problems with ice build-up. A cruiser may also be parked at the South Line B intersection instead of our laneway.

Osprey-Central School (Maxwell), a short distance away, has a record of experiencing more snow/ice days than most, if not all, other schools in Grey County. Ice being thrown from the turbine blades (towards the transmission line) must also be considered. One of Grey Highlands councilors had stopped near the Shelburne project (south of us) to let his children hear the turbine. A gentleman working on the turbine, asked him to get back into his car as he was concerned regarding ice throw from the blades.

Grey County also experiences some intense lightening storms. Last summer, a resident presently living along the proposed transmission route, had a hydro pole in his field hit by lightening. The lightening hit the pole and traveled along the lines into his home, causing damage to wiring within his home.

International Power Corporation (Plateau) has consistently shown a lack of true interest for citizens' concerns regarding the installation of industrial wind turbines. The proposed installation of a transmission line is simply a reflection of this attitude.

The Grey County Federation of Agriculture alludes to the core of the problem when it states that: "The provincial government has taken away the ability of municipalities to determine for themselves, if they want to allow wind power development; creating a powerless tier of government, the one closest to those affected (The Rural Voice Sept//10)."

Our council is trying to protect the constituents of Grey Highlands. It is a courageous step that is truly appreciated by all who feel that the rights of citizens should come before the financial gains of international corporations.

Canadian Democracy is being challenged!

I.P.C. conducted a survey in July. Following this survey the Municipal Council was told that most of the residents wanted the Plateau Project. A subsequent resident survey found that most of the residents did not want the Plateau Project in their community.

Everyone should be asked and given the opportunity to respond in writing to the question, "Do you want to have the Plateau Project in your community?" The wind company should not "assume" that position for you.

Plateau Wind Inc.(generators of renewable energy) was directed by the O.E.B. "To immediately serve a copy of the Notice of Application along with the location map and a copy of the Application....on all directly affected landowners as well as encumbrancers and encumbrancees.

A recent survey of residents determined that most residents along the proposed transmission line did not receive any information or anything beyond the Notice of Application and a copy of the map. To my knowledge only 3 residents received the Application package. Perhaps the leaseholders received the package. The Notice of Application and a copy of the map were posted (one day) in the local newspaper. Some residents missed seeing it or found it difficult to read (see enclosed paperclip).

The social fabric of our rural community has been fragmented. Local farmers have been approached by wind developers. Some farmers turned the offer down. Even though some farmers/leaseholders in the Plateau Project will benefit financially, other farmers will not.

All residents (farmers and small lot owners) will be affected by the visual impact of the transmission line, as well as the potential health and safety risks related to the lines. The fact that the health of livestock may also be compromised should be considered.

In summary then, the proposed transmission line presents the following concerns;

1. Most residents did not receive a copy of the Application.
2. The visual impact of 45-50 ft. poles.
3. Potential loss of resale value/speed of sale because of the transmission line.
4. The potential ice-up of wires on County Rd. 2 and the danger of ice-throw from the turbine blades.
5. Lightening storms-we have some significant ones.

6. Health concerns
 - (a) the potential cross contamination of high frequency electrical pollution on the wiring.
 - (b) Stray voltage.
7. The social fragmentation of our community.
8. Bill150 – the loss in the ability of the Municipal Government to protect its citizens.

Thank you for considering these concerns. The health and quality of life of Canadian citizens should come before the financial gains of corporations.

Sincerely,
Pat Foster
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