

Letter of Comment to the Ontario Energy Board, Board File number EB - 2011 - 0027.

Kathy Lint,



March 10, 2011

15/3/11
Ontario Energy Board,
Attention: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary,
P.O. Box 2319, 27th Floor,
2300 Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E5

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to you to express my concern for the health and welfare of my family, and community within Haldimand County. Approximately 200 wind turbines are to be erected in our area. They are to be situated no closer than 550 metres to a non-participating residence. I believe that even that's too close. It would make more sense to set them back two kilometres from a residence. Participating landowners should also have a much greater setback.

The provincial government has employed companies like Capital Power, Next Era and Samsung to tell us that research shows that few people suffer health problems due to these wind turbines. That is quite fascinating, since wind turbines are relatively new here in Ontario, and people are moving out of those areas occupied by said turbines. Animals and birds are also moving out due to the vibrations underground, and the noise of the turbines, let alone being chopped up by the blades while in flight. Obviously, wind turbines are affecting the quality of life as we know it. Tell me, how thrilled would you be to have one of these monstrosities two fields over from your home? What happens when my child starts complaining about headaches, or can't sleep because of the drone of wind turbine blades? What happens when the children at the nearby elementary school get sick. Don't tell me that it won't happen. Apparently nobody knows this for sure. Please put a stop to the wind turbines before it's too late. Prove to us that you care about us. Do the studies first, by non-biased parties, not the wind turbine companies, and do lots of them. I realize that this will take time, but it is our welfare that is at stake.

Wind turbines are terribly inefficient. If there's no wind, there's no energy, but WE will still be paying big bucks to the neighbouring farmers for those wind turbines. You are pitting neighbour against neighbour. It's ruining relationships within our community. It's been said for the last thirty years that the coal-fired generating station in Nanticoke needed scrubbers, but no government has bothered to see it through. I worked there for two summers during university, when all this talk started. Now, I'm retired. How is it that this discussion goes on for thirty or more years, but wind turbines have to be in place immediately? What about using natural gas-

fired generators at Nanticoke? You're going to have to have a full-time source of energy anyway. An individual from "the Bruce" suggested that using wind turbines is like driving to work in your car and leaving another vehicle running in your driveway with an attendant, in case you didn't get all the way to work. If there's no wind, there's no energy; and you still need another source of energy. What is the point of expensive, inefficient wind turbines? Go natural gas-powered, and be done with it. We'll plant the trees to absorb the CO₂. Please consider this now before it's too late!

Wind turbines slated for this area have to be reported on real estate paperwork. Who is going to buy our property at full value once you erect a wind turbine two fields over? I didn't sign the contract for a wind turbine; why should I have to pay? The farmer makes a bundle of money, and my property goes down in value. Yeah, that sounds fair. There are families in our community whom are looking at two and three wind turbines in one direction, as close as 600 metres away, and then more wind turbines in the other directions. It doesn't matter whether you barbecue in front of your house, at the side, or out back, you're plagued with the droning of a wind turbine, or the flashing of the sun on the blades. Do I sound bitter? I'm only just getting started. I hope you realize that this wind turbine situation is already a fiasco. Please stop this before it's too late!

In order to erect these wind turbines, one must blast into the bedrock for a firm foundation. How far down are you willing to go? We already have telephone poles reinforced in big metal tubs of rocks! When decommissioning the wind turbines, who is responsible for the removal of these huge cement bases or do they leave it underground? That's not green. What about the huge metal towers and blades? Are we also responsible for paying for their removal?

It has been said that government is attracting investors into the area. The only investors being attracted are the wind turbine companies, and we, the people, are paying for it. Our electricity bills will continue to rise! No investor is going to be attracted to this area with the high electric bills. Government says there will be 7000 new jobs in Ontario. They won't be permanent jobs, unless you are speaking about your complaint department. Once the towers and blades, etc. are manufactured and erected in Windsor and Tillsonburg (not here), there will only be a team of maintenance workers to keep a full-time job. Our area also stands to lose hundreds of jobs when you close down our coal-generating plant. This is very discouraging! Why live in Haldimand? Why would we want to continue living in Ontario? Our municipal government has no say in this endeavour. It's a dictatorship! People are trying to sell their homes and move. What's next?

I understand that we, in Ontario, need a different source of energy. However, wind turbines are not the answer. Off-shore wind turbines have been put off due to health concerns. Fancy that! I believe that I've given you an alternative source of power. Please consider a natural gas-powered generating station at Nanticoke. Please stop the use of inefficient and expensive wind turbines.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lint

