

Fax

To OEB + Nextera

From Mary & John Van Miltenburg

3 pages including cover sheet

Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2012-0442

We are filing a **Letter of Comment** regarding Varna Wind Inc. - Application for Leave to Construct Transmission Facilities in Huron County.

We live in Huron County where the main economic activities are Agriculture and Tourism. According to Stats Canada 2011, from all of the counties in Ontario, **the County of Huron** can boast having

- the largest corn acreage
- the third largest soybean acreage
- the highest number of pigs
- the highest sheep population
- the fourth highest number of dairy producers
- the most farms
- the most farm operators

We promote ourselves as "**Ontario's West Coast**" to promote our beautiful Ontario shoreline.

Now the County of Huron has fallen victim to the renewable energy political football.

- Our communities are being torn apart by the wind turbines turning neighbour against neighbour. Many leaseholders are being hypocritical NIMBY's by allowing huge wind turbines near their neighbour's home but not by their own home. Many leaseholders don't even live in the municipality.
- We challenge Nextera's submission of a final footprint of 62 acres for this 37 turbine project. Using Nextera's figures of
 - 40 Km of service roads at 10 metre wide
 - 5 acres for a substation
 - 1/10th of an acre for each turbine pad.

By our calculations, access roads already destroy 103 acres, plus 5 acres for a substation, plus 1/10th of an acre, plus all of the lands not mentioned for assembly yards, poles, maintenance yards, etc. the actual number is closer to 4 acres per turbine, for a total of 148 acres.

Considering the 422 turbines proposed in the County of Huron alone, in the fall of 2011, **1,688 acres** of some of the world's best agricultural land is permanently taken out of green space or agricultural production. The food producing soils are a scarce resource being destroyed leading to future higher food costs and a threat to food security in an already hungry world.

- The highest concentration of wind turbines in Ontario, is being proposed along Lake Huron. These turbines will affect the winds coming off Lake Huron and ultimately will effect rainfall patterns. A threat to the very economic engine of the county.
- The electromagnetic fields produced by turbines and transmission lines will interfere with communication devices used in their proximity.
- Nextera and Northland Power are proposing new transmission lines to pollute our country side. There is already a 500 kV transmission line running north south from the Bruce Nuclear Plant along all the proposed wind farms along the lake. If wind power is as reliable as the proponents of wind energy would suggest, why not disconnect the 500 kV transmission line at the Bruce and feed this line directly from the turbines? This would eliminate the need for all of these additional transmission lines. Redirect the power, that was originally transmitted on the 500 kV line, to the existing line from the Bruce to the GTA.
- Stories in the news, on a regular basis, of real families suffering from the negative health effects of wind turbines **do not convince me of the safety claims** made by wind turbine proponents. Even the people signing the land leases do not want them near their own homes. A recent study in Maine states, as reported in the periodical, "Noise and Health" found that a random

sample of residents living within 1.4 Km of wind turbines in 2 main communities suffered more from impaired mental health and sleep deprivation than those who lived at least 3.3 km away. On January 3, 2013, CKNX radio reported, the Ontario PC's, under the Freedom of Information Act, have found the Ontario Liberals have known since 2009 wind turbines can negatively affect health. A similar story was reported by the London TV news on January 7, 2013.

- Nextera should at the very least respect the lives of the people and their families living in the proximity of the proposed project and await the results of the Federal Health Study.
- The romanticized side of renewable energy is covered by the urban media. They seldom cover the actual economic, intrusion, infrastructure shortcomings, the offsetting negative environmental impact, etc. The full impact of wind turbines has been placed on the backs of the rural communities.
- The jobs created by wind energy are only replacing a few of the many jobs lost directly because of the cost of renewable energy.

"Chainsaw used to clear away bald eagle's home to make way for wind turbine in Haldimand County." was the story headline in the London Free Press on January 7, 2013. Nextera has chain sawed a Bald Eagle's nest to make way for a wind turbine with the blessing of Ontario's bureaucrats. **How can anyone with an environmental conscience allow this to happen let alone approval being given to a subsidiary of an American company?** Loggers or farmers who reside in the Province of Ontario would never want nor be allowed to do such a thing.

We are land owners along the proposed transmission line route and we disagree with the proposed route. We feel that it is not needed. Nextera and HONI should have expertise capable of combining the power on the 500 kW transmission line already in place. Rather than saying it can not be done, MAKE IT WORK.

We feel the proposed transmission line will

- take away our trees
- have hydro poles on both sides of the road
- affect access to our properties
- affects our safety and that of our neighbours
- affects our health
- we do not want to be the statistics of future health studies
- as the wind turbines affects agriculture it will affect property values
- we are in the business of producing food
- farmers feed cities
- affects the livestock farmers on the route
- close proximity to an elementary school
- a threat of future expansion to the line
- causing much anxiety to the families of the many homes that are located extremely close to the proposed transmission line.
- why does the MOE lower standards to accommodate the wind turbines rather than having the turbine companies meet the MOE standards?
- Nextera's lack of concern for our children, in even considering a high voltage transmission line that close to an elementary school, is not acceptable
- Nextera's method of divide and conquer hasn't done Nextera any favours
- Nextera's arrogance is not appreciated in our community

John and Mary Van Miltenburg

