

Ontario Energy Board

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Attention: Board Secretary

I would like to enter this letter into the hearing of the Varna Wind Inc by Nextera Energy (EB-2012-442) as my official comment.

I am currently a landowner on Centennial Road where the proposed transmission line will be located. In addition to being a landowner I am also the owner/operator of a dairy farm in the same location. My concern if the transmission line is placed on or near my property is the stray/tingle voltage coming from the line.

In section 43 under the heading Rationale for Selection Proposed Transmission Route Nextera Energy states "The Centennial-Hensall road combination as the most direct route from the Substation to the Seaforth TS, with least number of residences and commercial/industrial customers along the route." In my opinion Nextera Energy should have done their homework and realized that there were no commercial/industrial customers on this route and since they were in the heart of agriculture country they should have taken the agricultural industry into consideration. On this route there is a heavy dairy population, when compared to the rest of Tuckersmithtownship this is the most heavily populated area for dairy farms. Keeping this in mind and knowing that there is a strong possibility of stray/tingle voltage the route should have been placed elsewhere.

After asking the representative for written proof that we would be compensated if anything were to ever happen and given the answer of "NO" I then corresponded with Nextera Energy. In the correspondents own words he wrote, "Within Ontario, power provider transmission lines of varying sizes are common within our environment and those lines are built in accordance with Distribution System Code, the Transmission System Code (both managed by the Ontario Energy Board), the Canadian Standards Association, the Ontario Electrical Safety Authority to ensure public safety. By following these stringent requirements, we feel that the safety and welfare of livestock are considered and must be addressed electrical distributors and generators. As such, no separate agreements are required relating to such matters." I questioned this and began to research for myself the effects of stray/tingle voltage. There were hundreds of articles on the internet about this subject and several in recent newspapers. Articles talked about dancing cows, loss of milk production, breeding problems, lameness, abortion and

death itself. (Articles most recently written were Ontario Farmer December 25,2012 edition called Stray voltage: still the sickness few want to talk about and in the Rural Voice January 2013 called Dancing Cows Spell Trouble). This does not even include the stress on the farmer, his family, health and financial situation. Although Nextera Energy is going to build this transmission line following the standards the correspondent indicated so does HONI. HONI is reported to have stray voltage as indicated by the above mentioned articles, so my question is how can Nextera Energy guarantee that there will be NO stray/tingle voltage? HONI has transmission lines that go up to 45kV where Nextera Energy's line will be 115kV this means that there is over twice as much power running through the proposed transmission line. Given this information I would have to guess that there would be twice the chance of having stray/tingle voltage. If Nextera Energy is so confident that this 115kV transmission line will not give off any stray/tingle voltage why will Nextera Energy not give me my stray voltage agreement?

I then contacted Nextera Energy again with another set of questions this time my contact was a different individual. One of the questions I asked were, "Will there ever now or in the future be any stray voltage coming from the transmission lines that could affect the dairy operations on Centennial Road?" My contact replied, "No, there should not be stray voltage emitted from our transmission line". In my opinion with this particular response it should be Nextera Energy's obligation to the dairy farmers on Centennial Road to supply them with a fully inclusive written stray voltage agreement with full liability coverage for any losses that may have been incurred.

Next question I asked in this letter was, "If yes will these dairy operations be compensated?" This same contact responded with "If tests reveal that stray voltage is attributed directly to our transmission line, NextEra Energy Canada will, as mentioned, quickly collaborate with HONI to mitigate and fix any associated problem". Later in this same letter this individual states, "NextEra commits to working with Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI), as well as nearby landowners as this transmission line is planned to ensure that the proposed infrastructure does not affect local production levels of milk, meat, or crops." In both of these statements made by Nextera Energy there is a reference to working with HONI. As indicated in the Seaforth Huron Expositor (internet Dated December 3rd 2012) states, "Their people (indicating HONI) are not trained above 45kV." If HONI is not trained for working with this kind of voltage then how does Nextera Energy expect them to help and why are they not taking responsibility of their own infrastructure?

I am also concerned about the health of my family and myself. The proposed transmission line will be going directly over the laneway to our property. The distance required to stay away from the transmission line to avoid EMF's is three hundred feet. If the posts are eighty feet in height it doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that anyone who drives under these wires will be 220 feet to close.

I believe that everyone in this world has a right to lead a happy and healthy life. Our lives were happy, healthy and peaceful until Nextera came into the picture. Now there is a constant worry of how will I protect my family as well as myself from the upcoming elements that Nextera is planning on bestowing on us. This has already begun to have an adverse effect on my health.

I have contacted the office of Nextera Energy and the cell phone of a representative on January 4th, 8th and the 11th. At the office I talked to the receptionist and was told to call the representative, she gave me the cell number. I called the cell number and left a message and automated number to return my call. To this day no one has ever returned my call.

In conclusion I feel that I have never gotten a straight answer from Nextera Energy. I believe that the answers I did get were vague and conflicting with what they were telling other neighbours, each one of us was told a different story. I feel we were intimidated and even bullied with such remarks as "we can now go around you." Since this proposed route will affect so many dairy farmers and their employees as well as future generations this is not the route that should have been chosen. I feel that they should put their money where their mouths are and give the dairy farmers a stray voltage contract. This contract should include the current operations and future generations who may operate there. Stray voltage is not just a present problem it may affect many generations therefore this stray voltage agreement should be an indium contract. I believe that these dairy farmers should be able to get an independent stray voltage test before the transmission line starts to run and that this test is used as a baseline. I also believe that Nextera Energy should use the dairy farmers own records for milk production, breeding, lameness, loss of finances, etcetera not what they say the farmer has lost. I think Nextera Energy should stand behind their infrastructure and not put everything on HONI.

As my final comment I would like the Ontario Energy Board to take into consideration what will happen to the dairy farmers of Centennial Road. Taking into consideration that there will be several families affected both directly and indirectly involved in the outcome of this transmission line. Please also keep in mind that these dairy farmers supply enough milk for more than one million Ontarians with a 4L jug of milk each year.

P.S. I find it appalling how Nextera Energy was allowed to cut down the tree with the Bald Eagle (species of special concern in Ontario). In my opinion just an example of how Nextera Energy is walking all over us.

Rose Van Miltenburg

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