

Thursday, March 21, 2013

The Board
P. O. Box 2319
27th Floor
2300, Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4P1E4

RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND HEARING – WIND ENERGY INC. (APPLICANT (S) FILE# EB-2013-0031
SUBSECTION – COMMENT TO THE BOARD

Attention: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary, OEB

Dear Ms. Walli:

We, the people of Wainfleet, highly object to these Industrial Wind Turbines being proposed for our area especially at a 550 metre setback near family homes. There would be a multitude of sounds and shadow flicker emitted both singularly and in clusters that are well documented to cause sleep deprivation and have hazardous strobe effect on people. These wind turbines are regarded as both public and private nuisances and are well documented to produce ill effects on both people and wildlife. There is a one hour documentary on cbc.doczone.ca with breathtaking testimony from people who are very remorseful that they agreed to allowing these in their community. The demolition of the lands will severely disrupt our ecosystem and quite possibly contaminate the aquifer. Quite frankly, these turbines will destroy our way of life. A countryside blighted with formidable wind turbines is not acceptable to us. Perhaps they should have consulted with the people of Wainfleet before they decided to foist these upon us.

It would appear that Wainfleet Wind Energy is attempting to bypass the criteria established by the Wainfleet Township representative of the people of Wainfleet who have revoked and rescinded their proposal to construct a 27.6Kv underground distribution system for five turbines in our community. Wainfleet has passed a moratorium on wind turbines and a 2 km setback bylaw is currently before the courts. A 550 metre setback allowance is totally unacceptable to us and this is why it is of the utmost urgency that we must take corrective action now on these setback allowances. There is just too much at stake and we must get this right.

The wind turbines projected for Wainfleet are 230 megawatts and 179 metres in height. These are much greater in size than the model used to determine the 550 metre setback presently in place. Therefore, it is our contention that an increase in the setback distance to 2 km based upon the larger sized model of turbines proposed for our area is in order.

But really, let's be perfectly clear that this is just a money making adventure by the private landowners (our neighbours). Each landowner who hosts a turbine on his/her property stands to collect \$50,000 per year; that is ONE MILLION DOLLARS over the 20 year lifespan of these turbines. And unfortunately, at the end of the turbines life time, it is our children and grandchildren who will be faced with the arduous task of decommissioning them after all the damage has been done to the environment.

We understand that the investors are taking advantage of the McGuinty Green Energy Act which is one of the greatest scams ever perpetrated on Ontarians. This so called "green agenda" by the Liberal Government is forcing electricity consumers (that's you and me) to spend outrageous amounts of cash buying wind power through their 20 year contracts they've signed with the wind industry. They have also stipulated that wherever wind is produced it has to be bought before all other forms of energy. And, since we have an energy surplus in Ontario, when the province buys wind power, it has to dump cheaper forms of it like hydro power or sell it at a loss to the U.S.A.

The government had better start listening to rural-residential Ontario. Can't you hear us? We don't want your dam wind turbines hovering over our homes. Even our own elected official, Cindy Forster, sold us out when she voted to give McGuinty a blank slate instead of doing the job she was elected to do and vote for the individual municipalities to have their say in the matter. Each municipality has its' own unique set of circumstances and each should be dealt with on an individual basis.

This is a fight we are prepared to take to the Leadership of Ontario. Kathleen Wynne stated in a teleconference call with reporters on February 21, 2013 that she wants to give municipalities and community members more say on future projects and she wants to find a way to make sure green energy projects are going to "willing communities". She also told reporters that she has made it her business to get to know what goes on in rural Ontario. We are counting on her to undo the damage done by McGuinty who has ripped the heart out of rural Ontario.

McGuinty has already signed an untendered \$7 BILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT with a South Korean firm Samsung, to develop 2500 megawatts of wind and solar in Ontario at a guaranteed rate of 13.5 cents per kwh over 20 years when rates this year have hovered between three and four cents. McGuinty was convinced that Ontarians would embrace windpower but opposition is firm enough that Kathleen Wynne is being forced to stand up and take notice. McGuinty over estimated Ontarian's commitment to alter our lifestyles and protect the environment and he underestimated the strength of the "not in my backyard" lobby.

We stand to see our property values plummet together with the potential health risks. Ministry of Environment Provincial Officer, Gary Tomlinson has released a document stating that at least two families have moved out of their homes due to noise impact and that they are aware that there were at least six cases where the wind developer bought out residents homes in order to silence their ongoing concerns. We do not want to feel the ground vibrating under our feet, nor do we want to watch as the Canadian Geese are slaughtered as they fly through the tonnage of blades in what is rightfully their flight path, nor do we want to see the wildlife disappear from our landscape. It is with much sadness and great despair to drive through our neighbouring community Lowbanks, Ontario to see the look and feel of the wind turbines soaring over their homes and one thing above all stands out, NO WILDLIFE! One could call it catastrophic what has happened to their lands. When stopping to speak to a Lowbank's resident he stated that he called several times to report that the turbine in back of his home was making a terrible noise coming from the mechanical gears inside the turbine and he was advised that he should "turn up his radio". He also stated that the "whooshing" sounds of the blades at night are extremely upsetting to him. He too had many unanswered questions about these turbines such as "why is it at night he asks, that the blades continue to go around when there is absolutely no wind?"

Common sense would dictate that these Industrial Wind Turbines do not belong around people's homes and resistance to windy energy is galvanizing in Ontario. On Manitoulin Island, Northland Power and a group of 10 first nations, signed a joint venture for 33 turbines (since reduced to 24) and the elders and

community members are fighting the project, citing destruction of the wildlife habitat. Wind projects proposed for the north shore of Lake Superior are also facing strong opposition. This is a deliberate attempt to divide Ontario along rural and urban lines at a cost of \$11 billion dollars.

These turbines are wasteful and unnecessary and are nothing more than a “get rich” project for a few investors and private land owners (our neighbours) who are poised to become extremely wealthy at our expense. Our entire way of life will be compromised at the hands of a few. Wind turbine development is not all that it’s praised to be; in fact the green energy agenda isn’t quite so “green” when you delve into the facts. It would be a very serious mistake to sacrifice our low energy rates for unaffordable subsidies for wind power that we don’t even need. And indeed, whilst I am writing this letter, there is an article in today’s Tribune dated Thursday, March 21, 2013 which announces that “ the Niagara Tunnel Project with the help of Big Becky, the world’s largest hard rock tunnel boring machine, is in service and ready to go. The Ontario Minister of Energy Bob Chiarelli will be joined by Minister of Environment Jim Bradley and Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor at the Ontario Power Generation visitors’ centre on the Niagara Parkway in Niagara on the Lake to mark the milestone”. Water from the upper Niagara River to the Sir Adam Beck generating station will provide enough hydroelectricity to power 160,000 homes each year. This is another example of why we do not need these wind turbines in our area with Niagara Falls right next door.

Right now, Tim Hudak and his PC Government have called to several moratoriums on wind projects. In April 2010 at Queen’s Park, Hudak brought forward a bill to halt industrial wind turbine development. In March 2011, he was joined by West Lincoln Mayor Doug Joyner and our Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs at West Lincoln Township Hall to renew that call. This past June he was joined by his fellow counterpart in the riding, Dean Allison, in demanding an immediate moratorium on Industrial Wind Turbine development until the Federal Health Study is complete in 2014. This is not a long time to wait to get this right!

Our outcry is becoming swift and loud. An anti-wind turbine rally was conducted on February 22, 2013 at the Jericho House on Rathfon Road in Wainfleet. There were hundreds of people thrusting their signs into air. Bus loads of anti-wind protestors arrived to show their solidarity. There were men who came from all over Ontario who put together a replica of a wind turbine in the back of their truck and there were signs so big that they required several people to carry them. There were epitaphs of the bald eagle’s nest which was removed from an old tree in Fisherville in order to make a turbine access road. A permit was applied for on a Friday afternoon and by six o’clock the next morning the bald eagle’s nest was hoisted out of the tree with a crane and they proceeded to chop down the tree. Whomever is responsible for allowing this should most definitely lose their job.

We see the stock piles of turbine parts in the railyard ready to go. NOT SO FAST! No agreements have been stamped and approved by us. We know that contracts have been signed but contracts can be broken when all parties don’t come to a mutual understanding.

Another rally is being planned for next month. We are not going to stop fighting for the greater good and we are most definitely not going away. The fact of the matter is that you cannot ignore us any longer, nor can you minimize our concerns. We are the ones who must live in the shadow of these giants. It is our lives that will be impacted the most.

Sincerely,
Katherine Pilon, [REDACTED]