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FAO  
John Pickernell  
Assistant Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
PO Box 2319  
Toronto  
Ontario  
M4P 1E4

9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

Dear Sir,

Application submitted by Wainfleet Wind Energy – File No. EB-2013-0401

Please find enclosed two hard copies of my comments with regard to the above application as required by your office. An electronic copy will already have been received by you.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of them, via e-mail will be fine.

Regards

Andrew Watts

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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Please Note: Mailing address as per above letterhead.

Comments with regard to the application submitted to the Ontario Energy Board by:

**WAINFLEET WIND ENERGY – FILE No.EB-2013-0401**

It's difficult to understand why the OEB would even consider approving this, a second wind energy project in Wainfleet for the same company.

Wainfleet Wind Energy has received approval for a similar project in Wainfleet already. The government's own figures on the IESO site indicate that over time such a project may produce approximately 0.002% of Ontario's energy demand and not necessarily when there is a need for that energy.

Because the grid access is outside of Wainfleet township there is not even any meaningful way of showing that any of the energy produced by this project will actually contribute energy to a single home in Wainfleet or benefit a single Wainfleet resident.

Throughout this first approval process the entire Wainfleet Wind Energy staff exhibited a complete disregard for the concerns of any single resident of Wainfleet and the democratically elected Council who represent them.

When Wainfleet Council unanimously approved a 2km Minimum Safe Setback Distance Wainfleet Wind Energy chose to initiate a lawsuit against Wainfleet residents without any attempt at discussing any mediation.

The judge ruled that Wainfleet Council did have the right and authority, under the Municipal Act, to approve such a Bylaw, but also ruled that because of the Green Energy Act they may not be able to enforce it.

Wainfleet Wind Energy were awarded costs, to be paid for by the Wainfleet residents.

Wainfleet Council chose not to appeal because they were not able to commit more tax dollars to an appeal they may not win.

Throughout the whole process the only Wainfleet residents who will benefit from this project are the host landowners.

The contempt with which Wainfleet Wind Energy holds the concerns of an overwhelming majority of Wainfleet residents and their community can't be emphasised enough. Although there were no public meetings before the first application was submitted Wainfleet residents were aware such an application was to be submitted.

This second time around Wainfleet Wind Energy have completed all their planning in secret and behind closed doors and the first information Wainfleet residents received was after the Application was submitted.

**With regard to this present application by Wainfleet Wind Energy for a similar wind energy project:**

Within the past year this provincial government have committed to addressing the concerns of communities who declare that they are Unwilling Hosts.

The Township of Wainfleet, with the full support of its residents was among the earlier municipalities to declare Wainfleet an Unwilling Host.

One of the first acts of the present Minister of Energy was to change the terms of the FIT programme and agree to pay wind energy producers even when they did not produce energy for the grid.

The majority of construction workers employed by Wainfleet Wind Energy during the construction phase are not Wainfleet residents so Wainfleet will not benefit from any quantifiable new 'green' jobs, even these short term construction jobs.

If approved, once this project is in service any maintenance work will be undertaken by those one or two jobs already in place to maintain the first project. There will be no new long term 'green' jobs that would benefit anyone in Wainfleet.

So you have a company who over the past two years and more have shown a complete disregard for any Wainfleet resident now wanting to begin the process over again, and again without any prior consultation with either Wainfleet residents or the democratically elected Township Council elected to serve those residents' best interests.

The governments own figures indicate that such a project and existing policies will ensure even less energy supplied to the grid than the present project.

In the now infamous report signed by Arlene King, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, a single quote claiming that Industrial Wind Turbines were not proven to directly 'cause' negative health impacts is the only one used by his government, and others, to ignore and deny any harmful effects on people living in close proximity to industrial wind energy projects.

In the same report a statement never publicised by the provincial government or wind energy proponents is also very clearly stated. Arlene King recognises that more than one IWT in close proximity can be seen as 'clumping'. She goes on to state that in such cases the Minimum Safe Setback Distances should be increased from the provinces 550mtrs Safe Setback Distance.

If you apply Arlene King's directives then even with the current project with two clumps of two and a three IWT's planned in both cases the 550mtrs is being used and is in direct conflict with the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health's clearly stated recommended Minimum Safe Setback Distances when IWTs are erected in proximity to each other, in 'clumps'.

There is no reason to believe that Wainfleet Wind Energy will submit plans that actually do conform this time around, nor that your offices will do any better job of demanding compliance.

A second badly planned project can only compound the existing problems.

1. Non-compliance with Minimum Safe Setback Distances which will assure non-compliance with required Maximum Permitted Noise parameters.

2. Double the amount of toxins and contaminants placed in the agricultural environment in Wainfleet. None of the materials used in the construction and erecting of Industrial Wind Energy projects are biodegradable so by definition are pollutants.

3. Compound the damage already being done to Wainfleet's roads which were not constructed to accept such heavy loads and industrial traffic.

4. Construction and erection will be detrimental to both the water table, the wetlands and to existing wells and well water. The extent of any damage will not be evident until after construction is completed and operations have begun.

5. Add a decommissioning and recycling problem for future generations that the Green Energy Act, this provincial government nor the Ontario wind energy industry have ever yet addressed fully.

6. If either or even both projects do supply any energy directly to the Ontario grid the amount will be so insignificant to be unquantifiable. It is more likely that much of the energy produced will not go into the grid yet Wainfleet Wind Energy will still claim payment for that useless energy and perhaps even claim payment when not producing any energy.

The list just goes on, and in spite of claims by the provincial government and the wind energy industry about the benefits of wind energy it is almost impossible to actually find a single benefit, economically, environmentally or societally, with any credibility or proof to back those claims up.

I understand that you are employed by the provincial government to promote the policies they initiate and have no wish to embark on any meaningful dialogue with regard to the benefits, or otherwise, of the Green Energy Act and industrial wind energy. I can't believe there aren't many of you who are not already aware of the problems facing many other governments worldwide with regard to their ill thought out wind energy initiatives.

However, I would just remind you that Wainfleet has declared itself very forcefully, an Unwilling Host. As public servants I would hope that you may take this into consideration as you assess this second application from Wainfleet Wind Energy.

By their attitudes and their actions Wainfleet Wind Energy have never demonstrated they wish to benefit anyone apart from themselves in the profits they will make from being a part of the FIT programme.

For the miniscule amount of energy a project of this size can produce at optimum production over any extended period of time the question should be 'What is the point?'

Far better to accept Wainfleet as an Unwilling Host and at least benefit a community rather than profits for just one or two host landowners who have turned their backs on their own community.

This project is not wanted and can contribute nothing measurable to Ontario's Energy Capacity.

Wainfleet is an Unwilling Host.

Regards

*Andrew Watts*

Andrew Watts

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