

From: [BoardSec](#)
To: [Shelly-Anne Connell](#)
Subject: FW: Comment to Application for Electricity Generation Licence SunE Welland Ridge LP EB-2014-0020
Date: February -25-14 8:51:31 AM

From: Herb and Carol [REDACTED]
Sent: February-24-14 11:12 PM
To: BoardSec
Subject: Comment to Application for Electricity Generation Licence SunE Welland Ridge LP EB-2014-0020

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February 24, 2014.

Attention: Kristen Walli
Board Secretary
Filings: Re SunE Welland Ridge LP
Application for Electricity Generation Licence
Board File Number EB-2014-0020

Letter of Comment

Since this is the last office we can express our concerns to, even though those concerns may not fit into the very narrow scope of decision making in which you govern. It is the last official place, to plead for recognition to our concerns.

In reference to your Mission Statement "To promote a viable, sustainable and efficient energy sector that serves the public interest and assists consumers to obtain reliable energy services at reasonable costs." We wonder why the government continues to subsidize projects when we have no need for the poweror pay them not to produce electricity, when factories and businesses have been decimated. When new infrastructure must be built or replaced to carry the power. When renewables are bought before cheaper forms of electricity. When we give our excess energy to other provinces or states. Or better yet pay them to take it. We wonder when it is stated how many homes will be powered with electricity by solar plants what exactly can actually be powered in those homes. We wonder why this renewable is being built in an area where the greenest, cleanest energy in the world is produced at Niagara Falls for .05 cents and solar is around .43 cents.

The Ontario Energy Board may look at a very narrow scope when deciding whether to issue an Electricity Generation Licence. But to the people surrounding this site it is a very broad based issue and quite a big deal. As I am sure it would be to you also if you woke up one morning and found out that a 100 acre industrial site was going to be placed in your back yard (or front yard) when there were lesser lands and brown-fields etc. which could have

accommodated this plant....may have actually improved those lands if the government had not been in such a hurry to bulldoze these projects through at what could be considered an effort to save the environment by killing it. We did not need to place an electrical producing plant on prime farmland that produced abundant crops for humans and animals for the past 200 years and to destroy an aquifer. Solar does not need water and soil to grow... just sunshine and that is not really abundant in Ontario in the winter.

It is stated that different offices have issued approvals at every step. We have had many significant issues and concerns and we ask to what standards these studies were conducted? Why were water and soil tests considered privacy issues? Why were groundwater and aquifers not addressed in the GEA in 2009? Was the groundwater and aquifer here ever really studied? People relying on wells as their drinking water are worried about both the known and unknown pollution that may happen. But we are not allowed to address what could happen to human health only what can be proven to happen. In the beginning stray energy was said not to exist. Now it is stated that it exists on all energy projects. But Health Canada does not recognize it as being harmful to humans. Would that be all humans?

We built our supposed-to-be retirement home 36 years ago in a rural residential agricultural setting. We had planned to continue our organic gardening and farming to supplement our livelihood after retirement. This was our dream. We now feel we will lose equity in the largest asset we have. To say that our property value next to this site will not decrease or would be dependant upon the ascetics desired by the potential buyer is an entertaining and wishful thought but I do not know many people who would want to purchase a home close to this now industrialized area. And if so at what price? We ask if anyone has done due diligence concerning what study was used and how the study was conducted?

Since developers have argued that there would be no devaluation of property we have suggested that there should be no problem guaranteeing property value. The developers are making a lot of money from the residents of Ontario. Why does government not insist that the people affected by these projects be compensated by the developers? Or is it, that since the once significant wildlife and environment was designated insignificant... that the people are also considered insignificant. Are we the collateral damage to the governments green dream?

To say that our quality of life has been affected is an understatement. It fragmented a community and a wildlife area. When the place you call home is invaded by developers it is quite a shock to discover that an industrial solar plant could be built in your area. It had never even been thought of. This was a small rural farming community. We worked, played, relaxed and watched nature up close. No one can tell us what is in our area. We already know. We wonder and appreciate the small things urban dwellers may not notice. We are stewards of the land and protective of the natural environment surrounding us knowing that one is dependant on another.

We use to walk daily but now due to road deterioration we feel we cannot do so safely. When I look out my window or am on our property that is not a "point of reception" I see thousands of lights glinting from the structures when the sun is in the right position but am assured that a chain link fence with barbed wire will protect me from the sight and the sound

of the project. When we drive down the road it is like entering a protected prison area with the high, close to the road barbed wire fence. We were not comforted by the fact that the developers wanted to purchase trees for us to plant on our farmland. With the large farm machinery working the land and in the area designated for us to plant them, the small trees would not thrive and will probably die. Our question has never been answered that if large farm machinery causes damage to their panels etc. who is liable? The site being right on the boundary line with productive farmland is a stressful situation for a farmer. These are only a few things with this industrial development.

So many rules that were put into place over time to protect the environment and people, were removed with O. reg. 359/09 the GEA. Then the changing of rules were such if this project were to go in under the new rules could never be built here with Prime CLI land class 3 mixed with 1 and 2; on top of a shallow aquifer; close to residential properties. These projects were a burden placed on the rural people of Ontario. It was not our job to protect our area. The rules were already in place. This project should never have been built here and it is a grim view of democracy... thanks to the Green Energy Act.

Respectfully

Carol & Herb Haeberle

