

Earl Gordon McArthur

[REDACTED]

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

02 September 2014

Attn: Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli,

Letter of Intervention
RE: EB-2014-0226 – wpd Fairview Wind Incorporated

I, **Earl Gordon McArthur**, own and operate McArthur Farm, a Heritage Farm, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Half, of the historic Township of Nottawasaga, now incorporated into Clearview Township, Simcoe County.

I am submitting this Letter of Intervention via my neighbor's email (and they typed it for me) because I do not have a computer. I was taken aback to receive the OEB Notice in combination with a CD that I was not able to view. To this date I have not been able to view the CD provided to me by wpd Fairview Wind Inc.

Please inform me where and when I may access and review a hard copy of all documents, particularly the revised Application and proposed Road Agreement.

The Notice does not state where hard copy of the eight items comprising the Application may be found. The Map attached to the Notice is not legible, and appears to contain significant errors and omissions. It is not appropriate as a basis for an Intervenor submission. I request a large scale, legible copy of this map, and any others illustrations that depict application details.

The distribution facilities run through rural Ontario farmlands. I am currently harvesting apples and working from dawn to dusk to feed our cities. It is unreasonable to put the burden of such quickly required response on working people under the pressure of seasonal operations.

McArthur Farm, established 1818 by Gilbert McArthur, has been in the McArthur family continuously for almost 200 years. For 96 years, McArthur Farm has been known for growing high quality heritage apples, including the fruit from many trees that are over 100 years old. The orchards comprise more than 600 trees. For over 50 years, McArthur Farm has raised commercial polled Herefords. This past year 30 calves were born and bred on the farm, sired by pure bred polled Hereford bulls.

I am formally requesting Intervenor Status on the following grounds:

Distribution lines are proposed along the eastern boundary of 1000 ft of my property, within the Municipal road allowance, that will necessitate the removal of more than 50 Heritage Sugar Maples.

We revel in the splendor of the magnificent old sugar maples that line many of the sideroads in Clearview Township. They are glorious and bring a certain peacefulness in all four seasons. The Sugar Maple, which can live to well over 200 years, is an important species to the ecology of many forests in North America. They are among the most shade tolerant of large deciduous trees. The sugar maple is considered Canada's national tree, as its leaf is featured on our flag. Sugar maples are valued for their wood and their syrup. "Sugaring off" was an important part of pioneer culture, and continues to be a Canadian spring tradition. Sap is collected in buckets and boiled down to make syrup. It is said Canada produces 80% of the world's maple syrup.

The many maples along our roads were likely planted in the late 1800s. In the latter part of the century, there was considerable concern about the large tracts of forests that had been cleared to make way for agricultural land. This deforestation contributed to erosion and the decline of water volume in many streams. As a result, some areas of Ontario were referred to as 'dust bowls'. Some mills that relied on water for power found they could no longer efficiently operate.

The provincial government established a department known as the 'Clerk of Forestry' and reforestation initiatives such as 'Arbor Day', *The Tree Act of 1871* and the *Ontario Tree Planting Act of 1883* (which superseded the 1871 Act) were put in place. These Acts paid landowners twenty-five cents for each tree planted along a highway or on boundary lines between farms.

The 1883 Act protected the trees from injury or removal except where approval was given by Council. This Act was repealed just before the turn of the century as it was found that less than 10% of the money had been spent and few municipalities availed themselves of the provisions. We are fortunate in Clearview Township that a number of landowners took advantage of the above Acts. Many travelers and their horses along the side roads must have been appreciative of the wind breaks, shade and other benefits that these trees provided.

The Fairview Wind Project will severely alter the natural Heritage Landscape of our neighborhood roads as it proposes to remove in excess of 50 Century Heritage Sugar Maples lining Fairgrounds Rd, that were established under the Clerk of Forestry's Act of 1871.

In addition to my concerns regarding the threat to the Heritage Maple Trees, I am worried that the proposed underground trenching will affect and/or pollute the water courses which are critical to the irrigation needs of my cattle, my orchard and my farm crops.

I am told that wpd Fairview Wind Inc.'s proposed underground boring is to run underneath a portion of Fairgrounds Rd, and including a portion through the intersection of 21/22 Sideroad in close proximity to the 'Lamont Creek' thereby exposing a risk of toxic drill muds being discharged in the environmentally protected MNR fresh water course.

Oral Hearing

Because I do not have internet, a computer or a fax machine, I am requesting the Ontario Energy Board undertake an Oral Hearing for File EB-2014-0226. As one of the single most affected heritage farming operations by the outcome of this Hearing, my participation will be compromised and limited by a Written Hearing process.

Yours truly,

Earl G. McArthur

