From: BoardSec
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: EB-2014-0295
Date: December 5, 2014 3:45:35 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: December-05-14 3:35 PM
To: BoardSec
Subject: EB-2014-0295

Concerning EB-2014-0295

We, Nathan and Caroline Sparling would like to voice our concern and state that we are against the proposed implementation of electricity distribution facilities being placed along the farm land we own and operate on Uttoxeter Road within the Township of Plympton Wyoming, ON.

Although we find underground hydro lines a better alternative to above ground hydro facilities we still have concerns with underground lines and the wind tower project in general.

We would like to voice concern in regards to the following areas:

1. Will a continuous trench be required? Will you consider sensitive soil areas with the directional boring required?

2. Will soil thermal conditions be modified? If thermal properties aren't measured the heat generated can cause the soil to dry out and as wind turbines operate almost continuously this causes the feeder cable to frequently run at maximum capacity. Distribution or low voltage cables have shown that they contribute to the drying out of the soil if they are continuously under full load.

3. Will the thermal backfill used be laboratory evaluated? Soil backfill is an important consideration. The effects of poorly installed thermal backfills and soils may not be evident for numerous years until cable loads increase and temperatures rise above allowable levels the result being evident in cable failures. Over the years utilities have used many undesirable thermal backfills because of ease of installation and availability. Badly compacted trench fill is a significant problem, not only is the thermal rho (thermal resistivity) of uncompacted soil quite a bit higher but loose soil dries with more ease which increases the possibility of thermal runaway. Our farm in question is made up of clay soil. Clay soils in particular can crack on drying which results in the development of air gaps around the cables. It is important that this does not occur as it leads to potential "hot spots" along the cable route.

4. Will underground lines be well marked? We as farm operators may have to dig for tile/drain issues and will need to be aware of these locations.

5. Will easement agreements require compensation for property owners for disruption in their property use or for property damage caused by repairs to the underground cables? Although our personal residence is not located in the property in question several of our neighbours operate businesses which these distribution facilities will run directly by. Driveways, fences, landscaping and yards may be torn up or damaged. It could easily affect us during planting/spraying/harvest times when we need ease of access to our property. Also if tile on our land is damaged will we be compensated?

6. Will future repairs heed us from ease of access to our property, especially during peak times of farming? Buried hydro lines make them more susceptible to damage from floods and can limit how quickly they can be fixed. It is difficult to find fault in these situations and apparently it can take days or weeks to fix. Extensive flooding can also short out transformers which can't be safely restored until

the flood waters recede, therefore homes and businesses can be impacted for extensive lengths of time. Lines are also prone to insulation deterioration due to the loading cycles the lines undergo during their life time.

We would sincerely appreciate your careful considerations of these concerns during your upcoming hearing.

Nathan and Caroline Sparling

[redacted]