


Dec 31, 2014

Ontario Energy Board ("OEB")
Attn: Board Secretary
By email: boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca

Re: [File EB 2014-0300 \(Windlectric Leave to Construct infrastructure for Turbine Project for Amherst Island\)](#)

I am writing to make two requests as well as to express some of the serious concerns I have with the overall project. Amherst Island is not the place for such a significant and unnecessary industrial scale wind turbine development.

My requests:

1. I ask to be able to monitor the application. Please send all related documents, preferably by email, to rick.vanstone@gmail.com. If by mail, please use the address above.
2. I respectfully request that an oral hearing be held on Amherst Island. This would provide the OEB with a far better comprehension of the high risks this project brings to the local island community. There are a range of risks with such large scale wind projects and many of them are amplified to an unacceptable level in an island environment.

Other considerations:

1. Part of the OEB's mandate is to protect the interests of rate payers with respect to prices.

Various independent studies* over past 2 years or so have been increasingly critical of the financial issues related to Ontario's present and planned energy infrastructure. The changing demand pattern coupled with the expansion of renewable energy generating capacity (due to long term contracts at above market prices) are causing significant increases in costs for ratepayers over the next several years to add generating capacity that is neither needed nor environmentally beneficial.

The recent Auditor General's Report (pg 367-368) describes some of the key economic/price related concerns for ratepayers in succinct detail. This report estimates that between 2006 & 2015, an unnecessary \$50Bln in energy related costs will be taken from Ontario's ratepayers & taxpayers.

Halting future hydroelectric, wind & solar projects would be a step in the right direction. Termination of existing contracts (where possible) between renewable energy companies and Ontario Power Authority is another way to start curtailing future increased costs.

The above suggestions fall within OEB's mandate. Windlectric's proposal for Amherst Island is just one of the unnecessary & expensive projects that is now in front of you.

* sources include "Drummond Report"; Fraser Institute; recent Auditor General Ontario Report

2. A detailed economic analysis of the Windlectric project was completed by Dr John Harrison, Queen's University professor emeritus. A group of experienced financial & banking veterans contributed to and validated Dr Harrison's conservative conclusions.

Conclusion: The Windlectric project is not cost – effective based on the economic and risk analysis. The report can be located at:

<http://www.protectamherstisland.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Engineering-and-Economic-Risk-Analysis-July-2014.pdf>

3. There are various other significant risks & unintended consequences from this specific project on a small, primarily agrarian island. They include but are not limited to:
 - o Heightened safety risks to island inhabitants
 - o Local harm to a sensitive environment and various species at risk
 - o Significant project components are located too close to many heritage structures, the public school, community centre and the Little family's residence
 - o Amherst Island has a very unique biodiversity which will be seriously endangered or significantly diminished. It has an international reputation as an important bird area including a very rare status for the number of varieties of owls found on the island.

Thank you for taking my requests and concerns into consideration as part of File EB2014-300

The OEB has a key role to play in taking steps to improve life in Ontario for energy ratepayers.

Denying Windlectric's Leave to Construct is one small step that can be taken now.

We look forward to an on - island hearing.

Sincerely,

Rick Vanstone

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Rick Vanstone.