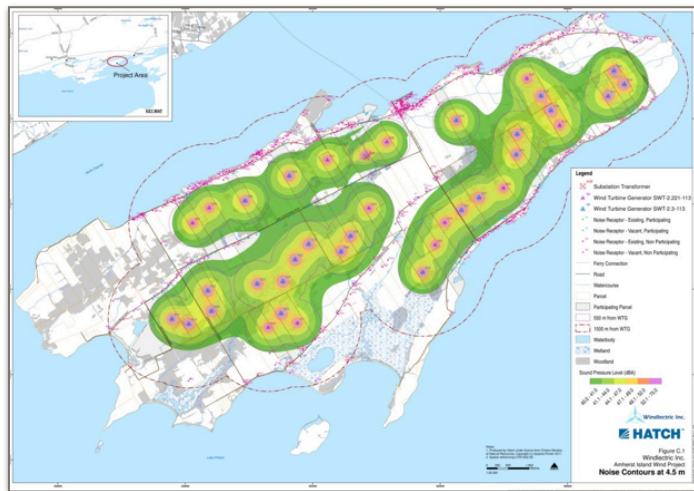


Just the Facts about Windlectric's Proposal Amherst Island - Paving Paradise Status

For over 7 years residents of tiny Amherst Island in Lake Ontario have been battling proposals to blanket the Island with industrial wind turbines. The current Windlectric project proposes up to 36 turbines 50 storeys tall, the height of the Royal Trust TD Tower in Toronto. The Ministry of the Environment (MOECC) deemed the project application complete in January 2014 and posted the proposal for public comment. The Association to Protect Amherst Island (APAI) filed a request for a Judicial Review based on the fact that Windlectric's submission was incomplete and responded to a counter motion to quash the request. In August 2014 the APAI Board requested Brian Finlay Q.C. to file a motion to appeal the decision of Justice Lederer to quash the application of APAI for judicial review of the



Ministry of the Environment's decision to deem Windlectric's REA application complete. This is consistent with APAI's overall legal strategy. This motion will be considered by the Court early in 2015.

In the meantime in July 2014, Windlectric advertised two Notices of Proposed Change to the project and acknowledged that many maps were missing from the online documents posted for public comment and described further changes to dock design, transmission routes and infrastructure. This tacitly confirms what Islanders have been saying all along: the application is grossly deficient and incomplete.

No integrated process exists to consider the cumulative impact of noise on the Island from the Windlectric proposal for turbines, the TransCanada proposal for a Gas Plant, and the Lafarge 2020 Cement Project as well as the existing Lennox Generating Station. Consequently APAI requested a full environmental review of the proposed TransCanada Napanee Gas Plant "relocated" from Oakville/Mississauga. MOE decided to reject this request in August 2014. This decision has been appealed to the Minister.

If Windlectric's application for turbines is approved by the Ministry, the community will have 15 days to file an appeal to the Environmental Review Tribunal to continue its David and Goliath struggle against industry and our own Government's lawyers.

Named by the Heritage Canada The National Trust as one of the Top Ten Endangered places in Canada due to the threat of wind turbines on its rich cultural and natural heritage, Amherst Island, a literal step back in time, is under siege by three massive industrial projects: Windlectric Turbine proposal, TransCanada Napanee Gas Plant and the Lafarge 2020 Cement Project.

Loyalist Township advised the Ministry of the Environment that the Windlectric turbine proposal “lacked detail and an approval of **the project is premature** until the full scope of the project including an appropriate level of detail is supplied enabling a proper assessment of impact on municipal infrastructure, the natural environment, cultural heritage, and land use compatibility’.

Residents voiced concerns about the lack of an Emergency Plan important on an Island where the average response time for an ambulance to come from the mainland exceeds thirty minutes and has to be coordinated with the ferry captain and the Coast Guard. Residents decried the lack of groundwater studies to show the impact on their wells. Property owners advised that over 100 heritage buildings had been omitted from the heritage inventory. Birders and naturalists explained that 34 species at risk would be affected and that four turbines were proposed in proximity to the world famous Owl Woods.



Margaret Atwood, author and naturalist, told the Premier that “Amherst Island is the wrong place, the very wrong place for wind turbines”. Dr. Roberta Bondar, the world’s first neurologist in space and acclaimed photographer said that “The danger in changing what naturally exists to a technology-driven use of land, air and water is that it will be impossible to recreate that which has been altered. In particular, areas home to birds and bats include flyways for staging, migration and nesting. These life forms do not have the technical capacity to adapt and thus will disappear once their favoured habitat above and/or on the surface are destroyed. Ontario . . .has a special privilege and responsibility to protect the areas that also affect international migrants.”

Nature Canada and Ontario Nature together told the Ministry “There are many strong and undeniable reasons why this project should not go ahead. There is a strong possibility that it will cause serious and irreparable harm to many wildlife populations including grassland birds, swallows, species at risk including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Short-eared Owl and Blanding’s Turtle, it will harm bat and raptor populations, and it is clearly being pushed through the system despite overwhelming public opposition.”

“The government is riding roughshod over local objections, including by the duly elected council of Loyalist Township, and ignoring that this is one of the most critical areas for birds in North America, and home to 34 species at risk,”

- Senator Robert Runciman

Organizations as diverse as Heritage Canada The National Trust, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Kingston Field Naturalists, the Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland, BirdLife International, the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Hawk Migration Association of North America, Pennsylvania Ornithological Society, and Brereton Field Naturalists’ Club oppose turbines on Amherst Island.

Loyalist Township Council carefully considered six renewable energy projects on their merits and endorsed all but the turbines proposed for Amherst Island.

Over 1500 public comments were submitted to the Ministry on the Windlectric Inc. turbine proposal and are currently under review by the Ministry

APAI also filed requests to escalate the proposed TransCanada Napanee Gas Plant and the Lafarge 20120 cement projects to full environmental assessments. MOE rejected the request for environmental assessment of the Napanee Gas Plant and APAI will appeal to the Minister.

The Island continues to be under siege!

TOP TEN REASONS TO REJECT THE WINDLECTRIC PROPOSAL

1. Located on the Atlantic migratory flyway, Amherst Island is a globally recognized Important Bird Area and is internationally acknowledged for its concentration of wintering hawks and owls. Four turbines are proposed in proximity to world famous Owl Woods. The cumulative impact of turbines on Wolfe Island, Prince Edward County and Amherst Island on birds and bats has not been considered. On Wolfe Island just to the east of Amherst island, bird kill is the second highest in North America. (Notorious for eagle kill, the Altamonte Pass in California is number one.) 34 species are at risk on the island. Habitat will be fragmented and lost.
2. Ontario setbacks of 550 m are among the lowest in the world and were developed when turbines were much shorter. Setbacks of at least 2 km are rapidly becoming a prudent standard to minimize health impacts. Many of the proposed turbines will exceed Ministry of the Environment noise guidelines. Too many turbines too close together with no escape at night on an Island. Flicker will exceed international standards for 48 homes and would not be permitted in Europe. Hydrology (water, shore wells) has not been studied. Health Canada is conducting a "health impacts and exposure to wind turbine noise" study with results due in 2014. The future health of Ontarians deserves at least a delay to understand the health impacts.
3. A heritage community with many stone fences, very narrow forty-foot carriageways and historic buildings will be destroyed. Island roads are not to Ontario standards, not designed for heavy equipment, and not suitable for 11,000 truckloads of concrete, rock fill, gravel, and transport of huge turbine components and cranes and transport of huge towers, blades, and cranes. Over 100 heritage homes and many dry stone walls were omitted from the applicant's heritage impact assessment.
4. Our island has unique challenges for emergency services with a volunteer fire department and ferry operations from only 6 am to 2 am. Our few roads make detours impossible in some instances and impractical in others. Ambulance response time averages 33 minutes. No medical services are available on the Island. No water supply. No hydrants. No ambulance. The high risk to public safety is very real.
5. Turbine height of 154.5 metres matches the TD Centre Royal Trust Tower - imagine 36 TD Centres on one small island ALL BEING CONSTRUCTED AT ONCE.
6. Windlectric, the applicant, is a private shell company with only 2 directors, no track record, no public accountability, no evidence of insurance, and no history. The company could be sold or dissolved in secret at any time. The Ontario Power Authority did no due diligence prior to entering into a 20 year contract with Windlectric.
7. According to the Ontario Auditor General, the Ontario Power Authority is buying power from wind turbines at exorbitant rates, which Ontario taxpayers will pay for 20 years. Ontarians are outraged at regular increase in power costs. This is further substantiated by The Fraser Institute: Ontario's Green Energy Act Causing Energy Prices to Soar; Plan Now 10 Times Costlier Than Alternative That Would Have Yielded the Same Environmental Benefits. More recently, the Government has agreed to pay wind turbine operators not to generate power when supply is surplus to demand.
8. The Island's only school playground and gym are less than 550 m from a proposed turbine and less than 1 km from a cement plant and a high voltage substation. A major truck route will pass the school. This is a high safety risk.
9. The democratic process has been negated. A small number of landowners, Windlectric, and MOECC are dictating the future of our community. Our Township Council has no decision-making authority as a result of the Green Energy Act.
10. Cancellation of this ill-conceived project is simply the right thing to do!

Need more information: www.protectamherstisland.com

Contact us: protectai@kos.net

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