



association to protect AMHERST ISLAND

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WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ALL OUR RIGHTS

July 31, 2014

Ms. Agatha Garcia-Wright
Director Environmental Approvals
Director - ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS BRANCH
12A Flr
2 St Clair Ave W
Toronto ON M4V1L5

Dear Ms. Garcia- Wright

RE: Windlectric Inc. Notice of Proposed Change and EBR 012-0774

The Association to Protect Amherst Island may submit a more fulsome report on the Notice of Proposed Change concerning missing maps and figures and proposed changes to the docks and related infrastructure on both the mainland and Amherst Island.

This letter reflects preliminary comments pending further advice from Mr. Sean Fairfield as to whether Windlectric will attend a public meeting on this matter on the Island chaired by the local Councillor Duncan Ashley.

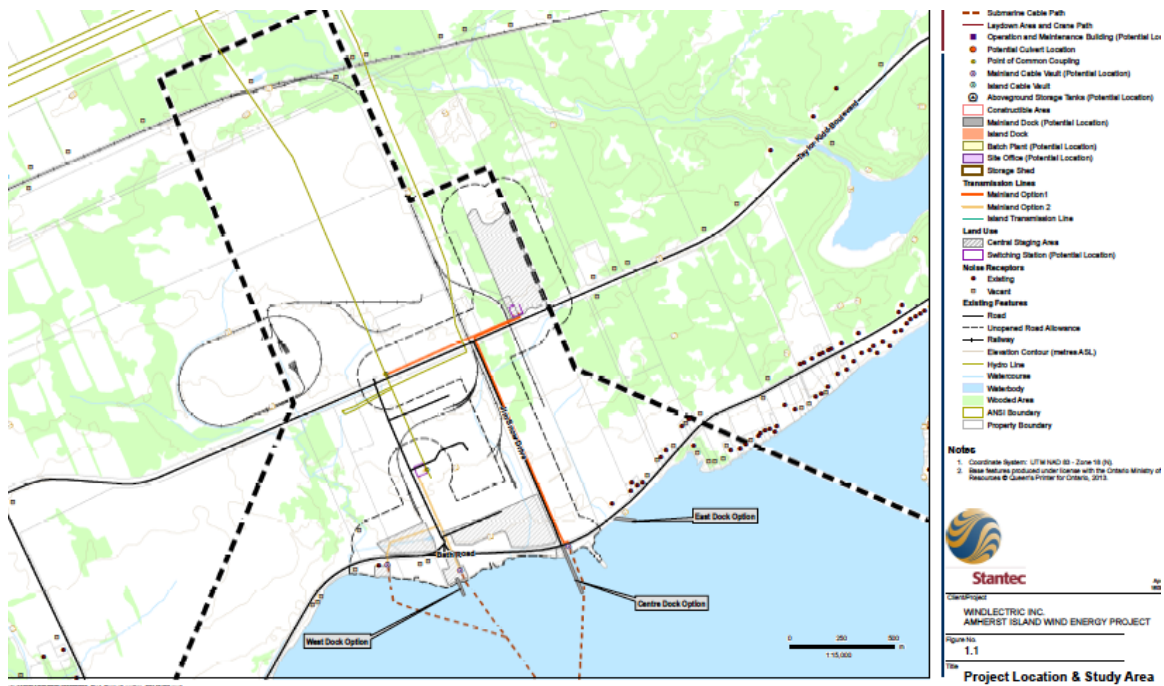
The documentation provided by Windlectric and Stantec supporting the proposed change is very confusing and filled with errors. Accordingly, please exercise your authority under Reg 359/09 to require the proponent to submit corrected documentation and then post the entire package including ALL proposed changes on the Environmental Registry for a minimum of sixty days.

1. Mainland East Dock

No cable vault is shown serving the proposed Mainland East Dock and the entire area is outside the 120 m "zone of investigation". Consequently no archeological studies, natural heritage or cultural heritage investigation was done for this dock location.

I refer you to a snapshot of Figure 1.1 extracted from the documentation for the East Dock option which has no cable vault, no submarine line, no transmission line and is outside of the dotted “zone of investigation”.

As Mr. Sean Fairfield representing Windlectric Inc. confirmed at a meeting of Loyalist Township Council that all three dock locations remain under consideration and that no decision has been made on dock selection, it is imperative that corrected information and maps be provided for public review and comment.



2. Cable Vault Locations

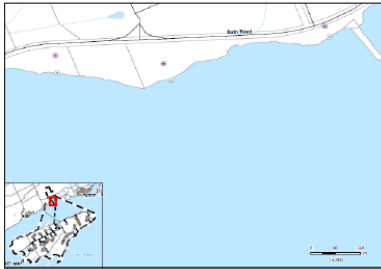
Mr. Fairfield and Mr. Alex Tsopelas representing Windlectric before Loyalist Council were unable to use maps or figures extracted from the supporting documentation to show Council the location of the proposed cable vaults because there are no readable maps at an appropriate scale to show the change in locations. Let me be clear, **nothing in the information package shows the before and after locations of the cable vaults so that the public can make informed comment.**

The maps shown below extracted from their presentation are not included in the public information package.

Five Modifications ...cont'd

Modification #1

- Mainland
- Island

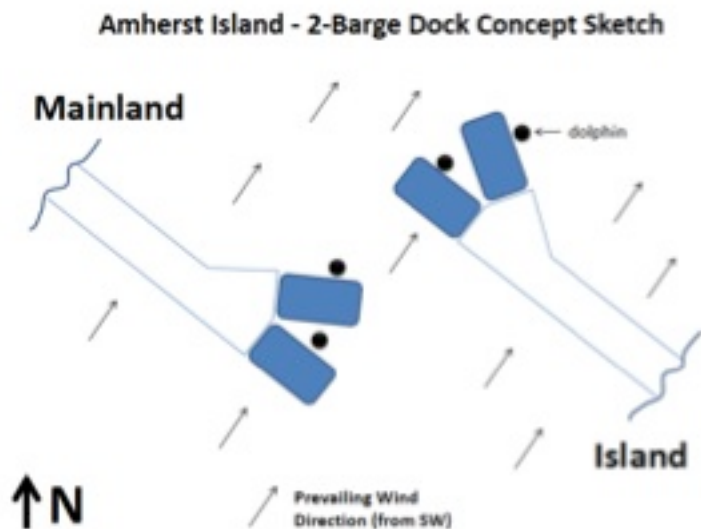


Apologies for the disparate scale and lack of readability. This is what Windlectric provided.

As the East Dock Location is not depicted on the maps, it appears that the presentation was also in error.

2. Dock Design

The dock design figure is filled with errors: the docks appear to extend about half way across the channel; Kerr Bay on the Island should be to the west of three mainland dock locations; and not even North points in the correct direction. As there is no scale, the design concept is not clear especially when the text advises that the length and width may vary by plus or minus 50%. At plus 50% the docks would act as a bridge to the mainland more than 3 km away.



3. Missing Figures and Maps

It is abhorrent that Windlectric considers the omission of many maps and figures as a “minor” administrative matter. This is a major change and the public should have an opportunity for formal comment via a new posting to the Environmental Registry.

4. Duplicate Maps and Figures

The printed version of the supporting documents provided for public review contains two copies of the figures and maps related to Socio-economic Features behind the Project Description Page. As there is no index, it is impossible to determine if the document is missing a set of maps and figures or if this is just a duplicate attachment.

5. Cultural Heritage

Figure 5, Location of Built Heritage Resources, does not reflect the demolition of 5330 Bath Rd on the mainland. None of the figures related to the Location of Built Heritage Resources show the dry stone walls on Amherst Island designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. **None of these same figures show the location of the over 100 heritage homes omitted from Windlectric’s heritage inventory.** If updated maps are provided they should be updated comprehensively, not selectively, to reflect all changes not just what Windlectric prefers to show.

6. High Risk to Public Safety

As noted in prior correspondence, the Association and the community are very concerned about the location of the dock and the staging area on the Island as the dock location determines the truck traffic and movement of equipment. The selected location of the dock on the Island means that trucks will pass directly by the Island’s only school and through the village of Stella. The lack of sidewalks and the narrow right-of-ways create a high potential for accidents. The proponent has failed to respond to the concerns of the Township, Council and the community.

When this is combined with the location of the batch processing plant, the hydro substation, the transmission line and the turbine location within 550 m of the school playground and gymnasium, it defies comprehension that a responsible company and the Ministry would even consider this recipe for disaster. Please ensure that Windlectric. Inc. (not Algonquin) provides annual proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$500 million with the residents and visitors of Amherst Island as named insured.

As the approval authority, please undertake comprehensive due diligence on this shell company and ensure that letters of credit sufficient to cover all potential safety issues are in place.

7. Lack of Responsiveness to Community Concerns

Most importantly, the Notice of Proposed Change failed to respond to any of the serious concerns voiced by the community in response to the EBR 012-0774.

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 Response 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. This cannot be subject to a condition of approval. It is imperative that Loyalist Council and the community have the right to participate in its development prior to the grant of any approvals by the Ministry. Mr. Fairfield was clear on Monday evening that the Township would be consulted but would not have right of approval. This is simply unacceptable.

It’s an Island! It has a small volunteer Fire brigade with no water supply except the lake which is frozen in winter, no hydrants, no water tower, no medical services, no ambulance, no spills equipment, no doctor, no clinic and is dependent on a ferry for back-up. Narrow roads will be impassable and will block volunteer access to the fire hall and emergency vehicle access to incidents.

Industrialization of the Island cannot be approved in the absence of a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan. The risk to both public safety and environmental disaster is too high.

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 “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.”

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 didn't join the "not a willing host" bandwagon and carefully considered six projects on their merits and endorsed all but the turbines proposed for Amherst Island.

Conclusion

This Notice of Proposed Change and supporting documentation is as deficient and incomplete as the "final" REA application by Windlectric.

Consistent with the options available to you under Regulation 359/09 and as done recently for the Fairview REA application, please require Windlectric to submit a corrected package and repost the REA application in its entirety on the Environmental Registry for public review and comment for a minimum of sixty days. This would also allow inclusion of additional changes proposed by Windlectric related to turbine model numbers and noise assessments posted today and permit the public to review one comprehensive EBR posting.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely

Peter G. S. Large P. Eng.
President APAI

CC

Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Hon. Nasir Yaqvi, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner
Mr. Ted Wieclawek, Chief Fire Marshall
Paul Evans, Deputy Minister, MOECC
Tracey Mill, Deputy Minister, MNRF
Randy Hillier, MPP
Mayor Bill Lowry and Members of Council
Susanne Edwards, MOECC
Vic Schroter, MOECC
Sean Fairfield, Windlectric Inc.
Ian Roberston, Windlectric Inc.
Keith Moore, Chair of the Board, Algonquin Power
Bob Gomes, Stantec