



association to protect AMHERST ISLAND

PO Box 4, 5695 Front Road
Stella, ON K0H2S0
peter.large2@gmail.com

May 13, 2013

The Honourable Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Bradley:

The Association to Protect Amherst Island, APAI, is a registered Association with its current principle objective to stop Algonquin Power's proposed installation of 33- 37, 50-storey industrial-scale wind turbines on Amherst Island.

In response to the REA process, APAI has provided in-depth critiques of the various reports on the proposed project that Algonquin is required to submit to the MOE.

These critiques reveal that Algonquin's reports are grossly deficient in their facts and content. We have provided in-depth justification to the MOE showing why the Algonquin reports should be rejected.

There is one report, which has serious implications for the entire Province. That report (required in the REA process) is entitled 'Decommissioning' and purports to show Algonquin's 'plans' to take down the turbines proposed for Amherst Island at the end of the OPA contract (20 years).

Section 5 of STANTEC's report to Algonquin, entitled 'MANAGING EXCESS MATERIALS AND WASTE' Table 5, describes how turbine blades would be disposed.

Table 5

Component	Mode of Disposal
Turbine Blades	Cut up and dispose in regulated landfill

Turbine blades typically contain epoxy resins made from Bisphenol A (BPA). BPA is known to damage human health, particularly that of children.

Even a relatively small 1.5-megawatt Industrial Wind turbine blade contains about 10 tons of BPA-based polycarbon and epoxy resins. BPA is also present in the wiring insulation, high voltage insulators, circuit boards and paints on Industrial Wind turbines.

Algonquin's 'mode of disposal' is 'cut and dispose in regulated landfill'.

My questions to you, Minister Bradley are:

(i) Where in Ontario are the 'regulated land-fills' Algonquin mentions? BPA is known to leach into landfills and into drinking water supplies.

(ii) Where in Ontario are the regulated facilities to cut up turbine blades?

(iii) Is BPA allowed in Ontario landfills?

Our search so far suggests that no such facility exists in Ontario. Rotor blades or fins of industrial-scale wind turbines are not recyclable. Many Member States in the European Union (EU) have banned the practice of simply sending the blades to landfill. As a result, used wind turbine blades are being 'stockpiled' as developers have no choice as to what to do with them.

This problem is about to become an Ontario-wide one and has not been addressed as a waste management issue in any way.

Minister Bradley, may we suggest that you advise the relevant Provincial Ministries of this issue as the Government pushes toward its goal of 10,700 MW of energy from wind turbines and toward an environmental consequences of enormous proportion.

Algonquin has put Loyalist Township Council on notice that it (Algonquin) may sell the project before completion. Algonquin has set aside NO funds for decommissioning, which suggests that, as turbines fail and/or end their useful lives. If this project were allowed to proceed, Amherst Island would become a toxic dump of unrecyclable turbine sections. This situation would be intolerable for the people living on the Island and must not be allowed to go forward. We look for your support in this.

May I have an early response to this letter?

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

cc:

- Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
- Hon. Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Labour

- Hon. Deborah Matthews, Minister of Health
- Mr. Ian Parrott, Acting Director, Environmental Approvals Branch, MOE
- Mr. Eric Prevost, Renewable Energy Planning Ecologist, MNR
- Mr. Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
- Loyalist Township Council
- Mr. Ian Robertson, CEO, Algonquin Power Co.
- Mr. Vic Fedeli, MPP, PC Energy critic
- Ms Jane Wilson, Wind Concerns Ontario