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Agatha Garcia-Wright  
Director (Acting)  
Environmental Approvals  
Ministry of the Environment  
2 St. Clair Ave West, Floor 12A  
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1L5

December 30, 2013

Dear Ms. Garcia-Wright,

I write you from Amherst Island, where I am the mother of two young children attending the island's only elementary school on Front Road, at the west end of the village of Stella.

I write to you regarding the industrial wind turbine project proposed for Amherst Island by Windlectric/ Algonquin Power. A road use plan for the construction of the wind turbine project has been prepared (by Hatch Engineering). This proposed road use plan has identified Front Road as a major thoroughfare for heavy truck traffic (over 650 dump truck loads would be needed per turbine) and large construction vehicles (the largest of which is 65 m in length) in the construction of 37 wind turbines throughout Amherst Island.

In addition, the staging dock for construction materials to access the Island is proposed to be located less than 1 km to the west of the school. Also within 1 km of the school are the following: a concrete batch plant, a high-voltage sub station and a truck-staging construction yard.

Furthermore, the closest planned turbine to the school is less than 550 m from the school. Since the distance from a "receptor" (the school) is measured from the center of the receptor, the playground, soccer pitch, baseball diamond, outdoor classroom and 1/3 of the gymnasium are ALL located within the 550 m setback (that the Government of Ontario has determined it is an area unsafe for a receptor).

As a parent with children on Amherst Island, I have concerns about the proximity of this project to the school (which is also the community center) and the risks it introduces to children on the island.

The proposed routing of heavy industrial traffic of the size, type and frequency suggested to pass the school is extremely problematic from a health and safety perspective. You may not be aware that there are no sidewalks between the school

and the village of Stella, forcing children into an undoubtedly unsafe situation of sharing the road with enormous – and frequent – construction traffic over a 2-year period.

The density of the industrial activity proposed to directly surround the school raises serious concerns regarding childhood exposure to unacceptable levels of noise, vibration and dust pollution. Undoubtedly, the Government of Ontario has established thresholds within legislation and by-law regarding limits to exposure of unacceptable levels of noise and dust. How are these considered in this process? Prolonged exposure to high levels of noise and dust can without doubt create a difficult learning environment. Does it make sense to have a school in the middle of an industrial construction yard of this magnitude?

In the past I have been told by my government to raise my concerns with the developer. I have done this on multiple occasions, and have suggested that alternate locations be considered that are not in such immediate proximity to the school. Algonquin Power has told me there is nothing that can be changed in the project plan to reduce the impacts to the school. Please do not direct me to the developer.

In media coverage of the cancelled gas plant in Oakville, Dalton McGuinty expressed concern for the safety of families as a reason for the cancellation. Indeed, it is admirable that the Province holds the safety of Oakville children in such high regard. How, then, will the safety of Amherst Island children be considered when determining whether or not to approve the Amherst Island/ Windlectric project? Are the criteria for assessing risk to children the same for urban and rural communities?

The precautionary principle and the need to protect children from potential harm must be considered before this project is approved.

In summary, the following are proposed to be located within 1 km of our elementary school: an industrial construction yard, a high-voltage sub-station, a concrete batch plant, an industrial dock and a too-close industrial wind turbine. How are the cumulative effects of this project considered in relation to the school? How can the Ministry of the Environment ensure that they are not placing the children of Amherst Island at known risk, both during project construction and during project operation?

I thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you. Season's greetings to you Ms. Garcia-Wright,

Sincerely,

*'sent via electronic mail'*

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