

**Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change**

Environmental Approvals
Access and Service
Integration Branch

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**Ministère de l'Environnement et de
l'Action en matière de changement
climatique**

Direction de l'accès aux
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ENV1180DRC-2015-20

March 11, 2015

Mr. Peter Large (by email: peter.large2@gmail.com)
President
Association to Protect Amherst Island
P.O. Box 6, 5695 Front Road
Stella, ON K0H 2S0

Dear Mr. Large:

I am in receipt of your letters dated January 15, 2015, February 20, 2015, February 25, 2015 and March 2, 2015 regarding the Amherst Island Wind Energy Project proposed by Windelectric Inc. (Algonquin Power) and your concerns regarding potential construction impacts to groundwater, natural heritage and the Decommissioning Plan Report.

Regarding your January 15, 2015 and March 2, 2015 letters, I want to assure you that the geology of the soil and bedrock in the project location is considered as part of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's (MOECC) technical review for the project. The MOECC believes your additional concerns are related to hydrogeology. Based on our review to date on this matter, the ministry is of the opinion that with the incorporation of best management practises during the construction, operation and ongoing maintenance of this project, the potential for impacts to groundwater quality and/or quantity is low. As such, the MOECC will not be requiring a detailed hydrogeological report as part of the review of the project.

On the specific matter related to the McLean's Mountain Wind Farm, the MOECC is aware of the incident to which you are referring, which occurred in December 2013 and was reported by Radio Canada in January 2014. The MOECC's Sudbury District Office followed up on this incident, and referred it to the MOECC's Investigation and Enforcement Branch. Should you require further information on this matter, please contact Mr. Steven Moggy, Senior Environmental Officer at the MOECC's Sudbury District Office. Mr. Moggy can be reached at 705-564-3014 or steven.moggy@ontario.ca.

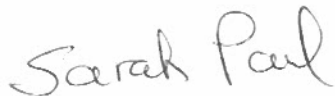
With respect to your February 20, 2015 and February 25, 2015 letters, the MOECC acknowledges that the natural heritage and Decommissioning Plan Report concerns you raise in your recent correspondence were received during the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry public comment period for the project.

During the technical review process, the MOECC seeks and considers the input of the public, municipalities, Aboriginal communities, and other appropriate ministries and agencies. The review process may also involve requesting and receiving additional information or clarification from the proponent and other regulatory agencies as appropriate. The review team considers responses and all comments submitted to the MOECC by stakeholders prior to a decision being made on the application. For your information, the ministry does not provide individual responses to submissions received through the EBR Registry. When the ministry has completed the technical review of a REA application, comments are summarized and included as part of the Decision Notice posted on the EBR Registry.

I would like to reiterate that the REA application for the proposed Amherst Island Wind Project remains under technical review. Your comments, along with all other comments the MOECC has received, are being considered as part of the technical review process.

Thank you once again for your letters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Paul".

Sarah Paul
Director
Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch