

### White Pines Wind Farm – common issues/concerns

**Issue:** *adverse effects on animals, including horses with deformed feet, cattle with deformed heads, premature births, chickens born without eyes*

**Response:** There is no scientific evidence linking those effects to wind turbines. There are over 300,000 onshore wind turbines installed worldwide, with a majority of them hosted by farmers.

**Issue:** *lack of communication from wpd; no conversations, no phone calls*

**Response:** There is regular back-and-forth communication between wpd staff and Prince Edward County staff. Some County technical staff have been trained recently in turtle awareness by wpd's Species at Risk Training Program developed by a Stantec Consultant. The local councillor has stopped by the project site to speak with the wpd site manager. We are also providing periodic updates to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Independent Electricity System Operator.

**Issue:** *wpd not meeting obligations under FIT program or REA; REA amendments not submitted to MOECC; lacking Notice to Proceed from IESO*

**Response:** All obligations are being met. There have been instances where selected parts of conditions have been quoted, which gives the impression that we are not meeting our obligations, but when the conditions are read in total it is clear we are meeting our obligations. The Renewable Energy Approval (REA) amendment was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) on October 10, 2017. As indicated by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) on August 31, we do not need Notice to Proceed to begin construction.

**Issue:** *Lack of regulations; regulations set by industry.*

**Response:** If that were true, we would be constructing 29 turbines instead of 9. In reality, the project underwent a thorough review by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, to ensure all regulations were met. Two turbines were removed due to protections put in place for historical features. Further, the project was extensively challenged through the Environmental Review Tribunal, and as a result, eighteen additional turbines were removed to protect species at risk.

**Issue:** *The project is in Blanding's Turtle habitat; construction occurring in Blanding's Turtle habitat*

**Response:** The majority of the project site does not contain Blanding's Turtle habitat; only a small portion of the site contains Blanding's Turtle habitat, and the Renewable Energy Approval contains strict requirements to ensure its protection.

**Issue:** *Damage to endangered wildlife*

**Response:** The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change included a number of conditions in the project's Renewable Energy Approval to protect endangered species and other wildlife. wpd proposed additional measures, through the Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) remedy process, which the ERT determined to be sufficient to ensure the protection of endangered species at the remaining nine

turbine locations. In addition, a number of conditions are imposed on the project through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Species at Risk permit.

**Issue:** *Damage to wells and water supply*

**Response:** The Renewable Energy Approval for the project contains conditions to protect water supplies in the area. Excavation for turbine bases is the same as that for a foundation for a typical home (3-4 metres), and the collector and distribution lines will be installed at a depth of 1 metre, using a rocksaw and directional drilling; local water tables should not be affected.

**Issue:** *Destruction of natural habitat in a pristine landscape; fields levelled and torn up*

**Response:** The land upon which the project will be located is a combination of agricultural fields, treed lots and lots containing scrub brush. The agricultural fields are plowed and planted every year, so are not considered pristine. Each turbine will occupy approx. 3.7 acres, for a total project footprint of approx. 33.3 acres, which represents 0.167% of the 19,947 acres within South Marysburgh.

**Issue:** *Distribution/collector lines will be above ground on poles*

**Response:** Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the lines will remain underground as originally planned.

**Issue:** *The project will destroy the County's historic landscapes.*

**Response:** The County's historical properties and landscapes was assessed and re-assessed for the Renewable Energy Approval submission to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). The Ministries (MOECC and Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport) then completed their evaluation and approved a majority of the project, but denied approval for 2 turbines that abutted protected properties.

**Issue:** *South Shore IBA; harm project will cause to migrating birds*

**Response:** The reconfigured project is not located within the South Shore IBA. The Environmental Review Tribunal did not identify migrating birds as a factor in their decisions.

**Issue:** *The County is an unwilling host. Why are you proceeding with the project when you're not wanted here?*

**Response:** We understand that there is opposition to the project. But we also know that the Government of Ontario sets energy and environmental policy for the entire province, and they have made it a priority to integrate renewable energies into the supply mix to help fight climate change...something that affects everyone. The White Pines project was proposed in response to that priority. Regulations have been put in place to protect the public and the environment; and processes exist to challenge the decision of government to approve a wind project. As a result of a lengthy 34-month review by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Environmental Review Tribunal appeal process and a subsequent remedy hearing, nine turbines were ultimately cleared for construction.

**Issue:** *adverse health effects on people, particularly due to low frequency pulsating infrasound*

**Response:** On November 6, 2014 Health Canada released a summary of results for its wind turbine and health study (*Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study*). Health Canada found no evidence to support a link between wind turbine noise and self-reported illness and chronic disease, as well as sleep quality and stress. In addition, arguments concerning adverse human health effects were presented to the Environmental Review Tribunal. Expert testimony was presented, as well as evidence from individuals who assert that existing wind projects near their homes are affecting their health, and the Tribunal concluded that there was no evidence which linked those health issues to the wind turbines. In relation to low frequency noise and infrasound, a 2011 study collected data at 305 metres and 457 metres from a turbine, and concluded that there should be no adverse public health effects at distances greater than 305 metres. The minimum setback from dwellings for the project's turbines is 550 metres.

**Issue:** *Impact turbines have on agri-tourism sector*

**Response:** We don't believe, and we haven't seen evidence to suggest, that our project will negatively impact tourism in the County. Wind turbines have been in operation for many years, including parts of France, Spain, Germany, California and other locations throughout the world where agri-tourism plays an important role in the economy. Many wine growing regions in other countries are promoting their link to wind energy, such as the Napa Valley Wine Tours website promoting wine tours in nearby Livermore Valley, or wineries in southern France using wind energy to produce their wines, and include wind turbines on their labels.

**Issue:** *White Pines is just the tip of the iceberg in the County; soon there will be hundreds of turbines*

**Response:** The Department of National Defence (DND) in Trenton has told wpd and other developers that the area in which White Pines is located is the only area in the County where turbines could be installed and would not produce shadowing on their RADAR systems. The presence of DND facilities restricts wind energy development to South Marysburgh, and logically the reconfigured White Pines project.

**Issue:** *Wind energy is being exported to the US, at a loss.*

**Response:** Once electricity is produced and fed into the grid, you can't determine how it was generated. It's impossible to distinguish a wind electron, from a nuclear electron, from a natural gas electron. It all blends together. In 2015, Ontario produced 153.7 Terrawatt hours (TWh), the majority of which was from nuclear sources (60%), and exported approx. 14.7%