



May 2, 2014

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(by registered mail and also by email to ramona.afante@ontario.ca)

Open Letter re: EBR Registry Number: 012-1279 (an incomplete proposal)

Dear Ms. Afante:

I welcome this opportunity to comment on the White Pines Wind Farm project, as proposed by wpd Canada.

Because I live in the neighbourhood of Prince Edward County where this project would be located, I have followed its development with great concern, and I have attended all “public information events” sponsored by the proponent.

This proposed project was recently posted to the Environmental Registry as a proposal that is “deemed complete”. I respectfully submit to you that this proposal is incomplete. The proponent has failed to meet many basic criteria of your own Ministry of the Environment, and has even failed to adhere to the advice that OMAF gives to Ontario farmers on its web site. The proponent has also failed to recognize and respond to assurances that have been publicly announced by Premier Wynne, and to the basic citizen guarantees in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The MOE requires that the built heritage and natural heritage assets of the hosting community will not be adversely affected by wind energy projects. I am aware of recent submissions to you from the Municipality of Prince Edward County and from CCSAGE Naturally Green, which clearly identify many serious deficiencies in the proposal for assuring the integrity of the built heritage and the natural heritage assets of my neighbourhood. I have read both of these submissions. I will not repeat their detailed concerns, but I do endorse all of their well-documented examples about how the project, in its proposed form, will violate MOE criteria and will have a devastating impact on my heritage-rich community. Wpd says it cannot remove even one turbine because it will “impact the economic viability of the project.” Protecting the cultural heritage of Mount Tabor and Milford is much more important to my family and my neighbours than protecting wpd’s profits.

On the OMAF web site, farmers are advised to “*Make sure turbines are sited away from migratory bird corridors*” but this proposal from wpd Canada sites 29 huge turbines directly in Ontario's most highly

travelled bird migration corridor, the Eastern Flyway. I have read the submission to you from Doug and Janet Murphy about this EBR posting, and I agree with their comments about the potential impact on birds and bats, and the implications for a consequential increased need for insecticides in farming.

Premier Wynne has assured Ontarians that industrial wind turbines will not be imposed upon a community that is “not a willing host”. The wpd proposal for the White Pines Wind Farm fails to acknowledge the well-publicized fact that in a secret ballot conducted in my ward in July 2012, 90.2% of South Marysburgh voters registered their opposition to industrial wind turbines in our community. The Municipality of Prince Edward County has officially declared itself “Not a willing host” to Industrial Wind Turbines. The wpd proposal fails to include any ameliorating measures that might lessen this persistently strong local opposition from the project's hosting community.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms assures Canadians that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.” The wpd proposal, in its present form, fails to reassure residents of my community that our Charter rights will not be denied by this proposed project, which clearly threatens to deprive us of tranquility, health and property values. We believe that wpd Canada is planning to locate industrial turbines too close to residences. The proposal contains no reassuring evidence to the contrary.

Having industrial turbines in Prince Edward County violates the Species at Risk Act, OMAF's advice to farmers, MOE heritage requirements, individual Charter rights, and is largely in an IBA and on a major migratory route. Clearly this is the wrong place for industrial wind turbines. MOE should not be wasting its limited resources on further technical assessments.

I urge you, Ms. Afante, to make certain that no further consideration is given for the approval of this project unless its above-noted deficiencies are corrected. Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights was enacted to protect Ontarians. As our trusted “ Gatekeeper” for our rights, my neighbours and I expect you to remove this proposal from the EBR listing of those that are “deemed complete”.

Yours sincerely,



Jim McPherson

Copy by email to: Eric Gillespie, LLB
Kathleen Wynne, Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Food
The Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment
Todd Smith, MPP
Peter Mertens, Mayor, County of Prince Edward
Anne Dumbrille, Co-Chair, CCSAGE Naturally Green
Steve Ferguson, Editor, The South Marysburgh Mirror and other media
Jane Wilson, President, Wind Concerns Ontario
Ian MacRae, President, wpd Canada