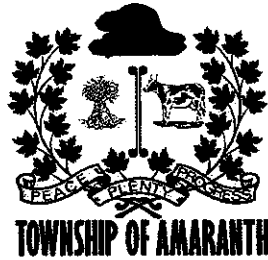


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April 5, 2011

Honourable John Wilkinson
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

Honourable John Wilkinson:

Let us first express our appreciation for the time that you and your colleagues spent with us at the Good Roads Conference in Toronto. We would like to take this opportunity to summarize our presentation and our understanding of the many discussion points.

Points to Register:

1. The Amaranth Council has always been fully in support of all Green Energy sources. The question is where are these projects best located so that they do not negatively affect neighbouring residents.
2. Amaranth Council at the start of the Environmental Assessment process for a wind turbine farm many years ago formally requested by motion to your Ministry that human and animal health baseline studies and real estate baseline studies be included in the Environmental Assessment Process. The need for these studies was rejected.
3. The current wind farm in the Township of Amaranth was approved through an Ontario Municipal Board process.

4. There is no question that the impact of wind turbines and the transformer that connects this power to the grid have negatively affected the health and wealth of neighbouring residents.
5. The Council of the Township of Amaranth is opposed to any further wind turbine projects until the negative impacts of the current wind farm are corrected.

Issue 1:

We cannot support any development project where the tenants (lessee's) have more power under the Green Energy Act to negatively disrupt the health and wealth of permanent long-term residents of this Province. It is incumbent upon you and your Ministry to force wind farms into permanent land ownership arrangements whereby the disruption to neighbours is minimized. In other words, wind farm owners should be forced to buy the land like any other developer with appropriate compensation for adjacent neighbours. Spreading wind turbines across the landscape negatively impacts the health and wealth of 5-10 neighbouring landowners per turbine/transformer, their families and their animals. **This solution of land ownership and amalgamation of turbines on that land is clearly within your Provincial powers and a moratorium should be enacted immediately to implement this solution.**

Issue 2:

The health and wealth impacts of the transformer on three neighbouring families has been well documented and repeatedly articulated by this Council, the residents and your Ministry representatives. Your Ministry failed to issue a Certificate of Approval nor did they undertake a thorough Environmental Assessment at the time of installation and operation of the transformer. This was discovered much later during the Ontario Municipal Board hearings. In other words, due diligence, procedures and rules were not followed by your Ministry and three families are suffering the consequence. Two of the families have had to leave their homes. Many expert solutions have been tried to alleviate the low frequency noise and vibration problems and all have failed. In other words, there is no question that the

transformer is negatively impacting the health and wealth of three neighbouring families. **The solution is really quite simple - It is clearly your Ministry's responsibility to find the ways and means to either relocate the transformer or the neighbouring families.**

Issue 3:

The setbacks in the Green Energy Act are not sufficient to protect the health and wealth of neighbouring families. The 5 km. setback in the lake directly invalidates the setback of 550 meters on land. The excuse that the science is not well understood to protect drinking water in the lake is no different from that on land. In this area, we all drink from the groundwater and if 73,000 litres of radioactive water spilled into Lake Ontario and apparently this will not damage the drinking water, then clearly a 5 km. offshore wind farm is the least of your worries. Clearly, the setbacks of wind turbines on land are not sufficient from houses, property lines and roadways. Our experience supports this conclusion and the impacts of wind turbines have negatively affected the health and wealth of neighbouring families. **The wind turbines need to relocate onto lands purchased by the developer with appropriate compensation for neighbouring families along with greater setbacks.** For example, the newly proposed Whittington wind farm in the municipality of Amaranth will negatively impact workers in the neighbouring industrial spinach farm operations. Workers will not work in conditions detrimental to their health.

Issue 4:

Why would anyone locate wind turbines in the tornado capital of Canada? Yes, Dufferin County is the tornado capital of Canada. The atmospheric wind studies that are undertaken for two years on site are incapable of detecting long term repetitive extreme wind and freezing rain/icing conditions. Only through long-term climatological studies do the risk to human and animal lives become apparent and hence, the reasons to avoid spreading turbines across the landscape in the tornado capital of Canada. These facts should have emerged during the Environmental Assessment process conducted by your Ministry. **Not only should**

this area be prohibited from the development of future wind turbines but the existing need to be relocated together and away from neighbouring families.

Issue 5:

Because the wind turbines are scattered throughout the landscape, adjacent properties and their future building envelopes have been sterilized by the nearness to the existing wind turbines. This reverse setback has negative impacts on property owners wishing to develop their properties and in many cases to build their retirement home. These sterilized properties of landowners, owing to adjacent wind turbines tenants, are clearly a negative impact and again raises the fundamental question of the rights of a permanent landowner versus a tenant in the Province of Ontario under the Green Energy Act. **The solution is simple - Force the wind farm developers to adhere to the same planning process as other developers.**

Issue 6:

As you are aware, there has been a 50% reduction in landowner's property taxes because of the noise and vibration impacts on his property, his health and wealth. This adds to the undisputed proof and responsibility for your Ministry to take action. In addition, houses have been purchased by the wind farm because of the noise and vibration from the nearby turbines. Likewise, the hours of operation of a number of wind turbines have been curtailed, and one house adjacent to a turbine was deemed uninhabitable and the company bought out the owners. It is unacceptable that an industrial use should force the residents to have to uproot and leave the area. **Collectively, your Ministry, knowing all of this information, need not sidestep the negative impacts on neighbours' health and wealth issues any longer. The time for serious corrective action is already overdue.**

Issue 7:

It was reassuring to hear you indicate that the views and conclusion of our municipality will be taken into account in any new proposed wind energy development. **Given the negative impacts of the current wind farm in the Township of Amaranth, it is understandable that this Council does not support any future wind turbine installations (eg. Whittington Wind Farm) until significant problems with the current wind turbines and transformer are resolved by the Ministry.**

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues during the Ontario Good Roads conference in Toronto. We look forward to your response to our many issues and if we can assist with further explanations or discussions please let us know.

Sincerely



Mayor Don MacIver
Council of the Township of Amaranth
Province of Ontario