



GMB 411 RR 1  
Zurich ON N0M 2T0

To: All Members of the Bluewater Municipal Council and  
Stephen McAuley, Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of Bluewater  
From: The Board of the Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association  
Re: Industrialized Wind Turbine Farms in Bluewater  
Date: June 26, 2012

*The Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association (BSRA) represents 50+ subdivisions located along the Lake Huron shoreline – from Bayfield south to Port Blake. This shoreline area encompasses approximately 1500 properties and a population of about 3500 residents.*

BSRA has significant concerns regarding the industrialized wind turbine farms being proposed for the Municipality of Bluewater and these concerns are itemized below:

- The 1000 m setback that was established by a Municipality of Bluewater By-Law in 2009 is not being honoured by the wind turbine companies. This setback – a compromise position reached in good faith by the Bluewater Municipal Council and concerned Bluewater residents at that time – should not just be simply ignored (notwithstanding the imposition of the Green Energy Act by the provincial government.) In most places around the world where wind turbines have been installed for many years and where governments have experience with all the issues they bring to local communities, much greater setbacks than the mere 550 m being allowed here in rural southern Ontario have been mandated. Accordingly, such experience clearly signals the need to establish significant setbacks that minimize nuisance, risks and limitations on adjoining properties rather than modest setbacks that will only serve to aggravate the well-known problems associated with wind turbines.
- The health of Bluewater residents is not being protected. The effects of infrasound on individuals living close to industrial turbines have still not been adequately studied by the Ministry of Health. Dr. Arlene King, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer (i.e. a government employee), carried out a literature review on this issue but no unbiased medical research was conducted in Ontario. Objective, third-party, peer-reviewed research on health issues and wind turbines is paramount.
- The concerns raised by the Zurich Chamber of Commerce regarding the proximity of wind turbines to their village have not been addressed satisfactorily by NextEra Energy. For NextEra to simply ignore the Zurich citizens' concerns and requests is not acceptable.
- In addition, there have not been adequate investigations and clear answers concerning the installation of wind turbines and their effect on the underground natural gas storage pools in the Zurich area. Until this is clarified with satisfactory, unbiased engineering studies, no turbines should be erected in the affected Zurich area.

- The natural heritage studies with respect to *waterfowl stopover, staging and fly-over areas* are inadequate regarding the tundra swan population that passes through Bluewater during its annual spring migration. For example, surveying for tundra swans was carried out on one day only in 2010 (18 March 2010. Golder & Associates: *Avian Use Monitoring Report*). In 2011, the wetlands and areas of spring flooding in the Bluewater study area – that is, those areas where tundra swans do land - were deemed to be of “insufficient size and diversity” to support stopovers of tundra swan populations (AECOM Report: *Natural Heritage Assessment and Environmental Impact Study*. pp 83-85). These studies do not capture the knowledge that local residents have about this migratory bird population. Tundra swans must be *included*, not excluded, from further studies on migratory bird populations and their significance in Bluewater.
- The loss in property value that will be experienced by owners of small holdings close to wind turbines is not being addressed by the wind companies. How will the wind companies compensate these landowners whose property investment is being eroded through no fault of their own? How will the wind companies compensate the municipality for its loss in assessment values?
- The value of the *Community Vibrancy Fund* being proposed by the wind companies comes nowhere near covering the cost of the disruption that will be experienced in Bluewater as wind turbines are installed. Further, it is totally inappropriate for the wind companies to attach conditions to the manner in which these funds will be used by the Municipality.
- The rural landscape in Bluewater is going to be significantly diminished when industrial wind turbines are erected. Compounding this will be the construction of transmission lines connecting the turbines to the provincial power grid. At the very least, these transmission lines should be installed underground to reduce the visual clutter as much as possible.
- To cover the decommissioning costs of these industrial wind turbines, it is imperative that Bluewater have the wind companies post a significant security bond for each individual turbine erected. Alternatively, the land owner who has benefited from the turbine lease over the life of the turbine should assume the decommissioning costs. It is unacceptable to expect that Bluewater ratepayers should assume the costs to remove and clean up turbine sites.

In summary, with so many issues associated with the development of industrial wind turbine farms, it is astounding that the Government of Ontario has removed local input and control in these development projects. Were it a housing development or the construction of a casino, the Ontario Government would be insisting on local input and control. Why are wind turbine projects different?

BSRA looks forward to your response and we are also prepared to elaborate on any of the issues set forth above.

Sincerely

Lynn Lindsey, President  
Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association