

From: Giovanna Dragic
Sent: December 2, 2007 3:38 PM
To: ipsp comment
Subject: Keith Stelling - Arran Lake Wind Action Group

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From: BoardSec
Sent: November 30, 2007 5:26 PM
To: Giovanna Dragic
Subject: FW: OEB File EB-2007-0707

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From: Keith Stelling [mailto:stelling@bmts.com]
Sent: November 30, 2007 3:26 PM
To: BoardSec
Subject: OEB File EB-2007-0707

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Comments on
Issues the Ontario Energy Board
Should Consider when Reviewing

Ontario Power Authority
Integrated Power Supply Plan
And
Procurement Processes

Submitted by

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November 30, 2007

Submitted to:

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Issue 1

Disputed claims to CO2 emission savings by wind turbines

Why is it assumed that wind turbines contribute to real savings in CO2 emissions when the evidence shows this is not the case? It seems reasonable to ask why wind-power is the beneficiary of such extensive support by way of subsidies, tax incentives and premium prices paid for wind energy under the standard offer contract, when it not only fails to achieve the CO2 reductions required, but also causes cost increases in backup, maintenance and transmission, while at the same time discouraging investment in clean, firm generation capacity.

Issue 2

Wasteful investment of public funds: inflated cost of wind energy

Inflated cost of electricity produced by wind turbines including cost of fossil-fuelled back up generation and transmission infrastructure mean wind is very poor value for money spent. In addition, much of the time cheaper energy is available from other sources.

European experience over the last ten years has demonstrated that wind turbines destabilize the grid, fail to add firm generating capacity, and result in unreasonably high increases to consumer electricity rates. Already operational wind farms in Ontario produce much of their energy when it is not needed and little during peak demand hours. Many Ontarians now believe that public support of industrial wind turbine development and premium prices paid for wind energy by the Ontario Government are

not money spent with due regard for economy and efficiency. We believe that it is imperative that Auditor General's Office investigate this wasteful investment of public funds and that Ontario's Legislature place an immediate moratorium on the building of new wind turbine facilities in the province as well as end subsidies and tax incentives paid to the wind industry.

Issue 3

Real estate values of adjacent properties are being undermined by wind farms.

Compensation for residents of properties adjacent to wind turbines is a serious concern because it means up to 30% loss in real estate value of their homes. Many of these people are past retirement age and unlikely to recoup this value through future employment. This represents a very unfair burden on a small segment of society.

Issue 4

Because there is no regulatory code of siting from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of the Environment is failing in its duty to protect our Ontario wildlife heritage by routinely accepting environmental screenings commissioned by wind energy developers which are likely to be biased.

When developers propose wind farms in areas of outstanding natural beauty, provincial regulations leave the responsibility to defend natural heritage sites, migratory bird stop-overs and tourism areas to individual citizens. Why has there not been a firm set of rules to regulate this undisciplined industrialization of the countryside and keep wind turbine developments away from such areas? Why is constraint mapping not employed? Bill 51 which classifies wind farms as infrastructure has taken away any real public input at the municipality and county level. Why are the taxpayers being consistently ignored?

Issue 5

In view of the known problems with noise from wind turbines, why has the Province not set meaningful safe distances from houses for wind turbines?

Why does Ontario not offer as much respect to adjacent residents as is the case in several European states where, for health reasons, wind turbines are not allowed closer than 1500 to 1800 metres from inhabited dwellings?

Request to Provide Comments on Phase 2:

I request to be added to the list of those who will be invited to provide comments on the final issues list.

Submitted by,

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