

Napier Information Meeting



- Type:** wpd Canada – Napier Project Local Community
- Date:** March 24, 2015 | 6:30-8:00pm
- Location:** Adelaide Metcalfe Township Office, Lower Hall, 2340 Egremont Drive, RR#5 Strathroy
- Attendees:** 9 members of the public
wpd: Joshua Vaidhyan, Jennifer Ng, Jonathan Clifford
- Reference:** Napier Wind Project Development
- Agenda:**
- Introductions
 - Purpose of the meeting
 - Project Presentation
 - Discussion
 - Next Steps

Meeting format and considerations for the next meeting:

- A formal presentation was planned, but some members of the public had an opportunity to speak to staff one on one.

Meeting Summary:

- At 6:45, Jonathan initiated the presentation. He welcomed attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting:
 - Introduce and engage the public in participating in a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) for the Napier Wind Project
 - Provide a summary of the process to follow for the construction of the project
 - Noted that although this was the first information meeting, explained that wpd would like to formalize these meetings in a CLC and that wpd is accepting applications. While wpd had published a call for membership in the previous year, wpd was still looking for applicants.
- Josh then spoke about the construction process in more detail, regarding the potential impacts, examples of mitigation measures, and other related details regarding the installation of wind turbines.
- He also reviewed complaint procedures, and that there is a formal process involved for construction complaints that will be handled by the site manager and wpd.

Question Session:

Questions about the Napier Project:

- Q: Is the Napier project an addition to an existing installation?

- A: No, those are separate projects from different developers. The Napier project is two turbines.
- Q: What kind of turbines are they, and where are they sourced from? How many years of experience does this company have?
- A: the Senvion MM92 turbine is designed in Germany. The towers, blades, and hubs are built in Ontario, while the nacelle comes from Germany. The company, formerly known as REPower, was founded in 2001. However, Senvion has been acquired by Suzlon Energy Ltd., which has existed since 1995.
- Q: how will the town and community benefit from wind projects in general?
- A: Each turbine provides tax revenue to the municipality.
- Q: What does a Community Liaison Committee entail? What if a committee cannot be assembled?
- A: wpd had issued a call for applications for the Napier CLC in 2014; despite wpd Canada not receiving any applications, the meeting was initiated regardless to invite people to learn more and potentially apply to be part of the CLC. With or without a committee, the meetings will be held regardless, to provide information and answer any potential questions. Depending on feedback or further requests, wpd can determine whether additional CLC meetings could be held.
- Q: When was the layout of the project decided?
- A: After the contract was awarded in 2011. There were two open houses during the REA process.

Construction questions:

- Q: When is the project slated to begin construction and finish?
- A: The project construction would begin around May, and would be completed by the end of the year.
- Q: How will the cranes be moved?
- A: Josh explained they'd be built, used, disassembled, and then moved to the next site.
- Q: If a citizen has a complaint during construction, what is the associated process?
- A: There will be a number for the site manager, as well as wpd. Residents can contact wpd, who can then implement mitigation measures, depending on the complaint.
- Q: What time would the trucks run?
- A: We will know closer to the construction date, but this can be changed.
- Q: Are archaeological studies done as the project is being constructed?
- A: No, an archaeological assessment of the project area is required for the actual Renewable Energy Approval application – this is a thorough assessment of the project area, and can require next level stages depending on what is found in the initial assessments.

- Q: Is the land for the electrical infrastructure secured and finalized?
- A: Yes, the land is secured, but the design for the infrastructure hasn't necessarily been finalized.
- Q: Why is there no construction manager in attendance of the meeting?
- A: Josh noted the project is still in the tendering phase, and as a result there isn't a construction manager yet.

Operational Questions:

- Q: What if the concern/question is specifically about noise? Would someone measure it?
- A: Once a project is operational, complaints have to be taken to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change; they would then be responsible for measuring sound levels to test whether the sound levels are exceeding those described in the regulations. In previous experience, this happens relatively quickly.
- Q: What would happen if sound levels were found to exceed the 40 dbA limit?
- A: Mitigation measures would have to be introduced, such as moderation in cut-in speed. The sound limit cannot be exceeded.
- Q: Will someone respond to a complaint during off-hours?
- A: There would be a phone number to call to leave a message and email. Explained that no one would respond at 3am, but the complaint would be registered and responded to in a reasonable period of time.
- Q: What precautions are taken to address ice throw?
- A: Explained that there are sensors built into the turbine to detect imbalances in the blades; if there is ice buildup, the turbine will shut down.
- Q: What about turbine fires?
- A: The chances for a turbine fire are statistically very low. Modern turbines have built-in safety mechanisms which reduce the potential for fires to occur. In the few instances worldwide where fires have occurred, evidence has shown that turbine equipment will fall to the base of the tower; setback requirements will reduce the potential effect to surrounding properties.
- Q: Where is the control center for the turbines?
- A: The turbines are controlled remotely through a computer center in Germany.
- Q: Will the Napier Project tie into other project infrastructure?
- A: No, the Napier project has its own switching station at Napperton – this is the connection point to the grid.
- Q: What would be done about stray voltage?

- A: Stray voltage is a function of electrical transmission, not in how electricity is produced. It is more likely to occur in single phase transmission. Properly constructed and maintained transmission infrastructure reduces the potential for stray voltage to occur. We intend to use three phase lines with significantly reduced stress in comparison to single phase lines. In addition, wpd will have rigorous quality control measures in place during construction.

General Questions:

- Q: Are the requirements for the surrounding projects different than wpd's?
- A: They should generally be the same from project to project (for sound, setbacks, etc.)
- Q: Why are there several different companies doing different projects in the same area? What is the benefit to having so many different developers?
- A: Supply agreements are given with nameplate capacities – so whatever a developer is awarded would limit the number of turbines and size of the project. Furthermore, the contracts are awarded during different time periods, and thus have varying timelines altogether. wpd's Napier project fit into the little space available to generate more electricity.
- Q: Several questions about setbacks and turbine siting.
- A: Turbines are sited according to several different criteria, including but not limited to: sound limitations, cumulative sound levels, setback from receptors, natural features, archaeological resources, and heritage resources.
- Q: Do community members have a chance to comment on whether they want a project in their township?
- A: Reviewed the history of the regulations regarding renewable energy, and how the FIT Program was introduced as part of the Ontario government's focus on expanding renewable energy. This included introducing new legislation designed to expedite the process of building new clean electricity generation. The process is now undergoing change, but Napier falls under the "old" regulations.

Comments:

- Noted that he was concerned about the use of Napperton Rd. and Seed Rd., as the intersection had poor visibility.
- Suggested posting construction signs at the top of each hill, and consider involving the OPP to manage speed.
- Two attendees felt that this meeting could not be called a community liaison committee if there were no members. They demanded that four additional meetings be held.
- Expressed concern about property values, but also noted they were aware that it may just be something that people will get used to.
- Many comments indicated that previous developers had not been responsive to the community and as a result they're not sure if they can trust wpd. They were concerned

about the safety of their township (i.e. speeding trucks, number of vehicles, lack of communication, etc.).

- Request for refreshments at next meeting

Next steps:

- Meeting minutes
- Continue to update the website
- Any feedback on how we are doing this, please let us know