

Springwood Community Liaison Meeting

Type: wpcd Canada –Springwood Project Local Community

Date: August 19, 2014 | 5:30pm -7:00pm

Location: Fergus Legion 275, 500 Blair St., Fergus, ON

Attendees: wpcd –Paul Deol, Valerie Kitchell, Jonathan Clifford

Stantec/Facilitator – Herb Shields

20 members of the public

Reference: Springwood Wind Project Development

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Purpose of the meeting
- Project Update
- Discussion
- Next Steps

Meeting format and considerations for the next meeting

Bird and bat monitoring

Meeting Summary:

- HS: Welcomed attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting:
 - Engage the public in participating in a Community Liaison Committee for the Springwood Wind Project
 - Provide an update on the Springwood Wind Project
 - Collect any feedback or matters to be addressed from the community
- wpcd: Began by presenting on the CLC
 - Summarized some changes from the previous meeting:
 - Larger venue was requested – requested any feedback on the new larger venue
 - Regular project updates were requested during construction – indicated that the community website for the project had been up and running, and included weekly updates on activities
- wpcd: Provided an update on project construction to date and the current status (see presentation)
- HS + wpcd: Summarized that mechanical installations were nearly complete, and that farmland had been restored to previous conditions, but that the turbines are not in operation. Electrical installations still required prior to commissioning.
- Q: The presentation indicated that no archaeological artifacts were found. It was asked who made that determination.
- A: Our professional contractors know that it is required to notify should there be any finds, particularly in the case of, for example, burial sites.

- Q: Asked about bird fatalities. Indicated that there are a number of birds that are followed by the people in the area, such as an osprey. Expressed that the osprey would have been killed if the nearby turbine had been turning. Stated dissatisfaction with wpd relying on regulations.
 - A: Explained that post construction monitoring is required as per the REA conditions.
 - Q: Asked how post construction monitoring surveys work. Stated that minimum standards are insufficient. Asked whether wpd would be better citizens, better community partners, rather than rely on regulations.
 - A: Provided high level overview of bird and bat monitoring, and committed to having a presentation with experts who can speak to the issue, at the following meeting.
 - Q: Expressed that there should be a higher quality of bird and bat monitoring, and that the issue is a political agenda that is not trusted.
 - A: Committed to taking note of the comments and sending the minutes to the MOECC
 - Q: Asked why raptor surveys are conducted in the Fall, as there are gone by that time.
 - A: Monitoring follows prescribed guidelines set out by the Ministry.
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- Q: Asked how wpd can expect people to attend this meeting when it is scheduled at 5:30. Indicated that the meeting should start not earlier than 7 so that people have a chance to make it due to work.
 - A: Acknowledged that the next meeting could be held later.
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- wpd: Presented complaints that had been addressed during the construction period (see presentation).
 - Q: Acknowledged that wpd did address things after a while, but that those items should have been common sense to begin with. Asked how it took so long to fix this.
 - Q: Indicated that folks along 2nd Line and 20th Sideroad received letters that were hand dropped, and which outlined the wrong route. Asked how this could have happened and expressed frustration with inaccuracies.
 - A: Indicated that wpd would look into it and respond.
 - Q: Asked why wpd was transporting things in the middle of the night. Asked if they were oversized loads which wpd was trying to hide. Indicated that it happened last week or the week before that. Stated that nothing oversized is supposed to be shipped at night.
 - A: Indicated that wpd would look into it and respond.

wpd follow-up response:

wpd entered into a Roads Use Agreement with the Township, which outlined the roads within the Township to be used to transport equipment and components to the project site. In planning the overall haul route, our turbine supplier and the transportation company they engaged obtained haul permits for the routing within Wellington County, but were unaware that this did not allow them to deviate from the agreed upon route within the Township. When wpd was alerted by Township officials that trucks were accessing incorrect routes, wpd immediately informed the turbine supplier they had to abide by the agreed upon route. It took some time for this information to be relayed to all drivers transporting equipment to the site; however, the situation was eventually rectified and the agreed upon haul route was respected by all the drivers. wpd regrets that there was some confusion regarding haul routes.

With regards to transportation at night, while delivery at night is not ideal, it does allow for the avoidance of high traffic hours, and the delivery was conducted under the supervision of police escort.

- Q: Asked if the minutes would be posted, and if so, when.
- A: wpd indicated that the minutes would be posted within a week.
- Q: Asked if the responses would be included.
- A: wpd indicated that the responses would be included.
- Q: Asked if wpd could go above and beyond the baseline requirements under the regulations. Asked for a yes or no response.
- A: Explained that there are prescribed requirements under the REA process which must be met. Indicated that wpd follow up with a response.

wpd follow-up response:

The requirements to develop and operate wind energy projects were formulated by highly-qualified professionals to ensure minimum impact to the public, wildlife and the natural environment; for example, the Ministry of Natural Resources determines the nature, frequency, and timing of bird surveys, drawing upon their own extensive expertise with Ontario's natural wildlife. wpd works with highly qualified consultants to ensure all these rules and regulations are followed; subject matter experts within the regulatory bodies are there to ensure we do.

- Q: Asked about turbine lighting. Indicated that the question had been asked before. Asked why it is that you can lie on the ground 20km from the project and see them. Stated that it was understood it was for aircraft, but asked why they have to be so strong?
- A: Explained that wpd has to meet Transport Canada regulation.
- Q: Indicated that wpd continued to rely on regulations. Asked if the lights that were up there already would be the ones used. Asked if what was seen at present was the intensity they would be moving forward.
- A: Indicated that yes the lights would be the same intensity and committed to providing the applicable lighting regulation.

wpd follow-up response:

Turbines are required to have one CL-864 medium intensity red flashing light. Not all turbines need to be lit, depending on their position relative to each other. For Springwood, turbines 1,2 and 4 will be lit. Transport Canada lighting standards can be found here: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/civilaviation/regserv/cars/part6-standard-standard621-3868.htm> Section 12.1 addresses wind turbines.

- Q: Stated that the overall issue is about resident's lives, the enjoyment of their lives, being able to enjoy the rest of their lives into retirement. Stated that wpd simply moves forward because the regulations indicated that it is acceptable. Stated that the project was very close to Bob Wright's airstrip, which is a regulated airstrip. Indicated that York Soaring, and other schools in the area, foster the pilots of the future. Stated that it is clear that the project was moving forward, and instead of trying to make these more livable, wpd follows regulations. Indicated that wpd hasn't heard anything about the vortices coming off of these turbines. Stated that a person has already crashed into one, let alone birds.
- A: wpd committed to provide a report on vortices

- Q: Stated that that should have been provided ages ago.

wpd follow-up response:

Generally, turbulence from wind turbines dissipates around 500m (roughly 8-10 blade lengths) from the turbine. A recent study for a wind project in the Niagara region studying the turbulence impact on a neighboring aerodrome was published. It can be found through this link here: http://www.wainfleetwindenergy.ca/PDF/rea/800532-CAVA-T-01-C-Rankin-Wainfleet_Turbulence_Intensity_Assessment.pdf Although wpd uses different turbines than those mentioned in the report, similar results can be expected.

- HS: Explained that it is understood that things can be an incredible inconvenience, but that what wpd can do is minimize the disturbance, meeting the regulations, and causing any issue to be resolved.
- Q: Stated that following the last meeting, a conversation was had with the President, asking whether a contingency fund was available to address community issues. It was stated that any responsible company would have such a fund, given the issues. Indicated that no follow up on this was received.
- A: Indicated that wpd would look into it and respond.

wpd follow-up response:

It was unclear as to what kind of 'fund' is being referred to here. wpd does allocate funds towards community consultation and engagement, and will continue to do so throughout the life of the project into decommissioning. wpd is prepared to address any issues that may arise as a result of the project, including case by case issues that may be reasonably mitigated.

- Q: Asked if HS has driven through the Shelburne project at night.
- A: Indicated that no he had not.
- Q: Expressed that it was shameful to be standing there talking about these things while not having done so.
- Q : Asked if there would be a series of meetings, and whether the same staff could be at each of these meeting for consistency.
- A: Explained that this was the third meeting of its kind for Springwood, with one more required. Stated that there may be scheduling conflicts, but that some consistency may be maintained. Explained that wpd was hoping to engage community members to join the CLC as well for the next meeting. Explained that wpd is required to hold one more. Stated that it is possible that there may be more after that, but that at the moment the CLC lacks members.
- Q: Stated that it sounded like wpd would have no more meetings if no one joined the CLC. Stated that no one would join because it is "us against you".
- A: Explained that wpd was looking for concrete expressions of interest. It would be useful to know what kind of a forum would make the most sense to the community and what kind of information is desired.
- Q: Stated that the community needs to be more involved in impacting the project, in changing things. Indicated that there was no community support.
- A: Explained that joining the CLC would not be about endorsing it, but about ensuring that more information is conveyed.

- Q: Stated that they saw little point to joining, as the information wpd provides is not even accurate.

wpd follow-up response:

wpd will continue to periodically provide information/updates to residents throughout the life of the project.

- Q: Asked whether wpd had any share in the property across the street, just south of the single turbine. Asked who owns it. Stated that the situation fosters distrust when it seems like a farmer just bought new land so easily. Stated that they wanted to know whether wpd has a stake in it.
- A: Indicated that most likely wpd did not, but would confirm information on that.

wpd follow-up response:

wpd Canada does not have a stake in the property in question.

- Q: Stated that the truck that installed the polls were painted/disguised orange and white to make them look like they were Hydro One. Indicated that that fosters distrust.
- A: Explained that that would have been Hydro One or their contractor.
- Q: Stated that they were cutting cheque when it came to clearing brush, but that regardless of whether the cheque was accepted, they just cleared the brush anyway. Indicated that Hydro One does not do that.
- Q: Asked about the cables to the transformer, and whether they rated just for the project, or for more.
- A: Explained that they are always rated over. Clarified that the project actually has a switching station, not a transformer station.
- Q: Stated that there is a transformer station where the project connects.
- A: Explained that there is a point where the project ends and Hydro One's responsibility and ownership begins.
- Q: Requested confirmation that the line was setup just to carry power from 4 turbines. Expressed that that seemed unlikely.
- A: Explained that Hydro One has a test that they use to assess whether the connection is worth it. They make the assumption that they can connect other customers and assesses the cost/benefit.
- Q: Stated that wpd has a say in the use of the other capacity.
- A: Stated that no, wpd had no say in that.
- Q: Stated that clearly wpd may not have a project at the moment, but asked if wpd was investigating other opportunities in the area.
- A: Stated that at the moment, there are no investigations by wpd in the area.
- Q: Asked for clarification regarding 'at the moment'
- A: Stated that wpd is a developer, and that there would be no commitment to not explore projects anywhere ever.
- Q: Responded that that was understood, but that there is capacity for wpd to connect.
- A: Indicated that last wpd checked, no there was not, but that it was unclear when the capacity numbers had last been updated.

- Q: Asked why wpd would want to change the format of the CLC. Stated that wpd wanted to close it off so only some people could speak.
- A: Stated that the meetings would remain open to the public. Explained that having active members of the CLC allows for more feedback on wpd' s actions and better information sharing. Indicated that so far wpd had received one application.
- Q: Expressed that if people did form a committee, then it could become a full time job. Stated that it may be better to have the current forum where all can speak. Expressed that when that application had been submitted, the thought was to keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

- Q: Asked whether there would there be a 24/7 line for use if there were any issues.
- A: Stated that there would be a line and email. Explained that while no one would respond at 3am, but wpd is required to respond within 48hrs.

- Q: Stated that they have been having interference with TV signal. Indicated that they used to get TVO perfectly, and suddenly do not. Explained that they have it on aerial – 19 and 28, and usually we get it.
- Q: Stated that potential issue with Wi-Fi was a concern, as it is needed for work.
- A: Explained that there are assessments one can do regarding telecommunications, and that an assessment of the area was done. Explained that one can determine whether the project was sited within consultation zones for point to point systems for example. Regarding TV via aerial, explained that some things can be assessed on a case by case basis.

- Q: Asked what the voltage / output was of the turbines and how they achieved the change to feed into the grid. Asked if the change was achieved with windings.
- A: Stated that yes, it is windings.
- Q: Asked if there would be voltage spikes, or would emit dirty power.
- A: Stated that there would be no voltage spikes; if there was, then it would have to be powered down so that the problem can be fixed.

- Q: Asked if there anything the community could do to shut the project down?
- A: Stated that concerns can be expressed to the regulatory bodies, and that wpd would be submitting the minutes to the MOECC.

- Q: Asked how much wpd gets from the government?
- A: Responded that the rate is 13.5 cents per kilowatt-hour

- Q: Asked if the FIT program was closed.
- A: Explained that the current builds are being built, and that that would be it for this program. Stated that the Province would determine how any future procurement would take place.
- Q: Asked how they could find out what was happening with leases around the area which they are concerned may be developed as wind projects.
- A: Indicated that they may have to ask the holders of those leases.
- Q: Expressed concern because the province wishes to build 10,000 wind turbines.

- Q: Asked how much it costs wpd to build the projects, what kind of return is involved, and how long it takes to make profit.

- A: Indicated that wpd would look into it and respond. Indicated that we would consider presenting information on decommissioning for the next meeting.

wpd Follow-up response:

The cost of developing a project depends on a variety of factors, however the Springwood Project is estimated to cost in the area of 20 million dollars, and by regulation, a minimum of 50 percent must be secured in the province of Ontario. All costs are borne by the developer, and a revenue stream only occurs when electricity is generated and sold to the grid, in this case, at a contract rate of 13.5 cents per kWh. Overall, the Springwood Wind Project is estimated to produce approximately 23 800 000 kWh of electricity per year.

- Q: Asked why one turbine was sited close to a home, while others were sited in the middle of fields.
- A: Explained that there are a number of factors for siting, including houses in the area, environmental features, property lines, turbulence between turbines etc. so there is nowhere else you can put the turbine under the regulations.
- Q: Asked whether there would be any compensation if property value was lost.
- A: Indicated that that was outside of the scope of the meeting.
- Q: Expressed that the community has seen many errors from wpd, and as a result does not trust wpd. Explained that they wanted a quiet life, and that people were very passionate about the issues.
- A: Indicated that a lot of issues had been discussed, and wpd would provide follow-up answers. Explained that it's up to both parties to decide what is desired from this CLC process. Stated that there would be one more meeting in the Fall.
- Next steps:
 - Meeting minutes
 - Continue to update the website
 - Any feedback on how we are doing this, please let us know

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7:30 - End