



**association to protect
AMHERST ISLAND**

Hearing Officers at the Ostrander Point Review Tribunal allowed the appeal by the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists and revoked the decision of the Director, Ministry of the Environment, to allow turbine development to proceed at Ostrander Point because the project would cause irreparable harm by fragmenting and destroying the habitat of the Blanding's Turtle. Gilead Power had proposed nine 135 metre turbines on a block of Crown Land in Prince Edward County.

The decision reads in part:

The Tribunal finds that mortality due to roads, brought by increased vehicle traffic, poachers and predators, directly in the habitat of Blanding's turtle, a species that is globally endangered and threatened in Ontario, is serious and irreversible harm to Blanding's turtle at Ostrander Point Crown Land Block that will not be effectively mitigated by the conditions in the REA.

This decision is very significant for Amherst Island because:

1. It is the first time to our knowledge that a decision of the Ministry of the Environment on a Renewable Energy Approval application has been overturned
2. Amherst Island shares many of the same characteristics as Ostrander. Both are Important Bird Areas on the Atlantic Migratory Flyway with a significant number of species at risk including Blanding's turtles. Stantec consulted to both projects and found evidence of Blanding's Turtles at both locations.

The Hearing Officers did not accept the other basis of the Ostrander Point appeal that the project would cause irreparable harm to human health.

APAI congratulates the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists and all the organizations and individuals (particularly those who shared their medical histories in what proved to be a grueling exercise) involved in this David and Goliath fight. Special thanks to Eric Gillespie and his team of lawyers who also represent APAI. We also thank and congratulate Dr. John Harrison who testified at the tribunal and shared his expertise on noise with Eric Gillespie.

This is a major milestone in our collective efforts to ensure that wind turbines are located appropriately in Ontario. We strongly believe that Amherst Island has an equal or better case than Ostrander Point.

What you can do

Please send your letters describing your concerns about the impact on species at risk, noise and shadow flicker, the lack of information about the impact on your well, the lack of an emergency services plan, the impact on the school and on Owl Woods to the Ministry of the Environment. Enlist your family, friends, and colleagues to write to the Ministry.

Reinforce that Amherst Island is one of Canada's Top Ten Endangered Places due to the threat of wind turbines. The Island is the wrong place for turbines because it is a fragile and historically sensitive landscape with a rich cultural and natural heritage that will be overwhelmed by turbines. It's an island with insurmountable safety and logistical challenges for an industrial project. It's an Important Bird Area on the Atlantic Migratory Flyway with 34 species at risk including the Blanding's Turtle. Simply put, too many turbines, too close together!

Most importantly, please continue to take photos of turtles and snakes on the Island and send them to protectai@kos.net before July 10, our next meeting with the Ministry of Natural Resources. And hug a turtle today!