



association to protect
AMHERST ISLAND

APAI COMMUNITY MEETING

SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2014 at 2:00 pm

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

APAI will provide an update on the Renewable Energy Approval process and the posting to the Environmental Registry and respond to your questions. A letter-writing workshop will also be held at the Museum in the near future.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please submit letters in response to the posting and urge your family and friends to do the same. It's best to write about your own experience and concerns. Describe the impact on your family, on the Island you cherish, on your heritage home and dry stone walls, on the community, and on the environment. Talk about what it means to live on an Island and your concerns about road widenings, noise and shadow flicker, heavy equipment, access to emergency services, the impact on your well and water supply, your children's safety. **Explain that the Windlectric project would cause irreversible harm to the community and to the environment.**

Please submit comments to the Ministry of the Environment **before March 8, 2014**. The posting is here on the [Environmental Registry](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca). (Or visit www.ebr.gov.on.ca and enter **012-0774** in the search line.)

Didn't we already write letters to the Ministry of the Environment?

Last summer we wrote letters about the application to destroy habitat of species at risk and about docks and public lands permits to the Ministry of Natural Resources. This time, we are asking you to comment to the Ministry of the Environment on the *overall project*. This is the "big posting", our important chance to comment to the government and oppose the industrialization of Amherst Island.

Where do I send my letters?

Please send as many emails as possible to Susanne Edwards, Ontario Ministry of the Environment (susanne.edwards@ontario.ca). You must put EBR 012-0774 in the subject line. More info on next page.

Need help? Have ideas?

Please contact protectai@kos.net

www.protectamherstisland.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ProtectAmherstIsland>



Special thanks to Elizabeth Barr and everyone involved in the Toronto Dance! The generosity of those who contributed art, those who attended, and those who made financial contributions in lieu of attendance is sincerely appreciated.

Great evening! Great band! Great contacts! Great ideas! Great success! Thank you.

Opposition to proposed wind turbines on Amherst Island has entered the next phase and we need your help. This is a plea to convey to the Ministry of the Environment why Amherst Island is simply the wrong place for wind turbines.

The Ontario has invited public comments before **March 8, 2014** on a Renewable Energy Approval application by Windlectric/Algonquin Power to build a wind turbine project with a nameplate capacity of up to 75 MW on Amherst Island. The final documents are posted on the proponent's web site here:

<http://www.amherstislandwindproject.com>

The MOE posting is here on the [Environmental Registry](#).

Please send as many emails as possible to oppose the project by writing to Susanne Edwards, Ontario Ministry of the Environment at the email address below with EBR 012-0774 in the subject line before March 8, 2014.

To: susanne.edwards@ontario.ca, with copies to premier@ontario.ca, ian.parrott@ontario.ca, minister.moe@ontario.ca, and protectai@kos.net.

Please tell the Ministry in your words why it is important to preserve Amherst Island and why the construction and operation of wind turbines would cause irreversible harm. Please use your own words and your own experience on the Island. Some of the key messages you may wish to address include:

Birding and the Natural Environment



- All of Amherst Island is an Important Bird Area of Global Significance on the Atlantic Migratory flyway and is home to 34 species at risk including Blanding's Turtle. Habitat will be fragmented and lost by the construction of over 30 km of additional access roads.
- The Island is internationally recognized for concentrations of wintering hawks and owls, with birders traveling from around the world to visit Owl Woods, where you can see up to 11 species of owls. Four turbines are proposed in proximity to Owl Woods and bird kill is anticipated to equal that of Wolfe Island at the highest levels measured in Canada.
- The cumulative impact of industrial wind turbine complexes on Wolfe Island, Prince Edward

- County, New York State, potentially off shore, and on Amherst Island on birds and bats has not been considered.
- Amherst Island was ranked second in biodiversity significance (Lake Ontario Islands – Northeast), and includes 400 hectares of Provincially Significant Coastal Wetland.
- Amherst Island is one of Nature's jewels in Lake Ontario of similar significance to Point Pelee for migratory birds

Cultural Heritage



- Amherst Island has been named one of the Top Ten Endangered Places in Canada by the Heritage Canada Foundation (now known as Heritage Canada The National Trust) due to the threat of wind turbines on its rich cultural and natural heritage. Amherst Island is a place where time has stood still with over 100 heritage properties, many with rubble and stone foundations that will be harmed by vibration and construction of wind turbines.
- The entire Island is a cultural heritage district with roads that evolved from carriageways. Roads are not designed to Ontario standards and setbacks are minimal so that transport of heavy equipment will damage structures and cause erosion as well as require road

widenings and tree removal.

- Amherst Island is home to Canada's best collection of dry stone walls, nine of which are protected by Loyalist Township Council bylaw. Stone walls are at risk from vibration and transport of heavy equipment.
- Three properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (Neilson Store Museum and Cultural Centre, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and Pentland Cemetery) are at risk of destruction during construction and implementation of this project.

Health

- Up to 36 turbines will blanket the Island. Indeed, the entire Island is called the "project area". Ontario setbacks of 550 m are among the lowest in the world and were developed when turbines were much shorter. Setbacks of at least 2 km are becoming a prudent standard to minimize health impacts.
- Health Canada is conducting a "health impacts and exposure to wind turbine noise" study with results due in 2014. The project should be delayed until the study results are available.
- The health impacts of infrasound are only now beginning to be understood.
- On an Island when the ferry ceases at night, residents will be prisoners to sound.



Noise and Shadow Flicker: Too Many Turbines! Too Close Together



•The Ministry of the Environment regulation for turbine noise, averaged over a one-hour period, is 40 decibels, A weighted (dBA). A weighting matches the human audible response. Turbines are sited based upon a prediction that the turbine noise will be below 40 dBA under the worst case scenario. The problem with the Windlectric site plan is that the land available for a 33 to 37 turbine project is limited. Many, if not most, homes on the island are close to the predicted 40 dBA noise contour. There is very little room for error. Almost certainly there will be non-compliance. Many of the proposed turbines will exceed Ministry of

the Environment noise standards at Island homes.

- The first principle of any development should be to “do no harm”. This proposal to proceed notwithstanding lack of compliance with standards should be unacceptable to the Ministry of the Environment and the Government of Ontario. You should request that the application be rejected or at least referred back to the proponent with a requirement to redesign the site plan to achieve compliance
- Flicker exceeds international standards for 47 homes. Simply stated, this development would be unacceptable in Europe and should be unacceptable in Ontario. Rotors of 113 m diameter standing 99.5 m high will cast a shadow extending over a kilometre and will detrimentally affect residents’ rights to use outdoor space in peaceful enjoyment and indeed to live in their homes without being exposed to unacceptable flicker. This constant strobing is of great concern particularly as the health impacts are uncertain.

Decommissioning

- Decommissioning of turbines will be a nightmare for future generations as there is no authorized disposal site for turbine parts with their many toxic chemicals.
- An Island presents unique challenges for disposal of turbines and will require the same infrastructure, docks, transport of heavy equipment and barge removal as construction as there is no disposal location on the Island or indeed anywhere in Ontario.

Groundwater and Impact on Wells

- Windlectric has not addressed the impact on groundwater, shore wells, shallow wells, and shoreline erosion. This is particularly troubling as many properties already have water shortages.
- Drainage is a concern. Amherst Island is relatively flat and water is conveyed long distances by sheet flow. Interrupting sheet flow with new access roads to wind turbine sites or with upgrades to Township roads may redirect or concentrate flows to deficient watercourses, therefore, drainage needs to be addressed in a separate assessment.
- The proponent has not conducted studies to show that residents’ water supplies will not be interrupted. Changes to aquifers as a result of foundation excavation or damage to shore wells and connecting piping have to be addressed.
- Windlectric has not completed any studies of Island water tables or considered the impact of construction and operation of wind turbines on Island wells. This is of concern because of the Island’s fractured limestone geology.

Governance

- Windlectric, the applicant, is a private shell company with only two directors and no employees, no track record, no public accountability and no history. The company could be sold or dissolved at any time with no financial guarantees to the community and Loyalist Township about maintenance, emergency management, and decommissioning.
- The company has made no substantive effort to understand and address the concerns of Islanders.

Democracy Denied

- The democratic process has been negated. A small number of landowners, Windlectric, and the Ministry of the Environment are dictating the future of our community. Our Township council has no decision-making authority as a result of the Green Energy Act.



Safety and Risk - Emergency Services



- Windlectric has not developed an Emergency Services Plan acceptable to the Township. The Island has unique challenges for emergency services with a volunteer fire department and ferry operations from only 6 am to 1 am. Our few narrow roads make detours impossible in some instances and impractical in others.
- Volunteer first responders must travel from all points on the Island to reach the Fire Hall and then travel to an incident. The high risk of blocked roads is unacceptable.
- Amherst Island is a large rural secluded area only accessible by

ferry. In 2013 the Fire Department responded to 26 emergency calls with an average response time of eleven minutes fifty seconds. An ambulance coming from the mainland takes much longer to arrive because it must travel by ferry.

- The station currently has 15 volunteer firefighters. It is difficult to know how many firefighters are available at any time because some work off-Island. Last year the average number of responding firefighters was 8. Back-up personnel and equipment must come by ferry.
- When a 911 medical call is placed to Ambulance, the Coast Guard is notified by Ambulance dispatch as well as the Fire Department. Coast Guard then notifies the Ferry Captain and the ferry proceeds to the mainland to pick up the ambulance. The fire department is in contact with the ferry during the incident and is aware of anticipated arrival times. Air ambulance would be requested if there was no ferry service for whatever reason.
- In summary, while the Fire Department and Ambulance Services are highly professional, well-trained, and dedicated they are severely constrained by the the Island location and are not equipped to deal with major emergencies. Back-up resources are constrained by ferry access. Ice throw, spills, heavy equipment accidents, brush fire or personal injury caused by turbine fires are very real risks. The high risk to the health and safety of the community, residents, visitors, and workers is unacceptable.

Safety and Children at Risk

- Our school's playground, gym, outdoor classroom, and soccer field are less than 550 m from a proposed turbine and less than 1 km from a cement plant, a high voltage substation, construction yard and major truck route. Many countries have setbacks from 2 to 5 km.
- The community has expressed grave concerns regarding the safety of residents, in particular children, during construction. Windlectric proposes a very high frequency and volume of heavy truck traffic going past the school, through the Village, and past public playgrounds during 18 months of construction.
- Windlectric has been unwilling to listen to the community and to make changes to their plan that would decrease risks to children.
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Cumulative Impact

- The Ontario Government has no integrated process in place to consider the cumulative impact on Amherst Island of the proposed Windlectric Inc. turbine project, the proposed TransCanada Napanee Generating Station, the proposed Lafarge 2020 Cement project, and the existing Lennox Generating Station.
- APAI has submitted analysis to the Ministry that demonstrates that the cumulative impact of noise will exceed MOE standards for some residents on the north shore of the Island
- At the very least, Premier Wynne and the Ontario Government should place a moratorium on the Windlectric industrial turbine project, the Napanee generating station and the Cement 2020 initiative until such time as a comprehensive and integrated review process is in place.
- As it is unlikely that the Government will cancel another gas plant, the Government should be urged to cancel the Windlectric turbine project.

Please write TODAY! And again TOMORROW! And the NEXT DAY!

TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE AMHERST ISLAND!