



**association to protect
AMHERST ISLAND**

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LOYALIST TOWNSHIP
RECEIVED

MAR 27 2013

Mr. Sean Fairfield, Senior Manager - Project Planning
Algonquin Power Co.
2845 Bristol Circle
Oakville, Ontario
Canada L6H 7H7

March 15, 2013

Mr. Fairfield,

As a professional engineer, I am obliged to ask the following questions that relate to Algonquin's proposed wind-turbine project on Amherst Island.

The answers to questions I put to Algonquin's engineers during the March 5, 6, Public Meetings are concerning. The two people I spoke to readily identified themselves as professional engineers (P.Eng). They assured me that they knew what the obligations of a professional engineer are. Yet, upon asking if the work they were doing on the Amherst Island project might put the public at risk, their reply was that they were complying with Ministry requirements.

You should know that professional engineers are unique among regulated professionals in that they have an OBLIGATION to take action to prevent any situation involving engineering that might cause harm to the public.

For over 90 years, the Professional Engineers Act has set the bar for practice in a profession in which public welfare and safety in its broadest sense, is paramount.

The obligation to correct or to report a situation that a practitioner believes is a danger is absolute, which brings me to the point of this letter.

The 37-50 storey wind-turbine installation Algonquin proposes for Amherst Island does threaten the welfare and safety of Amherst Island residents. Here are examples.

(1) WIND TURBINES AFFECT HUMAN HEALTH:

(a) Noise:

There is no doubt that, with so many homes close to the predicted 40-dBA noise contour, turbines will cause significant adverse health impacts. Recent critiques by Dr. Robert McMurtry confirms that infra-sound and low-frequency sound, and many other reports demonstrate the reality of adverse health effects of wind-turbine noise at the level permitted by the Ontario limit of 40 dBA.

The APAI critique of the Hatch noise assessment focuses on the high probability that the noise at many homes will be out of compliance with the Ministry of the Environment 40-dBA noise regulation.

(b)Shadow Flicker: (The Hatch report dated Feb. 26, 2013)

An unprecedented 48 existing and potential homes will have more than the internationally accepted worst-case of 30 hours per year (h/y); 9 homes are above 50 h/y.

Question: Have Algonquin's Professional engineers warned the Company and the public of this danger?

(2) DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT:

If construction of the proposed wind-turbine project on Amherst Island proceeds, damage to the natural environment and habitats for the many species of migrating birds, including a number of species-at-risk, will occur and cause irreversible harm.

The professional engineer has an obligation to protect the environment from engineering works.

Question: Has Algonquin's professional engineers warned the Company and the public of this danger?

(3)PUBLIC WELFARE:

Under the Professional Engineers Act, the public welfare and safety are paramount. Algonquin's report, 'Construction and Operations Use of Loyalist Township Roads and Right of Way' proposes a situation which, to say the least, is detrimental to public welfare.

That report describing 11,000 heavy truckloads and the same number of return trips hauling turbine components, aggregate and concrete around the Island is distressing.

The present plan describes one quarter of all truck deliveries will pass through the village of Stella. All of the deliveries will pass close to the school.

Parents have written to Loyalist Township Council requiring that there be no construction traffic past the school on Front Road, close to the school on a private road to the west of the school or through the village of Stella. There are a number of concerns but chief among them is the safety of Island children walking to and from the school, public use of the village, families (with children) visiting, going to concerts, walk to art shows, the Cafe, the Neilson Store Museum, the market, the Post Office general Store etc.

Algonquin has been told it must avoid the village, the school and the narrow road from the school, through the village to the Anglican Church. Mr. Lensink (who is NOT a professional engineer) has claimed that the present plan is 'optimum'.

Question: Has Algonquin's Professional Engineers warned the Company and the public of this harm to public welfare?

(4) STANTEC DRAFT HERITAGE ASSESSMENT:

You will have received Elizabeth Barr's Draft Heritage Assessment (DHA) - Amherst Island Wind Energy Project.

Ms Barr points out the many serious faults and mistakes in the draft Heritage Assessment prepared by STANTEC in support of Algonquin's application for approval of the proposed Amherst Island wind energy project.

Ms Barr's letter points out in detail the problems, distortions, errors and wrong opinions in the STANTEC report. One example will make the point.

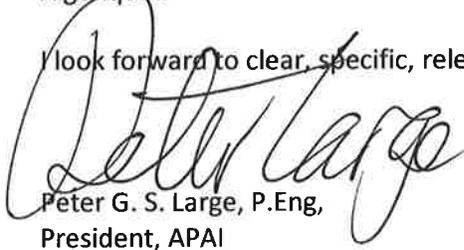
On page three, item (3), Impact of the Windlectric Development is MINIMIZED throughout the Draft Heritage Assessment.

STANTEC is quoted...'it is possible that turbines...MAY be visible at 1830, 2090, 2450, and 3500 South Shore Road and 4725 Second Concession Road and that 'turbines are UNLIKELY to be visible at 12405,12515,12675,12945, 13895, 14005 Front Road and 3475 Second Concession Road.'

Ms. Barr's response is, 'This is preposterous, Windlectric's turbines will be over 50 storeys tall.' STANTEC hold a certificate of practice, a license to practice professional engineering. The above opinion by STANTEC can only be viewed as a 'professional' opinion, but this statement along with others in Ms Barr's paper suggests either incompetence by STANTEC or a deliberate attempt to mislead (professional misconduct). A copy of Ms Barr's report, along with this letter, will be sent to the Registrar of Professional Engineers Ontario.

This letter, with its questions, will be in your hands to-day, March 15, 2013, the deadline set by Algonquin.

I look forward to clear, specific, relevant and speedy replies.



Peter G. S. Large, P.Eng,
President, APAI

CC:

- Registrar, Professional Engineers Ontario
- The Hon John Gerretsen, MPP, Attorney-General
- Mayor Bill Lowry, Loyalist Township
- Mr. David Thompson, Director Engineering Services, Loyalist Township
- Mr. Randy Hillier, MPP, PC
- Mr. Vic Fedeli, MPP, PC Energy Critic
- Ms Andrea Horwath, MPP, Leader NDP
- Senator Robert Runciman
- Mr. Peter Hendra, The Whig Standard
- Mr. Paul Schliesmann, The Whig Standard
- Wind Concerns Ontario
- Mr. Eric Gillespie, LL.B.
- Mr. Homer Lensink, CET, Algonquin Power
- Mr. Ian Robertson, CEO, Algonquin Power
- Ms Elizabeth Barr