

Wind Turbine Resolutions as Carried by OFA Board

1. 10-10-18

Huron

Green Energy Act Regulation Receptor Classification Discrimination, Huron

WHEREAS most participating landowners with Industrial wind turbine leases, attorneys and farm organizations including OFA were misled into thinking all noise receptors including participating lease receptors in the 2009 GEA consultation - regulations would have the same noise setbacks and noise monitoring compliance unless they voluntarily waived those rights; and

WHEREAS in October 2008 just prior to the GEA discussions, an October 2008 MOE noise bulletin advised "prudence" in designing Industrial Wind Farms so as to minimize the noise impact on all receptors, including "Participating lease Receptors"; and

WHEREAS without proper consultation the March 2010 MOE wind turbine noise bulletin # 6 removed "prudence" in considering participating lease receptors for noise setbacks and noise monitoring compliance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Ontario government to amend the 2009 GEA to protect all turbine noise receptors including participating lease receptors with the same 40 dbA maximum noise monitoring protection and minimum 550 meter setback protection as non participating receptors unless participating lease receptors voluntarily waive those rights,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA's list of lease recommendations be amended to recommend that farmers signing wind leases be aware that the GEA does not currently give participating lease receptors monitoring protection from noise or setbacks and that if desired they need to include that protection in their own lease contracts

2. 10-06-08

Huron

Ministry of Environment Wind Turbine Noise Monitoring Standards,

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has lobbied the Government for INDEPENDENT cause and effect health studies re: wind turbines; and

WHEREAS Health Canada advises there are peer reviewed scientific articles indicating that wind turbines may have an adverse impact on human health and also advises that wind turbine noise monitoring be undertaken under varying climatic conditions in order to ensure that noise levels do not exceed the acceptable level, and if exceedences are identified, that appropriate mitigation be implemented to reduce the noise level to an acceptable level; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment MOE has admitted that they have no procedure to scientifically test or monitor compliance or non compliance of noise pollution as it relates to the GEA wind turbine noise setback regulations; and

WHEREAS MOE has recently hired independent consultants to develop a procedure for measuring audible sound from wind turbines and also to review low frequency sound impacts from wind turbines, and to develop recommendations regarding low frequency sound,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) encourage the Ontario and Federal Government health departments and MOE to develop noise monitoring standards supported by World Health Organization guidelines, to establish scientific compliance, and enforcement, of the GEA wind turbine noise setback regulations,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA include in their lease recommendation document a clause stating that the wind lease company will comply with the latest scientific noise compliance monitoring methods, including enforcement and a clause stating that the windpower company assume sole responsibility for noise generated by the wind turbine project.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA ask the MOE to acquire for its own use and for the use of counties with windfarms several sets of noise monitoring equipment and also provide training for MOE and County staff in acceptable operation of such equipment.

3. 09-03-06

Huron

Wind Turbine Impact Survey re: Noise and Stray Voltage, Huron

WHEREAS while wind turbines are providing a genuine economic stimulus for Ontario farmers, there have also been a few unique instances of noise and stray voltage concerns impacting some farmers who have turbine setbacks at or greater than government regulations (in other words at least a few farmers have been “falling through the cracks” of current turbine regulations); and

WHEREAS Ontario Federation of Agriculture members need to be aware that current regulations may somehow be missing some of the scientific parameters such as frequency variations and night time sound parameters, as well as, stray or induced voltage; and

WHEREAS not all of the wind turbine problem cases are reported to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, especially if the problem was resolved between landowner and turbine owner,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work to initiate a human and farm animal impact study of existing Ontario wind turbine areas so that OFA can develop potential turbine regulatory amendments that protect farmers and farm businesses from negative consequences during ALL times of day and night.

4. 09-06-23

Bruce

Health Impacts of Wind Energy Turbine Developments, Bruce

WHEREAS in an area of wind energy turbine development near Ripley, in Bruce County, there are complaints of negative health impacts from wind turbines on residents living nearby; and

WHEREAS in other wind turbine development areas such as Shelburne, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia similar complaints have arisen; and

WHEREAS work done by the wind energy companies to try to address the concerns of the affected residents have not brought relief of the ill effects; and

WHEREAS there has been no definitive, scientific health study of the impacts of noise, vibration, shadow flicker or electrical fields on people living nearby wind turbines,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture urge county federations where they see it necessary to seek a moratorium on wind energy projects with local governments pending results of an epidemiological study conducted into the health impacts of the specific infrastructure on residents living near such developments.