

**Office of the Warden**

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February 18, 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Office of the Prime Minister,  
80 Wellington Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario.  
K1A 0A2

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the County of Oxford, I wish to bring to your attention the concerns of County Council regarding wind energy generation facilities. County Council adopted Report G-3, 2009-3 (attached) at its meeting of February 11, 2009. This report lends support to a resolution adopted by the County of Prince Edward in December, 2008 requesting that Federal and Provincial government agencies responsible for public health, energy creation and energy management complete the following actions:

1. *"Dedicate resources to the necessary scientific research to consider the impact of
  - a. low frequency noise and,
  - b. electrical and electromagnetic disturbancesin areas of industrial wind turbines with the intent to confirm/deny public health implications; and*
2. *Create and provide authoritative regulations and guidelines for the locating of wind turbines to municipalities and wind energy developers."*

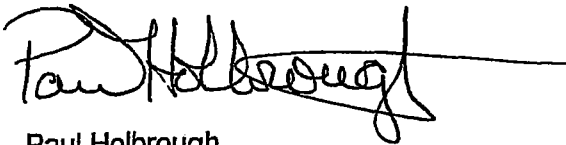
While the County has been considering an enabling policy framework for alternative and renewable energy development, including wind energy generation, as part of its process to align the County Official Plan with the Provincial Policy Statement 2005, this initiative has been met with considerable resistance by community residents concerned about the public health implications of wind turbines. Specifically, the determination of appropriate separation distances between wind turbines and sensitive receptors is challenging and controversial. These concerns extend beyond Oxford County and, hence, have generated this request for the upper orders of government to provide the necessary research and guidance to address them in order to properly facilitate the development of alternative and renewable energy facilities.

Also by resolution, County Council has decided to withhold further consideration of the alternative and renewable energy policies pertaining to wind generation until a response to this request for assistance has been received. It is our understanding that there are wind generation proposals forthcoming in the County. Therefore, we would appreciate a response to this correspondence within the next 3 weeks in order to proceed expeditiously with this matter of public concern and not unnecessarily thwart the progress of wind energy developers in the County.

Marg Misk-Evans, Corporate Manager of Community and Strategic Planning and Mary Metcalfe, Acting Director of Public Health and Emergency Services, as well as their staff, have developed the alternative and renewable energy policy framework under consideration by County Council. They, in turn, have consulted their colleagues in other municipalities and health units as well as at the Ministries of Health, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Environment and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Should you have any questions regarding the nature of the policy framework or the expressed concerns of the public, I would invite you to contact either Marg or Mary at (519) 539-9800.

In closing, I look forward to your expedient response to this correspondence and trust that it will receive priority attention.

Yours very truly,



Paul Holbrough  
Warden

Enclosure

Original:  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Federal Minister of Health  
Federal Minister of the Environment  
Premier of Ontario  
Provincial Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Provincial Minister of the Environment  
Provincial Minister of Energy and Infrastructure  
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Copy:  
County of Prince Edward  
MPs Ontario  
MPPs Ontario  
Ontario Medical Officers of Health  
M. Misk-Evans, Corporate Manager  
of Community and Strategic Planning  
M. Metcalfe, Acting Director  
of Public Health and Emergency Services

**To:** M. R. Bragg, Acting C.A.O.

**FROM:** M. Metcalfe, Acting Director of Public Health & Emergency Services  
M. Misek-Evans, Corporate Manager of Community and Strategic Planning

**SUBJECT:** Request for Government Action Regarding Wind Energy

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That County Council support the resolution attached to Report No: G-3 2009-03, that was adopted by the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward on December 15, 2008, requesting that the Federal and Provincial government agencies responsible for public health, energy creation and energy management complete the following:

- 1) Dedicate resources to the necessary scientific research to consider the impact of
  - a. low frequency noise and,
  - b. electrical and electromagnetic disturbancesin areas of industrial wind turbines with the intent to confirm/deny public health implications; and
- 2) Create and provide authoritative regulations and guidelines for the locating of wind turbines to municipalities and wind energy developers.

**AND FURTHER,** that the resolution be forwarded for action to the government agencies and offices identified in Report No. G-3 2009-03.

**PURPOSE:**

To obtain County Council's support for the attached resolution that was adopted in Prince Edward County and further petition government agencies and offices for action in accordance with the resolution.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oxford County is in the process of amending the Official Plan to allow the opportunity for alternate forms of energy to be generated within the County, including wind, solar, geothermal and biomass facilities. The proposed policies relating to wind energy generation have come under public scrutiny, primarily due to health related concerns for surrounding land uses and activities. There is currently very limited scientific evidence available regarding the health impacts related to wind turbines. Therefore, the determination of the appropriate separation distances between wind turbines and sensitive receptors is challenging and controversial.

**COMMENTARY:**

Because wind energy developers are active in several jurisdictions across Ontario and Canada and concerns regarding the potential health effects associated with wind turbines have arisen in

many of these areas, it is appropriate for the provincial and federal governments to engage in further scientific research on the health impacts of wind turbines, if any, and provide standard guidelines regarding the location of wind turbines, particularly as they relate to setbacks from sensitive land uses.

We are, therefore, asking Council to support the resolution circulated by Prince Edward County (attached as Appendix 1), as well as to forward the resolution, with a request for action, to:

The Ontario Ministries of Health, Environment and Energy,  
Medical Officers of Health at Public Health Units,  
Environment Canada,  
Health Canada,  
All MPPs and MPs,  
The Premier's Office,  
The Prime Minister's Office,  
The Association for Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and  
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

The request contained in this report complements the proposed policies of OPA 139 attached to Report c-3 2009-38 of the Community and Strategic Planning Office. The policy framework contained in OPA 139, allows opportunities for alternative and renewable energy proposals to be advanced in accordance with the best available guidance to mitigate off-site effects. Without OPA 139, the Official Plan contains no guidance. The policies of OPA 139 can be amended over time in accordance with new guidance developed in response to requests such as those contained in this report.

"Mary Metcalfe"

Mary Metcalfe  
Acting Director of Public Health and Emergency Services

"M. Misek-Evans"

M. Misek-Evans, MCIP RPP  
Corporate Manager of Community and  
Strategic Planning

"M.R. Bragg"

M. R. Bragg  
Acting CAO



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## Office of the Clerk

January 30, 2009

The Council for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward adopted the following resolution Motion 2008-605 as Amended on December 15, 2008 and is seeking support from the municipalities and native territories in Ontario:

**“WHEREAS Prince Edward County is an island municipality located in Lake Ontario just west of Kingston and has been identified for significant wind farm development, both onshore and offshore; and**

**WHEREAS currently six (6) wind turbine development companies have publicly signaled a desired presence with three (3) applications in place at the formal planning application stage ( 1 of these at the Ontario Municipal Board); and.**

**WHEREAS the need for renewable energy sources is recognized at the federal, provincial, municipal and local community levels; and**

**WHEREAS wind generated power is an established source of renewable energy being created globally; and**

**WHEREAS populated and publicly owned and occupied lands and waters are being identified for industrial wind turbine development; and**

**WHEREAS discrepancy exists on the health effects potentially created by the presence of industrial wind turbines; and**

**WHEREAS this discrepancy on the potential health effects is proving to be destructive and divisive to the social and cultural fabric of rural communities; and**

**WHEREAS other Ontario municipalities, being the Township of Loyalist and the Township of Dawn-Euphemia, have passed resolutions expressing concern with the health effects association with wind turbines;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward requests that the Federal and Provincial government agencies responsible for public health, energy creation and energy management complete the following:**

- 1) Dedicate resources to the necessary scientific research to consider the impact of
  - a. low frequency noise and,
  - b. electrical and electromagnetic disturbancesin areas of industrial wind turbines with the intent to confirm/deny public health implications; and
- 2) Create and provide authoritative regulations and guidelines for the locating of wind turbines to municipalities and wind energy developers.

**THAT the resolution of the Township of Loyalist dated September 25, 2008 be supported; and**

**THAT this resolution be forwarded with a request for action to:  
The Ontario Ministries of Health, Environment and Energy,  
Medical Officers of Health at Public Health Units,  
Environment Canada,  
Health Canada,  
All MPPs and MPs,  
The Premier's Office,  
The Prime Minister's Office,  
The Association for Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and  
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and**

**THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities and native territories in Ontario requesting their support.”**

**DISCLAIMER**

*This material is provided under contract as a paid service by the originating organization and does not necessarily reflect the view or positions of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), its subsidiary companies, officers, directors or agents.*