

Meeting Record



Stantec

Liaison Committee – Meeting #4 Amherst Island Wind Energy Project

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2012
 Place: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 2045 Stella 40 Foot Road, Amherst Island
 Time: 5:00 to 6:50 p.m.
 Next Meeting: To be determined
 Attendees: Janet Scott, Nancy Pearson, Tom Sylvester, and Zander Dunn (Members)
 Sean Fairfield (Algonquin Power)
 Amanda Kennedy and Kerrie Skillen (Stantec)

Discussion Item	Action
<p>1. Confirm agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
<p>2. Review Action Items from Liaison Committee Meeting #3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items have been completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algonquin to post the latest version of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to the Project website. (continuing) Algonquin to update typo on website: Wood → Woods (completed) Stantec to adjust the meeting notes from November 2011 to reflect “high speed wireless tower”, not “cell tower.” Algonquin to continue to follow-up with Ornge – waiting for a written response.
<p>3. Discuss Outcomes of the Public Open Houses Amanda provided a short overview of the results of the Public Open Houses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance: approximately 400 people attended the Public Open Houses: ~225 on December 6th, 175 on December 7th. Some of the key themes and comments raised were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property values Health Impacts to roads Flicker effect/shadows Decommissioning/project lifespan Birds/bats/owls Wells/water table Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algonquin to continue to respond to questions and comments from the Public Open Houses and ongoing correspondence.

One Team. Infinite Solutions.

Discussion Item	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noise ○ Lighting ○ Construction effects (noise, dust, trees, etc.) • The Stantec team has compiled all of the written comments, letters and emails from the Public Open House and the ongoing correspondence. Along with Algonquin Power and other subject matter experts, a list of Frequently Asked Questions has been developed and Algonquin has started responding directly to questions and comments • In terms of follow-up, a thank you letter was sent to all Public Open House attendees who provided their contact information • The Liaison Committee raised the following additional concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please try to avoid the stone walls as much as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comments received at Public Open House. Will address in REA reports, as appropriate, and in FAQ. ○ Concerned about impacts to roads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Algonquin proposing to enter into a Road Use Agreement with the Municipality. ○ The Island does have rush hour traffic when people need to access the ferry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Traffic Management Plan will be developed. Information about the Traffic Management Plan will be included in the REA reports, as appropriate. ○ Has Algonquin looked at the possibility of installing lights that go off and on in the presence of aircraft? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lights are mandated for aviation requirements. Algonquin is in correspondence with the appropriate agencies. Algonquin will investigate this type of system. ○ What about decommissioning the turbines? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Algonquin will be responsible for decommissioning. A Decommissioning Plan Report will form part of the REA submission. The draft Decommissioning Plan Report will be available for public review 60 days prior to the final 	

Discussion Item	Action
<p>Public Open House.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During the construction, where will workers stay? Eat? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No workers camp is envisioned. Construction employment numbers have been estimated at 25 – 45 (includes various contractors and this number could increase or decrease depending on the work being conducted). Some Islanders have offered accommodation and catering services. ○ Property values continue to be a question. In southwest Ontario, farmland prices are rising. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Windlectric is committed to keeping informed on the most recent findings and reports related to impacts on property values from operating wind farms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the reports are released, members and Algonquin will share the results.
<p>4. Current Status of Project</p> <p>Kerrie and Sean provided an update on the project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website - updated regularly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reorganized public information files ○ Added information from Public Open House ○ Clarification on Estimated Tax Payments to Loyalist Township ○ Posted the Draft Site Plan map and report (Feb 2, 2012) • Natural Heritage Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Migratory bird surveys will continue through beginning of 2012 • Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment underway. • Drafting Water Body Report • Held meetings with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) • Prepared Draft Site Plan map and report • Tracking and responding to stakeholder comments • Comments received from the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority on February 13, 2012 • Algonquin has been in regular contact with the municipality. 	

Discussion Item	Action
<p>A number of comments, questions and concerns were raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that some of the turbines are located close to the Owl Woods where trees are dying. Algonquin noted that the layout is compliant with regulation and is noise compliant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In developing the preliminary layout, the significance of the Owl Woods was considered. The closest turbine (from blade tip) was established 100m from the Owl Woods and 500m from the pine plantation where the majority of owls can be found. • Concern about passerine migration in the fall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Algonquin noted that migratory birds are considered during completion of the Natural Heritage Assessment (NHA). The draft NHA Report will be made available to the public 60 days before the final Public Open House. • What is a receptor? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noise receptors are defined in Ontario Regulation 359/09 as: “the centre of a building or structure that contains one or more dwellings” or “buildings used for an institutional purpose including an educational facility, day nursery, health care facility, community centre or place of worship”. A dwelling is further defined in O.Reg. 359/09 to mean “one or more habitable rooms used or capable of being used as a permanent or seasonal residence by one or more persons and usually containing cooking, eating, living, sleeping and sanitary facilities”. Examples of buildings that the Ministry of the Environment would consider dwellings include residences, hotels/motels, and nursing/retirement homes. Public or privately owned campsites or campgrounds are also included in the definition of noise receptors. ○ In addition to existing buildings, those that are planned for construction and have been issued a building permit under the Building Code Act or received site plan approval under the Planning Act, are also considered to be noise receptors. 	

Discussion Item	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are receptors located on the mainland? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The regulation asks that receptors be plotted within a 2km radius from the study area boundary. • What is UTM? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) is a geographic coordinate system that uses a 2-dimensional coordinate system to give locations on the surface of the Earth. (Wikipedia) • An article called “Important Bird Areas of Canada” in the Winter 2012 edition (Number 58) of <i>Bird Watch</i> was highlighted. • There have been a number of power outages on the Island. Is it possible to upgrade local infrastructure at the same time as the turbine installation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Algonquin encouraged members to speak to the local utility (Hydro One Networks) and Council to initiate these sorts of discussions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algonquin to acquire a copy of the article.
<p>5. Presentation and Discussion: Wolfe Island Wind Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group received a presentation on the Wolfe Island Wind Project, with a focus on the studies completed as part of the Environmental Screening. The presentation slides were distributed in hard copy and will be available on the Project website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algonquin to post Liaison Committee meeting agenda, presentation slides and meeting notes to the Project website.
<p>6. Review of Other Priorities and Concerns</p> <p>Members raised the topics related to the project during the discussion of agenda items #3, and 5.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>7. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn</p> <p>The group discussed the date of the next Liaison Committee meeting. It will likely be held in late April, 2012 (pending member schedules).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next date to be confirmed with members as soon as possible. • Questions and comments from Liaison Committee members and the community are welcome at any time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Algonquin Power Co.

Sean Fairfield
 Manager – Environmental Planning
 Algonquin Power Co. (on behalf of Windlectric Inc.)

Wolfe Island

Natural Environment Studies Completed for the Environmental Screening

- Migratory Raptors
- Winter Raptors
- Waterfowl studies including field usage, movement patterns and offshore staging behavior
- Migratory Passerines
- Breeding birds
- Bat and bat movement surveys using radar
- Ecological Land Classification and vegetation
- Amphibian surveys
- Deer and deer habitat surveys

Wolfe Island

Post Construction Surveys

- Bird and bat mortality surveys
 - Turbines surveyed twice a week for 52 weeks within a radius of 50m from the turbine base.
 - Each bird or bat is collected and its location, condition and species recorded.
 - Mortality data accounts for search efficiency and scavenging.
 - Reports are produced twice a year and submitted to the MNR, Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada.
 - Last report completed in December 2011.
 - Results and reports are available to the public.

Wolfe Island

Post Construction Survey Results and Ongoing Work

- Bird mortality is below Ontario regulatory thresholds and lower than a number of other north American projects.
- Bat mortality exceeds regulatory thresholds.
- No significant impact to raptor abundance. Winter raptors, including species at risk such as Short-eared Owls, continue to be common on the island within the project area.
- Bobolinks have experienced fatalities but remain abundant and widespread on the island within the project area.
- Operational mitigation studies are currently underway to reduce bat mortality.