

MULTI-MUNICIPAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP

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May 1, 2024

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

The Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group (MMEWG) continues to actively follow the procurement processes the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is undertaking to procure additional capacity to meet projected future energy needs. Details released regarding the Long-Term 2 Request for Proposals (LT2 RFP) plus subsequent LT RFPs has raised many concerns.

The IESO RFPs call for 5 TWh of new energy generation, and proposes that this be mostly derived from 2000 MW of new energy generation produced by mostly wind and solar by 2030. It further proposes that a portion of this generation could be derived by repowering on the current footprint of existing wind turbines that will reach their end of contract life between 2026 and 2034.

Since existence, the now Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group, formerly known as the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group, has continued to advocate for stronger safety measures and best practices related to wind turbine installations across the province. To date, many of the concerns raised have not been addressed with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks confirmed in a recent IESO engagement session that no changes to the existing setbacks are planned.

Severe health effects to many residents living within the vicinity of project sites have been identified and continue to jeopardized the health and well-being of many residents. The current setbacks from other activities are not sufficient to protect against the full range of noise emissions from wind turbines. The MMEWG will be making a presentation on this topic to the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit in the March in an effort to bring these concerns to the forefront in advance of the repowering of current projects.

Public safety continues to remain a paramount concern of the MMEWG. Setbacks for tower collapse remain insufficient. The current blade length plus 10 metres requirement not a strong enough protective measure for existing projects let alone repowered turbines on existing footprints. Setbacks for ice throw are also insufficient, as the blade

length plus 10 metre setback is less than the ice throw distance witnessed in Ontario. Ontario has witnessed turbine fire and flaming debris on the ground at 200 metres, while setback was 50 metres. A Ministry review failed to recommend industry standard protective barriers for fire suppression in spite of examples of fires in similar turbines.

In 2013, 115 municipalities declared themselves “Unwilling Hosts” for wind turbine projects. With the expected surge in proposals given the ambitious procurement efforts being undertaken by the IESO, and little change in the regulations, the MMEWG strongly recommends that municipalities reaffirm their unwillingness to host projects until the appropriate ministries address the concerns and make stronger rules and regulations to ensure that, as municipal leaders, provide measures necessary for the health, safety and well-being of citizens within our jurisdiction, as mandated by the *Municipal Act, 2001, as amended*. Over the past month, the municipalities of Arran-Elderslie, Chatsworth and East Zorra-Tavistock have taken this step.

For consideration, a DRAFT declaration has been attached. Should your municipality declare its intention, please let us and we will continue to keep you apprised of any advancements in the industry and regulations.

Warm Regards,



p.p.
Tom Allwood,
Chair, Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group
Councillor, Municipality of Grey Highlands

DRAFT

Independent Electrical System Operator
By email: engagement@ieso.ca

Re: Municipality/Township of _____ – Wind Turbine Projects

Please be advised at the Municipality/Township of _____ Council meeting held on _____, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS the Independent Electrical System Operator (the IESO) has proposed to move forward with three RFPs where new wind turbine projects can receive a contract from the IESO; and

WHEREAS people living near existing wind turbines report considerable impact on their lives due to noise and other emissions from the wind turbines; and

WHEREAS there are gaps in the enforcement of key terms of the Renewable Energy Approvals governing existing projects relative to noise standards and resolution of complaints; and

WHEREAS municipal approval is required to locate one of these projects in the Municipality/Township of _____; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council does not support the establishment of any new wind turbine projects within the municipality; and

THAT the IESO be directed to advise potential applicants of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Clerk, Municipality/Township of _____

c:

The Hon. Todd Smith - Minister of Energy - MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca

David Donovan, Chief of Staff, david.donovan@ontario.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario - policy@amo.on.ca

Local MPP

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