

In 2006 the first Wind Farm in Eastern Kings was established, 10 turbines. At the time of this project there were not a lot of municipal bylaws to help the municipality through this process. However, such projects are subject to provincial and federal process and requirements which insured that the project as proposed and implemented met stringent requirements.

In 2012 the Municipality and the Province once again began discussions and negotiations to add a Phase 2 to the Wind Farm. At that time, May of 2012, the province and the municipality were able to reach an agreement for the development except for the proposed site of the Phase 2 project. The project went to Hermanville. By the end of 2012 the municipality had created a Municipal Plan and attached bylaws for Land Development and Subdivision, both making provision and setting requirements or the development of Wind Farms in the Municipality.

In 2017, The Province asked the Municipality again, regarding the possible further development of the Phase 1 project, looking to place an additional 30 meg project as a phase 2, the municipality at that time asked the province and PEIEC to get their ducks in order.

In Late 2018, early 2019, after getting their ducks in order PEIEC energy came back to the municipality. The municipality has been following process as outlined in the land development and subdivision bylaws, which describes a process with a lot a flexibility, and a set of requirements, in addition to still meeting Provincial and federal requirements. If requirements are not met at all levels of government the project will not proceed.

This evenings meeting is a further effort on the part of the Municipality and following a process outlined in the municipal bylaws, to create a special meeting in order to collect input from residents. Given the nature and scope of the Wind Energy projects, the Municipality has been addressed by individuals and groups outside the community, and has been taking careful consideration, and effort to validate concerns and weigh them. The concern has been to satisfy the requirement by council to act in the best interest of the municipality of residents and the Municipality. This meeting this evening is to hear from the public subsequent to our information meetings held throughout this year, the public meeting held in July, and the Meeting Held by PEIEC and the province in

November as the Environmental Impact Statement was made available with the Development Permit Applications that were received by the municipality on November 1.

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX "A" – ANNE WHEATLEY

Anne Wheatley
①

Environmental Impact Statement - Eastern Kings 30-Megawatt Wind Project
Comments by the Environmental Coalition of PEI

Ann Wheatley, December 4, 2019

ann@cooperinstitute.ca

Thank-you for allowing us the opportunity to speak this evening. Gary and I are both here representing the Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island.

The Environmental Coalition believes that wind energy is an appropriate and necessary part of this province's plan to address the climate emergency that we know, with certainty, that we are experiencing right now. An emergency that requires a full-scale, just transition away from our carbon economy to a new economy based on renewable energy, but also based on good, green jobs, investment in public services and fairness for all.

ECOPEI has consistently spoken in favour of wind and solar energy, and has actively participated, whenever opportunities have arisen, in the development of PEI's climate and energy plans.

It's important to us that as much as possible, wind – in fact any kind of renewable – energy projects are:

- publicly-owned and operated,
- that they are based on comprehensive assessments of the environmental impacts and that they include a plan for ongoing and constant monitoring
- that communities are engaged from the very beginning, as soon as projects are identified, in the planning stages
- that the community consultation is meaningful, respectful, and follows local community norms
- and that the duty to consult with Indigenous peoples is upheld.

Good decisions, whether they are about policies or programs, services or projects such as this, are made when the people most affected by those decisions are involved right from the beginning.

I appreciate that the PEI Energy Corporation has participated in or organized several community meetings in Eastern Kings, and that they have posted information on their website. And that in some cases they have responded to community concerns (setbacks). However, I'm not sure you could call this meaningful consultation, and I'm pretty sure you can't call it collaborative.

There are several inadequacies built into PEI's Environmental Assessment legislation, and I think you can trace some of the discontent in the community back to those inadequacies.

The requirements for public consultation are minimal at best. One public meeting, advertised for 6 days in the Guardian is problematic for several reasons. Most obviously, one meeting is not enough time for people to share and discuss their concerns. Sometimes conversations need to happen over a period of time, allowing for mutual learning and problem-solving. People need time, not just to hear about any given project, but to explore the associated benefits and the risks. They need time to talk to their neighbours and deepen their understanding before they formulate an opinion.

Plus, the reading required to be able to participate in a consultation in an informed way is really onerous – the EIA document is 300 pages!

At a time when newspapers are struggling to maintain any sort of readership, when so many people get their news almost exclusively from social media, an ad in the newspaper is **not** the most effective way to let people know about a meeting. I've spent 25 years organizing different community events, workshops and meetings – one of the things I learned very early on is that you need to use multiple media and methods to bring people out. And one of the best ways is to communicate directly with local groups – Women's Institutes and Seniors' Clubs for example. I don't think this kind of outreach has happened with this project and as a result, people may have been left out.

This project was presented to the community after a plan had been made. But we know there are real advantages when a community is brought into the process early, in the planning stages. In the first place, people in the community see they have a role in the project, and in the planning. It becomes more about building relationships, than it does about managing conflict which I think one could argue is what has happened in this case. And it could be that by involving the community earlier, you can actually come up with a better plan.

When the public consultation process is limited to the people who live in or close to the location of any proposed project, some valuable information and perspectives may be lost. And, it just doesn't make sense. This evening you are hearing from several people who, despite living in other parts of the province, know this area intimately, and have a deep appreciation for its ecological integrity and for its beauty. Their observations add to the quality of the discussion of the pros and cons of the proposed development. Besides, we are all affected by climate change, and whether this development goes ahead, or even if it does not, it will have an impact on all residents of PEI.

It was therefore disappointing to see that only two non-governmental organizations were consulted as part of the EIA process. (The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and the Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings, both of which are more institutional than NGO.) Other organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, Island Nature Trust, Nature PEI, Macphail Woods, Sierra Club Atlantic, etc, may have valuable perspectives to add.

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People want to see that their contributions will be valued, and that their input will be considered when decisions are made. They participate in the process in good faith, because something about the issue is important to them.

In the case of this project, trust was broken when the Minister responsible, Steven Myers made a statement, on September 30, to the effect that the project would be going ahead. This was before the environmental assessment had been completed, and before the community had a chance to respond. Yet according to Steven Myers, "the plan was set". The Minister later attempted to walk back his comments, claiming that they were taken out of context, but it was **too late**. He had shown his bias, but more importantly his comments revealed alarming attitudes about the role of community consultation, and of the environmental assessment process in decision-making. It was apparent that at least in his view, these are exercises, necessary to get projects up and running – but that really, decisions are made outside of any consideration of the results of such processes.

Besides being quite shocking, given the Premier's direction in his mandate letters to all of the Ministers, "*We seek the involvement of the People, ensuring our progress is measurable through transparent decision making and broad public engagement*", Myers effectively demonstrated that in the case of this project, public participation is in no sense of the word, meaningful. Because if it were meaningful, the public would feel confident that their input could influence or even change the project.

This isn't helped, by the way, by the fact that components are being ordered for the proposed turbines, and that construction is slated to happen by the spring of 2020. Admittedly, this is a climate emergency, but that doesn't negate the importance of a process that is more respectful of the needs and interests of the community, and of the wisdom that exists in the community.

This project has really demonstrated the weaknesses in PEI's Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines. We can view it as a learning opportunity and make a plan to overhaul those guidelines and make sure that from now on public consultation is meaningful and thorough. [ECOPEI has asked 2 successive Ministers of the Environment to do this, and has offered good advice, but to no avail, sadly.] In the meantime, there should be more time set aside to explore the concerns already expressed by members of this community.

We know that we need to make this kind of investment in wind and other renewable energy in order to make the transition away from fossil fuels. Decisions – about energy projects and anything else - are more durable when everyone knows they've been heard. And that requires paying more attention to how people and communities are engaged. It depends on building relationships and approaching projects as opportunities for collaboration where everyone involved is willing to listen, to learn and to change.

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX "B" – GARY SCHNEIDER

Gary Schneider
②

send
to Tony

ECOPEI

Dan Thompson

Presentation to the Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

Wednesday, December 4th

Ann Wheatley and Gary Schneider, ECOPEI

902-651-2575 macphailwoods@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation. As Ann said, ECOPEI fully supports wind energy. It is important that we move away from fossil fuels if we want to deal with the climate crisis. Wind is not the only potential source of alternate energy, but it certainly is a valuable one. My second confession is that I love this area. I come up here a couple of times a month for its birds and beauty. I've written about it, taken photos, and suffered some of the worst weather through the years in order to see such a magnificent display of bird life, unprecedented in the province. It really is a jewel.

Engaging in a public process takes time. The Wood assessment, the 2006 Frontier assessment, and Environment Canada's "Wind Turbines and Birds - A Guidance Document for Environmental Assessment," total over 600 pages. That's a lot of reading that most people just don't have the time to do.

The Environment Canada document is very interesting. It notes that "As the wind energy sector rapidly expands, it is important to ensure that it does so in a manner that does not result in adverse effects on other aspects of the environment."

That is certainly my goal – to understand whether this project will have adverse effects on other aspects of the environment.

This wind development cannot be viewed in isolation. First, there is a lot of good science out there that tells us that bird populations in North America have declined by 29% since 1970. There are lots of reasons for this, but it is a shocking fact. Our birds are already under stress. And our bats? I used to see them everywhere and now bats are a rarity. Again, lots of

reasons, predominantly white nose syndrome. But clearly they are already under stress.

Let's talk about what is at risk here. We have some bird and bat species protected under the federal Species at Risk Act. We also have lots of plants, at least in the area, that are listed by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre as either S1 (Critically imperiled in the province because of extreme rarity [often 5 or fewer occurrences] making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the province) or S2 (Imperiled in the province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations [often 20 or fewer], steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the province.) We also have migratory birds protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, though this piece of legislation actually does little to protect many species.

Regarding that last piece of legislation, the consultants recognized the need to protect nesting birds during the construction phase. While noise and disturbances will still be generated, at least there will be no clearing, grubbing or trimming taking place during the prime bird breeding season of May 1st to August 31st. That is great to see.

My reading on the development has made me all the more aware that we desperately need provincial legislation on rare and endangered plants and animals. We cannot simply depend on the Species at Risk Act and pretend that if something is not on SARA, it is not that important. The consultants often mention "none of the floral species are legislatively protected", but that doesn't mean they shouldn't be. In my work with Macphail Woods, we collected seed from plants that had only two specimens left in the province. Without those two plants, the future of this species would be in doubt. And I collected spores from a rare fern in this area which is found in only one other location in the province. Clearly, we need to better understand the importance of rare plants and why they need protection.

The SARA-listed species found in the area include two bats and the piping plover (endangered); barn swallow, bank swallow, bobolink, Canada warbler, and olive-sided flycatcher (threatened); and eastern wood-pewee, peregrine falcon, and rusty blackbird (species of special concern). These are species to be worried about, but they are not the only ones.

The Environment Canada report found that “Generally, objects over 150m in height appear to pose a greater threat to nocturnal migrants; such taller objects can cause mass bird kills, as found at communication towers and tall buildings. Any turbines taller than 150m in height should be subject to closer scrutiny to ensure their environmental impact is minimised, especially for sites close to arrival and departure sites of nocturnal migrants, on mountain tops or in foggy areas.” These turbines will be 175m tall and as far as I know, we have very little experience with turbines this high.

It also brings up a term I’d never seen before, called Motion Smear. “Birds do not recognise the threat posed by a quickly turning blade and cannot learn to avoid them. Even larger turbines that have lower hub rpms have tip and blade speeds that are fast enough to prevent birds recognising the threat they pose.”

I am pleased to hear that the province has set up a radar system to track birds, and a songbird acoustic monitoring system to better identify what is flying around, especially during migration. The East Point area is an important migratory corridor for songbirds, raptors and other species. The report states, “The MERLIN system classifies “biological targets” (i.e., birds and bats) into size classes generally corresponding to small, medium, large sized birds, as well as flocks; however, the system cannot definitively distinguish species.” This will be useful if the turbines will be shut down when large numbers of birds are migrating, but it won’t be able to tell if there is a threat to smaller numbers of rare species.

I look forward to reading the supplementary report on these findings.

It is worrisome that we don't have all the information needed on the effects this project might have on birds, yet it seems to have been given the green light. It is no good saying you'll shut them down at certain times in order to mitigate problems. That may throw your economic projections out the window, since you don't know what you might have to mitigate for.

The problems associated with wind turbines and bats are widely known. Especially with their already declining populations, there is cause for concern. The report states that "According to the PEIDEWCC, the Eastern Kings site is situated near two features of known importance to bats (swarming/over-wintering sites). Further, they state that it is possible that Northern myotis use the forest in question as maternity roost habitat." I want to make sure that we use the best science to protect these species.

We need to look at this wind project carefully and with all the information on the table, fairly presented. For example, when looking at the consultant's report, I disagree with the claim that the existing wind farm is producing "emission-free electricity." The turbines took huge amounts of carbon to build, the transportation and installation certainly used carbon, and every time a turbine needs to be serviced, have a blade replaced, or is decommissioned, that also uses carbon. Wind has a much, much smaller carbon footprint than coal or natural gas, but I would just like to see an accurate accounting of what these emissions are. At the very least we need to know that a consultant's accuracy is beyond question.

Again, I firmly believe that wind energy is an essential aspect of any strategy to ensure a rapid transition to a carbon-neutral energy system, as climate scientists have warned we must do. I'm not saying "don't build turbines here", and I'm definitely not saying "don't build turbines at all." But Ann and I are saying "do your homework first, and make sure you have all the facts you need to make good decisions." The impacts on birds of turbines of this height have not been adequately studied. Therefore, a precautionary approach is called for.

If the project does go ahead, after a fair and transparent process, I would propose stringent post-construction monitoring. The 2011 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources publication "Birds and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects" calls for three years of monitoring consisting of regular bird mortality surveys around specific wind turbines; monitoring of bird carcass removal rate by scavengers, and monitoring of searcher efficiency, among other things. Given the height of the turbines and the uncertainties, the radar tracking should also be continued. This is how we learn and get better at what we do.

In the end, we might find that the present proposal is the best one we can design in order to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, once the studies are all done, adequate local benefits are guaranteed to the community, and the assessment process has treated the public fairly. Or it might need some tweaks, such as moving or removing one or two turbines that are closest to the red triangle and figuring out some added safety measures for birds and bats. Or it might make sense to find another site that isn't so close to one of the most important birding areas in the province – even if that means less than ideal wind speeds.

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX "C" – RONELDA MACDONALD

Ronelda MacDonald
4

November 21, 2019

Ms. Kim Horrelt, Ms. Heather MacLeod, PEI Energy Corporation
Mr. Todd Dupuis, Executive Director, Environment, Water and Climate Change
Mr. Dale Thompson, PEI Department of Environment
Board Members, Eastern Kings Community Council

Reference: Proposed Expansion of Eastern Kings Wind Farm:

Dear Ms. Kim Horrelt, Ms. Heather MacLeod, Mr. Todd Dupuis, Mr. Dale Thompson and Board Members of Eastern Kings Community Council:

My name is Ronelda MacDonald, I have a residence at 5000 Northside Rd, East Point, Prince Edward Island. As a member of the East Point community, I am dismayed that less than 10 years later we are again discussing further windmill construction in East Point and its surrounding communities in Eastern Kings. Georgia Bruce, South Lake, PEI community member asked a very valid question, that was never answered, at the Eastern Kings community public meeting on July 31, 2019. "We voted No to further expansion the last time around which was only a few years ago, why we are even discussing this again?"

Like others in our community, I am not against "wind energy" however I firmly believe that wind turbines should not be placed in a densely wooded and environmentally sensitive areas as is planned for this expansion. In fact, turbines should be erected in open fields where forests that house endangered wildlife do not need to be destroyed. The fact that only a few kilometers separate the Gulf of St Lawrence and the Northumberland Strait at the eastern tip of PEI would indicate that it is not a good fit to be constructing massive foundations in the ground to support 60 story high wind turbines. Damage and or very adverse effects to PEI's eastern end wet land estuaries, bird migration, silt run of into South Lake, which is a heavily invested aquaculture site and potential for ground well contamination are just a few of my concerns.

I signed a "letter of petition" against further Wind Farm Expansion in Eastern Kings in July 2019. There are 38 residential homes in the community of East Point. To date, of those 38 households, 24 of them have signed that same "letter of petition" against wind farm expansion. This represents over 63% of East Point residents who do not want wind farm expansion in their community. If I were to reach out to my neighboring communities of South Lake, Elmira, North Lake and East Lake, which represents the triangle of communities most affected by the proposed windmill expansion, I am confident that the same 63 plus % **AGAINST** would be repeated as having signed the "letter of petition" against this project.

As government agencies and council members looking at this proposed project let the "will of the people" that are most impacted prevail. You have the signed petition letters, please be aware of these numbers, **63 plus percent of residents who are most impacted are against this project of further wind farm expansion.** Please let the democratic process work as it should in a democratic society and **DO NOT ALLOW FURTHER WND FARM EXAPSNSION in East Point and surrounding communities.**

Yours Truly



Ronelda MacDonald
5000 Northside Rd, East Point, PE

cc Honorable Premier, Dennis King, Honorable Minister Transportation, Infrastructure & Energy, Steven Myers, MLA Souris-Elmira, Colin Lavie

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX "D" – DONALD BERGERON

4 December, 2019

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

Concerns with East Point Windmills Proposal

Illustration only not actual proposed location of windmills

Actual height (175 metres) for proposed windmills



Presented by:

Donald Bergeron

We retired and moved back to East Point where my wife grew up.

It is so beautiful here it was once considered to become a National Park.

PEI Energy Corporation is planning to build 60 storey windmills (175metres) in East Point. My concern is what effect they will have on our migratory bird route, our lands natural beauty and our health. There are over 100 residents that are against this 60 storey windmill proposal and have sent letters to our council (Council for the Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings).

Windmills regardless of their location have issues. Germany for example is a leader in wind farms has faced increasing legal action and regulatory hurdles against wind energy resulting in only 35 new windmills in 2019 a 80% drop over 2018.

One main concern is the health hazards of infra sound emissions from the wind turbines haven't been fully studied.

In Poland, the government announced wind farms will be scrapped by 2035. Under Poland's regulations turbines can only be built on farmland with no residential houses within 2km.

In Canada, our oldest wind farm in Cowley Ridge, Alberta is headed for the scrap yard after 23 years. The company said it was becoming a safety issue and no parts could be found to maintain the 57 turbines; they went on to say it was not economical to rebuild.

Modern wind turbines depend on rare earth minerals mined primarily from China. Unfortunately, given federal regulations in the U.S. that restrict rare earth mineral development and China's poor record of environmental stewardship, the process of extracting these minerals imposes wretched environmental and public health impacts on local communities. It's a story Big Wind doesn't want you to hear.

The wind industry requires an astounding amount of rare earth minerals, primarily neodymium and dysprosium, which are key components of the magnets used in modern wind turbines.

In terms of environmental damages, mining one ton of rare earth minerals produces about one ton of radioactive waste, according to the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security. That means that between 4.9 million pounds (using MIT's estimate) and 6.1 million pounds (using the Bulletin of Atomic Science's estimate) of rare earths minerals were used in wind turbines installed in 2012. It also means that between 4.9 million and 6.1 million pounds of radioactive waste were created to make these wind turbines.

For perspective, America's nuclear industry produces between 4.4 million and 5 million pounds of spent nuclear fuel each year. That means the U.S. wind industry may well have created more radioactive waste last year than our entire nuclear industry produced in spent fuel.

Wind energy is not nearly as "clean" and "good for the environment" as the wind lobbyists want you to believe. The wind industry is dependent on rare earth minerals imported from China, the procurement of which results in staggering environmental damages. As one environmentalist told the *Daily Mail*, "There's not one step of the rare earth mining process that is not disastrous for the environment; every turbine we erect contributes to "a vast man-made lake of poison in northern China." The destruction that is mostly unseen and far-flung does not make it any less damaging.

Now I would like to talk about financial aspects. The Energy Corporation's application is subject to the "Special Permit" process.

In order to consider whether the project is in the interest of the public one of the factors that our council must consider is public input. There is no information on the financial package being offered by the Energy Corporation to the municipality for the privilege of being granted access to the wind resource. Can the community make meaningful representations or objections on the matter if we don't know what is being proposed?

For instance:

- What share of revenue is to be expected to be paid to the municipality (I don't mean taxes collected)?
- Are there compensation clauses for property owners who are beyond the secondary tertiary boundary for loss of property value due to windmills?
- Is compensation addressed if groundwater is contaminated?
- Is compensation due to health issues, such as infra sound emissions, electromagnetic fields addressed? My understanding is the current in the existing transmission lines will increase substantially with the additional turbines coming on board.
- Is there a compensation clause for any other health issues that may arise?

I reiterate my concerns that 60 storey (175metres) windmills will impact East Point's natural beauty, our bird's migratory route and our community health. Over 100 residents oppose their construction. Germany reduced new windmills by 80% in 2019 largely due to concern over health hazards. Poland plans to eliminate turbines by 2035. Canada's oldest wind farm is not going to rebuild. The wind industry dependence on rare earth minerals imported from China has staggering environmental damages that cannot be ignored. PEI Energy has not disclosed its financial compensation to our community. Can our community trust PEI Energy to look after our best interest!

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX "E" – EMMA DIXON

Hello, for those who may not know me, my name is Emma Dixon and I live in East Baltic.

I AM!

~~I may be~~ 19, but I represent the people who will be dealing with the choices your generation have made. That is simply how life works, our successes and our faults get passed down from generation to generation. As someone who has lived here my whole life, I know what a small community like this one can do. It's truly amazing, we come together to celebrate the good times and support each other through the bad. We are a community filled with amazing resources such as our fishing and agricultural growth. We are home to numerous species of wild and marine life. Although some might say we are a seasonal island, we know the beauty that is here 12 months of the year.

I spend my summers soaking in what Eastern PEI has to offer, I am a lifeguard at Basin Head Provincial Park, known as the number 1 beach in Canada. You don't have to venture far to encounter the amazing wildlife and scenic views Basin Head and all other beaches, parks, and wetlands here has to offer. Over the course of the day I am lucky enough to have conversations with many people, from all over the world, some days over a thousand. When I have the opportunity, I advise

everyone to continue their journey closer to the tip of the island, sending them to explore East Point, North Lake Harbour, Elmira Railway and to take in the views of the coastlines. I promote various things our island has to offer, fishing, great food, and our contagious sense of community. Amongst those conversation I have not once bragged about how beautiful or at how great our island uses **wind turbine energy**. That is simply because it is used elsewhere not in Eastern Kings. Even the homes, the farms, and the businesses that are closest to the turbines don't have access to their energy resources. Although we are the ones housing these windmills, we are not reaping any benefits.

When something that large and powerful has a lifespan of 25 years, you can't tell me that's sustainable energy. To put things in perspective, in 25 years, I will be 44, and the generations after me will be just as frustrated as I am if this plan is not stopped.

Birds and other wildlife are being robbed of their homes, breeding and feeding grounds, our health and safety is at risk, property value will continue to decline, and it will have a huge impact on tourism.

I am a firm believer that everything is connected, the food we eat, the water we drink, you are what surrounds you. With the bird and other wildlife populations taking

such a hit, it is foolish to think it has no effect on us. There has to be another option, there is always another option.

Sustainable energy to me is something that is long lasting, positive, benefits more than a handful of people. Sustainable energy does things like fires up our fishing and agricultural processing plants year-round, reduces the cost of electricity for everyone and creates real jobs. It does NOT compromise the environment, wildlife or our health. I want to see nature and all things surrounding thrive again, our sick people get healthy and our economy grow.

As I said earlier, we are a strong community. We all have the same core values; we want what is best for our present and future families. Educate and inform yourselves on the impacts of present and possible future windfarms, it is not only going to benefit yourselves but all of the present and future generations. Do not let these values get disguised in the dollar signs.

Energy come in all shapes and size, bigger is not always better.

Thank you