

**DUFFERIN COUNTY COUNCIL
ADDENDUM**

**Thursday, October 11, 2012
7:00 p.m.**



7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.5 Area Residents – Re Proposed Transmission Line on the former Rail Corridor

**Not Listed
on the
Agenda**

Correspondence from area residents regarding the proposed Transmission Line on the former Rail Corridor.

July 3

June 29, 2012,
PO Box 2075,
Creemore, L0M1G0.

Dear Dufferin County Council members:

My letter was stimulated by the article in the Shelburne Free Press of June 21st.

Let me first identify myself. My wife and I are fulltime residents of Melancthon township (911# 825468) and are scheduled to be living 550 meters from a 2.75 MW wind turbine (T1 on the site plan) as proposed by the owners of the Dufferin Wind Power Project.

The article documented your concern about the proposed transmission line on the county owned rail corridor. I share your concerns about this issue but my deeper concerns are with respect to repeated violation of proper setbacks and the apparent absence of secure funds to finance expected decommissioning.

Close examination of the Wind Farm Site Plan created in November of 2011 by Dillon consulting reveals very significant violations of the provincial setback guidelines – the turbines (14 of the 49 proposed) involved in the significant setback guideline violations are T2, T12, T13, T18, T22, T26, T27, T29, T32, T34, T35, T40, T41, and T44.

As a physician, this repeated violation of the minimum setback guideline is of great concern. **This minimum setback guideline was created to try and safeguard the health of Ontario citizens; it should be followed.** It is rumored that many of the landowners from which this foreign owned company is leasing the land on which wind turbines are to be located live elsewhere and rent out the residence that will be affected by the violation of the minimum setback guideline. The renters affected by these violations of the minimum setback guideline may be too intimidated or unknowledgeable to speak up; however, **their right to a healthy environment needs to be protected.**

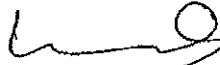
Also, clustering of wind turbines changes the minimum setback required according to the provincial background paper dated June 9th 2009. To my mind, the 10 wind turbines T3 through to T9 represent such a cluster. Should there not be a greater setback be required with respect to this cluster of wind turbines?

An equal deep concern is the apparent absence of secure funds to ensure decommissioning which will be required in the future. My impression is that these wind turbines have a lifespan of 20 to 25 years and then must be dismantled (i.e. decommissioned). Furthermore, it my understanding that the company that owns these wind turbines is foreign based. How do we ensure that funds will be available to finance decommissioning in the future? My suggestion is that monies (either by this foreign company or the actual landowners leasing the land to the company) be placed in escrow accounts now to ensure that decommissioning will occur when required in the future. These industrial wind turbines are being erected in a rural but settled area as opposed to

an unpopulated area. Very few residents want to look at them now let alone when they become obsolete.

Thus, I appreciate that the newspaper article documented your concerns about how to connect the power produced by these turbines to the grid; however, I feel that my areas of concern are valid as well. I respectfully request your support. To me, it seems reasonable that you request that Dufferin Wind Power Inc. address these 2 issues in an open responsible corporate fashion. To me, these issues have to be resolved well before any decision can be made about transmission lines.

Yours sincerely,



William S. Crysdale M.D., F.R.C.S.(C)

**Administration Department
Received**

JUL - 3 2012

For Information: _____

For Action: _____

Pam Hillock

From: Dave Fisher
Sent: October-04-12 9:08 PM
To: Pam Hillock
Subject: Dufferin Wind Power rail corridor

I oppose the use of the rail corridor for hydro transmission from wind farms. Wind farms do not contribute and only survive because of subsidies. There are many negative issues with wind farms and I am sure you are aware of them.

Dave Fisher
Amaranth

Sent from my iPad

Sonya Pritchard

From: MIKE OSBORN <
Sent: October-10-12 9:08 AM
To: Walter Kolodziechuk; Sonya Pritchard; Pam Hillock
Subject: Dufferin Wind Power rail corridor - NOT for power lines

Mr Kolodziechuk, Ms Pritchard, Ms Hillock

I read with utter dismay the proposal to allow a Chinese company the right to use the old rail corridor through Dufferin County for the purpose of erecting power lines to carry power primarily from Wind Turbines. My main objections are as follows:

1. The old railway right of way is a prime recreational walking and biking facility, that would be esthetically and physically ruined by the presence of high voltage power lines.
2. The power lines would enable even more Industrial Wind Turbines to be erected widespread north of Dufferin County. It is already well known that Wind Power is highly unreliable, very expensive and causes people who live near them to experience severe health problems - we want no more of them in Ontario - period.

Please deny the right of use of these old rail lines to any corporation that proposes to use them for the erection of power lines.

Thank you.
Mike Osborn, Meaford.

Sonya Pritchard

From: Walter Kolodziechuk
Sent: October-09-12 5:11 PM
To: Sonya Pritchard
Subject: FW: Wind Turbines proposed for rail corridors

From: Heather Reid
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 08:09 PM
To: Walter Kolodziechuk
Subject: Wind Turbines proposed for rail corridors

Dear Sir,

I believe it would be a very unwise to allow access to rail corridors as sites for wind turbines. The World Health Organization, after much global research, is now proposing a set-back of close to 2 km from residences. It would be impossible to remain within this guideline and undertake this proposal since many of these rail lines pass through residential neighbourhoods.

It would be especially imprudent to allow this proposal to move forward before the results of the Ontario government's investigation (into the health effects of living in close proximity to wind turbines) are published.

Any county council which grants its approval for this project to an international corporation would undoubtedly soon find itself in the unenviable situation of mediating between complaints of its residents/voters and the resolve of a powerful corporation determined to move ahead in ways that will maximize the profits of its investment.

This is one "green project" which should be allowed to wither on the vine.

Sincerely

Mrs. Heather E. Reid

Pam Hillock

From:
Sent: September-25-12 11:21 AM
To: Sonya Pritchard
Cc: Walter Kolodziechuk; Bill Hill; Pam Hillock; Michelle Dunne
Subject: RE: Dufferin Wind Power Utility Easement

Importance: High

All,

I now see that according to the new Dillon information that the Rail Corridor is Proposal Preference 1A. When did it change from Proposal 2. I have never been informed of this by either the county or Dillon.

I am disgusted that it appears that as usual the proposal is being pushed through regardless of the implications to certain homeowners like myself that are adjacent to and definitely within the proposed "Easement".

Why are Dufferin and Melancthon county not opposing this for and on behalf of their residents.

This power line is and will be the total end of my being able to live in the current house on 5th Line and yet I have received not one person having spoken to me regarding this issue. Am I to take it that it is a "done deal"??

I also request how Dufferin County can even allow this to happen when I take into account the statement below from your office.

"The rail corridor is considered to be public land and access to it is not monitored."

If indeed this corridor is public land how can you allow any use by a private company for the corridor? It is not there for the right of business to use, but for the general public to use and I claim that right to deny the Power corporation to use it, I believe that is appropriate.

All 230kV lines in this country and the USA have large easements and safe setbacks so that rules out the possibility of placing it in the Rail Corridor, because my house falls squarely inside that volume.

I have had enough of the condescending attitudes of the councils towards agreements with these corporations and demand that they stop and consider the residents before any other organizations.

Roy Thomas

From: spritchard@dufferincounty.on.ca

To:

CC: wkolodziechuk@dufferincounty.on.ca; bhill@dufferincounty.on.ca; phillock@dufferincounty.on.ca; mdunne@dufferincounty.on.ca

Subject: RE: Dufferin Wind Power Utility Easement

Date: Fri, 22 Jun 2012 19:54:53 +0000

Good afternoon Mr. Thomas,

Thank you for sending us your concerns. The County of Dufferin is committed to sharing information with residents as it becomes available and we will endeavour to keep land owners abutting the rail corridor better informed as we move forward.

County Council is still assessing whether or not to enter into an agreement to grant an easement for a transmission line. As you have indicated there are a number of key questions that remain unanswered and a number of concerns that need to be addressed. County staff is working on gathering information to address these items which will help Council further deliberate the merits of providing an easement. Once a clearer picture of what the easement would look like is determined that information will be made available.

Here is a link to the last County agenda which provides the information, including a report and draft agreement, most recently considered by Council. http://www.dufferincounty.on.ca/departement_info.aspx?id=24 (The lower part of this page lists the agenda, minutes, etc). As additional documents are received and Council reports are written they will be included in the Council agendas which are posted on the County website.

The transmission line proposal from Dufferin Wind Power is subject to the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) application process and must meet all of the requirements of the Ministry of the Environment. Municipalities can provide comments

and express concerns about some of the technical aspects of a renewable energy project application but do not have authority to reject a project outright. In accordance with provincial policy municipalities are encouraged to work with developers to arrive at an arrangement that is mutually agreeable.

As part of the REA process, the developer is required to conduct numerous studies. The County of Dufferin is not involved in this process and generally does not receive notification when work is being carried out. ~~The rail corridor is considered to be public land and access to it is not monitored.~~ However, Dufferin Wind Power did request permission to verify structure locations recently.

I appreciate you raising these issues. I will be sure to notify when further information becomes available and when the item will be next debated by County Council.

Regards,

Sonya Pritchard, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer
County of Dufferin

Phone: 519-941-2816 Ext 2502
Email: spritchard@dufferincounty.on.ca

From:
Sent: June-21-12 8:38 PM
To: Michelle Dunne; Bill Hill (External)
Subject: RE: Dufferin Wind Power Utility Easement

Michelle,

Is the county intending to share with the affected residents, such as me, the information in your e-mail.

It would certainly be of high interest to me, as any easement for the old rail line would very likely end up on my property and, as such, would definitely impact me.

Has a nominal width of easement been identified? and why are we working with these developers when they are impacting so many peoples lives in this county.

Also, why was a "breeding bird survey" being conducted down the rail line today for and on behalf of Dillon, I understood that the EA was complete and this should have already been in that document?

There was also a van with a man walking the rail line around noon with equipment, the van had a name "Carron Dietz" I think, may be wrong, who is this and what are they doing?

When is the county intending to advise the residents of the agenda of activities and what they are? including the reasons.

If this is to make a case against the complainants regarding the health issues we should be told. We don't even know if they are intruding onto private property for their information gathering, without permission.

Too much is being done in a sneaky way and without disclosure for the landowners abutting the rail line.

Unhappy Resident

Roy Thomas

From: mdunne@dufferincounty.on.ca
To: suestone@amaranth-eastgary.ca; jtelfer@townofshelburne.on.ca
CC: jwilloughby@townofshelburne.on.ca
Subject: Dufferin Wind Power Utility Easement
Date: Thu, 21 Jun 2012 17:27:47 +0000

Good afternoon,

Further to your email correspondence with respect to the proposed utility easement on the abandoned rail corridor on the proposed route, the Council of the County of Dufferin at its regular meeting of June 14, 2012 passed the following resolution:

THAT the correspondence regarding the proposed utility easement on the abandoned rail corridor on the proposed route be received;

AND THAT staff be directed to forward the applicable correspondence to Dufferin Wind Power Inc. for their review and response;

AND THAT staff work with the County solicitors to incorporate into the draft agreement to grant an easement, the considerations presented in the correspondence as appropriate;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding for execution by the Warden and Clerk to set out requirements for Duffer Wind Power Inc. to reimburse the County for all legal costs related to the possible granting of an easement incurred to date and for the pre-payment of estimated additional legal, consulting and peer review costs for finalizing the drafting of an agreement to grant an easement.

Regards,

Michelle Dunne

Deputy Clerk

County of Dufferin

55 Zina Street

Orangeville, ON L9W 1E5

Tel: 519.941.2816 ,ext. 2504

Fax: 519.941.4565

Email: mdunne@dufferincounty.on.ca

Website: www.dufferincounty.on.ca

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The Corporation of the County of Dufferin, 55 Zina Street, Orangeville, Ontario.

www.dufferincounty.on.ca

Sonya Pritchard

From:
Sent: September-30-12 11:01 AM
To: barb ashbee; Sonya Pritchard; Pam Hillock; Michelle Dunne; Allen Taylor; Bill Hill; Darren White; Darren White (External); mayor.maciver@hotmail.com; Don MacIver; Ed Crewson (External); Ed Crewson; John Oosterhof; Ken Bennington; ken.mcghee@townofmono.com; Ken McGhee; Laura Ryan; Laura Ryan (External); paul@mills4mulmur.com; Paul Mills; Rhonda Campbell Moon; Rhonda Campbell Moon (External); Rob Adams; Walter Kolodziechuk; Warren Maycock; Valerie Peterson; Sonya Pritchard
Subject: RE: Consultant
Importance: High

Sonya,

I would respectfully ask from Dufferin County, what is the current easement for the old railway line, in other words, how wide is it from the center of the line. My reason for asking is, this issue is a common problem in Melancthon where people have placed fences on what they considered the boundary of their property, usually close to a county road. The council issued statements a few years ago warning people that they were not allowed by law to construct these fences and that the council would take action against them.

So, my point is that we as property owners need to know this number of feet from the center of any highway, road or right-of-way, it is not marked in any way physically, so is currently hypothetical.

My house is within 60 to 70 feet of the center of the old rail line and any existing easement, which I was not aware of by Dufferin county, could potentially cause me problems if Dufferin county allows any corporation to build or operate in this land corridor. The fact that a railway would only impact me from noise, vibration and access is considerably different from a 230kV power line with the health issues from EMF and ionization corona's.

Please advise on the allowance currently existing.

I also am curious to know when this consultant will ask to speak with all directly affected residents to gain insight into their concerns? the county must realize that residents are not always opposed to progress, just in the way it happens and there are some who have special needs and existing health problems that the county should and must take into account to be really humanitarian and not just manipulative.

Regards
Roy Thomas

Date: Sat, 29 Sep 2012 05:34:00 -0700

From:
Subject: Consultant
To: spritchard@dufferincounty.ca
CC:

Hello Sonya,

What type of consultant is the county planning to hire and how do you go about choosing the consulting group?

How do they engage the residents as they are investigating and compiling their report? Will they be interviewing each family and municipal member personally to gauge the potential impacts?

Thanks very much,

Barbara Ashbee

Mono

When is the next County Council meeting being held?

From: spritchard@dufferincounty.on.ca

To:

CC: phillock@dufferincounty.on.ca; mdunne@dufferincounty.on.ca; ataylor@dufferincounty.on.ca; bhill@dufferincounty.on.ca; dwhite@dufferincounty.on.ca; dwhite@melancthontownship.ca; mayor.maciver@hotmail.com; dmaciver@dufferincounty.on.ca; ecrewson@crewsoninsurance.com; ecrewson@dufferincounty.on.ca; joosterhof@dufferincounty.on.ca; kbennington@dufferincounty.on.ca; ken.mcghee@townofmono.com; kmcghee@dufferincounty.on.ca; lryan@dufferincounty.on.ca; laura.ryan@lincsat.com; paul@mills4mulmur.com; pmills@dufferincounty.on.ca; rcampbellmoon@dufferincounty.on.ca; rcampbellmoon@gmail.com; radams@dufferincounty.on.ca; wkolodziechuk@dufferincounty.on.ca; wmaycock@dufferincounty.on.ca

Subject: RE: Dufferin Wind Power Utility Easement

Date: Tue, 25 Sep 2012 17:39:28 +0000

Good afternoon Mr. Thomas,

Please be advised that the announcement of the change in the proposal from Dufferin Wind Power for the rail corridor to be their preferred option for the 230 kv transmission line was made without prior notice to or consultation with the County of Dufferin. At this point in time the County of Dufferin has only agreed to discuss the matter and to negotiate terms that would be required if an easement were to be granted.

The County of Dufferin is currently seeking a consultant to review concerns raised by residents and the local municipalities. This action was dependent on agreement from Dufferin Wind Power to cover all of the expenses being incurred by the County on this matter. A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect was approved at the last County Council meeting. I have attached it for your information. Findings from the consultants review will help Council determine appropriate next steps.

If you have any additional questions please let me know.

Regards,

Sonya Pritchard, CMA

Chief Administrative Officer

County of Dufferin

Phone: 519-941-2816 Ext 2502

Email: spritchard@dufferincounty.ca

Pam Hillock

From:
Sent: October-05-12 9:59 AM
To: Sonya Pritchard; barb ashbee; eleanore clark; Linda Knight; Valerie Peterson
Cc: Pam Hillock; Michelle Dunne; Allen Taylor; Bill Hill; Darren White; Darren White (External); mayor.maciver@hotmail.com; Don MacIver; Ed Crewson (External); Ed Crewson; John Oosterhof; Ken Bennington; ken.mcghee@townofmono.com; Ken McGhee; Laura Ryan; Laura Ryan (External); paul@mills4mulmur.com; Paul Mills; Rhonda Campbell Moon; Rhonda Campbell Moon (External); Rob Adams; Walter Kolodziechuk; Warren Maycock; banner@orangevillebanner.com; shelburne.fp@gmail.com
Subject: Dufferin Wind Power
Importance: High

I see that there is now a report in the Shelburne Free Press of 4th October 2012 stating the new position of the 230kV power line.

I am absolutely astounded that this corporation has now declared that:

"Once the easement agreement is reached with Dufferin County for the Rail Line the other 69kV option will be dropped. How dare you as a county council and our representatives take this decision when the people who are affected most, I am one, have not even been approached by the Council or the Corporation for a discussion on whether I am in agreement or opposed to this and if opposed the reasons for my opposition.

Further more there has been not one suggestion of what you intend to put in place for me or other affected residents to mitigate the effects from this high voltage power line which will be in my back door, literally.

There is a health hazard here and this is being glossed over and ignored by both the county and the corporation, without due diligence to mitigate these effects being processed.

There are still several public meetings where I am sure that concerned residents will express their opposition and require an answer to the previous statements.

Why is it that there is no dialogue with us?

Why is it that there is a decision, already taken?

Why is the county not listening to residents?

I for one demand that these negotiations be stopped in there entirety, until all affected residents are satisfied with a mitigation which can only be arrived at by the residents accepting a package or some form of compensation for this intrusion into their lives and properties. This has not even been suggested by either party.

I am asking Dufferin county to cease and desist in this development until all avenues of concern are fully addressed.

Roy Thomas
396234 Fifth Line
Melancthon.
L0n1S9

Sonya Pritchard

From: David L. White
Sent: October-08-12 4:53 PM
To: Walter Kolodziechuk; Sonya Pritchard; Pam Hillock
Subject: Rail Line

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Dufferin County I want to voice my opinion against the rail corridor being used as an electricity transmission line. I am sure you are aware that transmitting electricity has numerous health effects for those in close proximity to high voltage lines. As this corridor was a rail corridor and is not designed for electrical transmission it would put transmission lines in close proximity to homes putting families at risk. In a recent peer reviewed medical journal it has been proven that children within 100m of a hydro transmission are at high risk for leukemia. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/13440.php>

Dufferin County has its fare share green energy project and its time to for Toronto and the GTA to start accepting wind turbine projects. These green energy projects need to be where the consumption is, transmitting electricity over long distance is wasteful. There is also mounting evidence that wind turbines cause health problems, so allowing the rail corridor to be used to support wind turbine is a direct attack on the health of Dufferin County families.

Please do not allow our recreational rail corridor to be used for industrial purposes and consider the health of the families who live in close proximity to the corridor.

Thank you,

David White
33 Hughson Street
Amaranth, Ontario