



Thames - Sydenham and Region
c/o Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
1424 Clarke Road, London, ON, N5V 5B9

June 18, 2010

Tom Fuerth, chair
Essex Region Source Protection Committee
360 Fairview Avenue West, Suite 311
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

Dear Tom,

Re: Wind Turbines near intakes

The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee is concerned about the potential impacts of wind turbines in intake protection zones. We understand that your committee and the Essex Region Conservation Authority are considering the potential impacts of these turbines on the source water of the intakes in your region. I have been requested by our committee to express our support for your efforts to determine the impacts. As such we would ask that you keep us informed of developments related to off shore wind generation in this area.

At its last meeting the committee discussed concerns related to:

- construction
 - sediment re-suspension from the construction of the foundation and laying cables to the turbines
 - fuel storage/use and refuelling activities
 - hydraulic oils and solvents in the turbines as well as construction equipment
 - physical damage to the intake from construction activities;
- operation and maintenance
 - storage/use of hydraulic and lubricating oils (or other chemicals)
 - boat traffic changes
 - changes in wave and wind action on the sediment transportation in and around the intake protection zone; and
- decommissioning
 - Construction activities similar to the construction phase.

We understand that your committee has had similar discussions and is working with the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the source protection team to consider these potential impacts. The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee does not want to duplicate the

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efforts of others and would therefore ask that you let us know of any conclusions which you form as a result of this work. If it is possible to include consideration of the Wheatley and Chatham and South Chatham-Kent Intakes in any work being undertaken, please let us know. We understand that Chatham Kent may already have expressed an interest in participating in this as well. Collaboration between our committees is important due to these and other shared interests.

We will also be drawing the committee's concern to the attention of the Province. The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee has expressed other concerns about the Green Energy Act and ensuring that the protection of drinking water sources are not compromised by development of green energy. The committee remains concerned about the impact of geothermal systems on groundwater which provides an important source of drinking water in our region. The committee wonders if other types of green energy have the potential to impact drinking water sources and should be considered as a threat. While the committee is cognisant of the importance of developing sustainable energy sources it will be important to adequately consider the impacts on drinking water sources.

Irrespective of the status of the current proposal, the impacts of this type of activity need to be assessed to determine if it should be identified as a threat and related policies included in our Source Protection Plans. We would ask that you continue to keep us informed on your progress on this.

Yours truly,
THAMES-SYDENHAM and REGION

Robert Bedggood, Chair
Source Protection Committee

cc Stan Taylor, Director of Source Water Protection
Richard Wyma, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, ERCA
Ian Smith, Director, Source Protection Programs Branch, MOE
Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee
Tom Kissner, General Manager, Chatham-Kent PUC
Ralph Pugliese, Chatham-Kent