



August 14, 2014

## **South Branch Wind Project Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting**

### **Time and Place**

Monday August 11, 2014

7:00pm to 8:00pm

Dixon's Corners Community Centre  
10951 Cook Road, County Road 18,  
Brinston ON, K0E 1C0

### **Invited**

Current CLC members/volunteers, EDP representatives, and all interested members of the community

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Meeting purpose, goals and agreements
3. Project update
4. Community Liaison Committee (CLC) review of depositions
5. Q&A/Open discussion

### **Attendees**

Total number of community members in attendance: **4**

#### **CLC members present:**

- Francois Lauzon (CLC Chair) from Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- Kimberly Wenborn (CLC meeting support) from Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- Bill Byker (CLC volunteer)
- Pieter Biemond (CLC volunteer)

#### **CLC Members regrets:**

- Chris Bazinet (CLC volunteer) – last minute family obligation
- Greg Vant Foort (CLC Volunteer) – away for summer vacation

### **Discussion**

1. **Welcome and Introductions (CLC Chair).** The meeting was officially opened at 7:15 pm by Francois Lauzon (CLC Chair from Stantec Consulting Ltd.) with general introductions of CLC members Mr. Bill Byker and Mr. Pieter Biemond, as well as Ms. Kim

Wenborn from Stantec to assist. EDP staff (Ken Little, Ryan Brown, Ryan O'Connor, Nathan Roscoe, and Stan Kraeger) were also introduced.

2. **Meeting purpose, goals, and agreements (CLC Chair).** The purpose of CLC was explained in the context of the CLC Terms of Reference (ToR). The CLC acts as a mechanism for community members to voice concerns or questions in a community forum and to seek potential resolution of issues relating to the turbine project.
3. **Project Update (Ken Little, EDP).** An update of the South Branch Wind Project was provided by Ken Little (EDP) by means of a PowerPoint presentation to kick-off the meeting (the presentation is available at <http://edprwindfarms.com/canada/under-dev/south-branch.htm>). Highlights of the presentation included the following:
  - a) **CLC meetings.** EDP will ensure that at least four (4) CLC meetings are held before July 2015, with the proposed next meeting to be held late afternoon in November/early December 2014.
  - b) **Site restoration.** EDP indicated that post-construction site restoration had been completed. A road survey was also completed by White Construction with a report to be forthcoming.
  - c) **Acoustic monitoring.** The acoustic audit measurements are performed by an Independent Acoustical Consultant at three (3) different Points of Reception that have been selected using the following criteria (1) the Points of Reception should represent the location of the greatest predicted noise impact, i.e., the highest predicted Sound Level; and (2) the Points of Reception should be located in the direction of prevailing winds from the Facility at a location of likely occupancy. The REA requires that the acoustic audit measurements shall be performed on two (2) separate occasions within a period of twelve (12) months that represent the lowest annual ambient Sound Levels, preferably (1) March and April, and (2) October and November. EDP needs to submit to the District Manager and the Director (MOECC) an Acoustic Audit Report no later than nine (9) months after the commencement of the operation of the Facility for the first of the two (2) acoustic audit measurements at the three (3) Points of Reception; and no later than fifteen (15) months after the commencement of the operation of the Facility for the two (2) acoustic audit measurements at the three (3) Points of Reception.
    - i. Spring monitoring was delayed due to heavy rain preventing installation of monitoring equipment. Conditions for monitoring were also explained in terms of minimum required windspeeds with no precipitation.
    - ii. A question was raised to know what would happen if EDP can't meet 15 month deadline? The response by EDP indicated that the MOECC would have to be contacted to determine next steps.
    - iii. A second question was asked as to why monitoring can't be done in the winter. The response by EDP is that the REA requires monitoring only in the spring and fall as the lowest annual ambient sound levels.

- d) **Bird and bat mortality monitoring.** A report to the Ministry of Natural Resources must be produced for three (3) years on an annual basis and within three (3) months of the conclusion of the November mortality monitoring.
    - i. A question was asked as to how many birds/bats have been found? The response by EDP was that the information was not available yet and that monitoring is still ongoing
    - ii. A second question/comment was made as to a (bat/bird) that was stuck on one of the blades. EDP was not aware of the issue.
    - iii. A third question was asked in terms of whether there will be earthworm monitoring. EDP responded that no monitoring of earthworms would be undertaken (and that there is no requirements for such in Ontario)
  - e) **Community Benefit fund.** EDP provided general details of the \$30K annual Community Benefit Fund to be provided to the Township from the wind farm operating revenues for every year it will be in operation. Funds are expected to be used for community projects that would not fall under infrastructure improvement budgets (roads and municipal structures).
    - i. Clarification on the boundaries of the “community” that would benefit from the fund was asked. EDP responded that it is delineated by roads that are within 1km of project site (shown on large poster). These are (1) Irish Headline to the north, (2) Heritage/Devries Road to the east, (3) County Road 18 (Cook Road) to the south, and (4) Taylor Road to the west.
  - f) **Educational tours.** EDP discussed recent successes in providing educational tours for summer camps, boys and girls clubs, etc. EDP is very open to giving more tours to interested parties or groups.
    - i. School boards were mentioned as other target groups for tours.
4. **Depositions.** Only one (1) deposition was reviewed (only one filed in advance of the CLC). There are 4 elements to deposition as follows:
- a) **Noise:** Clanging/ grating noise at night (May 10, 2014), stopped around 2:30 AM. Complainant also stated noise is louder at night and it appears that turbines are turned up at night.
    - i. EDP response: Siemens was asked to investigate cause of noise and no cause was found. EDP also hopes that the acoustic monitoring will help shed light on this issue
  - b) **Compensation.** Based on hearsay, the deposition was asking about compensation for budding properties?
    - i. EDP responded that there was no such program in place for the project and that it was likely a misunderstanding of Community Benefit Fund (discussed earlier).
  - c) **CLC Membership.** The deposition noted that there were no members on the CLC that lived within 1km of a turbine.

- i. The CLC Chair indicated that although the CLC terms of reference state that it would be advantageous to have a volunteer living within a 1KM distance from a turbine join the CLC, it cannot force individuals to join/participate as this is a volunteer committee. Community members within the 1km project setback have been invited to join but have opted not to.
- d) **Timing for Meetings.** The deposition asked that meetings be held in the evenings so day time workers can participate.
  - i. As noted earlier by EDP, it was decided that CLC times will be scheduled to accommodate citizen schedules and alternate between afternoons and

## 5. Questions and Answers/Other Discussion

- a) The CLC Chair asked if the notice for the meeting had been received well enough in advance and if there were other proposed locations to post meeting notices.
  - i. The notices were well received in advance of the CLC meeting in the newspapers and by mail. It was further agreed that notices could also be posted at the Brinston store/ post office, the township office, and the H&I Seed Shop.
- b) An additional request was made to post all notices in Spanish because of a unilingual Spanish resident who was interested.
  - i. Ryan Brown from EDP indicated that he was fluent in Spanish and could make himself available to respond to the individual's concerns or questions. Furthermore, the local (Ottawa) Stantec office also has several Spanish speaking employees that would be able to assist as appropriate. Posting in Spanish raised the issue of also then posting in French, which could be facilitated, but was starting get to get outside of the terms of the CLC. It was agreed that postings would continue to be in English only, but that the individual could receive a personalized Spanish communication.
- c) Concern over not meeting the 15 month deadline for acoustic monitoring was raised.
  - i. EDP explained challenges in capturing high wind speeds and weather complications. Said if unable to capture wind speeds that are required this year, next year attempts will be made to capture data at missing wind speeds
- d) EDP was asked if they were looking to expand the windfarm?
  - i. EDP responded that they would very interested based on the success of the South Branch Project
- e) EDP was asked if any expansion would be done under a new procurement process.
  - i. EDP responded that it would indeed; however, that it will be different from before as it would be done under a competitive process.



- f) EDP was asked if the grid could handle more power/could it sustain the load considering that the region still hasn't had repairs done on the grid since the ice storm damage
  - i. EDP responded that this the ability of the grid supporting the additional new load to be added would be an important part of the due diligence/is a normal part of good development and will be part of the procurement process
- g) EDP was asked if the public were ever going to see performance data on the IOS website.
  - i. EDP responded that it was unlikely as this was driven primarily by IOS rules

### **Wrap-up/Closing**

The next CLC meeting is planned for 2PM in late November/early December 2014.

All meeting participants were thanked for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.