

WIND ENERGY CENTRE - OPEN HOUSE

Your Concerns...Our Response

Q: How much noise will there be from turbines?

A: Wind projects must show that they meet the sound limit requirements prescribed by the Ministry of Environment. For non-participating residences (those that are not a part of the project) the sound limit is 40 decibels (dBA). This is quieter than many sources of sound within a home (i.e., 40 dBA is about halfway between a whisper and a normal conversation between two people less than a metre apart). Sound from a wind turbine diminishes over distance; as such, NextEra meets or exceeds the 550 metre minimum setback distance required by the Province between wind turbines and dwellings.

Q: What effects will there be on wildlife? (e.g. birds, bats, etc.)

A: When properly sited, wind turbines present less of a danger to wildlife than other structures such as buildings and roads. Turbines will be located as carefully as possible to minimize any effects on wildlife. NextEra Energy Canada will work closely with the relevant experts to assess any potential effects on wildlife, including birds and bats.

Q: What risks are there to my health from turbines?

A: There is little credible evidence to support any links between wind turbines and adverse effects on human health either related to noise or shadow flicker. NextEra will have a Complaint Resolution Process in place to address any concerns related to the project that may arise.

Q: Why did the Study Area for the Project change?

A: Confirmation of GE 1.6 MW turbines as the technology to be used required the siting of 16 turbines (14 primary sites plus two alternates). Previously we had considered the Siemens 2.3 MW turbines which would only have required 10 turbine sites. Field work undertaken over the past couple of years identified a need to consider additional lands to site turbines in order to avoid impacts to natural features. Interest from additional landowners to take part in the project subsequently allowed us to expand the area, and look at better site designs which could avoid potential impacts to natural features.

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Q: I am concerned about the effect on the value of my property.

A: Based on available research, we are not aware of any credible evidence to indicate a decline in property values from the siting of a wind farm. Independent studies have been conducted by Ontario municipalities, leading universities, and other entities which have concluded that the construction of a wind facility does not detract from property values.

Q: What will it cost to decommission the turbines?

A: The decommissioning costs will be established through the Renewable Energy Approval process which will specify the requirements for a decommissioning plan and incorporate them in the permit under O.Reg. 359/09. The public will have an opportunity to provide input and comment on the plan that will be a part of the application filed with the Ministry of the Environment. The project owner will be responsible for the cost of the decommissioning.

Q: I have concerns about the impact on the landscape from the turbines.

A: The visual impact of any development is highly subjective. Through our consultation we will present visualizations of our proposed development for public comment and accept feedback that may result in changes that would make the development more visually appealing.

Q: Is there a plan for handling emergencies?

A: An Emergency Response Plan will be developed as part of the Design and Operations Report. This Plan will be developed in consultation with the local municipality, local fire department and emergency services.

For a complete list of comments and questions from the public, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions sections on our website. We will also publish concerns and inquiries in the public consultation report, which will be filed with the REA documents and posted on our website.

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Aboriginal Consultation

- Canada's Constitution Act, 1982, recognizes the rights of Aboriginal peoples (First Nation, Inuit and Métis)
- Ontario Regulation 359/09 has specific requirements for Aboriginal consultation
- Ontario Power Authority's Feed in Tariff program reinforces the importance of Aboriginal consultation
- Project proponents are delegated the "procedural aspects" of Aboriginal consultation
- Aboriginal consultation may include environmental, archaeological, cultural and spiritual issues
- NextEra Energy Canada is working closely with Aboriginal communities and leadership as required by law and good practice to:
 - ✦ Offer meaningful information about its projects
 - ✦ Seek information that helps ensure good planning to avoid or minimize impacts
 - ✦ Openly discuss issues, interests and concerns
 - ✦ Seek workable and mutually acceptable solutions
 - ✦ Foster relationships of mutual respect

