

April 9, 2013

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In the early morning hours of April 2, 2013 there was a catastrophic failure of a wind turbine in the K1 Wind Project located in the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh (ACW) in the County of Huron. This fire resulted in the visible destruction of the turbine hub and blades and the release of contaminant debris in a wide area beyond the actual site of the turbine itself (please see the attached shots of the destroyed turbine). Mr. Dan Hayden, project manager for the K1 Wind Project, and Mr. Paul Wendelgass of the proposed K2 Wind Project, attended at the ACW Council meeting on the evening of April 2, 2013. At that meeting Mr. Hayden made a presentation wherein he indicated that, on initial inspection, it was observed that the debris field extended from 100 to 200 metres from the site of the turbine itself. He also stated that further inspection could show that the debris field extended beyond this distance. He also advised that the attending fire department confirmed that they were unable to do anything other than let the fire burn itself out and monitor the situation from the ground. Mr. Wendelgass advised that he contacted the ACW Municipal Office on Wednesday afternoon, April 3<sup>rd</sup> to inform our Clerk about the turbine fire. This was done only in response to the Clerk's request for information.

During the ensuing discussion in the Open Forum portion of the meeting, it was pointed out that the situation could have been very different if the fire had occurred on a hot, dry July night with a close to harvest wheat crop surrounding the turbine. The reason the fire was discovered quickly in this case was because the turbine is located near a main highway where it was noticed by a passing

motorist. Many of the proposed K2 turbines would be located in far less visible locations where a fire would not be as noticeable.

In light of this catastrophic event, we the undersigned request that the provincial government take immediate action to ensure the safety of residents, their homes and their property. All potential wind turbine projects should be reviewed for their impact on neighbouring lands and public road allowances. Approvals should not be given where sites are proposed that would have a potential debris field extending onto the property of non-participating landowners or onto public road allowances.

In many instances there are sites proposed where the turbines would actually encroach on adjacent lands in the event of a catastrophic failure. Current regulations require that turbines over 50 kW must be set back the height of the tower from properties where the land owner is not involved in the project but this can be reduced to a distance equal to the blade length plus 10 metres where there are no surrounding land use concerns. The failure of the turbine in ACW shows that these existing setbacks are inadequate and relief from the setbacks should absolutely not be granted. The events in ACW clearly indicate that this oversight in the regulations must be addressed. A list of the applicable turbines in the proposed K2 Wind Project is as follows:

**LIST OF TURBINES PROPOSED BY K2 WIND THAT SEEK RELIEF FROM  
REQUIRED SETBACKS**

<b>Turbine #</b>	<b>Distance of Overlap With Neighbouring Land &amp;/Or Road Allowance*</b>
204	2.1m
208*	2.71m*
223	20.11m
228	2.05m
230	13.89m
240*	36.16m*
247	5.61m
254	21.43m
260	23.65m
261*	4.66m*
273	38.80m
276	1.72m
277*	.22m*
283	15.00m
285	38.36m
298	7.80m
309	2.06m
314	31.03m
324	1.81m
326	17.54m
333	7.28m
350	29.95m
354	6.36m

In the event of a turbine collapse or fire involving these turbines, the debris field would extend well onto neighbouring lands or public road allowance.

We call on the government of this province to act immediately to protect its residents, their homes and their properties. Turbines CAN and DO fail in this province. The wind companies can no longer state that they are safe and can no longer ignore residents' legitimate concerns.

We await your response.

Respectfully,