

**MULTI-MUNICIPAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP**

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February 11, 2023

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

The Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group (MMEWG) continues to actively follow the procurement processes the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is undertaking to procure additional capacity to meet projected future energy needs. Details released regarding the Long-Term 2 Request for Proposals (LT2 RFP) has raised many concerns.

The IESO LT2 RFP calls for 5 TWh of new energy generation, and proposes that this be mostly derived from 2000 MW of new energy generation produced by mostly wind and solar by 2030. It further proposes that most of this generation could be derived by repowering on the current footprint of existing wind turbines that will reach their end of contract life between 2026 and 2034.

Since existence, the now Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group, formerly known as the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group, has continued to advocate for stronger safety measures and best practices related to wind turbine installations across the province. To date, many of the concerns raised have not been addressed.

Severe health effects to many residents living within the vicinity of project sites have been identified and continue to jeopardized the health and well-being of many residents. The MMEWG will be making a presentation on this topic to the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit in the March in an effort to bring these concerns to the forefront in advance of the repowering of current projects.

Public safety continues to remain a paramount concern of the MMEWG. Setbacks for tower collapse remain insufficient. The current blade length plus 10 metres requirement not a strong enough protective measure for existing projects let alone repowered turbines on existing footprints. Setbacks for ice throw are also insufficient, as the blade length plus 10 metre setback is less than the ice throw distance witnessed in Ontario. Ontario has witnessed turbine fire and flaming debris on the ground at 200 metres, while setback was 50 metres. A Ministry review failed to recommend industry standard protective barriers for fire suppression in spite of examples of fires in similar turbines.

In 2013, 115 municipalities declared themselves "Unwilling Hosts" for wind turbine projects. With the expected surge in proposals given the ambitious procurement efforts

being undertaken by the IESO, and little change in the regulations, the MMEWG strongly recommends that municipalities take steps to prepare for new wind turbine projects.

This can include taking advantage of new powers to regulate wind turbine projects through the enactment of zoning by-laws that govern their locations within the municipality. Previously, the Multi Municipal group has recommended 2,000 metre setbacks between wind turbines and residential locations in place of the current 550 metres.

If your municipality is not able to put new zoning by-laws in place in a timely basis, the municipality may wish to reaffirm their unwillingness to host projects until the appropriate ministries address the concerns and make stronger rules and regulations. For consideration, a DRAFT declaration has been attached. Should your municipality declare its intention, please let us and we will continue to keep you apprised of any advancements in the industry and regulations.

The need for new electricity production capacity is real and the municipality may wish to also consider other less land intensive methods to support these requirements.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julie Smith'.

p.p.

Tom Allwood,  
Chair, Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group  
Councillor, Municipality of Grey Highlands

# DRAFT

Independent Electrical System Operator  
By email: [engagement@ieso.ca](mailto:engagement@ieso.ca)

**Re: Municipality/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ – Wind Turbine Projects**

Please be advised at the Municipality/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ Council meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS the Independent Electrical System Operator (the IESO) has proposed to move forward with three RFPs where new wind turbine projects can receive a contract from the IESO; and

WHEREAS people living near existing wind turbines report considerable impact on their lives due to noise and other emissions from the wind turbines; and

WHEREAS there are gaps in the enforcement of key terms of the Renewable Energy Approvals governing existing projects relative to noise standards and resolution of complaints; and

WHEREAS municipal approval is required to locate one of these projects in the Municipality/Township of \_\_\_\_\_; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council does not support the establishment of any new wind turbine projects within the municipality; and

THAT the IESO be directed to advise potential applicants of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Clerk, Municipality/Township of \_\_\_\_\_

c:

The Hon. Todd Smith - Minister of Energy - [MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca](mailto:MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca)

David Donovan, Chief of Staff, [david.donovan@ontario.ca](mailto:david.donovan@ontario.ca)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario - [policy@amo.on.ca](mailto:policy@amo.on.ca)

Local MPP

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