

MULTI-MUNICIPAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP

Independent Electricity System Operator

Special Meeting Talking Points

Safety of Our Citizens is of Prime Importance

- As Municipal Leaders, we are mandated by the *Municipal Act, 2001, as amended* to provide measures necessary for the health, safety and well-being of citizens within our jurisdiction.

No Update to Wind Turbine Setbacks

- At current setbacks, a significant number of residents have identified irritation and health impacts. Many have given deputations to MMEWG and its predecessor MMWTWG.
- The derived 550 metre setback was based on audible turbine sound output of early 2000's. Current larger turbines have greater low frequency component and the setback need to be based on the full turbine sound power profile.
- Municipalities know that current setbacks do not protect residents and are resisting new installations until they are fixed.

Repowering of Wind Turbines on Existing Footprints

- 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 fires 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.

Social Implications of Wind Arrays on The Neighbours

- We've heard from citizens impacted in those communities, such as Kingsbridge 1, which is currently under discussion, and, similarly, as arrays such as Acciona Ripley and Enbridge Underwood will come up for extension soon,
- Extending life based on approvals granted 20 years ago for regulations that are not even within today's inadequate regulations should not be a foregone conclusion.

Municipal Support Requirement

- Processes around requests for municipal support need to be clarified for example:
- **Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh** - Clerk advised residents that the municipality has no role in the process when approached by Capital Power to support extension of the contract:

- No public meeting was held with only letters from leaseholders presented in support of change.
- No discussion of compliance with current noise standards, no discussion of fire risk and no clear details on changes proposed provided.
- **Arran-Elderslie** received request for municipal support for a BESS project with **no** supporting details. Municipality provided approval in principle and the IESO has offered a contract to the proponent.
- Review of proposed site indicates that it is in the flood plain for the Saugeen River and the development is unlikely to be supported by the conservation authority.
- Site is also on the boundary between Arran-Elderslie and Chatsworth. Chatsworth will be affected but was not asked for municipal support.
- **City of Ottawa** – considered 4 requests for municipal support for BESS projects and supported one project.
- The IESO issued 2 contract offers including one of the projects that failed to receive municipal support.

Unwilling Host Municipalities

- 155 municipalities have declared themselves to be "Unwilling Hosts" to new wind projects.
- Issue raised by the Deputy Mayor of Southgate in one of the webinars.
- Situation not addressed with wind companies as prospecting continues in Unwilling Host communities.
- MMEWG circulated a letter with a draft unwilling host resolution to all municipalities for consideration and has received copies of resolutions passed by a number of municipalities in support of the MMEWG resolution.

Absence of guidance on BESS safety for municipalities

- Each municipality expected to develop their own assessment of the risks.
- Experience with real emergency situations suggests that setbacks of 800 metres are required.
- MMEWG has solicited input from Ontario Fire Marshall, but received no substantive response. Hydro One has reviewed situation and provided guidance on setbacks needed to protect their infrastructure from fires in BESS projects.
- Depending on small regional fire protection services, such as the Arran-Elderslie volunteer fire brigade to protect the 400 MW array on the ISEO list in Arran Elderslie.
- The siting plan of a BESS array on the border of Owen Sound, near a major public school, the regional hospital, and the Grey County Offices, without notification of Owen Sound or Georgian Bluffs which is responsible for providing fire protection to the area occupied by the project.