

February 1, 2012



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

Fr: Tara Rickaby

Re: Endorsement of County of Huron Resolution re. Low Frequency Noise

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Corporation hereby supports the following resolution, adopted by the County of Huron on 30 November 2011:

THAT:

The recommendation of the Low Frequency Noise (LFN) Committee that their findings and recommendations; be approved;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The recommendation of the Low Frequency Noise (LFN) Committee to circulate their findings and recommendations to all Ontario Municipalities, AMO and ROMA, for endorsement, and to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP), the Provincial Minister of the Environment the Honourable James J. Bradley and the Federal Minister of the Environment the Honourable Peter Kent; be approved.

And further

That Council actively lobbies the Kenora District Municipal Association, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and appropriate Ministries to encourage the development of requirements for proponents of developments which will generate LFN to provide studies by qualified professionals on the pre-development background LFN in the area of the subject property, the modeled additional LFN generated by the project and the anticipated effects of the LFN.

Background:

The County of Huron struck a committee to review and make recommendations on effect and action that may be taken by governments concerning of LFN (Low Frequency Noise).

The Committee reviewed many reports and studies and made several recommendations which the County of Huron has accepted and requested that the Minister of Environment consider.

The current MOE policies require proponents of projects, such as wind farms, to deal directly with the MOE; bypassing the requirement for projects to meet the intent of local planning documents. The following excerpt is from the guide called Provincial Approvals for Renewable Energy Projects (2011):

Renewable energy projects are no longer subject to the Environmental Assessment Act (except for waterpower and transition projects). However, the protections built into the Environmental Assessment process continue in the REA process

Rules regarding setback distances from residences where people reside and other sensitive receptors, as well as environmental features, now apply consistently across the province
Renewable energy projects are no longer subject to land use planning instruments under the Planning Act (e.g. zoning by-laws and official plans)

The more information that the approval authority has, the better the decision will be for all concerned; the developer and abutting property owners/affected parties.

Budget: N/A

Notice: KDMA, NOMA, Sarah Campbell, MPP