

Bluewater Wind Energy Centre



COMMENT FORM • December 6-8, 2011

Your comments will be considered. We are collecting this information to help us understand and address your concerns about the Project. Comments will become part of the public record with the exception of personal information.

1. Did the information presented at the meeting meet your expectations?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

Please explain: _____

2. If you asked questions during the meeting, did you get a satisfactory response?

- Yes
- Didn't speak to anyone
- Somewhat
- No

Please explain: _____

3. After attending the meeting, how do you feel about the Project?

- Supportive
- Undecided
- Undecided and would like more information
- Non supportive

Please explain and let us know what other information you would like to receive: _____

4. What topics would you like to learn more about? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Interests | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Partnerships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic | <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Details |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Health | |

Other: _____



Bluewater Wind Energy Centre

5. Please provide your comments or questions in the space provided below:

If you would like to be kept informed about the status of the Bluewater Wind Energy Project, please provide your contact information below.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

To learn more about the Project, or to send your completed comment form to us, please contact:

Derek Dudek
Community Relations Consultant
NextEra Energy Canada, ULC
5500 North Service Road, Suite 205
Burlington, Ontario L7L 6W6

Toll Free: 1-877-257-7330
Email: Bluewater.Wind@NextEraEnergy.com
Website: www.NextEraEnergyCanada.com

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- No

Please explain: The possibility of changes to the proposed project is worrisome.

2. If you asked questions during the meeting, did you get a satisfactory response?

- Yes
- Didn't speak to anyone
- Somewhat
- No

Please explain: Although the presenters were courteous, they didn't know the whole project.

3. After attending the meeting, how do you feel about the Project?

- Supportive
- Undecided
- Undecided and would like more information
- Non supportive

Please explain and let us know what other information you would like to receive: I'm concerned about the use of prime agricultural land and possible health issues for wind projects.

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- | | |
|--|---|
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5. Please provide your comments or questions in the space provided below:

I'm not convinced these huge turbines are the most efficient means of providing electricity. There are too many people coming forward with health issues from them. These huge transmission lines have health risks and I'm very concerned about the possible proximity to Egmondville. Given a choice - I would prefer to eat than have electricity. Seeing productive farmland gobbled up by these turbines is indeed worrisome. The jobs that are talked about - I don't believe will exist. I'm very concerned about the future of these turbine sights - they are a real eyesore!! Please put a moratorium on this project!!

If you would like to be kept informed about the status of the Bluewater Wind Energy Project, please provide your contact information below.

Name: [Redacted]

Street Address: [Redacted]

City/Province: [Redacted]

Postal Code: [Redacted] Email: _____

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5. Please provide your comments or questions in the space provided below:

My biggest concern is with the transient (STRAY) voltage from above ground transmission lines. There are ways to stop (not mitigate) stray voltage and these should be included in the design layout. Having been affected before, stray voltage was talked about (1980) I know how devastating it can be on animals and it must also affect humans living near ~~from~~ transmission lines. I am not anti turbine but they must not be allowed to create problems for people who have no financial stake in a wind farm

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5. Please provide your comments or questions in the space provided below:

The meeting was well organized and very well-staffed. There were experts in attendance who could address all aspects of the project, and it was never hard to find someone to speak with.

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- Yes
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- No

Please explain: The set up isolates the visitors. Our backs are against the whole group.

2. If you asked questions during the meeting, did you get a satisfactory response?

- Yes
- Didn't speak to anyone
- Somewhat
- No

Please explain: The presenter could not give an answer with authority

3. After attending the meeting, how do you feel about the Project?

- Supportive
- Undecided
- Undecided and would like more information
- Non supportive

Please explain and let us know what other information you would like to receive: This is a misuse of the best farmland in the country. It is not compatible with agriculture, contrary to what is written on the promotional boards.

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- | | |
|--|--|
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Other: _____

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5. Please provide your comments or questions in the space provided below:

As mentioned before this project and the wind turbine project is a misuse of prime agricultural land, a precious resource. These projects whittle away the acres that produce food. If the provincial government had any concern for agriculture in this province they would not have to try to reinvent another industry for economic sustainability. The 50,000 jobs projected are only short term and low paying, really how much does a waitress make? (I suggested job opportunity because of turbine construction). If you can't eat, what good is this "green energy."

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March 14, 2012

Dear Sir/Madame:

Regarding: Comments from the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre Public Meeting

NextEra Energy Canada, ULC (NextEra), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, would like to thank you if you attended the Public Meeting/Drop-in Centre that were held on December 6 and December 7, 2011 for the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre Project. As you may be aware, NextEra commenced the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Process for the Project in accordance with Ontario Regulation 359/09 (O. Reg. 359/09), the environmental regulation governing renewable energy projects in Ontario. Although NextEra is the proponent, the Project will be owned and operated by Varna Wind, Inc., a company wholly-owned by NextEra.

NextEra is seeking a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) for 41 wind turbines; however, only 37 locations will be constructed for the Project. The Bluewater Wind Energy Centre will be located on private land in the Municipality of Bluewater in Huron County, and will include a transmission line extending into the Municipality of Huron East, also in Huron County. The proposed 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line will carry the electricity from the Project's transformer substation in the right-of-way along Centennial and Hensall Road to the existing Hydro One Seaforth Transformer Station.

The purpose of the Public Meetings was to share with you proposed turbine and transmission line locations and to provide you with updated information on the Project based on field studies completed over the summer.

NextEra takes communication with our communities seriously. Our commitment is to communicate openly and honestly with the public while we are developing and constructing the wind generation facilities. We will continue that commitment once the wind energy centre is operational. We want to be the first and best source of information about our Project. We also want to develop and plan in a manner that is consistent with community needs and expectations.

We thank you for your interest in the Project and appreciate your time in providing comments. As a result of the feedback we received, we are pleased to provide you with the following information outlining common comments from the Public Meetings and our responses. It is our intention to provide a summary of these topics to ensure all attendees receive answers to their questions, and the questions posed by other participants. Additionally, we have indicated those reports where specific issues will be assessed through the Renewable Energy Approval submission.

If you have any questions that were not addressed below, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us directly.

Topic	Information
<p>Effects on Agricultural Production</p>	<p><i>Effects on local lands will be addressed in the Construction Plan Report, Design and Operations Report, and the Project Description Report.</i></p> <p>Wind turbines occupy only a small fraction of the land they are sited on. As such, farming and grazing may continue undisturbed. A turbine, in a typical wind farm, including foundation and access roads will use 1.0 – 1.5% of a 40 hectare (approximately 99 acres) farm parcel.</p> <p>NextEra Energy Resources, which includes NextEra Energy Canada, operates over 85 wind farms amidst a variety of agricultural uses and livestock operations. It has not been our project landowners’ experience that wind turbine operations have any negative impact on livestock or crops. Many landowners find that the guaranteed income from hosting a wind turbine helps to stabilize the economics of their operations, and, in some cases, enables a family farm to remain in the family.</p>
<p>Stray Voltage and its Potential Effects on Livestock</p>	<p><i>Stray voltage will be addressed in the Project Description Report and the Design and Operations Report.</i></p> <p>NextEra Energy Canada will design the Project to minimize the risk of stray voltage and to ensure the Project is built and maintained within acceptable levels as prescribed by the Distribution System Code and the Electrical Safety Authority</p> <p>The Project is not proposing to connect to the local distribution system that serves barns and houses in the area, so it will not directly impact that service. However, we will continue to work closely with Hydro One to mitigate any potential impact on local distribution customers should a situation arise. As stated above, NextEra Energy Canada will use best practices and meet all applicable codes to ensure that any impacts to the system are within allowable and safe limits.</p> <p>Most cases of stray voltage occur when there is either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper grounding of on-site equipment (in which case it is an issue with on-site wiring); and, • A change in current patterns on the distribution line, from generation or load that exposes a pre-existing condition (in which case it is an issue with the distribution utility, not with the generator or load). <p>It is important to understand that stray voltage is not a consequence of wind energy, but rather of any project related to wind energy or otherwise, that changes the use pattern of the existing system.</p> <p>The turbines are therefore not the root of the problem, but like any change to the system, may expose faults in that system. All types of generation (electricity generation using wind turbines included) must fully comply with utility requirements to ensure that the electricity they supply is compliant with grid and electrical code standards.</p> <p>Stray voltage problems require on-site inspection for grounding problems, or examination of power quality issues with the distribution utility.</p> <p>If you think you have a stray voltage problem, please contact Hydro One’s Customer</p>

Topic	Information
	<p>Communications Centre at 1-888-664-9376.</p> <p>For additional information on the potential effects of stray voltage on livestock, see the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) website: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/dairy/facts/strayvol.htm</p>
<p>Potential Community Benefits and Profits Remaining in Canada</p>	<p><i>Community Benefits will be addressed in the Project Description Report and the Design and Operations Report.</i></p> <p>Some of the potential community benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Landowners benefit from having a guaranteed source of revenue in addition to agriculture-based, seasonal revenue for hosting a wind turbine or associated infrastructure. This helps stabilize the overall economic prosperity of the community, while allowing traditional land-use practices to continue undisturbed. ○ Municipal governments benefit as wind projects contribute to the municipal tax base while not requiring any municipal services such as water, sewer, road clearing, etc. In addition, the Project will create between 5 and 10 full-time jobs and may result in the location of an Operations and Maintenance Centre in one of the communities to serve the project. ○ In addition to property taxes and the spinoff economic activity generated by these projects, NextEra Energy Canada, ULC (through its project subsidiaries) will establish “Community Vibrancy Funds” in host communities as part of our broader commitment to community engagement. Through this fund, NextEra Energy Canada’s project companies will contribute funds that will be used to the benefit of local residents, supporting community initiatives that would otherwise not be financially feasible through the local tax base. ○ Additionally, NextEra has agreed to hire local suppliers of labour and materials, to the extent available and where competitive for the construction and operation of the Project.
<p>Effects to Wildlife, including Birds and Bats</p>	<p><i>Effects to wildlife will be addressed in the Natural Heritage Assessment and Environmental Impact Study Report which will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for review and sign-off.</i></p> <p>When properly sited, wind turbines present less of a danger to birds than other structures, common to our environment, such as buildings or roads. The location of turbines, as well as numerous other decisions associated with developing our wind farms, are carefully designed to minimize any effects. As part of Ontario's REA process, NextEra Energy Canada is working with experts to assess the potential effects on local wildlife, including birds and bats.</p> <p>As part of the facility siting and pre-construction activities, studies completed by independent consultants help uncover potential issues related to birds, bats and the selected site. Our work plans and results are reviewed by the Ministry of Natural Resources as part of the approval of our REA application.</p>

Topic	Information
	<p>Biologists collect the following information on birds and bats in relation to the Project through field studies and interviews with agencies and environmental organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current use of the area, including important seasonal or specialized wildlife habitats such as migratory bird stopover and staging areas; ○ Threatened and endangered species present in the area; ○ Existing records of species in the area; ○ Potential habitat; and, ○ Potential effects. <p>In addition, biologists assess any nearby wetlands and determine local permitting requirements relating to environmental protection. We avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands, a common habitat for many species of birds, and other environmentally sensitive areas during siting and layout of the Project.</p> <p>Through these efforts, our biologists can identify the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number and type of birds/bats present in the area; ○ Behaviour of birds/bats while they are present in the area; and, ○ Possible risk to birds/bats due to turbine collisions. <p>If issues are identified during the evaluation phase, we take corrective action, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moving proposed turbine locations to avoid significant bird habitats or to reduce potential strikes; ○ Establishing setbacks between turbines and wetlands; and, ○ Avoiding inter-waterway flight paths or sensitive contiguous habitats for grassland birds. <p>NextEra will meet all of the requirements for conducting baseline wildlife, bird and bat studies, as described in O. Reg. 359/09 and set out in guidelines prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources.</p> <p>Finally, the REA submission will include an Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan (EEMP) to monitor potential impacts on bird and bat species during the first three years of commercial operation. The EEMP will summarize potential negative effects; identify performance objectives with respect to the potential negative effects; describe mitigation measures to achieve the performance objectives; and commit to future monitoring to ensure the mitigation measures meet the performance objectives. NextEra will provide the monitoring results to the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and any other relevant agency.</p>
<p>Bat Diets</p>	<p>A question was raised at the open house regarding whether mosquitoes constitute a large percentage of a bat’s diet. After conducting research on the topic, it was determined that while bats are readily opportunistic, meaning they will take advantage of a food source when it is available en masse, mosquitoes, if consumed, would only comprise a very small proportion of a bat’s overall diet.</p>
<p>Wind Turbines Distracting</p>	<p>NextEra is unaware of any issues regarding our wind turbines causing any distraction to drivers. Our Project will follow the guidelines put in place by the Ministry of the Environment regarding setbacks from roads.</p>

Topic	Information
Vehicle Drivers	
Effects on Aerodromes, including Turbulence and Physical Obstructions	<p>NextEra has been conducting consultation with the Centralia/James T. Field Memorial Aerodrome, the Grand Bend Sport Parachuting Centre and other local residents that may have private, unregistered airstrips not covered under federal regulations, to identify any potential turbine siting considerations.</p> <p>NextEra Energy Canada takes matters of public safety very seriously and the issues raised are the kind of valuable input which is sought at public meetings. There are no provincial set backs from registered aerodromes; however, NextEra uses a minimum of 8,000 metre set back from registered aerodromes. NextEra Energy Canada consults with both Transport Canada and Nav Canada on an on-going basis throughout the development process and submits completed Obstruction Clearance forms (Transport Canada) and Land Use Submission forms (Nav Canada) for approval and/or comments.</p>
Potential Effects on Local Views (visual effects)	<p><i>Potential effects on local views will be addressed in the Project Description Report and the Design and Operations Report.</i></p> <p>Visualizations of the proposed turbines within the existing landscape will be presented at the next public meetings. These visualizations will attempt to show the relative size of the turbines in relation to local landscapes. Visual effects are ultimately dependent on the perception of residents and visitors to the presence of turbines.</p>
Health Concerns Related to Wind Turbines	<p>NextEra takes concerns about human health very seriously. Although much has been written about health effects associated with wind turbines, we have found no credible, scientifically peer-reviewed study that demonstrates a causal link between wind turbines and negative health effects. On the contrary, the study “Wind Turbine Sound and Health Effects: An Expert Panel Review” had the following key conclusions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sound from wind turbines does not pose a risk of hearing loss or any other adverse health effect in humans. 2. Subaudible, low frequency sound and infrasound from wind turbines do not present a risk to human health. 3. Some people may be annoyed at the presence of sound from wind turbines. Annoyance is not a pathological entity. 4. A major cause of concern about wind turbine sound is its fluctuating nature. Some may find this sound annoying, a reaction that depends primarily on personal characteristics as opposed to the intensity of the sound level. <p>The full report can be found in the Canadian Wind Energy Association’s website: www.canwea.ca/pdf/talkwind/Wind_Turbine_Sound_and_Health_Effects.pdf and on www.NextEraEnergyCanada.com.</p> <p>In their decision on the Kent Breeze Wind project in Chatham-Kent, the Ontario Ministry of Environment stated:</p> <p><i>“The Chief Medical Officer of Health agreed to undertake a review of existing</i></p>

Topic	Information
	<p><i>information and to consult with the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and local medical officers of health on health effects related to wind turbines. The results of the review and consultation were published on May 20, 2010 and released in a report titled “The Potential Health Impacts of Wind Turbines”. The review concluded that scientific evidence available to date does not demonstrate a direct causal link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects. The sound level from wind turbines at common residential setbacks is not sufficient to cause hearing impairment or other direct health effects, and there is no scientific evidence to date that vibration from low frequency wind turbine noise causes adverse health effects.</i></p> <p><i>Regarding shadow flicker, a common concern is its possible relationship to epilepsy. The Chatham-Kent Board of Health reviewed potential impacts in their report dated June 2008 and stated that ‘The frequency of wind turbines is well below the current known documented threshold for triggering epilepsy symptoms.’</i></p> <p>The American Epilepsy Foundation indicated that flashing lights most likely to trigger a seizure occur at frequencies between 5 to 30 Hertz (Hz). Shadow flicker generated by wind turbines, however, has a frequency well below that level, and ranges from 0.5 to 1.25 Hz.</p> <p>The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection convened an expert panel in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to investigate potential human health effects associated with proximity to wind turbines. The panel, comprised of physicians and scientists, reviewed existing information within their areas of expertise and recently released a report titled Wind Turbine Health Impact Study: Report of Independent Expert Panel, which will be available for public review and comment until March 19, 2012. Some of the key findings are summarized below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There is no evidence for a set of health effects from exposure to wind turbines that could be characterised as “Wind Turbine Syndrome”.” • “Available evidence shows that the infrasound levels near wind turbines cannot impact the vestibular system” [i.e. the system responsible for balance]. • “None of the limited epidemiological evidence reviewed suggests an association between noise from wind turbines and pain and stiffness, diabetes, high blood pressure, tinnitus, hearing impairment, cardiovascular disease, and headache/migraine.” <p>The Province of Ontario has appointed Dr. Siva Sivothythaman at the University of Waterloo as the Ontario Research Chair in Renewable Energy Technologies and Health. This position is dedicated to “actively monitoring and providing the latest in scientific research and data about any possible health impacts of renewable energy.”</p> <p>Finally, NextEra will have a Complaint Resolution Process in place to address any concerns related to the Project, should they arise. This process outlines the steps to be taken to resolve the issue including: contacting the complainant within 24 hours of receiving the complaint to understand and seek a resolution, notifying the Ministry of the Environment of the complaint and filing a Complaint Record, and finally, proposing a face-to-face meeting if the issue cannot be resolved through a phone call.</p>
Health	Most common concerns in regards to transmission lines and health are centered around

Topic	Information
<p>Concerns Related to Transmission Lines</p>	<p>electric and magnetic fields (EMF). EMF is produced by the transmission of electricity and come from any type of electrical equipment, such as televisions, household appliances and transmission lines. Health Canada (2010) has stated that “When you are indoors at home, the magnetic fields from high voltage power lines and transformer boxes are weaker than those from household electrical appliances”. In a recent paper, Israel et al. (2011), measured EMF from a wind farm in Bulgaria and concluded that “Electromagnetic fields are not emitted on the operation of wind turbines or they are so small that they are insignificant compared to the values to be found in other measurements in residential areas and homes. The measured values are much below the national exposure limits, and of the European Council recommendations.”</p> <p>The type of transmission line proposed for the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre is 115 kV. It is anticipated that the transmission line will be mounted on existing hydro poles or on new hydro poles. The poles for the 115 kV line are proposed to be constructed of wood, concrete or steel and will be between 18 and 30 m tall. It is important to note that the proposed transmission line is much smaller than the 500 kV steel lattice-tower transmission line which runs north-south through the study area between Goshen Line and Babylon Line.</p>
<p>Cost of Decommissioning</p>	<p><i>Decommissioning is addressed in the Project Description Report and the Decommissioning Plan Report.</i></p> <p>The cost of decommissioning, which involves dismantling turbines, above-ground electricity poles and the substation, is the responsibility of the Project owner and not the local Municipality or landowners.</p> <p>The plan to address decommissioning becomes part of the Renewable Energy Approval permit for the Project under O.Reg. 359/09. It is a specific report required that will be released in draft for public comment and subsequently filed with the Ministry of Environment as part of the Project’s REA application.</p>

Information on the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre will continue to be updated and posted as the proposed Project progresses. Further information on the Project can be found in the draft Project Description Report (PDR) posted online at: www.NextEraEnergyCanada.com.

If you have any further questions or comments, or if you would like to set up a meeting with the Project team, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-877-257-7330, or by email at Bluewater.Wind@NextEraEnergy.com

Sincerely,
Varna Wind, Inc



Nicole Geneau
Project Director, NextEra Energy Canada, ULC