

Do you want Manitoulin Island Covered with Industrial Wind Turbines??



21 Facts You Should know about Industrial Wind Turbines

1. Regular noise and low frequency noise affect human, wildlife and domestic health. Electrical pollution and effects are becoming more recognized of those living near wind farms.
2. Sleep disturbance is the number one health complaint from victims of wind turbines. This leads to other health issues – a 95% reduction in quality of life of those within 800 m up to 6000 m of wind farms. Mars Hill Maine studies show some symptoms felt in subjects up to 6000 m.
3. The World Health Organization recommends a night time limit inside a home of 30 db. Ontario has 40 db. Turbine projects are allowed to have noise limits at the receptor of up to 51 db as wind speed increases. There are no current methods to measure compliance!
4. Affected public who settle home buyouts compensation are forced to sign non disclosure from wind companies. These are gag orders. This also pertains to lease holders and good neighbour contracts for health etc.
5. Shadow flicker from turbines impacts health and environment; there are no guidelines in Ontario. Residents are boarding windows, moving away, etc. Several homes have been bought out by wind companies.
6. Ice throw in vicinity and blade failure impacts public up to 500 m. Current setback from public, roads, OFSC trails is 55 m. (Blade length plus 10 m.) Liability seems to fall on the landowner who hosts the turbine and not the wind company. Ontario has shortest setbacks to fence lines in the world.
7. Turbine fire cannot be reached to be extinguished releasing toxins into air until burnt out. What would the effect of a catastrophic fire on Manitoulin be?

8. Flashing red lights or white lights on all perimeter turbines and those more than 600 m apart. Larger turbines may all require lighting. There will be no dark night skies on Manitoulin.
9. Noise from transformer station contributes to noise of turbines raising overall noise. Reduced property assessment has been awarded to impacted residents in Ontario. Land is devalued within sight of wind farms. (McCann)
10. Several wind turbine projects or multiple turbines in a project require tower transmission lines with wider right of ways to get the power where it is required. Local projects require power line collector infrastructure. 9% of power is lost in the lines.
11. European decade long studies conclude long term, irreversible destructive effect on habitats. Wildlife more sensitive to several effects of industrial wind turbines. Turbines allowed only 120 m from wetlands and directly in bird flight paths migratory routes.
12. Long turbine blades look slow moving but 45 m blade tip speed is 253 KPH impacting soaring eagles, hawks, owls, vultures and birds, in particular the night flying migratory birds. There is 100% mortality to bats near turbines due to lung decompression.
13. Wind farm companies do not recognize natural and cultural heritage or consultation. Wind farms divide relatives, neighbours and communities. Wolfe Island CBC report
14. Financial gain is for the wind companies and shareholders in secured subsidized contracts . Private companies would not do this without these generous subsidies. The subsidies alone are greater than the entire cost of producing power from conventional.
15. Electricity rates will increase dramatically to pay big subsidies. This will be passed on to all users in delivery and transmission charges. Rate to increase another 45% by 2015. Wind power costs Ontarians 9X more than price obtained when sold to US.
16. Practice shows that wind companies bring in experienced labour from outside. Long term jobs are low wage security patrols. Project construction is short term. Long term negative impacts are on tourism, real estate and retirement living.
17. Deforestation for turbines on 100 acres is approx. 30 acres, plus power line clearing of 10 m using private land, open and unopened road allowances. Do we not care about landscape and view shed impacts? Once built, we cannot go back.
18. Subjecting the fractured limestone escarpment, where many of these IWT's will be built, to blasting and long term vibration may result in unforeseen impacts of ground water supply and quality.
18. Impacts more habitat and agricultural land than the green power it produces. Turbines are 30% efficient and lower. In 2009 the average rated efficiency in Ontario was 27.5 % with approx. 700 turbines. Little wind or too strong, turbines do not produce.
19. On demand backup power is always required . Fossil fuel gas plants are the preferred source. Thousands of subsidized turbines across the province and Great Lakes would be required to back up wind.
20. All this and there is currently a surplus of electricity in the province and the USA is paid to take it. A double hit for Ontario users who pay a high premium to wind companies who produce when the generation isn't required, often don't produce when it is required, but continue to be paid when producing unneeded power. The potential savings from conservation haven't even been considered.
21. When the provincial or local grid goes down, we still will not have power from turbines - as a non utility generation they must disconnect.

Conclusion:

There are other alternative energy sources and options available and more being introduced at an unprecedented rate. Rather than have industrial developments producing so called "green power" that adversely affects health, destroys ecosystems, and changes Manitoulin Island dramatically forever, lets focus on sensible community driven conservation based solutions.

Save the Great Spirit Island Manitoulin Coalition for Safe Energy Alternatives

