

Wind Farm Concerns and Comments
Update - June 2009

Concern:	Comments, Remedies, Action:
<p>What are the impacts on health from noise?</p>	<p>A heated debate about health problems associated from being too close to the turbines is occurring in the media; newspapers, online, YouTube, etc.</p> <p>Honestly, there is so much information circulating about health issues that it is hard to know which side to believe.</p> <p>The Government is armed with studies that claim that they are safe.</p> <p>The wind farm opponents are armed with studies and personal accounts of serious health problems from low level noise and exposure to electromagnetic radiation.</p> <p>We are advised to be cautious. Currently, the distance guidelines from a home to a turbine is 550 Metres. It is widely claimed that locating a turbine close to a residence could cause health problems. Some physicians are recommending 1,000 Metres as a cautious distance. Neither the Ontario Medical Association or the World Health Organization have issued any such recommendations to date, even though wind turbines have been in operation in many countries for over 20 years.</p> <p>So far, we are complying with the existing mandatory Provincial Government's rules on the subject. If credible evidence suggests a greater distance, we will consider voluntarily exceeding the current standards.</p> <p>The north portion of Henvey Inlet Reserve #2 currently identified for the wind farm project is largely uninhabited.</p>

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<p>How long do wind turbines last?</p>	<p>A wind turbine typically lasts around 20-25 years. During this time maintenance is required of course.</p> <p>The very first of the mass-produced turbines celebrated its 20th birthday in May 2000. The Vestas 30kW machine has operated steadily throughout its lifetime, with none of the major components needing to be replaced (British Wind Energy Association).</p>
<p>What is the impact on animals?</p>	<p>Impacts will occur. They are not yet determined. An Environmental Assessment will make recommendations to accommodate wildlife.</p> <p><i>If serious impacts occur that cannot be avoided, the project will not be approved by the Province.</i></p> <p>According to the British Wind Energy Association, wind farming is popular with farmers, because their land around the turbines can continue to be used for growing crops or grazing livestock. They claim that sheep, cows and horses are not disturbed by wind turbines.</p> <p>Like the health issues, there is a lot of controversy about wildlife impacts. Here again we must be cautious. We understand that many activities that do cause serious damage to the environment still pass Environmental Assessments and proceed, so we aren't trying to sweep this important issue under the carpet by saying that we will conduct a study.</p> <p>Projects that pass environmental assessments even though their impacts on the environment are significant and greater than a wind farm include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the new four lane highway replacing highway #69, • the installation of nuclear and coal fired power plants, • flooding of thousands of square kilometers of lands in the north for hydro electric power, • the tars sands, • high voltage transmission lines. <p>Yes, all of these activities have passed Environmental Assessments.</p>

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<p>Employment gains are short term because only a few people with specialized skills from the power company or turbine manufacturer are required for maintenance once the installation is done.</p>	<p>To date, this has been true. We are planning to reverse that trend and prepare our Members to take over servicing in 5 years.</p> <p>In addition, significant direct and indirect employment opportunities in many fields are anticipated. Due to the level of investment in alternative energy, the Province is predicting the creation of about 35,000 jobs per year; 15,500 direct, 11,600 indirect, 8,100 other related jobs in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical mechanics Construction labourers and helpers and managers Machinery Assemblers including: inspectors, electrical appliance, equipment manufacturing Machinists Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers Metalworking machine operators Labourers in metal fabrication Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers Professional, scientific and technical services, financial auditors, accountants Lawyers and administrative clerks <p>The Green Jobs Report is posted on our Wind Farm Project page.</p> <p>Another report titled "CanWea-2015 Detailed Labour Forecast" is also posted.</p>
<p>How many actual jobs will be created and what skills are required?</p>	<p>For Henvey Inlet Members, over 100 jobs could be created in various fields. With proper education and training, servicing and maintenance could be taken over in 5 years, construction jobs will be numerous and tower site preparation and installation could also be taken over in 5-7 years. If the size of the project grows a cement factory will be needed and yard and crane garages and operators will be required. Food, catering, security and site preparation and maintenance jobs will be created. As the project progresses we will begin posting guaranteed jobs well in advance of the opportunity.</p>

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How much money will be made?	With a 200 Mw project (80 turbines) the net income for Henvey Inlet First Nation the first year of operation is estimated at \$12.5 Million. The size of the final project will be different (likely larger) and be directly related to the amount of power available for purchase through the Province's Green Energy Plan and the availability of land.
What spin off benefits can we expect?	<p>Other than the direct and in-direct job opportunities, additional spin off benefits will be gained from Henvey's revenues. How the profits are used is solely up to the Band, meaning both Chief and Council and the Membership collectively.</p> <p>Here are some possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanded Band services, especially in areas of: Health, Education, Elder Services and Support, Youth Services and Support, Language Instruction and retention and Housing to name a few • reinvestment in business expansion • reinvestment in new research and development and business development • some payments directly to Band Members as a "dividend" • fully subsidized hydro bills.
Who is the investor or developer helping us?	<p>The President of 401 Energy has formed a corporation named Wind Dancer Power to enter into a partnership with us. Under the 401 Energy name he has developed 8 projects in Ontario currently in the final stages of development.</p> <p>We are seeking investment funds for our contribution from Senior levels of Government, who have already made commitments, plus private sector sources as required.</p>
How will the Band Membership be prepared for gaining job opportunities.	The decision to participate in upcoming job opportunities is largely personal. The CanWEA report mentioned earlier describes the job categories, skill requirements and educations and training options. Band Education and Training funds are available for Band Members. Some Band Members are already involved or entering education and training programs in the alternative energy industry. The current servicing company for Wind Dancer Power is also planning training programs for servicing.

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Property values could go down due to the negative experiences people have had with turbines situated too close to residences.	This will be examined on a case by case situation. Currently, there are no residences within the mandatory distance limits either on or off the Reserve property.
The sight of the turbines takes away from the landscape.	<p>To many people, they are beautiful and they represent a trend away from the current sources of energy that cause irreparable damage to the environment. They also represent an opportunity for economic self-sufficiency for a community that has been marginalized from the mainstream economy.</p> <p>To others, they destroy the visual landscape by interfering with the view.</p> <p>They do have an impact that will be judged both good and bad by different people.</p>
A Band Member claims that many have regretted the installation of nearby turbines.	<p>We have not gone into this venture without some careful thought. We have found a significant number of people who offer full support to the project and we have consulted individuals from various professions on the viability of the project.</p> <p>So far, only a few Members have submitted or voiced negative or cautionary concerns. These concerns are contained here.</p> <p>We will continue to listen to peoples concerns and try to answer them to the best of our ability.</p> <p>Please, go to our Wind Farm Comment Form and send us your questions or concerns, or let us know if you are in favour of or against the project.</p>