

**Ministry of
the Environment**

Environmental Approvals
Access and Service
Integration Branch

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**Ministère de
l'Environnement**

Direction de l'accès aux
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January 23, 2014

Ms. Bonnie Tuson
tusonacres@yahoo.com

Dear Ms. Tuson:

Thank you for your January 8, 2014 email to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) regarding the Niagara Region Wind Farm proposed by the Niagara Region Wind Corporation (NRWC).

From your email, I understand that you have outstanding concerns regarding the Noise Study Report submitted as part of the Niagara Region Wind Farm application for Renewable Energy Approval (REA).

In order to conduct the Noise Study, the proponent acquires sound power level(s) of the wind turbine(s) proposed for the project from the manufacturer and prepares a noise report in accordance with the "Noise Guidelines for Wind Farms" (2008, Publication #4709e). The MOE requires that the sound power levels are guaranteed by the manufacturer and that these specifications are included in the Noise Study Report.

It is also notable, that approval of REA applications, are usually conditional to an acoustic audit once the facility is constructed. The results of the audit will confirm if the sound power levels used in the approval were suitable. The audit must be performed by an Independent Acoustical Consultant, meaning that the consultant must not represent the proponent of the wind facility and must not have been involved in preparing the Noise Study Report for the REA application.

Thank you for informing the ministry about the German court decision. The ministry has forwarded this information on to our Standards Development Branch for their consideration. The ministry has accepted the Niagara Region Wind Farm as complete as the application included the information required to undertake a technical review of the application. The ministry will assess the impacts of the proposal including the height of the wind turbines as part of its technical review of the application.

As you are aware, at this stage in the REA process, the ministry is accepting public comments concerning the proposed Niagara Region Wind Farm through the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry (www.ebr.gov.on.ca) until February 1, 2014 (EBR Registry #012-0613).

The EBR Registry was created under Ontario's *Environmental Bill of Rights*, 1993 and its purpose is to ensure that the public can participate in government decisions concerning environmental issues. The Registry accepts public comments such as yours, which are

considered prior to making decisions on applications. While the ministry does not provide individual responses to public comments during the technical review of REA applications, public concerns and comments are summarized and published as part of the Instrument Decision Notice for each application on the EBR Registry.

Please note that your submission will be forwarded to the project evaluator for consideration during the technical review of REA application for the Niagara Region Wind Farm. Should you have any further comments regarding the Niagara Region Wind Farm application for REA, please submit these through the EBR Registry.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the attention of the ministry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Agatha Garcia-Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Agatha Garcia-Wright
Director (Acting)
Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch