

RE: Energy | April 25, 2018

From: "Whittington, Margot (MOECC)" <margot.whittington@ontario.ca>
To: "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>, "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Cc: "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Milner, Anna (MOECC)" <anna.milner@ontario.ca>
Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2018 08:06:16 -0400

ISSUE : Rick Nicholls is tabling legislation today that would prohibit non-disclosure clauses as part of leases signed with landowners to have wind turbines built on their properties.

He claims the non-disclosure agreements are done intentionally to prevent residents from talking to third parties about health hazards and pollution connected with the building of these wind farms. He mentioned the **North Kent** turbines in Chatham-Kent as an example of turbines impacting public health.

Coverage : The Chatham Daily News, London Free Press

Wind Turbines and Public Health

- We take all public concerns very seriously – especially health-related concerns.
- Our priority is to protect public health and the environment by ensuring compliance with the ministry's stringent rules and requirements.
- While we take health-related concerns very seriously, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has concluded there is no direct causal link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects.
- Preliminary findings and peer reviewed results from the Health Canada Community Noise and Health Study do not support a link between wind turbine noise and health impacts.
- The ministry has taken a very cautious, science-based approach to ensure wind projects and noise limits are protective of human health and well-being.

OPPOSITION:

- Mr. Speaker, there is not a single renewable energy project that the PC's have ever spoken in support of here in the house...
- They have no plan to help Ontarian families and businesses make sustainable choices at lower costs
- Our government is committed to the path to a cleaner future
- Thanks to clean air and clean energy, Ontario has saved more than **\$4 billion** in annual health and environmental costs

- Unlike the PC's, we know we can't sit idly by.

North Kent Turbines:

- The ministry takes concerns regarding groundwater quality very seriously and is actively holding the company accountable for addressing complaints related to changes in well water quality.
- The ministry has undertaken a review of water quality data to ensure residents that their water is safe to drink.
- Thus far, the analysis has not shown a connection between water quality and construction activity.
- The company has informed the ministry that they are working with homeowners where they are supplying alternate water supplies to **provide and pay for a licensed well contractor to inspect their wells and answer any questions they have.**
- The ministry had a productive meeting with representatives from **Water Wells First** two weeks ago. At the meeting, ministry staff shared the results of the ministry's extensive testing.
- Again, after thorough testing, the ministry has found **no evidence** of any ongoing or permanent impact to water quality related to wind turbine construction in the area.
- Additionally, the Chatham-Kent Medical Officer of Health has confirmed the water particulates do not pose a health risk to residents.
- **We will require the company to continue to monitor well impacts closely during the operation of the turbines.**
- We take the concerns of the complainants very seriously, and we will continue to work with the municipality and the proponent on this matter to ensure residents of the area have safe water to drink.
- As always, we will continue to ensure all renewable energy projects are protective of the environment and human health.

From: Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)

Sent: April-25-18 8:02 AM

To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management

Cc: Whittington, Margot (MOECC); Berry, James (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Caldwell, Zachary (MAG)

Subject: Energy | April 25, 2018

Good morning,

Please find below Energy's messaging for the day:

1) MPP Nicholl's bill introduction

Key Messages

- Large-scale wind energy projects in Ontario are subject to the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) regulation, which includes minimum setbacks for wind energy projects, environmental studies and community consultation requirements.

Unwilling Host Communities

- When communities expressed concerns to us about the procurement process for large renewable energy projects, we listened.
- In 2014, the competitive Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) process replaced the Large Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program for future renewable energy projects.
- As a cornerstone of the first round of the LRP process (LRP I), mandatory engagement requirements facilitated early relationship-building between project developers and local communities.
- Of the 16 contracted LRP I projects, more than 80 percent included participation from one or more Indigenous communities, including five projects with more than 50 percent Indigenous participation.
- In addition, 75 percent of the successful LRP I projects received support from local municipalities and more than 60 percent had support from abutting landowners.
- LRP I proponents were required to engage with municipalities and take into account local needs and considerations before proposals were submitted. Our goal was to provide municipalities with a stronger role going forward, but not to provide a veto.
- We know that when municipalities play an active role in the renewable energy development process, they help to ensure that renewable energy projects meet local needs.

2) Coverage on the Winter Disconnection ban ending

- Last winter our government passed legislation that granted the province's independent energy regulator the power to end all winter disconnections and protect Ontarians, because no one should ever be put at risk of disconnection in the winter.
- Our priority is to make sure families and businesses have access to clean, reliable, and affordable electricity.
- While the ban on winter disconnections ends on April 30, there are a number of government programs designed to help reduce the cost of electricity bills for vulnerable consumers.
- We encourage all customers to contact their local utility about qualifying for programs that are in place to help.
- For example, our government expanded electricity support programs such as the Ontario Electricity Support Program and the Rural and Remote Rate Protection

Plan, which provide support to low-income customers and those customers with the highest delivery rates. These customers are seeing savings of up to 40 to 50 per cent off of their electricity bills.

- In prioritizing affordability, we also moved forward with the Fair Hydro Plan last year, which has lowered hydro bills by an average of 25 per cent for all residential consumers, and as many as half a million small businesses and farms.
- This is the largest rate reduction in Ontario's history, and any increases to electricity rates will be held to the rate of inflation for four years.

Have a great day,

Kevin Den Heijer | Legislative Assistant & Issues Manager

Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy

900 Bay Street | Hearst Block | 4th Floor

T: (416) 314-0704 M: (647) 618-6948