

20 December 2019

Mr. Dale E. Thompson
Environmental Assessment Officer
Dept of Environment, Water and Climate Change
Environmental Land Management
Government of PEI
4th Floor, Jones Building
11 Kent St,
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
DETHOMPSON@gov.pe.ca

CC: Premier of Prince Edward Island
The Hon. Dennis King
Premier@gov.pe.ca

CC: Hon. Matthew McKay
Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture
MinisterEGTC@gov.pe.ca

CC: David Groom
Chair, Tourism PEI Board of Directors
DeptECO@gov.pe.ca

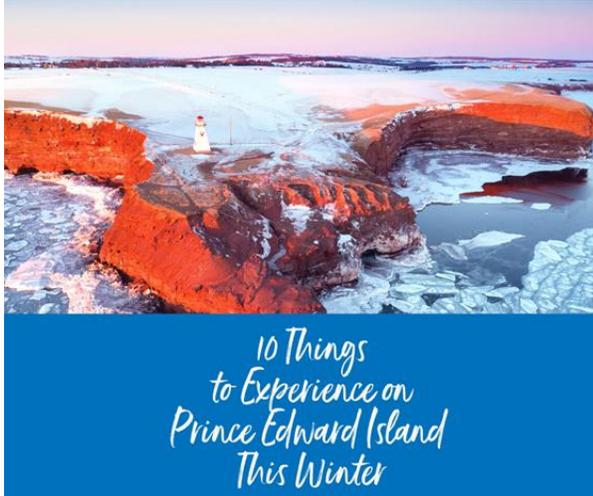
Dear Mr. Thompson:

I understand you are conducting the environmental review for the proposed PEI Energy Corp's Eastern Kings Wind Farm expansion in the Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings.

I just received the Tourism PEI email for 18 December 2019. You can view it here, if you wish: <https://mailchi.mp/tourismpei/come-find-your-island-1119021?e=a0b5dbb686>
The very pretty pictures in the email caught my eye, as they showcased the wonderful images of your island, urban and rural. I also noticed that none of them featured wind power turbines, strangely.

(Full disclosure: as you will see below, I live in the Niagara Region of Ontario, where wind turbines have been an unfortunate fact of life now for some years. I have visited PEI several times, and I have family living in the directly-affected area in Kings County. This does give me the perspective of knowing the area where the wind turbines are being planned for, and the ability to comment on the effects.)

One of the headlines in the email from your government mentioned "10 Things to Experience on Prince Edward Island This Winter". Again, not one of them promotes



going and looking at a wind power turbine. In fact, it is just the opposite – the stunning scenery, lighthouses and wildlife.

It talks of Christmas lights in North Rustico.

It shows snowmobiles dodging pine trees, not power turbine windmills.

It shows a treetop haven.

It talks of smelt fishing.

It certainly does not talk of wind turbines.

PEI is not a big island. You can drive the length of it in just a few hours. It really does not have the mass to absorb the visual pollution of the monstrous wind turbines being proposed, especially in the flatter terrain of Kings County, when you consider they are in addition to the 10 smaller ones already installed (by the way, they are visible on satellite images from space via Google Earth). They will over-dominate the landscape and imperil the amazing views that residents cherish and which attract over 1.5 million visitors annually from around the globe.

If the views are ruined – which they can't but be – the quality of life of residents will be significantly reduced and the reasons that visitors come to PEI for will be gone. I find it hard to believe that is the wish of the provincial government, which spends millions promoting PEI as one of the world's great tourist destinations, which is based almost solely on the incredible landscape and views. I don't think a 60-story building would be approved for East Kings and yet similar-sized wind turbines are being planned.

I can only imagine what these wind turbines will do to the natural environment where they are located. Wind turbines are hardly benign sources of "free" energy. Here is what one major study concluded: <https://scitechdaily.com/wind-farms-cause-more-environmental-impact-than-previously-thought/> At best, wind turbines only displace pollution to where the raw materials are dug up in huge open-pit mines, and processed in large factories, most often in places with minimal environmental standards. At worst, they destroy the natural landscape they are installed on. Unfortunately, that is the usual outcome and will almost certainly be the outcome in East Kings – yet another blight for residents and guaranteed deterrent to tourism.

Here where I live, wind turbine industrial lands are clear-cut, with enormous **950m³** concrete pads poured to support the 130 metre towers: https://www.lafarge.ca/sites/canada/files/atoms/files/project_spotlight_-_niagara_wind_farm.pdf . These towers, which used to be the tallest in Canada as I understand it, are much shorter than the ones proposed for PEI, so you can only imagine the concrete and other materials needed to install them. It boggles the mind.

Additional lands are clear cut to accommodate the infrastructure that goes with the turbines – power line zones, the towers for the lines, and so on. They are an environmental disaster – and are much smaller than the behemoths being proposed for eastern PEI.

Good farm land has been erased from the land inventory forever, because the incredible Niagara topsoil was trucked away. Most environmental considerations were waived by the provincial government for these projects. This is foodland lost, for wind turbines that were never necessary and never economically viable. This required the former Ontario government to give them very high guaranteed prices subsidized by the Ontario taxpayer and costing Ontario power consumers an extra 37 BILLION dollars in unnecessary Hydro fees: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontarians-paid-37-billion-above-market-price-for-electricity-over-eight-years-ag/article27560753/> This was a major factor in the defeat of the government of Kathleen Wynne.

As I understand the current proposal in PEI, this latest wind turbine project will require large areas – upwards of 400 hectares - of natural marshland to be filled in. This equates to about 495 football fields in area. I am sure you are aware of the many, many benefits of natural marshland, from flood control, water conservation, water purification and of course, incredible wildlife habitat. Destruction of this type of natural feature is definitely not in keeping with modern conservation practice. In fact, it is the very opposite of conservation, and more importantly, is irreversible.

Still with the environment, people in the vicinity of our windmills here (keeping in mind they are much smaller than those proposed in PEI) report some strange ailments since the towers became operational.

https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/inspection/wind-turbines.aspx

http://health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/wind_turbine/wind_turbine.pdf

While current scientific reports indicate no direct causal link to wind turbines, the fact remains these people are truly ill and no report yet can pinpoint the cause. It should be noted that many years ago, some movies were produced in “Sensurround”, an ultra-low frequency process to enhance the effect of the movie -

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sensurround> . I have been actually present while watching the movie, Earthquake, in Sensurround, when some patrons became physically ill in the theatre from the effect.

In summary, I see nothing in these wind turbines that can't be obtained via the mainland or more reliable sources, and I see much that will be lost by erecting these incredibly huge blights. **To put it bluntly, Prince Edward Island has alternatives to these wind turbines via the Maritime electric grid, but has NO alternatives to the unique scenic, natural and cultural losses they will cause if approved.**

PEI is not just a province. It is the Cradle of Confederation. It is iconic in the Canadian pantheon. While ultimately it must be managed for the people who live there, all of Canada has a stake in it, and any defacement is like vandalism to a beloved home.

In straightforward economics, buying needed power from the mainland from established and proven infrastructure must be less than the cost of erecting these enormous towers at tens of millions of dollars each – or more, especially when you know their power will be as intermittent as the wind needed to move such monsters and therefore unreliable.

When they don't generate electricity, it must still be obtained elsewhere. It would seem to be better to contract for a reliable continuous source at known rates and avoid Ontario's great mistakes. It would seem prudent to take steps to protect the PEI tourism industry and its valuable offshoots. It would seem prudent to take the needed steps to protect the natural environment in such a small space. It would seem prudent to respect the resident's interests.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Fletcher", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Fletcher
32 Baker Rd N
Grimsby, ON L3M 2X1

905-945-0914