

Harvey, Marie-Josée (BAPE)

De:

Envoyé:

À:

Objet:

- Bayesian Filter detected spam

David van Vliet

Toronto, 27 March 2011

Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement
Attention: Monique Gélinas
575 Rue Saint-Amable, bureau 2.10
Québec, G1R6A6

Re: Mémoire against the Wind Farm project in Saint-Valentin, Québec

Dear Monique,

Thanks for giving me an opportunity to say a few words about the proposed wind turbine park in Saint-Valentin, Quebec.

Originally I am from the country which is famous for their once cute little windmills pumping water from lower elevation land to keep dry feet. It is a unique, typical Dutch sight. Over the years, easier, more economic means were found to keep the water out, and most wind mills are kept to sustain them as monuments and remind us of times passed.

In 2004 I immigrated from the Netherlands to Canada to follow professional pilot training. I was introduced to Canada as a young boy visiting my family's farm in Saint-Valentin. Ever since then I developed an admiration for the country and the opportunities it offers to young individuals. Until April 2010, me and my wife, who recently completed her PhD in Astrophysics, lived in Winnipeg where I worked as a flight instructor and later airline pilot. Since last year I have been employed as a pilot with Porter Airlines, currently based in Toronto.

The area around Saint-Valentin offers many benefits to young families. It's close to Montreal, real estate prices are favorable for starters on the market, and the area offers a unique mix of nature and farmland. We have always seen this area as a possible place to settle down.

When we learned about the plans to start wind farm parks in the area we both realized that we will likely have to change those plans. We both know that wind farming companies like to pursue what any company does to survive: expand. The problem with wind farming is that it negatively impacts (read: destroys) the typical characteristics of an area. I would like to name the wind turbine park on Wolfe Island for example. On clear weather days when I fly between Toronto and Montreal, and I look to my right as we pass by Canada's monument city Kingston, even from 8 kilometers above the earth's surface the white poles stand out. It's nothing more than 'horizon pollution'. Wind Parks in the area around

2011-03-28

Saint-Valentin will be detrimental to the future of the area.

Quebec has natural resources many other countries are jealous of. The hydro power system supplies most of the energy in Quebec. The installment of wind parks is only a way to make the province appear environmental, or 'green' like some people call it. Obviously we overlook the fact that it isn't so environmental to produce and install a wind turbine.

Canadian provinces and countries around the world using wind created energy often shut down their own main supply of energy so to enhance their wind turbines. This makes them appear creating 'green energy'. But does this practice not defeat the real purpose? It doesn't take an expert to find out on, for example, wikipedia that wind energy is responsible for a very small account of the total energy generation in Quebec. It's hydro system itself suffices.

Wind turbine parks ruin the looks of any area both during day and night. From a pilot's perspective I would like to add that any obstacle in Canada over 300 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) requires alternating red lights. When the blades have stopped spinning, the night sky will still be polluted with red flashing lights to warn pilots of 'green' energy obstacles.

I am putting up the red light against this project. It defeats the purpose of creating energy. We should only create energy within our means. There's no need to re-invent the wheel in Quebec, and in all of Canada for that matter. There is many better, more efficient and greener alternatives to wind energy, and Quebec already uses one of these alternatives.

Sincerely,

David van Vliet