

Shé:kon/Greetings,

My name is Tammy Delaronde. I am a Mohawk of Kahnawake and a member of the wolf clan. I currently work as a Business Services Officer (BSO) at Tawatohni'saktha, the Kahnawake Economic Development Commission.

I am writing to express my opinion about the wind farm project being developed by Kahnawake in Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville. This is an ideal project for all parties involved, as it has the potential to generate millions of dollars for the communities of Kahnawake, Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville, as well as the individual land owners over the 20 year contract with Hydro Quebec. This much needed revenue will assist our community in funding services that have previously not been funded or are currently underfunded such as infrastructure development, promotion of language and culture, minor sports, and programming for youth and elders just to name a few. I was pleased to learn that between 50 and 75 jobs will be created by the project. Kahnawake and Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville iron workers can fill the positions required to erect the turbines. This would help to further stimulate the economies of both communities.

Wind energy is also a clean form of energy production, unlike the hydroelectric dams built in Northern Quebec. These dams forced the Cree communities in the area to be relocated, taking them away from their traditional hunting grounds. It also poisoned the waters and fish with Mercury, rendering the fish inedible. As Mohawks of Kahnawake, we respect and value the bounty of nature that our Mother Earth has given us including the plants, trees, water, and animals. The wind energy is clean and will allow us to prosper without adversely affecting our Mother Earth. As well, little development of the Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville site is needed, as there are only 8 turbines to be erected and the network of roads already exists. The Saint Cyprien-de-Napierville site is also ideal for the wind energy project due to the availability of wind and the direct connection that can be made to the existing Hydro Quebec grid.

Though the turbines are large, I have grown accustomed to seeing those located in St-Remi. They're very sleek-looking and blend in with the land-scape. I personally jog on their extensive bike path along Route 207. I must say that I don't even hear the turbines. The vehicles passing along the highway are the nuisance. They're also located on farm land and not directly adjacent to residential areas. I was pleased to learn that the turbines in Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville will be situated more than 750 meters away from homes and in most cases, the homes will be more than 1 km from the turbines. They therefore won't pose a problem to the residents. Best of all, the turbines can be dismantled and removed if necessary after the 20 year contract with Hydro Quebec is over.

I would like to recommend that the wind energy project in Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville be approved as is. It is beneficial to both the economies of Kahnawake and Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville. It is a clean energy source and little development of the proposed site is needed. The site has adequate wind and the turbines will be located in excess of acceptable distances away of residential areas. Kahnawake has the St. Lawrence Seaway, Mercier Bridge, CP Railway, Highways 132 and 138, Route 207, and Hydro towers all sitting directly adjacent to homes and schools. We've adjusted!

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