

MEMOIRE

SOUMIS AU

BUREAU DES AUDIENCES PUBLIQUES SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

CONCERNANT LE PROJET DE PARC EOLIEN DE ST-CYPRIEN

PAR

GERMAINE ET HEINRICH MORF

RESIDENTS DE LACOLLE

(Page 1 de 5)

My husband and I are residents of Lacolle. We have lived here since 1973. We purchased a farm here because we loved the area. The more we worked to improve this farm (fields, buildings and the planting of at least 2,000 trees), the more we have come to love our place.

In 2006, we started thinking of retiring. Our children were all grown and had moved away. We needed to decide if we would stay or move on. In the end it was impossible to move away from here. We continue to love this region; we have wonderful friends and neighbors and are involved in clubs and activities.

We decided to stay, and took on the huge project of building a new house. We had already cut logs from our forests for many years and now were ready to put them to use.

The views from the windows of our old house were so pleasing to us, that we decided to build again on the same spot. This time we added windows upstairs facing the west, a view we had never had before, but were delighted to have this time around.

The last thing we did was build a large terrace to the east of the house. From here we have a peaceful view of our fields. It is a wonderfully sunny spot in the morning, shaded in the afternoon and blissfully dark in the evening.

We spend our spring, summer and fall in our vegetable gardens and flower beds, tending to our animals and making hay. In the winter, we work in the forest, cutting our firewood.

It was heartbreaking when we found out that there was a windmill project planned for St-Valentin. Two large structures were to be erected just 750 meters to the east, right at the border of our land, and two more to the north of us. These huge structures would be our view from our terrace: noise, blinking red lights and constant movement.

We started gathering information about the project and projects in other areas. The more we learned, the more we were convinced we did not want this to happen. How could it be possible that such unbelievably monstrous structures would be erected in our area? How could we be expected to live in their shadows?

We attended many information meetings and always came away more discouraged.

Health concerns were uppermost on our minds. We are self-sufficient on our farm. We keep a cow for our dairy needs, a steer, some pigs and capons for our meat, chickens for our eggs. We grow all our vegetables. We do this all because we care about our health. In building our house, we were careful to use non-toxic materials.

There seems to be no consideration of humans having to live in close proximity to these industrial windmills. The government agency that addresses this just denies that there are any real concerns, and yet with each new park that goes up, there are people who end up with problems, people who can no longer stay in their homes.

We spoke to one woman in Ontario who was in favor of the wind park going up around her home. She and her husband thought it was a wonderful environmental project. She said that the day they turned on those turbines was the day she and her husband realized they were wrong. They could no longer enjoy working out in their gardens because of the noise. She found that her allergies were much worse. Children in the neighbourhood started having nightmares. She said: "What am I supposed to do now? Who would buy my house?"

People always claim that only those who are opposed to the projects are the ones who experience problems after. That is simply not true.

There are groups of citizens that now are forced to go to court because they are experiencing problems living in close proximity. At the BAPE the promoters claim to have a comity that will deal with any problems that arise. This obviously does not work if court action has to take place. What would such a group do anyway if citizens are sensitive to the noise or vibrations? How many houses are they prepared to buy? Why should these people be forced from their homes?

We have driven through areas in the US where there are windmills on each side of the highway. I was not aware until we were well clear of the area and felt a huge tension leave my body. I hadn't realized that my body was under such tension while we were passing the project site.

In learning about the St-Valentin project, we were incensed to find out that because of the proximity of the turbines, we would be losing the right to build on our property and lose the freedom of planting trees. Having our rights taken away because other land owners signed contracts in which we had no say is unacceptable.

The good news was that we were able to stop the St-Valentin project. The bad news is that now we have to start all over again with the St-Cyprien project, which is to the west of our farm!

We are told that because this is a different project, that everything has to be done all over again. For us and our neighbors, the problem is the same! Health, noise, visual pollution, vibration, danger to our wonderful flocks of geese in spring and fall, loss of the right to build

and plant trees because of the close proximity of the windmills. It is all the same, just a different direction.

How could the government be putting us in such a situation again? The land owners that signed to have these structures and their 'big payouts' sit back laughing, while the rest of us who would be forced to live with them have to take up the battle again.

The majority of people here are very tired of this. We have said that we don't want to live in industrial wind parks. We have put huge efforts into getting this across to the promoters and to the government. Why is no one listening?

We implore you to stop this project in St-Cyprien. Please do not put us through what other citizens are now going through; having to go to court because of the problems caused by these turbines. Please just let us live in peace.

Germaine and Heinrich Morf

THE END

PAGE 5

GERMAINE AND HEINRICH MORF

LACOLLE , QUEBEC

JOJ 1JO