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Mémoire concernant le projet d'implantation d'éolienne a Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville

Saint-Bernard de Lacolle,

June 11, 2015

My name is Nathalie Lavictoire and I reside in Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle since 2007. Prior to buying our home, my husband and I agreed that the most important criteria would be our environment. We enjoy nature and wildlife and made sure we would live as far away from power lines, telecommunication towers and industrial farming. Preferably an environment, that would be quiet, serene and with scenic panorama. After two years of searching for the right location, our family settled here in St- Bernard and wish to remain here for good.

Needless to say, I have many reservations concerning the industrial wind power project that has been proposed in Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville.

To begin with, the wind turbines are definitely not quiet; they are disruptive to humans and wildlife and far from picturesque.

Why implant an industrial wind power park on the best farm land in Quebec? Les "jardins de Napierville" are one the best agriculture land that supplies food for most of the province. Only two percent of Quebec's territory is suitable for farming, it is essential to conserve and protect our heritage. Furthermore, there is the possibility that wind power can dry out land causing crops to wilt and affect the ecosystem living under the turbines. Adding irrigation system would be required to prevent draughts which will increase the cost of the crop.

Since the wind park project was announced, residents from Saint-Cyprien and of the surrounding boroughs have opposed to having a wind farm next to their homes. The industrial wind turbines will be installed on the borders of communities such as Lacolle, Saint-Valentin and Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle. Very few accept this project yet the Quebec government seems to considerably promote wind parks near residential areas. I have nothing against wind power however we need to address some concern since there is conclusive evidence that there are health risks living close to wind turbines.

KSE will install their wind turbines at a distance of 765m from residences. However according to Dr. Nina Pierpont's research, there is several health risks associated to living in the vicinity of the wind turbines and most particularly those who live within a 2 km radius. Part of Dr. Pierpont research on low frequency noise (LFN) explains how although inaudible, LFN travels up to 10km and have a negative impact on health.

*"The low frequencies sounds travels further than higher frequencies sound (Sheperd and Hubbard, 1991), and can penetrate structures such as homes without much reduction in energy (Moller and Pedersen, 2011). Inside the home, low frequency sound can cause objects to vibrate or rattle (ANSI, 2005)."*

Exposure to low frequencies noise emitted from the wind turbine causes wind turbine syndrome (WTS).

*"WTS is the clinical name Dr. Nina Pierpont has given to the constellation of symptoms experienced by many (not all) people who find themselves living near industrial wind turbines". Some of the symptoms are: headache, sleep disturbance, tinnitus, ear pressure, dizziness, nausea, visual blurring, tachycardia, irritability, lack of concentration, panic episodes associated with sensations of internal pulsation or quivering, which arise while awake or asleep"*

Within 10km, from the Saint-Cyprien wind park there are schools, daycare, retiring homes, businesses and residences. Are we willing to put all these people at risk?

In Wisconsin, the State has enabled citizens who live within 2.4km from a wind park to sue developers for health problems related to WTS. Here is the link to the Senate Bill 167:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/proposals/sb167>

We need to be aware and responsible of the health hazards living in proximity of a wind park. Are KSE and Hydro-Quebec ready to accept responsibility for any health problems that can arise in the future?

I am also apprehensive of the wind turbines impact on wildlife, especially bats and birds. The blades from the turbines will not only disrupt wildlife but will kill countless birds, bats and insects.

For my last point, I will portray how by living near a wind park, your home will lose value.

According to the study, Appraisal Group One conducted in Wisconsin (Wind turbine impact study 2009) wind turbine parks have a negative impact on residential property value. The loss of value on residential properties may vary from 24% to 43% depending on proximity to the wind turbines. Whether a residential property is vacant or not the results are the same.

Chris Luxemburger of Groupe Sutton in Ontario also conducted a study (Living with the impact of windmills) also confirmed that living inside or near a wind power park will affect a loss of value on residential properties. Homes inside the zone were sold on average 48 000\$ less and were on the market for twice as long.

In addition, I am very alarmed about the loss of property value of my home. Being near a wind park makes a home less valuable and more difficult to sell. Properties have lost value being near a wind farm. An Ontario court of justice acknowledges the problem with properties located near industrial wind farms. These properties were losing 22% to 55% of their evaluation. Here is the link to the article:

<http://www.farms.com/ag-industry-news/ontario-court-says-wind-turbines-reduce-property-values-882.aspx>

Nick Collins wrote in the Telegraph July 2012:

*"In the U.K, wind farms can bring down property prices and government officials have accepted after downgrading the official valuation of several homes, close to turbines. The decisions by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to move certain houses close to wind farms into lower council tax bands are the first official recognition that the turbines can lower the value of nearby homes."*

Essentially if property evaluation drops, the community will make less on municipal taxes, and that will cancel out any compensation from the wind park promoter.

In conclusion, I believe that the implantation of the wind energy park would be better suited in a non-residential and non-agricultural area. That further studies should be done on the effects of noise and the health problems that results from it. I believe that Saint-Cyprien is not a suitable location and therefore I strongly oppose this project.

Thank you,

Nathalie Lavictoire

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