



Spring 2017 Newsletter

Reporting Your Concerns

UPDATE

In previous editions of our newsletter, we've advised anyone living near one of the turbines to report any problems you may encounter to the Ministry of the Environment's (MOECC) spills action centre phone line. It's toll free at **1-800-268-6060**. Although this is called the "spills" phone line, **all complaints** to the MOECC can be channeled through this service.

It's available 24/7 and when you call, you will be directed to voice mail where you can leave a detailed recording.

Leave your name, address, and phone number with some details of your complaint.

Remember this information will be kept confidential. A follow-up will happen only if you request it. Your complaint will be put in a database.

If you're experiencing the same issue on a regular basis, **report each incident EACH time it occurs**. 20 calls will carry more weight than one angry call after many days of disturbance. This is important information for the MOE to determine the extent of the problem. If you only report it once, it will be treated as an isolated incident and may not receive the attention it requires. If you don't report any problems you're experiencing, the project operators and the MOECC will claim all is well. If you have any questions, you can contact us at **feedback@wait-pw.ca**

Raptor Kill Exceeded at Cedar Point Project

Community input through the CLC meetings (Community Liaison Committee) has concluded. The fifth and final public meeting was held on December 6th, 2016.

[Check out the postings on the Cedar Point project here:](#)

[This is a summary of the final CLC meeting minutes:](#)

Highlights of the Dec 6 2016 CLC meeting:

The threshold for raptor mortalities was exceeded last year. Exact numbers were not provided at the meeting, but an annual report is provided to the MNR by March 1 following each year of monitoring, at which time public summaries will be made available. Whether those numbers are published, or simply provided on request, is not certain. The "allowable" mortality rate is 14 birds/turbine/year and 10 bats/turbine/year. For raptors, it is 0.2 raptors/turbine/year, which means that greater than 9 raptors were killed between May 1 - November 30 last year. Since raptors also migrate to our region for the winter months, the number of raptors killed is likely higher than what is being reported. Through the Freedom of Information Request, it was discovered that 3 adjacent turbine project areas also exceeded their "allowable" mortality rate

for raptor kills.

Raptor kill exceeded in 2016 count – [Observer article:](#)

The issue of how these mortality rates are compiled has been a concern for members of the community, as indicated in the minutes of several CLC meetings. For instance, the search area for bird kills is 50m wide (as per MMRF guidelines) around each turbine selected for the count. But the blades themselves are 50 metres long, so birds may be flung much farther, injured birds may move to a sheltered area for refuge, but still die from their injuries, or there is always the issue of scavenger numbers not all being counted. Only 14 turbines are monitored, but final numbers are worked to consider variables on a project-wide basis.

[Objections to the original bird count study Observer article: \(106 comments posted\)](#)

As well, there has been some community frustration in the fact that the mortality monitoring runs from May 1st to October 31st (a month longer for raptors), but this time frame does not account for most migrating birds that are in the area in great numbers long before May. Because of this, potentially hundreds of different species of migratory birds will simply not be accounted for due to Post Fatality Monitoring only occurring between May – October annually. Residents used tundra swans as the example, **however, the concern is not exclusive to tundra swans.**

<http://www.theobserver.ca/2017/03/14/more-than-180-birds-banded-during-the-inaugural-sarnia-park-event-in-2016>

Though Suncor expressed confidence in the methodology that was established during the project's preconstruction phase, some community members felt that the methodology was flawed, that year-round wildlife monitoring was warranted, and that working with MNRF limits was simply aiming for the minimum of standards required by regulations. Suncor stood firm in their opinion, confident of the advice of their professional biologists, that it is unnecessary to extend the monitoring periods they have outlined. Monitoring is conducted in accordance to REA (Renewable Energy Approvals) and MNRF requirements for a minimum of 3 years.

Tundra Swans

Tundra swans returned early this year, pre-empting the annual "Return of the Swans" Festival that is normally held at the Lambton Heritage Museum in mid-March. Migration periods fluctuate between late January and early April, but never after May 1st when fatality monitoring begins.



[Read Article](#)



Community members took these pictures of returning Tundra Swans in February, just west of Forest, Ontario. The hundreds of swans (200-300 by the photographer's estimate just in these photos) make their way to fields to rest before continuing their long journey northward. In the background you can see the turbine threat that looms in their path. This is a detailed study of how swans and geese are known to collide with wind turbines -

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.833.8824&rep=rep1&type=pdf>



The area of the Cedar Point Wind Project has always been home to various raptors, but we have noticed greater numbers of bald eagles in Plympton-Wyoming. The pictures above are of both mature and immature eagles, indicating that they are nesting and remaining in the area year-round. Pictures were taken in the Sunset Acres subdivision in February 2017.

An Update on the Shawn and Tricia Drennan Case in Huron County

The Goderich Superior Court Room was filled to capacity when Shawn and Trish Drennan went to Court on January 19th to reverse the negative impact that the 140 Industrial Wind Turbine Project (K2), two transformer stations and several transmission lines have on their family, home and their Heritage Farm operation. [Read More:](#)

The Drennans are still awaiting a judgement that would allow them to move forward in finding a remedy for the harm they have experienced. This hearing has implications for property owners and people living within at least a 10 km radius of a turbine project here in Ontario



Hydro rates are the biggest unprompted issue of concern for Ontarians

Asked to name their most important provincial issue of concern, a recent Nanos poll found that hydro/hydro rates were a greater concern than healthcare and jobs/ the economy. Below is a partial summary of the [Nanos poll](#).

Issues – Most mentioned	Frequency (n=500)
Hydro/hydro rates	20.5%
Healthcare	15.1%
Jobs/economy	9.6%

Ontario's renewable energy "disaster" is what drives up the cost of your hydro

By Tom Adams, an independent energy and environmental advisor. He says the high cost of electricity in Ontario is in large part due to renewables.

Wind and solar energy can't be delivered on demand so we pay twice to back it up with gas power.

With the Ontario government introducing a new program severing the link between the cost of power and the price of power, so it can shift 25 per cent of household power bills today to future generation by way massive new debts, it seems like a good idea to know why Ontario's power rate crisis developed. The largest single factor driving this increase has been new generating capacity from wind and solar renewable generation.

[Read More](#)

Wynne reduces electricity costs by 25%

The announcement was made on March 1st, 2017. The move was described as akin to refinancing a mortgage and extending the amortization period. [Read More](#)

Ratepayers in rural parts of Ontario would also see their distribution costs from local utility providers reduced and First Nations residential consumers would see the on-reserve delivery charge removed completely (at a cost of \$2.5 Billion). However, those who have seen electricity rates rise by 400% are not cheering a 25% reduction, seeing it as a band-aid approach before an election year. Moreover, the government reaffirmed its commitment to "continue to move forward with green energy contracts." (Global News)

This restructuring program called Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan is not immediate, but starts this summer. (from the Ontario government website).

Advice on preparing 2017's Long-Term Energy Plan is simply this: don't.

READ MORE: <http://coldair.luftonline.net/>

The headline doesn't tell the whole story.... Some of the reduction comes from the elimination of the provincial sales tax on electricity sales. Most of the rest comes from the refinancing of the provincial utility's debts – a move that will cut repayment costs by \$2.5-billion a year over the next 10 years, but add \$25-billion in interest costs over 30 years.

Some sources have put the additional interest costs at **\$1.4 B per year!**

http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/lower-electricity-rates-dont-fall-for-premier-wynnes-power-move/article34195391/?cmpid=rss1&click=sf_globe

Parker Gallant's perspectives on the Hydro Mess in Ontario:

Curtailing or restricting power output but paying for it anyway means a portion of the \$50 billion spent was simply wasted money. It went to the corporate power developers that rushed to sign those above-market contracts for renewable power. [Read the article](#)

And read about his "[Elephant in the Room](#)"

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