

From: Mike Foley [<mailto:mfoley@cuyahogacounty.us>]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Cc: Beth Nagusky <bnagusky@leedco.org>; A. Steven Dever <astevendevery@aol.com>
Subject: case #: 16-1871-EL-BGN Icebreaker Windpower

To whom it may concern, attached is the Cuyahoga County resolution in support of the LEEDCO Project Icebreaker. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks much, Mike Foley

Mike Foley, Director
Dept. of Sustainability - Cuyahoga County
2079 East 9th Street - Rm 8-304
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
216 443-3055 office 216 390-2216 cell
mfoley@cuyahogacounty.us

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County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2017-0184

Sponsored by: **Councilmember Simon**

A Resolution supporting the application of Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. to the Ohio Power Siting Board for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

WHEREAS, the Icebreaker Wind Farm will be the first freshwater offshore wind project in North America and only the second offshore wind project in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker Wind is a 20.7 megawatt, six turbine project that will be located eight to ten miles off the shore of Cleveland, Ohio, and;

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to develop more domestic clean energy to protect our environment and create new industries in the region, and;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes region has the technical potential to provide over 700 gigawatts of offshore wind generation, including in the waters off of Cuyahoga County, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker will be a small demonstration project that will allow us to advance the development of this huge clean energy resource in Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes, and;

WHEREAS, the Icebreaker Wind project alone will create over five hundred (500) jobs and provide \$168 million in local economic impact over the project life, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker is committed to hiring workers from the local labor force and sourcing materials from the region, to the greatest extent possible, and;

WHEREAS, the vast offshore wind industry potential in Northeast Ohio would provide thousands of jobs and significantly boost the local economies, including the economy of Cuyahoga County, and;

WHEREAS, the region's air quality is among the worst in the nation, which air pollution leads to increases in respiratory disease including asthma, heart attacks, and premature death. Clean energy will help improve the County's air quality, and;

WHEREAS, Ohio depends on fossil fuels for over eighty (80) percent of its electric energy mix while clean renewable energy accounts for less than three (3) percent of Ohio's electric energy mix. Developing an offshore wind industry will provide greater fuel diversity, which can serve as an insurance policy against price volatility and/or shortages, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker Windpower has received strong community support from residents, businesses and local governments, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker Windpower has secured \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to date, with a commitment to provide an additional \$40 million in funding if certain milestones are met, and;

WHEREAS, the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) has attracted a private investor in Fred. Olsen Renewables, a leader in the European wind industry, to own, construct, and operate the project, and;

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the power output from Icebreaker Wind has been purchased by American Municipal Power (AMP), Cleveland Public Power (CPP), and Cuyahoga County, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker Windpower Inc. submitted an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to the Ohio Power Siting Board on February 1, 2017, and;

WHEREAS, the Ohio Power Siting Board will be considering this Application in the coming months, and;

WHEREAS, this Application shows that Icebreaker Wind will have minimal adverse impact on fish, wildlife, or the Lake Erie shore viewshed.

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue and to provide for the usual, daily operation of a County entity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby supports the application of Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. to the Ohio Power Siting Board for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

SECTION 2. That Cuyahoga County urges the Ohio Power Siting Board to act favorably and expeditiously on said application.

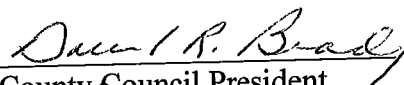
SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health, or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 4. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.


On a motion by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Brady, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas: Gallagher, Schron, Conwell, Jones, Brown, Hairston, Simon, Baker, Miller, Tuma and Brady

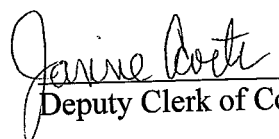
Nays: None


County Council President

10/24/17
Date


County Executive

10-26-17
Date


Deputy Clerk of Council

10/24/17
Date

From: salbright2@aol.com [<mailto:salbright2@aol.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 2:49 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. Case # 16-1871-EL-BGN

Good Afternoon,

Having investigated and presented on the buried toxic sediments in the Great Lakes over the past decade, I was interested to find this article and would like it posted to Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. comments. I reiterate that this project is slated as a "demonstration project" aimed at supporting future installation of hundreds to thousands more industrial wind turbines in "Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes".

This is nothing short of insanity! Instead of further pollution and destruction of the greatest fresh water source on earth, we should be researching and legislating measures to reduce industrialization of these lakes and CLEAN THEM UP in an effort to protect our drinking water! Nothing short of a permanent ban on wind turbines in the Great Lakes, by both the U.S. and Canada will help to achieve this goal.

The first step is to deny Fred. Olsen and LEEDCo's application to open the door to desecration of Lake Erie.

Respectfully,
Suzanne Albright
Founding Member and Principal, Great Lakes Wind Truth

Reevely: Water worries prompted ban on offshore wind farms, but Ontario's done nothing about them



David Reevely

Published on: May 27, 2016 | Last Updated: May 27, 2016 6:00 PM EDT

Windmills rise over Lake Erie in Lackawanna, New York, near the U.S.-Canada border. Ontario once wanted to be a world leader in building windmills not just on land, but well out in the Great Lakes. John Moore / GETTY

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Not only has the Ontario government ordered almost no research into wind farms on the Great Lakes since it banned them so it could do more research, it's done none whatsoever on the worry that prompted the ban: the risk of poisoning Ontario's drinking water with gunk stirred up from the lake bottoms.

The province has previously been very vague about what research it's waiting for, and it's now pretty clear why. There's no indication that research is coming anytime soon.

Back in 2011, the province killed numerous projects to put industrial windmills out on the waters of Ontario's big lakes, where the wind is strong and it's easier to build really large wind farms — potentially generating as much power as a nuclear reactor — without enraging as many neighbours as wind farms on land can. The world had wind farms in oceans but not in freshwater lakes, and the government wanted more science done on how to build them safely, the province said at the time.

It was the second time we froze Great Lakes wind farms, after a shorter ban imposed before the 2007 election. The government lifted that one in 2008; the newer one is still in place.

Offshore wind farms were once a pillar of Ontario's green-energy plans. We were going to spend some money and take some chances and become world leaders and reap the rewards. Officially, they still are — we just aren't allowing any.

Plus the government is facing a \$500-million lawsuit from one would-be wind-farm developer called Trillium Power, a roughly \$500-million claim under the North American Free Trade Agreement from another called Windstream, and now an Ontario Provincial Police investigation over the alleged deletion of documents related to the decision to impose the second moratorium. All without a windmill to show for it.

Since 2011, the government's received three studies on freshwater wind farms that it had underway at the time, and waited four years before commissioning two more in 2015. Together, the five studies look at protecting fish habitat, how windmill noise carries over water, a review of existing "coastal engineering" research on offshore wind farms, and what to think about when we eventually have to take worn-out windmills down.

None of them has much to do with what the Liberal environment minister who imposed the 2011 moratorium, John Wilkinson, says concerns him most about wind farms in the Great Lakes.

Wilkinson laid it out in a formal witness statement entered in the NAFTA case at an international tribunal in The Hague, which went into vastly more detail than the public announcement of the moratorium. That just cited a need for more scientific research generally, not on any specific subject.

"While I was briefed on many environmental concerns related to noise emissions, disturbance of benthic life forms, navigation, potential structural failure, safety hazards and decommissioning, the issue that heavily influenced my decision was the effect the construction of an offshore wind facility might have on drinking water," his signed statement says. The Windstream project would have stirred up the bed of Lake Ontario in 100 places and "I was concerned about how this might displace the historically contaminated sediment on the lakebed and whether it would end up in the drinking water system."

The statement elaborates for pages, talking about protecting both Canadian and U.S. water supplies and invoking Ontario's experience at Walkerton, where a badly run municipal water system got contaminated with bacteria that killed seven people.

The ban was absolutely not about saving Liberal-held lakefront seats, it says. "It was a Solomon decision," the statement says.

Wilkinson stands by the judgment.

"There's a century of toxic industrial waste in the Great Lake sediments," he said in an email exchange this week. "My decision was based on the principle we would not allow folks to disturb that pollution until we could reasonably predict the consequences and ensure no threat to drinking water, both ours and our American neighbours."

He pointed to annual algae explosions in Lake Erie believed to be fed by phosphorus in fertilizer. Some kinds of algae release toxins that conventional water treatment can't remove.

"Sediments at the bottom of the Great Lakes contain the cumulative phosphorus from agricultural runoff that has settled there over decades. If left undisturbed, it cannot feed an algae bloom. But there was no way to construct hundreds of proposed offshore wind turbines without stirring up the phosphorus and other contaminants," Wilkinson said, and in his view the existing rules on protecting drinking water didn't properly cover construction way out in the lakes.

On the face of it, that's a totally reasonable thing to worry about. But here's the thing. If you were worried about sediment and drinking water, you'd have somebody study sediment and drinking water, right?

Wilkinson was environment minister for eight months after he imposed the moratorium, until he lost his southwestern Ontario seat in the election later in 2011.

"I can't tell you what happened regarding the science after I left government, since I don't know,"

Wilkinson says. "What I can say is my decision left the door open to small pilot projects to develop the science. I do recall that proponents, after I made the decision, rejected building pilot scale projects, citing economics."

The current environment minister, Glen Murray, wouldn't say whether he shares Wilkinson's concerns about drinking water, because of the NAFTA case.

"Ontario will not proceed with offshore wind projects until there is sufficient wide ranging scientific evidence proving it will not have adverse effects to humans or the local environment," he offered, through spokesman David Mullock.

They are doing these two current studies, on noise and how to take down old turbines. "Once these studies are completed, (the ministry) intends to analyze the findings and determine whether further studies are required," Mullock said.

Such as, perhaps, one on the actual problem that supposedly killed Ontario's Great Lakes wind farms.

dreevely@postmedia.com

twitter.com/davidreevely

salbright2@aol.com

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