

Ontario cancels nearly built \$200M wind farm over threat to bat populations

The decision comes about seven months after construction began on the 100-megawatt project



Ontario's Environment Minister has cancelled a \$200-million wind farm south of Ottawa — one almost fully constructed — because the giant turbines pose a threat to nearby bat populations. *Wayne Cuddington / POSTMEDIA*



KELLY EGAN

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Ontario's Environment Minister has cancelled a \$200-million wind farm south of Ottawa — one almost fully constructed — because the giant turbines pose a threat to nearby bat populations.

In a Dec. 4 letter, Minister Jeff Yurek said he's revoking the approval given to the Nation Rise Wind Farm, which has already erected a number of the 29 planned turbines in a rural area near the villages of Chrysler and Finch in the Township of North Stormont.

The surprising decision comes about seven months after construction began on the 100-megawatt project, proposed by EDP Renewables, a subsidiary of a multinational with North American headquarters in Texas.



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high turbines on colonies of Hoary bats and Big and Little Brown bats, the latter being listed on Ontario's Species at Risk list.

"In my view, the harm will be both serious and irreversible to animal life given the relatively small bat species populations in the local area."

The minister also said he has the authority to "confirm, alter or revoke" a January decision of the Environmental Review Tribunal "as I consider in the public interest." He also said he had to consider the potential harm to the wildlife "in the context of the minimal contribution the project is likely to have on the electricity supply in Ontario."

The wind farm had caused deep divisions in the community as the township had twice voted against being a "willing host" for the project.

While some 70 property owners were happy about leasing land to EDP, many others were concerned about noise, the visual disruption and the possible impacts on health and the water table in the area.



The Conservative government of Premier Doug Ford has abruptly cancelled a nearly completed wind farm outside Chrysler opposed by land owners, including from left, Jean-Serge Brisson, Randy Lamb, Ruby Mekker, Beth Trudeau and husband John Trudeau. *Wayne Cuddington / POSTMEDIA*

Benke is a founding member of the grassroots organization Concerned Citizens of North Stormont. She appealed the approval from the Review Tribunal, which had held nine days of hearings in the fall of 2018.

The retired principal, a lifelong resident of the area, said she had to read the Yurek letter twice to make sure she didn't misunderstand the stunning outcome.

ELECTION 2019



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than four years and estimates Concerned Citizens has spent in excess of \$100,000 to fight the plan.

EDP Renewables said it “strongly objects” to Yurek’s decision. It has, however, halted construction and is assessing “all potential legal actions” because the project was already approved by Yurek’s own’s ministry and ratified by the tribunal.

The Conservative government of Doug Ford — and the premier himself — have been critical of so-called industrial wind farms but this was the last one approved by the departing Liberal government in May 2018, only days before the election writ was dropped.

In July 2018, only weeks after taking office, the Ford government nixed the Green Energy Act and cancelled 758 early-stage renewable-energy projects.

EDP says the project has created more than 230 construction jobs and, over the next 30 years, would pump some \$45 million into the local economy through municipal taxes, a community benefit fund, charitable contributions and landowner fees. It has already built a network of roads and laid a great deal of electrical cable in the area.

Since signing a contract in 2016, EDP has done a number of studies related to the effects of the wind farm, including noise models, a wildlife analysis, geological work, and following regulated setbacks of 550 metres from the nearest house.

It said experts had provide evidence the project would have “no material adverse effects” on the natural environment, including the bat population.

“Decisions of this nature should be based on science and law, yet there was no expert testimony or evidence presented at the Tribunal or to the Minister that would provide a reasonable rationale for the Minister’s decision.”

Opponents were thrilled to hear about the reversal, as even their own MPP had told them the project was too advanced to stop.

“I am ecstatic,” said Ruby Mekker, 68, a retired educator and one of the project’s most vocal opponents. “I can’t believe that they actually sided in favour of the people. I’m so thrilled.”

She says a handful of wells in the area have already had problems suspected to be connected to the wind farm infrastructure.

About six of the turbines are fully built and another half-dozen have the towers erected. The project was to be finished in the first quarter of 2020.

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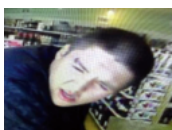
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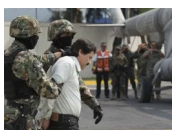
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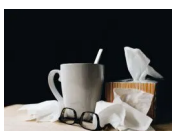
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It is well past time to turn off Turbines due to known and documented health harm. Please ask anyone who denies health harm of Industrial Wind Turbines to watch this presentation.

Title: "Infrasound and Low Frequency Noise: Physics & Cells, History & Health"

Speaker: Dr Mariana Alves-Pereira

Location: University of Waterloo

Date: September 12, 2019

Video archive of presentation:

<https://livestream.com/itmsstudio/events/8781285>

Dr. Alves-Pereira's research profile is at:

www.researchgate.net/profile/Mariana_Alves-pereira

Note; there is approx 2 mins of dead air at the beginning. The talk is ~50 minutes, followed by a long Q&A. « less

SR Shael Rotman 1 hour ago

Before making judgments from a short article and strong opinions (for or against), please take some time to review the actual project documents.

<https://nationrisewindfarm.com/>

In my opinion, the developer has done a good job describing the impacts to the community, wildlife, heritage, etc. The project did receive an REA which is an exhaustive process.

As for cost to taxpayers, the LRP was designed to compensate projects only for energy delivered to the grid.

The LRP released "five wind contracts totalling 299.5 MW, with a weighted average price of 8.59 cents/kWh"

For reference the off-peak TOU rate now is 10.1 c / kWh

<http://www.ieso.ca/corporate-ieso/media/news-releases/2016/03/ieso-announces-results-of-competitive-bids-for-large-renewable-projects> « less

GL George Lyche 5 hours ago

THREE CHEERS FOR PREMIER DOUG FORD!!!!

This area also includes the historic site of Crysler's Farm where Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Wanton Morrison, with his small force of British Regulars, supported by local militia, Mohawk irregulars and the famed Canadian Voltigeurs light infantry of Quebec, estimated to be outnumbered 10 to 1, threw the Americans back across the St Lawrence River. This action put an end to the American's intentions to seize Canada for their own. Such an historically important area should never have been turned into an industrial site in the first place. « less

JB Jim Brown 18 hours ago

Funny how some land developing NIMBY's care so much about bats and the "natural environment". Funny really

Robert Turner

For the environmentalists in the face of the fact that Ontario doesn't need the energy, they are currently exporting it at a loss.

HK Howard Kirshenbaum updated 1 day ago

Environmentalist hysterics who crusade to save the bats from doomsday windmills vs the environmental hysterics who crusade to save the planet from doomsday carbon dioxide. Put them in a bottle and let scorpion vs spider have at it. For the children, of course. How dare you!

JB Jim Brown 18 hours ago

Reply to @Howard Kirshenbaum: it amazes me that children could build such electrical generation machines. All the while singlehandedly sailing across oceans. Since we ruined the planet for lemon faced children. How dare us?

RE Robert Engdahl 1 day ago

The current design of wind turbines may be the cheapest design but they are very poorly designed for the natural environment. They kill countless birds and bats. A vertical design turbine would be much better



Andre Den Tandt 1 day ago

Reply to @robert engdahl: Quite a few were built, and I saw a full-scale one turning in Quebec some 20 years ago. They worked, but less well than the three-bladed ones. That would have made their production, and the grid for them twice as expensive, and just as useless. That one I saw was no paragon of beauty either.

GL George Lyche 5 hours ago

Every turn of every blade represents a huge subsidy that Ontario residents cannot afford. These spinning 'slice and dice' monstrosities can't compete with regular sources of electricity and so the LIBERALS forced us all to underwrite them with our hard earned dollars.


What the Liberals hate most is that Doug Forde is keeping the promises made to his supporters unlike the previous Liberal / NDP enviro-Nazis.
Reply to @robert engdahl:

PH Paul Holden 1 day ago

Last I checked bats have some of the best sonar in the world, they are saying they can't see a giant wind turbine?

TC Taffy Caldwell 1 day ago

Reply to @Paul Holden: Depending on wind conditions, the blades turn at rates between 10 and 20 revolutions per minute. Considering the length of the blades with average wind speeds of 13 to 15 mph, the tips are traveling

PH Paul Holden  updated 1 day ago

So we can't have pipelines and now we cant have wind turbines...lol Wasn't this the Greens party whole plan, wind and solar?

I am going to through it out there but we always seem to side with the protestors now. But I would think there were some that were looking forward to the 45 million in economic benefit and maybe spin off businesses that might of came to the area, what about their feelings on the issue?

LM Leslie MacMillan  updated 1 day ago

Reply to @Paul Holden: The Green Party's *whole plan* is to wreck the capitalist economy. Wind and solar are just a means to that end, an end that also requires the retirement of nuclear power plants to kneecap the economy with sky-high electricity rates. Look what the Greens did to Germany.

LM Leslie MacMillan  updated 1 day ago

Great news. Now they need to agree to endorse nuclear power. Instead of just being against everything.

Stories like this show how the tide really is starting to turn against the eco-warriors who want to destroy our economy for their radical redistributive ideas.

BM Bernie Mell 1 day ago

Finally some common sense instead of virtue-signalling, bats are extremely more important than any Trudeau, NDP and or Green governments!

HK Howard Kirshenbaum 1 day ago

Reply to @Bernie Mell: bats vs rats. close contest. The bats aren't as batty as the rats!

CB Cliff Burkard 1 day ago

Wind and solar are NOT green energy. They require backup and will never be a source of BASE power. In time technology will come up with something completely different than what we have now.

LM Leslie MacMillan 1 day ago

Reply to @Cliff Burkard: Like nuclear? The only thing new about nuclear since the 1960s is that we now *know* how safe it is. Get on with it. OK, thorium could be (kind of) new.

TC Taffy Caldwell 1 day ago

If McGuinty and Wynne had done any consultation beyond greasing the palms of Liberals who have went before them they would have seen the damage wind turbines do to nature. But like everything Liberal (Junior Kindergarten, Green Energy, Gas Plants) they just ram it through with no regard to anyone or anything.

PN Philip Noakes 1 day ago

What is so different about this and the Trudeau Liberals spending their first six months in power dismantling piles of previous legislation passed by the Harper Conservatives?

OM Olga Misik 1 day ago

Reply to @Philip Noakes:

...

It's not.

The Harper legislation was equally damaging to the environment, so it had to go.

...

TC Taffy Caldwell 1 day ago

Reply to @Olga Misik:but, but, but Harper.....Yawn.

TC Taffy Caldwell 1 day ago

Reply to @Philip Noakes: The total hypocrisy of the left. That's the ONLY difference.

BM Bernie Mell 1 day ago

Reply to @Olga Misik: Zzz, zzz, zzz!

MC Michael Card 1 day ago

How exactly does a wind turbine affect a bat?.....

JB Justin Burch 1 day ago

Reply to @Michael Card: It's pretty gross actually. The little bat flies in the vicinity of the windmill and the abrupt pressure change causes their insides to liquify not unlike the effect of a suicide bomber on people standing nearby when the bomb goes off. I never understood why environmentalists work so hard to stop pipelines that don't hurt any wildlife and yet endorse and embrace these monstrosities.

TC Taffy Caldwell 1 day ago

Reply to @Michael Card: "How exactly does a wind turbine affect a bat?....."

BM Bernie Mell 1 day ago

Reply to @Michael Card: How exactly can anyone be so uneducated?



Andre Den Tandt 1 day ago

Reply to @Michael Card: The turbine explodes its lungs, without even having to touch the bat. The sudden pressure difference near the blade is the killer.

HF Harry Ferguson 1 day ago

About time we had a government committed to executing the will of its people, rather than lining the pockets of friends and contributors. Also time we started looking at the ecological impact of these projects. Existing wind farms should be dismantled

OM Olga Misik 1 day ago

Suddenly, "SAVE THE BATS!" has become the Latter-Day Conservatives' environmental clarion call.

JB Justin Burch 1 day ago

Reply to @Olga Misik: The lefty environmentalists should have been doing that job but they declined. They don't care about bats going extinct.

OM Olga Misik 1 day ago

Reply to @Justin Burch:
...
SAVE THE POLAR BEARS!!!
...

OM Olga Misik 1 day ago

Reply to @Justin Burch:
...
SAVE THE WHALES!!!
...

JB Justin Burch 1 day ago

Reply to @Olga Misik: Polar bears are not in trouble. They are doing very well.

JB Justin Burch 1 day ago

Reply to @Olga Misik: The enemy of whales is stuff like those oil tankers carrying Saudi Arabian oil into Montreal for refining.

Reply to @Justin Burch:

<http://www.batcon.org/why-bats/bats-are/bats-are-threatened>

How many bats are there in the world?
Bat Status: threatened

<https://polarbearsinternational.org/climate-change/status-endangered-polar-bears/>

How many polar bears are there in the world?
Polar Bear Status: vulnerable

OM Olga Misik 1 day ago

Reply to @Justin Burch:

You're opposing oil tankers carrying Canadian oil from B.C. ports, I see. Good for you.

SAVE THE WHALES!!!

BM Bernie Mell 1 day ago

Reply to @Olga Misik: Suddenly "Pile on the BS" has become the Latter-day Liberal clarion call!



Lexx Loker 1 day ago

Reply to @Olga Misik: As Green is the new Red, "Save the K0m ees!" is the new "Watermelon" battle cry...

JC Jimmy Cricket updated 1 day ago

How about some reality from the Ford Government. What does kill birds?

- Wind Turbines : 20,000 to 570,000
- Cats : 200 to 700 million
- Power lines : 175 million
- Farming : 67 million
- Cars and Trucks : 50 to 100 million
- Windows : 96 - 196 million

So this paper and the Ford government is creating a massive con job on readers. Fossil-fueled power plants, kill almost 20 times as many birds per gigawatt hour (GWh) of electricity.

HB Hans Brix 1 day ago

Reply to @Jimmy Cricket: The decision was based on bats, not birds . . .

PG Parker Gallant 1 day ago

Reply to @Jimmy Cricket: Never saw a cat kill a hawk or eagle. Must be quite the show!

OM Olga Misik 1 day ago

...

PN Philip Noakes 1 day ago

Reply to @Jimmy Cricket: go back to your fire heated cave.

JB Justin Burch updated 1 day ago

Reply to @Parker Gallant: The cat figure is another example of a preposterous extrapolation by lefties who can't do basic stats. One small region occupied by a feral cat colony had a specific kill rate on birds during a spring migration eruption. This was then extrapolated over the entire continent as if all the continent was always one big feral cat colony with extremely high density of feral cats during spring migration. This proves once again how you can prove anything by torturing data and indulging in wild and inappropriate extrapolations, the basis of almost all climate alarmism. [« less](#)

LM Leslie MacMillan 1 day ago

Reply to @Justin Burch: And the big turbines kill the large raptor and buzzard-type birds which in some areas are endangered. Cats don't kill those birds. Those birds kill cats!

TB Timothy Boyle 1 day ago

Priceless! Ontario is becoming a leader in building state of the art power plants only to shut them down before producing even one kilowatt of power. So now that coal, oil, gas, nuclear, and wind energy are off the environmentally sound table it looks like we will be confined to eeking out all our power from solar and Hydro - Mr. Blanchet will no doubt be smiling.



Lexx Loker 1 day ago

Reply to @Timothy Boyle: "building state of the art power plants"

I that what greenKool-Aid bingers call those worthless bird/bat processing pin wheelz that were built during the McWynnety regime's green energy scam?

JD Jamie Dunlop 1 day ago

Clear case of the Wynne Liberals thumbing their nose at the tax payer one last time. Good news for residents of the area.

JE Jared Ethier 1 day ago

This is great news these eye sores will cost a small fortune to keep working. They are troublesome and need a lot of service.

Olga Misik

Reply to @jared camer...

True.

Dams, fossil-fuel fired generating plants, nuclear power plants--they're so very beautiful. And they're cheap! Almost free!

Most wondrous of all, they never need to be serviced and are completely trouble-free.

Wow.

LM Leslie MacMillan 1 day ago

Reply to @Olga Misik: Don't know if you are being sarcastic, but dams and nuclear power stations are magnificent creations embodying the marriage between architecture and civil engineering. Windmills are just ugly and wasteful of land.

PG Parker Gallant 1 day ago

Why can't journalists actually do some research before they write articles and have them published. This is not even close to a \$200 million investment. It was meant to extract well over \$400 million from ratepayers pockets during the contract term! It would drive down residential property values (reducing tax revenue for the municipality), kill birds and bats as well as cause health problems among many rural residents. It would deliver power when not needed -- middle of the night, spring and fall, etc. and we would be forced to sell it that excess power to NY, Michigan, etc. for pennies and eat the losses. < less

JB Justin Burch 1 day ago

Reply to @Parker Gallant: Journalists don't do research when it comes to green energy stuff and climate change. They just parrot the latest garbage produced by the approved sources of pseudoscience.

BM Bernie Mell 1 day ago

Reply to @Justin Burch: Exactly nothing but snake oil salesmen!



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