

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: Wednesday, September 18, 2013
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Venue: Curling Lounge, NEMI Recreation Centre

CLC Members in Attendance:

Melanie Sadie Debassige, Connie Ferguson, Tony Ferro, Alan MacNevin, Donald McGraw, Valerie McIntyre, Phreddie Shore, Marcia Trudeau on behalf of Art Jacko, Brad Wilkin, Bruce Wood, Dale Wood.

Regrets: Delroy Prescott

Public in Attendance:

Clayton Austen, Diane Austen, Gerry Closs, Gudrun Closs

Media in Attendance:

Robin Burrige

Northland Expert Team:

Paul Kaminski (by phone), Rick Martin, Jim Mulvale and Stan Stret.

Additional Northland Construction Team Member:

Tara Sieg

Facilitator:

Nancy Coldham, The CG Group

7:00 p.m. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Coldham, the meeting Facilitator, welcomed the CLC Members, members of the public and media from the Expositor to the second meeting of the Community Liaison Committee. The Facilitator drew attendees' attention to the 13 aerial photos taken by Stan Stret arranged on the glass wall, as well as the rotating screen display of the 180 photos of the construction phases and activities to date taken by Rick Martin. The slide show of construction images was shown 30 minutes before the meeting and displayed after the meeting for further discussion. She turned things over to Rick Martin to say a few

words about what NEMI residents will have witnessed around the wind farm site since the last meeting.

7:03 p.m. APPROVAL OF MEETING ONE MINUTES

Nancy Coldham asked the CLC members if they had any questions or changes to make to the Minutes of Meeting 1 that had been previously circulated. There was unanimous acceptance of the Minutes.

7:05 p.m. INTRODUCTIONS

Tony Ferro had missed the first meeting. He was asked to introduce himself to fellow CLC members. Stan Stret, Site Manager with Northland Power, new to the McLean's Mountain Wind Farm construction team, was also asked to introduce himself. The Facilitator asked the attending members of the public to also state their name and interests/concerns. Public guests were provided with a full copy of the meeting materials including agenda, PowerPoint presentation, Minutes of first meeting and form to request specific issues to be raised.

7:08 p.m. OVERVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Stan Stret started the presentation providing an update on the site clearing and grubbing conducted earlier in the year, giving an over view of the site access roads as well as the improvements to specific public roads that had been completed. Stan reported on the completion of the turbine foundations providing details on the foundation construction. Each foundation is 20 meters in diameter and weighs 4 million pounds consisting of concrete and reinforced steel rods, and backfilled with compacted sand and soils, built to withstand a hurricane. Stan went over the daily delivery of turbine parts identifying the first turbine to go up was Turbine 15 followed by Turbine 9. The location of each was brought up on the screen from a site map.

Stan reviewed the completed submarine portion of the transmission line laid across the Little Current channel. Stan confirmed the switching station foundations on Goat Island were completed. Stan explained the electrical collector system, substation, switching station and transition station and the transmission lines (above ground, buried and submarine portions) and how it all worked to connect the wind farm to the Ontario power grid.

Jim Mulvale provided some additional information, from an environmental perspective, on the fact the project had gone the additional mile in terms of not having an outside transformer at the base of each turbine which is the industry norm, and had elected to bury the collection system rather than have it installed overhead. Jim went over, in detail, the work underway for the collector line and the attention being given to sensitive areas such as wetlands. There are three wetlands being avoided by using underground directional drilling to bore the electrical collector system beneath the wetland to minimize any negative impact on the environment. Jim Mulvale and Stan Stret discussed the environmental stewardship invested in these directional drilled crossings.

There were some questions related to how much power would serve local needs versus being fed back into the power grid or even exported. Paul Kaminski, Rick Martin and Stan Stret provided the meeting with a full overview of how the McLean's Mountain Wind farm (MMWF) and renewable energy met power needs of the Island and the province.

Stan continued to provide a review of other work now completed such as the foundations for the substation, operations and maintenance building. The facilitator asked for clear explanation of some of the terminology to be sure the public and CLC Members understood what was meant by a collector line, some additional detail about the wetlands area treatment and any additional comments about the submarine cabling from Goat Island to Manitoulin.

Jim Mulvale shared some important details, from an environmental perspective, on areas which were receiving increased inspections and monitoring such as the wetlands and the submarine cable water crossing. Taking advantage of the fact that Stan is a scuba diver, a comprehensive review of the submarine cable's installation was conducted and the contractor was directed to make several improvements to better support and protect the cables.

Components of Facility Design

Stan provided an overview of three components of the wind farm design including the wind turbines, the meteorological towers and the access roads. He started by explaining the McLean's Mountain Wind Farm had

selected GE Turbines. He confirmed there are 24 GE turbine generators with 21 of the turbines rated at 2.49 MW, two turbines at 2.66 MW (Turbine 5 and 9) and one turbine at 2.38 MW (Turbine 20). Stan described the turbines as 98.3 meters of hub height with 50.2 meter blades. The Facilitator requested clarity on the turbine parts in terms of names and functions for better group understanding. Stan provided a clear explanation of turbine components from foundation to hub and nacelle. Photos of the individual parts were brought up on the screen to demonstrate how the components fit together, size and role.

Stan reviewed the crane pads and turbine foundations and confirmed the majority of the turbine foundations would be covered with excavated material and top soil to minimize any impact to the land and to permit grass to grow up to the turbine base.

Public members asked about turbine height, blade diameter, noise and flicker issues. Jim Mulvale spoke to these issues in great detail. Jim also shared the details of the Renewable Energy Approvals (REA) regulations, testing, monitoring and requirements that must be met by law related to noise. Northland has hired two environmental monitors (EM) who are on-site and are involved daily in reviewing all aspects of the construction phase, paying particular attention to species at risk and environmental matters. The senior EM, Tara Sieg was introduced by Jim Mulvale and she shared her qualifications and professional background, described her role, defined her daily actions on the site in terms of her passionate and professional commitment as an environmentalist to flag any concerns during the process. There was a discussion on the sound testing and monitoring plus confusion on how to find the link to the REA documents and to identify the commitments. Jim Mulvale provided instructions on where the documents could be found on the Northland Power website.

Public members shared their frustration trying to understand the REA requirements, finding the documents that provided the review of any independent testing and learning more about the company's compliance with specific requirements. Jim Mulvale undertook to be sure the information was provided to the concerned public members in attendance.

Stan proceeded to discuss the meteorological towers informing the meeting that the Project is required to have three meteorological stations. One station will be a fully instrumented 98.3 metre tall tower located close to the existing, shorter McLean's Mountain Sideroad meteorological tower, located by the Lookout area.

The other two meteorological stations will be mounted on top of Turbine 25 and 17's nacelles. Stan added that the additional weather instrumentation to measure humidity and barometric pressure is required to be in compliance with the IESO requirements. A site map was brought up on the screen identifying the various turbine locations to show the location of the towers and the affected turbines.

The next topic discussed by Stan was access roads. He discussed the access roads that had been built to allow for delivery of the turbine components and for operations and maintenance access. He also reviewed road work improvements done and remaining as negotiated with the Town of NEMI that would endure to better serve local traffic needs.

Turbine Installation & Commissioning

The current delivery schedule was discussed in terms of delays due to Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and OPP requirements to address summer traffic and congestion concerns. Installation of the turbines would occur throughout September and October. CLC Members expressed interest in seeing a detailed delivery schedule. It was shared that there are 10 major deliveries per turbine to coordinate (6 tower components, 3 blades and 1 nacelle).

Photos of the initial deliveries to date were shown on the screen with a commentary of the necessary steps to safely transport the turbine segments.

It was reported that commissioning would begin once there was a critical mass of mechanically completed and installed turbines and when Hydro One provided the back feed power. Commissioning is scheduled for mid-November 2013. The Project should achieve commercial operation readiness within the first quarter of 2014.

7:40 p.m. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND PERMITTING

Jim Mulvale made the presentation on the environmental monitoring and permitting including an amended REA approval to reflect some small changes made in the spring of 2013 to the project's design to accommodate the purchase of a new, quieter turbine generator. This change would allow for a slight shifting of 2 turbines as a result of additional geotechnical data while optimizing the routes of some of the access roads and accomplishing a net benefit to the Project of a quieter wind farm with less impact on wet areas. Jim also revisited issues related to the permitting of the installation of the submarine cable crossing mentioned earlier that had to meet Transport Canada (Coast Guard) as well as Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) requirements. Jim also provided some interesting details related to having to secure extra permits from the MTO to make turning radius improvements at Highway 6 and Green Bush Road and Highway 540 to Bidwell. The size and length of the turbine components mean that the deliveries face special restrictions including: mandatory police escorts, the trucks needing to make extra wide turns and at the Little Current swing bridge the turbine base ring had to be propped on an angle to fit through the bridge and then lowered back flat for the rest of the journey (photos shown on the screen). Jim also commented on an additional REA amendment under consideration to alter the route of one collector line, again to reduce construction impact by reducing its length from 4 km to 1.5 km. Jim used the site map to demonstrate the location of this proposed change.

Jim again singled out the role of the project environmental monitors and how they interact with the team, red flag concerns, push for changes and continuously review REA documents and MNR processes to be sure the Project is compliant. Tara stood up again and gave the CLC Members and public guests some examples of situations that she had been involved in and changes that resulted. The environmental monitoring is to ensure all requirements are honoured during construction and that timing windows for specific activities related to the natural habitat and wildlife are adhered to. Some examples shared included tree cutting, grass clearing and in-water activities that could not impact breeding times and had to ensure protection of the general wildlife, species at risk and also met dust controls for the public roads. Species at Risk that are monitored vary from turtles, to birds,

to plant life (i.e. Houghton's golden rod). Tara shared her passion as an environmentalist and the duties of the monitoring position that included daily contractor meetings and weekly teleconferences with the head office.

CLC Members and some of the public guests voiced appreciation for Tara's (and her EM colleague Ryan's) commitment on their behalf on the environmental issues and commitments.

8:00 p.m. CLC MEMBER TOPICS FACILITATED BY NANCY COLDHAM

Local Issue #1: Deer Hunt Impact

Stan with the assistance of Paul Kaminski (by phone) and Rick Martin who is a local hunter explained how construction activities would proceed during the hunting season. They mentioned high visibility jackets or outer wear additions that were being sourced to be sure hunters and workers were clearly visible to each other. A notice will be placed in the local paper to also remind hunters of the continuing Project work.

Local Issue #2: Hydro Seeding

Jim and Tara spoke to the requirements to use indigenous plants and grasses for any reseeding. There was a request to know what would be planted and an undertaking to share the selection decision once it was confirmed.

Local Issue #3: Highway 540

The issue was a missing culvert. Stan mentioned they are using a poly-culvert as soon as the roads are finished and top dressed. Right now, using a rock break with a three-inch stone screen as a tough cover to handle the truck traffic. The culvert will be installed to ensure no run-off issues.

8:20 p.m. Public Health and Safety

Jim Mulvale was back to make his presentation and started the segment stating health and safety of the general public is a prime concern during the project's construction phase and beyond. Jim mentioned that the Project's prime contractor, HB White Construction, had won a corporate health and safety award for the MMWF. Given White has many major projects under construction, the award is significant recognition of the Project's emphasis on delivering a safe work environment. Jim reviewed the four main construction activities that could impact the public include: grading, pole

erection and trenching work along public roads; truck and vehicular traffic, in-water cable installation and the delivery of the turbine components. Jim mentioned that the Project staff was working closely with NEMI municipal staff in public works, roads and administration areas to ensure minimal impact on the public during the construction phase.

Jim also volunteered that Northland was inviting the CLC Members and the public for feedback to ensure they were meeting performance expectations and if anyone had any public safety concerns.

Jim confirmed that the Project's large component delivery schedule had not impacted the tourism season, but that September and October would see significant activity with some inconvenience, but that all shipments and deliveries would be coordinated with NEMI, MTO and the OPP.

8:45 p.m. Facilitated Q&A

The CLC Members and the public guests engaged in a Q&A session with questions focused on roadway work, blocked roads during delivery of turbines, noise monitoring post construction, landowner property matters such as culverts that need to be fixed, fences and security/trespassing. A question arose of some land use planning issues related to potential development by a First Nation band that was agreed to be dealt with later by Rick Martin contacting the Chief directly.

8:55 p.m. Wrap-Up & Final Comments

Tony Ferro requested to comment, on the public record, that in all his years of experience in construction he had never witnessed better construction practices related to clean-up and a level of professionalism unparalleled wishing to acknowledge the minimal disruption and dust by HB White Construction and Northland. The Mayor and others on the CLC agreed.

Members of the public commented that although they were not supporters of the wind project they were pleased, based on Northland's thoroughness, commitments and conduct that if any company had to build the McLean's Mountain Wind Farm it was Northland Power.

9:00 p.m. Next Meeting Scheduled and Meeting Adjourned

It was agreed the next meeting would focus on operational issues and would be held in the late spring following completion of the construction phase.

Action Items:

New Action Items	Responsible	Deadline
1. Details on Noise Monitoring and To share with the Austen's	Jim Mulvale	Early Fall
2. Contact with Chief of Aundeckomnikaning re land use planning	Rick Martin	Immediately following the CLC Meeting
3. Culvert Fixing Schedule for affected landowners	Stan Stret	As soon as confirmed by White
4. Provide schedule of erection of turbines and order of turbine erection to CLC Members	Stan Stret / Paul Kaminski	Following CLC Meeting

DRAFT