

Ministry of
the Environment

Freedom of Information and
Protection of Privacy Office

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Ministère de
l'Environnement

Bureau de l'accès à l'information
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November 23, 2012

[REDACTED]
Orangeville, ON L9W 2Y8

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* Request
Our File # A-2011-03046**

This letter is further to your request made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for all letters, memos, records, emails, reports and communications between the Guelph District Office, Senior Environmental Officers Tomlinson and Hall and any other Ministry of the Environment office, including the Toronto Implementation and/or Approvals office, regarding a proposed Provincial Officer's Order for the Amaranth and Melancthon wind turbines and the transformer station operated by Canadian Hydro Developers (now owned by TransAlta).

Your request was for records from March 2009 to September 2010 but the ministry also wants to ensure you are aware of our comprehensive framework and regulatory tools as it relates to wind turbines. The ministry has developed a standardized approach to compliance activities related to wind turbines and has a variety of tools to ensure compliance with all approvals ranging from voluntary abatement to mandatory orders.

Regarding this particular site, ministry staff conducted many inspections and had numerous discussions with the company about actions that could reduce noise from the wind farm. While the ministry considered issuing an order to address noise, the discussions with TransAlta were successful and TransAlta agreed to place 24 turbines into an extended noise reduced operating mode from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. when wind shear is high to reduce noise. This voluntary action addressed the noise issues ministry staff had identified and an order was not required.

While the ministry has always been able to measure noise from various sources, in August 2011, the ministry refined its noise measurement protocol for wind turbines. This standardized noise measurement protocol specific to wind turbines allows the ministry to determine the specific source of noise (i.e., distinguish the turbine noise level from the background noise level). Following the release of the protocol, the ministry has used it a number of times at the site that is the subject of your request and determined that there were no exceedances of noise standards when using the new protocol.

The ministry encourages the public to report any concerns about wind turbines to their

local district office (office numbers for the district offices are available on the ministry's website) or call the Spills Action Centre (1-800-268-6060) if they are experiencing any noise impacts so that the ministry can respond appropriately.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (416)327-1434.

Yours truly,



Heidi Ritscher
Manager, Corporate and Freedom of Information Services
Information Management and Access Branch

Attachment

Flynn, Magdelene (ENE)

From: Hall, Cameron (ENE)
Sent: March 25, 2010 9:09 AM
To: Glassco, Jane (ENE)
Subject: RE: latest copy of the Order/Report
Attachments: Provincial Officer Report - WTGS - March 12, 2010.doc; Director's Order - WTGs - March 12, 2010.doc; Figure 1 Melanchton EcoPower Centre March 8, 2010.pdf; Figure 2 Melanchton EcoPower Centre - WTGs March 8, 2010.pdf; Figure 3 Director's Order - WTGs to Cease Discharge of Sound Contamination - Melancthon Ecopower Centre March 8, 2010.pdf; Table 1 WTG Locations.doc; Table 2 Residence Locations.doc

Good Day Jane:

I have attached the most recent draft versions (March 12, 2010) of the Provincial Officer's Order and language for the Director's Order. .

s.13

I can discuss at your convenience.

Cameron Hall
Sr. Environmental Officer
Guelph District Office
Ministry of the Environment
1 Stone Road W., 4th Floor
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2
(519) 826-4261
(519) 826-4286 (fax)

From: Glassco, Jane (ENE)
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 8:57 AM
To: Hall, Cameron (ENE)
Subject: latest copy of the Order/Report

I would like to re-send the Order and Report to Bill....Could you please give me the latest copy? thanks

Jane

Flynn, Magdelene (ENE)

From: Glassco, Jane (ENE)
Sent: March 25, 2010 9:32 AM
To: Bardswick, Bill (ENE)
Cc: Hall, Cameron (ENE); Tomlinson, Gary (ENE)
Subject: FW: latest copy of the Order/Report
Attachments: Provincial Officer Report - WTGS - March 12, 2010.doc; Director's Order - WTGs - March 12, 2010.doc; Figure 1 Melancton EcoPower Centre March 8, 2010.pdf; Figure 2 Melancton EcoPower Centre - WTGs March 8, 2010.pdf; Figure 3 Director's Order - WTGs to Cease Discharge of Sound Contamination - Melancton Ecopower Centre March 8, 2010.pdf; Table 1 WTG Locations.doc; Table 2 Residence Locations.doc

Hi Bill:

During our teleconference next week, Cam will go thru the report and the order in detail with you.....

Jane
