**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 26, 2014

 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Venue: Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre, Wind Room

CLC Members in Attendance:

Connie Ferguson, Tony Ferro, Tania Jacko (for Art Jacko), Marcel Gauthier (for Al McNevin), Valerie McIntyre, Phreddie Shore, Brad Wilkin, Bruce Wood, and Dale Wood

Regrets:

Melanie Sadie Debassige, Donald McGraw, and Delroy Prescott

Public in Attendance:

Ed Ferguson

Individual attendee who wished to remain anonymous

Media in Attendance:

Michael Erskine, Manitoulin Expositor

**Northland Expert Team:**

Rick Martin, Manager, McLean's Mountain Wind Farm, Northland Power Inc.

Humphrey Daniso, Operator, McLean's Mountain Wind Farm, Northland Power Inc.

Jim Mulvale, P. Eng., Manager, Environment, Health & Safety, Northland Power Inc.

Zornitza Doneva, P. Eng., Technical Writer, Operations, Northland Power Inc.

Facilitator:

Nancy Coldham, The CG Group

7:00 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was ushered in by a slide show presentation of pictures taken through-out the wind turbine Project.

Nancy Coldham called the meeting to order and a YouTube video, produced by GE covering the MMWF wind turbine operation, was played. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46Pb_tU1638>

7:13 p.m. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Nancy Coldham welcomed the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Members, members of the public, and the Northland experts present to the fourth meeting of the CLC. New members to Northland Power, Humphrey Daniso (MMWF Operator) and Zornitza Doneva, were introduced.

Nancy recapped the CLC meeting three proceedings and confirmed that the minutes of this meeting have been approved.

Jim Mulvale reviewed the “as built” MMWF project site area map and recapped the positive environmental benefits of the minor realignment of the collector line route by Turbine T13.

7:19 p.m. UPDATE ON OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE

Rick Martin provided an overview of the wind farm operations since going commercial in May 2014. Rick explained the different roles of the parties involved in the wind farm operations including the IESO, Hydro One – Barrie (OGCC), GE, Northland Kingston Office and the McLean’s Mountain Wind Farm, the commissioning tests in May 2014, etc.

Rick explained some of the challenges, a power outage, the transformer failure, issues around curtailment, and the on-going clearing of roads for 24/7 access to the turbines. He outlined the grading and re-vegetation efforts completed throughout the farm.

7:26 p.m. OPERATIONS PLAN – GOING FORWARD

Rick Martin explained MMWF’s ways of maximizing output, how MMWF produces power to the grid, and how the monitoring by Kingston and GE is performed. Rick Martin also confirmed his continuous commitment in monitoring the turbines from his home through the security of an encrypted tunnel connection ensuring constant, secure oversight. This provides faster response time in case of issues that may arise.

He confirmed that the project meets the long-term operations objectives.

7:33 p.m. INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

Rick Martin gave specific details about the inspection activities of the turbines blades. Pictures were shown to illustrate the activities.

7:35 p.m. MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Rick Martin outlined the on-going “punch-list” item correction activities such as installation of the blast walls for the transformers, installation of Infrared sensor system at the Switch yard fence line allowing lights to go off at nighttime, the importance of closing the gates, maintaining safe road access to various components of the site, etc. A Discussion of the Repair of a Bushing on a Grounding transformer was also reviewed so that the public could appreciate the types of work being cared for by Site Operations.

Maintenance activities were also categorized by GE Break-In Maintenance, cleaning and check-ups of turbines, painting of generators, generator alignment. Rick concluded the discussion by highlighting troubleshooting off-site issues, snow clearing, and respecting landowners’ use of their lands vs. turbine operations.

7:44 p.m. POST-CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Jim Mulvale discussed the requirements for conducting acoustic audits under the REA permit, and that two of the audits had been completed and were passed (REA Condition F – turbine noise and Condition G – transformer noise). Data is still being collected for the third audit Condition E – noise impacts at the residential receptors. He mentioned the Health Canada Wind Turbine Health Impacts Study summary and provided a hyperlink to the posted study. This was discussed further in the CLC Member’s Input question section.

Jim discussed the post-construction requirements for wildlife and habitat monitoring /assessment. This includes frequent (e.g. weekly/ monthly) assessing of habitat for forest birds, field birds, raptors and water fowl, monitoring any adjacent wetlands, grassland compensation plantings and re-vegetated areas. Species at risk (SAR) awareness is to be maintained particularly for Blanding’s turtles at T13 and T6, Houghton’s Golden Rod along Harbour Vue Road and Gattinger’s Agalinis on Goat Island. He confirmed that the project has been registered with that MNR’s SAR registry.

The issue of bird and bat mortality is a concern at wind farm developments and an extensive monitoring program is to be undertaken to evaluate if a mortality rates are above an acceptable threshold. The monitoring will extend from May – October, with twice a week site inspections conducted for 3 years. The inspections include an examination/ count of found carcasses and additional evaluations such as a scavenger study to identify if there are scavengers (coyotes etc.) disposing of any bird or bat carcasses before they have been located and counted. Rick added a comment that so far there had been no sighting of dead bats or birds around the turbines.

7:58 p.m. ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS – NEXT STEPS

Jim shared that in addition to the natural monitoring that must be conducted for the next several years, the MMWF Operations group must conduct proactive monitoring on the wind farm examining for any leaks or spills, checking for drainage issues/erosion, and responding to any operational concern (noise, safety, snow removal, etc.)

Jim recapped that the environmental management and permitting experience gained at MMWF will be shared with other wind projects that Northland Power is involved in, including: MMWF – 24 turbines, 60 MW; Grand Bend – 40 turbines, 100 MW; Gemini (Dutch North Sea ) – 85 km off-shore, 150 turbines, 600 MW; NordSee I ( German North Sea ) – 40 km off-shore, 54 turbines, 332 MW.

8:04 p.m. COMPLAINT PROCESS

Jim summarized that complaints received during the reporting period can be characterized as noise (1 complaint), excess security lighting (1 location), radio signal interference, and altered drainage pattern concerns within some forested/off-road trails. Persons having a concern about the project are encouraged to contact:

* for MMWF office 705-368-0303,
* the NPI 24/7 Call Centre 1-866-290-6992, or
* for the MOE 24/7 number 1-800-268-6060

8:15 p.m. DECOMMISSIONING

Rick recapped the facts about the wind farm’s expected operational lifespan of 30+ years, and that the landowner agreements are structured to be 20 years, plus several five-year renewals.

The sequence of decommissioning was explained by him as:

* Removal of Turbines and Major Equipment
* Removal of Roads
* Removal of Foundations
* Removal of Conductors
* Restoration of Natural Environment

8:22 p.m. COMMUNITY FUND

The community fund contribution was awarded to the Centennial Manor enabling them to purchase a special lift chair.

8:25 p.m. CLC MEMBER QUESTIONS

Q.1. Health Canada Study results

A.1. Health Canada Study was recapped by Jim Mulvale. The study was conducted in 1238 households out of 1570 residing in Ontario and PEI. The study had 3 parts: in-person questionnaire, collection of physical health measures assessing stress levels using hair cortisol, blood pressure and resting hearth rate, as well of measures of sleep quality, and 4000 hours of wind turbine noise measurements. The only finding was the association between wind turbine noise and level of annoyance. The study confirmed no evidence between wind turbine noise and illness and chronic disease, stress, and sleep quality. A website link to the Health Canada Study was provided.

Q.2. How the maintenance of HONI impacts MMWF operation?

IESO and Hydro One are allowed to disconnect MMWF from the grid to accommodate their maintenance needs. HONI has scheduled significant switch repair/replacement this past fall with resulting outages occurring. In the future, additional significant updates are being scheduled in the area by HONI and MMWF has requested that the outage times occur in the low wind periods of the Spring to Summer months. HONI has agreed to this timing, so the public may see the windfarm down for as long as six weeks in May-June 2015. Rick pointed out that some of the recent MMWF outages have been related to: a GE turbine controls software glitch in October; a bushing short/ failure on a collector line transformer in August; and a ground fault in the buried section of the submarine cable in June.

Q.3. How have the issues of the impact on winter access to traditional snowmobile and ATV trails and traffic been resolved?

Rick assured the attendees that construction is complete in the snowmobile and ATV trail areas and that these have been rehabilitated and are ready for use.

8:40 p.m. CLC NEXT STEPS – MOE, DIRECTOR

Jim Mulvale indicated that the four CLC meetings conducted between March 2013 to November 2014 have met the requirement of the REA permit. A summary report will be prepared describing the CLC’s progress and is to be submitted to the MOE Director. The MOE Director will advise if more CLC meetings are required or if the CLC can be disbanded. The MOE Director’s decision will be communicated to the CLC members, as soon as it is received.

8:46 p.m. WRAP-UP & THANK YOU

Rick expressed the company’s thanks to all individuals serving on the CLC committee, and conveyed NPI management’s appreciation of the landowners’ support and commitment.

8:46 p.m. COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS

CLC Member Tony Ferro indicated he wanted to make a comment for the public record, a comment he said he thought many around the CLC table and from within the Manitoulin Island community would agree, “Northland Power deserved tremendous recognition and credit for having built a first-class wind farm operation and in doing so had honoured every promise and commitment made during public meetings and to concerned citizens”.

8:50 p.m. END of MEETING