# Wind Energy News Bluewater • Goshen • Jericho

Volume 1, Spring 2011

# Green Energy and the FIT

A core component of the Province of Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan is the shift to renewable energy. According to the Ministry of the Environment, Ontario's program to phase out coal-burning power plants is the single biggest greenhouse gas reduction initiative in the country.

Wind energy is playing a significant role in new power production in Ontario, and is a cornerstone of the shift to clean energy and a green economy. Ontario will continue to develop its renewable energy potential over the next decade. Based on the medium growth electricity demand outlook, a forecast of 10,700 megawatts (MW) of renewable capacity (wind, solar waterpower and bioenergy) is anticipated to be part of the supply mix by 2018. This forecast is based on planned transmission expansion, overall demand for electricity and the ability to integrate renewables into the system.

he province has established the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) program to enable the development of wind power across Ontario. The FIT program provides longterm contracts for energy generated using renewable resources. Homeowners, business owners and developers may apply to the FIT program if they use one or more forms of renewable energy, including wind, waterpower, solar photovoltaic (PV) power and bioenergy. The program is the first comprehensive FIT program in North America. It was launched through the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009. Under the FIT program, 50% of the materials and services for these projects must be sourced domestically. To learn more, please visit: www.mei.gov.on.ca/en/energy



One wind turbine provides enough power for about 300 homes

# Public Input Sought in Planning Process

NextEra Energy Canada is in the early development phase of the Bluewater, Goshen and Jericho Wind Energy Centres in Huron and Lambton Counties, in the vicinity of Grand Bend. We have commenced the Environmental Effects Studies for the Renewable Energy Approvals (REA) process for each of the three wind energy centres. We recognize that community input is important to creating a plan that will meet both NextEra Energy Canada and the community's needs. A great deal of additional work will be required to create a detailed plan for

each project. We look forward to working with our community partners, neighbours and local landowners on the planning process for these projects.

Open houses for each of the projects were held in June 2010. The next open houses are tentatively scheduled for early 2012. NextEra Energy Canada's project team will also be meeting directly with landowners and community groups, and we invite you to provide us with your comments, ideas and concerns. Newsletters will be distributed to the community throughout the REA process to keep you informed about project progress, news and schedules.

#### In This Issue:

Green Energy and the FIT	page 1
Public Input Sought in Planning Process	page 1
Good Turn-out for 2010 Open Houses	.page 1
Where are the Proposed Projects?	.page 2
Answers to Some Common Questions	.page 3
What is a Renewable Energy Approval?	.page 4

# Good Turn-out for 2010 Open Houses

Three public open houses were held in late June 2010, one located in each of the three study areas — Bluewater, Goshen and Jericho — with between 70 and 100 local residents attending each.

The open houses provided people with



an opportunity to learn more about the projects. A number of our experts were on hand to discuss bird and bat populations, planning and the REA process, sound levels, operations and maintenance, employment, grid connection, renewable energy in Ontario, scheduling and construction.

Thank you to all who attended and shared your ideas with us. Local residents provided us with a great deal of important information, including additional information about bird habitat in the area. We will address all comments and concerns raised at the public open houses in the REA process.

The open house information boards are all posted on our website where they can be downloaded:

www.CanadianWindProposals.com



# Where are the Proposed Projects?

We are in the early development phase of three projects in the area.

### **Bluewater**

The Bluewater Wind Energy Centre is expected to have maximum generating а capacity of up to 90 megawatts. The wind farm will be located in Bluewater Township, with potential interconnection electrical extending into Huron East. At the maximum generating capacity, the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre will produce enough energy for approximately 22,500 homes in Ontario.



Goshen

this

homes.

The Goshen Wind Energy Centre

is expected to have a maximum

generating capacity of up

to 160 megawatts. The wind

farm and potential electrical

interconnection will be located

in Bluewater and South Huron

Townships in Huron County. At

maximum generating capacity,

electricity for up to 40,000

will provide

project



## **Jericho**

The Jericho Wind Energy Centre is expected to have maximum generating а capacity of up to 230 megawatts. The wind farm will be located in the Municipality of Lambton Shores, with potential interconnection electrical extending into Warwick and **Brooke-Alvinston** Townships in Lambton County. At maximum capacity, this project will provide energy for more than 57,000 homes.



## Who are the Project Partners?

#### NextEra Energy Canada

extEra Energy Canada, ULC Nis part of NextEra Energy Resources, North America's leading generator of renewable energy from the wind and sun with more than 9,500 wind turbines in operation. We currently operate four wind farms in Canada – the Mount Copper Wind **Energy Centre and the Mount Miller** Wind Energy Centre in Quebec, the **Pubnico Point Wind Energy Centre** in Nova Scotia, and the Ghost Pine Wind Energy Centre in Alberta. We are also in the development stage of several more wind energy projects in Ontario.

NextEra Energy Resources is part of NextEra Energy, Inc., formerly known as FPL Group. More than 95% of NextEra Energy Resource's electricity is derived from clean or renewable sources including wind, solar, hydro, natural gas and nuclear energy. NextEra Energy Resources is headquartered in Juno Beach, Florida with Canadian operations based in Burlington, Ontario. For more information about NextEra Energy, visit these websites: www.NextEraEnergy.com www.NextEraEnergyResources.com

#### **Canadian Green Power**

Canadian Green Power IMS, is NextEra's local partner. Founded in 1999, this Ontario-based company owns and manages wind farm development land.

# Answers to Some Common Questions

### Wildlife

As part of the REA process, NextEra Energy Canada is working with experts to assess the potential effects on local wildlife, including birds and bats. When properly sited, wind turbines present less of a danger to birds than other structures such as buildings or roads. The location of turbines, as well as numerous other decisions associated with developing our wind farms, are carefully designed to minimize these effects.

Our work plans and results are reviewed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment as part of the approval of our REA application. Based on our studies, we will identify concerns and develop appropriate mitigation strategies to minimize environmental effects.

"Most of today's rapidly growing demand for energy is now being met by natural gas and expanded coal-burning power plants, which are this country's single greatest source of the greenhouse-gas emissions that cause global warming. If we don't find ways to reduce these emissions, far more birds—and people—will be threatened by global warming than by wind turbines. Our challenge is thus to help design and locate wind-power projects that minimize the negative impacts on birds."

#### The Audubon Society

http://policy.audubon.org/audubonstatement-wind-power

### Sound

Wind projects must show that they meet the sound limit requirements prescribed by the Ministry of Environment. For nonparticipating residences (those that are not a part of the project) the sound limit is 40dBA. This is quieter than many sources of sound within a home. NextEra Energy Canada takes great care to ensure that it is in compliance with the noise requirements. For most houses, the sound levels will be well below the 40dBA limit. When our projects become operational we commit to quickly addressing any concerns that arise regarding sound from our wind farm.

#### Health

At NextEra Energy, we take concerns related to our projects seriously. Much has been written about health effects associated with wind turbines. We are not aware of any scientifically peer-reviewed information demonstrating a link between wind turbines and negative health effects.

"There is no scientifically valid evidence that wind turbines are causing direct health effects, although the body of valid evidence is limited. It is unlikely that evidence of adverse health effects will emerge in the future because there is no biologically plausible mechanism known by which wind turbines could cause health effects."

Dr. David Colby

Chief Medical Officer of Health (Acting) Chatham-Kent, June 1, 2009

"According to the scientific evidence, there isn't any direct causal link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects." Dr. Arlene King

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health May 20, 2010

### **Shadow Flicker**

The required 550 metre setback from residential areas minimizes shadowing and "flicker" associated with turbines on a residence. We commit to mitigating complaints of shadow flicker associated with our projects.

Because shadow flicker is diffuse and limited to predictable, brief time periods just before sundown or after sunrise, it is an aesthetic rather than a safety issue. If we receive a complaint about shadow flicker at any home involved in or near the project, we are committed to mitigating the problem using appropriate measures, such as planting trees in the line of sight or installing window treatments or awnings.

### **Property Values**

There is no evidence to show a decline in property values from the siting of a wind farm. Studies have been conducted by Ontario municipalities and leading universities, which have concluded that the construction of a wind facility does not detract from property values.

# Excerpt from the Chatham-Kent property value study 2010:

"In the study area, where wind farms were clearly visible, there was no empirical evidence to indicate that rural residential properties realized lower sale prices than similar residential properties within the same area that were outside of the viewshed of a wind turbine.

No statistical inference to demonstrate that wind farms negatively affect rural residential market values in Chatham-Kent was apparent in this analysis."

## Excerpt from the Berkeley Lab property value study 2009:

"Specifically, neither the view of the wind facilities nor the distance of the home to those facilities is found to have any consistent, measurable, and statistically significant effect on home sale prices.

Wind facilities have had no widespread and statistically identifiable impact on residential property values. "

For full references for these studies, please contact us, or visit our website at www.NextEraEnergyResources.com/ content/environment/research.shtml

# Renewable Energy Approvals What is a Renewable Energy Approval?

Ontario's Green Energy Act requires larger wind power projects to undertake a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process. Under this approval process, we will assess whether the project will have impacts on cultural and heritage resources and the natural environment

### **Overview of the Approval Process**



(e.g. significant habitat, areas of natural scientific interest, etc). If potential impacts are found, we will determine how changes to our design can reduce, eliminate or mitigate the potential effects. Members of our development team will be active in your area over the next several months conducting these studies.

The Green Energy Act has established setbacks (the distance between a proposed turbine location and a specific feature) for people's homes, roads, wetlands, watercourses, woodlots, parks and conservation areas, and a variety of other landscape features to ensure that wind projects are protective of people's health, livelihood and the natural environment. It is our responsibility during the REA to ensure that we have a complete understanding of the local environment and of the human landscape - the locations of homes, businesses, schools and heritage resources. Our communication and consultation program has been established specifically to seek assistance and knowledge from community members to ensure that our understanding is correct.

Many of the previous requirements of the Ontario Planning Act and Environmental Assessment Act are incorporated into the REA process. All project submissions for the REA will be reviewed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Other agencies, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and local conservation authorities provide input to the approval process.

The flow-chart to the left provides an overview of the approval process and highlights formal opportunities for public input throughout the process.



## Contact Us

Here's how:

- ✓ Call our toll-free information number: 1.877.257.7330
- ✓ Send an email with your comments to: Bluewater.Wind@NextEraEnergy.com Goshen.Wind@NextEraEnergy.com Jericho.Wind@NextEraEnergy.com
- ✓ Send written comments or questions to: NextEra Energy Canada, 5500 North Service Road, Suite 205, Burlington ON, L7L 6W6

Check out the proposal website for more information: www.CanadianWindProposals.com

We value your privacy

Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and will be maintained on file for use during the planning process for the proposed wind centres.