

Not on Route 19, Part 2

Dear Editor,

The last thing I thought I would be doing in my retirement was research on wind turbines. Really! I blame that on the Rhodena Wind Farm Proposal. Or, let's call it for what it is; the Destruction of the Creignish Hills Project.

We are in a very precarious situation, as residents, here on Route 19. The money to finance the above mentioned proposal will come from overseas (Germany). The decision to grant approval for the proposal will come from the United States. That's a fact; you couldn't make this stuff up. Through the Rate Base Procurement Program, a contract will be awarded to supply renewable electricity to Nova Scotia Power Inc. The

Procurement Administrator is a company based in Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

There are better renewable energy alternatives with less impact to residents. No project should destroy the very fabric of local communities. These monster heavy industrial turbines (18) belong in a zoned heavy industrial park; or, 10 kilometres from the nearest family dwelling or dog house. The additional cost of developers to access transmission lines should not outweigh the hardship of generational residents. A legal government document addressing provincial regulations states: "Municipalities have the authority to require minimum setbacks between the wind project and resi-

dences, businesses, roads, etc." Let's run with that council, and update the 2012 land use bylaws in Inverness County.

Apart from lobbying local politicians, the only recourse we have is to write letters to Nova Scotia Rate Base Procurement (wind.info@novascotia.ca). That window is closing soon. In early May they will no longer accept letters from the public. Make no mistake about it, this is just Phase 1. A similar project will be coming to a community near you in the future. The west coast of Cape Breton Island, if we let it, will become "Turbine Alley." Forget the sunsets and music. Industrial turbines will scar the landscape, and popu-

lation will decline. Is that the new path forward? Please visit www.route19.org and help if you can.

Testimonials on the site reveal what scares the hell out of me. This project is absolutely in the wrong location. Right church, maybe, but definitely in the wrong pew.

Now, this is directed to you Keith Towse of Community Wind. You, like Vladimir Putin, have underestimated the resistance from those you wish to harm. You know full well the devastation this project would inflict on local residents. I don't know how you sleep at night. I guess you just don't care. Funny thing is, you publicly opposed (in council) a high rise development in your neighbourhood.

Well, that's what they do in cities Keith, they build high rises. I would tell you to move to the country, but then some joker might try to build a 200-metre turbine in your backyard. I also take exception to the Project Update that was in my mailbox. On the noise front, you state more information will be made available later. Not a big concern for us though. "Your team will make the necessary adjustments to avoid or reduce potential impact on wildlife." Must be some team considering you plan to clearcut 19,760 acres. Then pile drive, blast, and God knows what else. Bambi and Thumper will hardly notice. Safety lights are a government regulation. Not your fault, so nothing to talk about

there. Property values will not be affected. Realtors cannot keep up with the demand for buyers insisting on living next to a wind turbine farm. Read the room, Keith!

To local residents who support the project, you have my sincere apology. My quarrel is not with you. We all have our own set of reasons or circumstances. All I can say is from where I live and pay taxes, this is not a good fit.

I had a dream the other night. General John Cabot Trail was recruiting soldiers for the Cape Breton Liberation Army. He said in a Churchill like voice: "Our first battle will be on the western flank of the Creignish Hills."

Al Fraser
Long Point