

Ministry of the Environment  
and Climate Change

Ministère de l'Environnement  
et de l'Action en matière de  
changement climatique



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**MAR 06 2017**

ENV1283MC-2017-186

Mr. Kevin Jakubec  
Water Wells First  
9715 Greenvalley Line  
Dresden ON N0M 1P0

Dear Mr. Jakubec:

I would like to thank you, in your role as spokesperson for Water Wells First, for your coordinating efforts to enable residents living in the vicinity of the North Kent Wind 1 Project (NK1) to express their concerns related to the well water survey being undertaken by the company, and the formation of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC). The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) has received a number of letters to date from residents in the area, and I would like to use this opportunity to provide a response to the concerns raised.

The MOECC is committed to ensuring that the development of renewable energy projects is done in a way that is protective of human health and the environment, and in accordance with the conditions imposed by Renewable Energy Approvals (REAs).

As the letters indicate, there are conditions imposed on NK1's REA that must be complied with prior to commencement of construction. Having baseline water quality information in conjunction with vibration monitoring data will allow the MOECC to ensure the existing groundwater resources remain protected.

MOECC staff have viewed the Water Wells First website to gain a better understanding of the concerns of your group. I am pleased that both the website and the letters received by the ministry indicate a desire to participate in the well survey and in the water well sampling. The MOECC also encourages participation in this survey.

It is clear that your group, and a number of residents in the area, are concerned about the time provided by NK1 to complete the survey and provide the information requested by the January 16, 2017 deadline. MOECC staff have contacted NK1 to ensure they are aware of the concerns that have been brought to our attention. The company has advised that, as of January 31, 2017, they had received consent to participate in the survey from 173 residents, and had made arrangements to collect water samples from 152 of those residents. The company was in the process of arranging to collect water samples from the remaining residents. The MOECC made the company aware that if the representation of active water wells was not adequate, the company would be required to implement a groundwater monitoring well network by installing monitoring wells to a depth representative of the existing water wells in the area prior to construction. At the MOECC's request, on February 9, 2017, the wind farm submitted information to the ministry that illustrated the location of the properties where water wells were sampled within the Project Study Area of the North Kent Wind site. The ministry accepted this distribution as being adequate. Therefore, an additional groundwater monitoring well network was not required.

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In terms of the quality of the information on the MOECC's Water Well Information System, we are aware that the location of the wells may not be precise. This is often due to the age of the record and the historical process for recording the position of the well. This can lead to difficulty in identifying the appropriate well on the mapping display. MOECC staff have spoken to NK1 to remind them of the requirement under the REA to interview the residents regarding water well construction, groundwater quality, groundwater quantity and well locations to establish an accurate account of the water well. It is the MOECC's understanding that the intent of the survey mailed out to residents by the company was, foremost, to confirm consent by each resident to participate in the well water survey.

With respect to the requirement in the REA for the company to establish a CLC, the company has confirmed with our ministry that the liaison committee has now been established. MOECC staff have been informed that the CLC consists of 10 members, based on 10 applications submitted. It would appear that no selection of members (and consequently exclusion of others) occurred. The specifics of a charter of the CLC are not defined in the REA document; however, charters are commonly used to ensure proper functioning and accountability for a committee. NK1 was required to make reasonable efforts to establish the CLC within the three-month time frame. The MOECC is satisfied that reasonable efforts were made given some delay that took place during resolution of the appeal of the REA. Any further decision to include, exclude, or change charter/terms of reference would be at the discretion of all the CLC members.

Lastly, MOECC staff have considered the request to intervene in accordance with Condition G10 of the REA. To clarify, Condition G10 is specific to complaints received regarding potential impacts from construction, operation or decommissioning. As there has been no construction or operation at this time, this Condition is not yet applicable. The MOECC is taking the concerns of the residents seriously and has reached out to NK1 to make the company aware of the community concerns and to discuss the need to ensure compliance with all conditions of the REA.

Should you have any further questions or concerns about this project or any other environmental concerns, please contact Mr. Mark Smith, Area Supervisor in the MOECC's Windsor Area Office, at 519-948-1464 or by email at [mark.smith@ontario.ca](mailto:mark.smith@ontario.ca).

To ensure all interested parties have access to this letter, I am requesting that both Water Wells First and North Kent Wind 1 GP Inc. post this letter of response to their respective websites and that this letter be placed, for informational purposes, on the CLC agenda.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Glen Murray  
Minister

c: North Kent Wind 1 GP Inc.