

# Summary Report

## Meeting with Potential Leaseholders and Neighbours Ashton Ridge Golf Course Wind Farm Held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005

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Windrush Energy hosted a meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005 for potential leaseholders and immediate neighbours with respect to the Ashton Ridge Golf Course Wind Farm Project. The Meeting was held at the Grand Valley Public Library.

### **Notice of Meeting**

Each potential leaseholder and each immediate neighbour were invited to the meeting through an invitation sent by mail. Some of the attendees were contacted by phone and in person.

### **Attendance**

The meeting was attended by potential leaseholders and immediate neighbours to the project area. There was a sign-in sheet for attendees.

### **Format of the Meeting**

The meeting was approximately 1 ½ hours long and consisted of a formal presentation by the President and CEO of Windrush Energy followed by questions and answers. Various materials were made available to attendees and displays were set up around the room.

Material made available at the meeting included the following:

- A Green Power Vision & Strategy for Canada – Towards a Sustainable Electricity Future in Canada (Pollution Probe, 2004)
- *Smart Generation* (David Suzuki Foundation, 2004)
- *Wind: Part of the Lives* (Windrush Energy, 2004)
- *Hockley Valley Wind Farm Draft Screening EA document* (Environmental Business Consultants, 2004)

### **Questions and Answers**

During the Q&A portion of the meeting, the following questions were asked:

Q- Are the wind turbines that same as used at Melancthon?

A- The proposed turbines will be from GE.

Q- Where does the electricity come from when the wind isn't blowing?

A- Wind energy supplements the electrical power generated from other sources.

Q- How many neighbours is Windrush talking to?

A- All 18 neighbours immediately adjacent to the properties for the proposed wind turbines.

Q- How big is the inland high-wind area in Grand Valley?

A- It is difficult to determine since it is measured in 5-km blocks. The grid extends all the way to Luther Marsh.

Q- Once approval is obtained for the current proposal of 12 wind turbines, will future approval be necessary if there is expansion?

A- Yes.

Q- Where would the turbines be located?

A- The turbines are going to be located at Ashton Ridge Golf Course.

Q- How does a company qualify to supply power to the grid when there are multiple proponents with wind power projects?

A- A company has to meet qualifying criteria. There is supposed to be an announcement in June for more supply contracts with a deadline for submission in August.

Q- Is Windrush going to be a licensed distributor of electricity?

A- No. Windrush will sell the power generated to the IMO.

Q- Do property value studies exist in relation to wind turbines?

A- Yes. In Europe, real estate is more valuable if it connected to the electrical grid. There will be one conducted for this project as well.

Q- Why is Windrush selling power at a discount to neighbours?

A- Windrush is of the view that neighbours should realize a tangible benefit for living next to a wind farm. Windrush has learned that neighbours want to know what's in it for them when a wind farm is constructed near them.

Q- What is the return on investment for a wind farm?

A- The ROI is 5% - approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year plus the lease fee.

Q- What is the lifespan of a turbine?

A- 25 to 30 years.

Q- Can you use a wind turbine for your own house?

A- One could. With respect to the Ashton Ridge Wind Farm, neighbours will be offered discounted electricity and Windrush will guarantee the price difference from the local hydro-electrical utility.

Q- Why did the Hockley Valley wind farm not go forward?

A- The wind farm proposal did not proceed for a number of reasons including (1) the Township required the existing residential land to be rezoned commercial; (2) pricing changes; (3) the wind regime at the site was not as favourable as first thought; and (4) the MOE changed the setbacks so Windrush had to go from 5 wind turbines to 3 at the site limiting profitability.

Q- Where are wind turbines manufactured?

A- In the U.S., although GE is considering a manufacturing facility in Canada.

Q- Why is the government not putting more money into wind farms?

A- The WPPI is one cent per kW-hour for wind production to a maximum of \$1 billion. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has a pool of \$250 million for renewable energy development.