

Appendix H10

Public Correspondence

**GOSFIELD COMBER WIND ENERGY PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

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Website Comments			
Date	Comments Received	Response Date	Response
August 4, 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In support of project 	11 August 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard response
August 4, 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In support of project 	11 August 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard response
14 August 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would like a copy of ESR mailed to the address provided when it becomes available 	16 August 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stantec is compiling a natural environmental features inventory in preparation for the ESR. • It is anticipated that the report will be completed in February or March 2007 and it will be made available to stakeholders for review. • It will also be posted on the project website.
23 September 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How far east is the area under consideration 	29 September 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A map of the study area can be found on the project website. • The study area is in the process of being updated and it is anticipated that the boundary will extend farther east than what is indicated on the current map. • We will provide you with an updated version once it becomes available.
27 November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have a 10 acre farm in Gosfield North ▪ How far from my neighbours do the windmills have to be? ▪ Do you find that people do not want to look at windmills out their front door? ▪ Will it make much noise? ▪ Will they be paying for the use of my farm? ▪ How long will the contract be? ▪ Will I get free power from the windmill? ▪ Will I have to wait for the meeting in Comber for all of these answers? 	29 November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setback distances are typically set by the local planning authority (Kingsville) and are generally 300-400m from a house. If you have a signed lease with Brookfield, these will not apply, but will apply to your neighbours if they do not have a signed lease • The opinion of what turbines look like varies greatly between people. Some people find them visually appealing. In the Environmental Assessment, a study that will show what the turbines look like from different angles will be presented. • The MOE has strict guidelines for noise that must be obeyed. I have attached a fact sheet for your information. • Anyone participating in the windfarm will receive annual payment. If you have a turbine on your property, you will receive a percentage of the gross income of the turbine.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lease agreement is for 49 years • There are regulatory and technical barriers preventing the power from being distributed directly to end-users. All of the power produced will be sold to the Ontario Power Authority under a long-term contract
29 November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I recently received a newsletter for the Gosfield Wind Project, which indicated that you are still looking to lease land. ▪ I have a 35 acre area of land that I would be interested in leasing as part of your required needs. ▪ If you are interested, please send me information on the lease agreement. ▪ I am a former employee of Hydro One and understand how important it is to initiate new ways to generate power, especially if it is environmental ▪ If you have any questions, please contact me. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forwarded to Brookfield for response on Nov. 30, 2006
05 December 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I am writing in regards to a project that I am undertaking. The purpose of this project is to develop a business planning tool for producers and food processors in dealing with renewable energy. ▪ I am contacting you to learn more about the Gosfield Wind Project. The project we are undertaking includes wind and I would like to review with you. ▪ When is a good time to connect? ▪ Details of my project are included 	15 December 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke to William on the phone for details on the project he is working on. Wants to develop a “template” for farmers that might be interested in a turbine on their land (general guidelines as to what steps need to be taken by farmers to have a turbine on their land. Not specifically for Gosfield Comber project). • Will speak with him again for a more detailed outline as to the project he is working on
09 December 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We were unable to attend the Public meeting ▪ Are you still looking for locations for your project? ▪ Please contact us because our site may be a viable option 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forwarded to Brookfield on Dec. 11, 2006
23 June 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kingsville Council did not support the interim control by law, but I hope to have the study from the County to have some guidance ▪ At the end of construction phase and with maintenance what would the required employees be for the wind park, and would they be designated or would they be shared with other projects. ▪ As Gosfield Comber Wind Park will be partially located in the Town of Kingsville, home of Jack Miner, your EA regarding migratory birds needs to 	15 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided Open House information and CANWea fact sheet information • no offshore development is proposed as part of this Project and will not be proposed as part of any other wind development project within the province as the provincial government has placed a moratorium on such proposals • The level of employment required during the peak of

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	<p>be exhaustive to alleviate any concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any improvements in the lease need to be communicated to the landowners immediately and perhaps several times, and as a major stakeholder in the project, with this knowledge of the improvements in their lease they would be the best public relations spokespersons. ▪ Do you know of any plan (federally or provincially) to address the lack of transmission facilities in the Province 		<p>construction will be over 300 people, with an average labour force of approximately 200.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the operation and maintenance phase of the project there will be approximately 16-20 employees who will work solely for Brookfield Power and not for other wind projects • Migratory birds along with breeding birds, bats, and rare and sensitive species are all being thoroughly assessed as part of the Environmental Assessment and in consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada/Canadian Wildlife Service • With respect to property taxes and the information contained within the Land Lease Agreements (LLA), Brookfield Power is working to address any questions land owners may have regarding their LLA. You are also correct in noting that any increase in property taxes as a direct result of the Project will be paid for by Brookfield Power • Lastly, the province does have a lack of transmission capacity, notably in the area along Lake Huron (Bruce Area). The OPA's Integrated Power System Plan (IPSP) has identified this issue and recommends solutions that will overcome these constraints
28 June 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As both a representative of the Town of Lakeshore and a resident I found your newsletter to be very informative ▪ I would recommend a larger font for the text as some individuals may have difficulty reading. ▪ This project is exciting to the Town of Lakeshore and to the development of renewable energy. 	25 September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided information on the most recent Public Open House
30 August 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unsure if she will be able to attend the Public Open House ▪ If there is a vote, she is not in agreement with the Project ▪ Not as efficient as Brookfield claims they are 	15 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided Open House information • A vote was not conducted at the Public Open House; however exit questionnaires were made available for all attendees to provide feedback regarding the Public Open

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			<p>House and the Project in general</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referred to the positions of numerous independent ENGO's (such as the World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace and the Pembina Institute) regarding wind power. A summary of these policy positions may be found on the web at: www.renewableisdoable.com.
30 August 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to attend upcoming Open House Would like to be informed of any new information 	25 September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided information on the most recent Public Open House
7 September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages the Project Will it benefit the homeowners of Leamington or the greenhouses more? What area are we focusing our studies on? 	15 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided Open House information The benefit of the Project will be realized by all members of the Study Area The preliminary turbine layout shows turbines being located in the Municipalities of Lakeshore and Kingsville, but not in the Municipality of Leamington. Please note that this is a preliminary layout and the locations of the turbines are subject to change pending further study Project benefits will not be directed specifically at the greenhouse industry. Greenhouses, like all electricity consumers, will benefit from stable electricity pricing from clean, renewable sources like wind. The Environmental Assessment will assess all of the lands within the Study Area with increased attention paid to the identified natural and socio-economic features (i.e., wetlands, woodlots, residences, schools, etc.)
11 September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would like a copy of the information presented at the open house and be added to the mailing list 	25 September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided information from the Public Open House

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13 September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada- Windsor Centre, and Director of Light Pollution Abatement ▪ our centre observatory is within the perimeter of this project ▪ wish to formally request that all ancillary lighting installed be environmentally friendly and of the IESNA full cut-off design, and further, preferably motion activated ▪ I am aware that wind turbines are required to used flashing red warning lights. Red lights are acceptable near astronomical activity. 	9 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided information from the Public Open House • An assessment of the lighting required is also taking place • Final lighting will be determined once the final layout is confirmed
4 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has an airstrip next to her property. ▪ Would like to know the exact location of the turbines in order to assess their feasibility vs. the airstrip 	16 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided website information • Currently reviewing setback distances from airstrips and will be used in the development of a revised turbine layout
10 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would like to know if all of the dots on the map in the newsletter are potential locations for turbines ▪ Have built a new homestead and will now be surrounded by 9 turbines. ▪ Don't want to have any turbines located near their property. 	16 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided website information • Confirmed that all black dots are preliminary locations of the turbines • Closest turbine is approx ½ km away • Siting of turbines requires balancing numerous items that must be taken into consideration including public comments • Will be assessing any effects to neighbouring properties as part of the EA • Recommended visiting an existing wind farm to better appreciate the impacts of such a facility.
16 October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank you for your reply and I appreciate the efforts made to find other ways to conserve energy ▪ Will continue to research wind energy to determine if my information is true or not. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No response required

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21 July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am an enthusiastic supporter of your project. • I am concerned about the lighting of the turbines. • I am an amateur astronomer and observe from the Hallam Astronomical Observatory, located in the centre of the Comber study area. • Flashing white lights or lights other than the colour red would severely harm the observing environment at this site. • The wind farm in Port Burwell uses red lights and we were favourably impressed. • Best wishes with the project 	25 July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for your letter dated 21 July 2006. We appreciate your involvement in the Environmental Screening Process (“ESP”) for this project. • Turbine lighting and marking are the responsibility of Transport Canada. The project must comply with the aviation safety lighting and marking standards specified by Transport Canada as set out in the Canadian Aviation Regulations and Standards • Our current understanding of the draft standards is that wind turbines should have a flashing red beacon mounted on the highest practical point of the turbine. This lighting is anticipated to be a red flashing light at night (about 20 flashes/minute) with an intensity of approximately 2,000 candelas. Perimeter turbines in the wind plant area are required to be painted white under the draft standards. • However, based upon the current draft standards, and past experience, it is not expected that all of the wind turbines will require an aviation safety light on top of the tower. • Thanks again for sharing your comments with us. As the Gosfield Comber Wind Energy Project continues to evolve, please feel free to contact us at 519.836.6050 (call collect), or via email at comments@gosfieldcomberwind.com. <p>Additional information about the current status of the project can also be found on the project website at www.gosfieldcomberwind.com.</p>
19 July 2006 Phone call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located approximately 5km west of Study Area in a rural home with electrical heat • Asked if Brookfield is held by an American or Canadian company • Asked about the direct benefits of the project (ie. cost of electricity) 		

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19 July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sent fax that an 800 number should be supplied for the public to call if there is no web page 	19 July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stantec called in response to fax and left a message with the website address and stated that callers can contact Stantec by collect call, as indicated in the Notice of Commencement
19 July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen called from CHYR Blackburn Radio Looking for person in charge of advertising and promotions for the project Advertising in farm report (?) 	19 July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replied that Stantec was not interested, but would pass the information package onto our client
21 July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Own a couple farms near Comber in the Study area and wants to participate as an optioned land owner The farms are 20 acres and 70 acres. 	21 July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stantec forwarded contact information to Brookfield Power
27 January 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the dimensions of the turbines? How many turbines are linked to one substation and in what manner will this be accomplished? How large and what is involved in setting up a conversion station? How much power will actually be contributed to the provincial grid? How can the turbines be called "green" when they may destroy natural habitat Did Brookfield approach the LTVCA about building within a conservation area? Are birds of prey more at risk for collision vs. other birds? If so, why is this area being considered? How are we gathering noise information? How do we know the MOE guideline noise levels will be sufficient if they haven't done enough research? How is your team investigation potential health issues related to noise? Are we researching potential impacts to livestock? Will the turbines disrupt our tv reception? How does lightning affect the turbines? 	28 September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The turbines have a tower height of 80 metres (262 feet) above the ground with a blade length of 41 metres (135 feet) for a total of 121 metres (397 feet) when the blades are at the top of their blade sweep. There will be two conversion or substations associated with this project. Although the design is still preliminary, it is anticipated that 103 turbines would be connected to the larger substation using 6-7 collector lines or "feeders". The second substation would have 48 turbines connected using 2-3 feeders. Conversion (or sub) stations vary in size but their construction involves: grading the site; constructing foundations and supporting structures; installing fencing and grounding; installing the conducting lines, transformers and equipment, and finally; testing and commissioning the station. Both substations will be located immediately adjacent to existing Hydro One transmission lines and therefore they will be connected directly to these lines by Hydro One forces. The wind farm will have a maximum capacity of 250MW and produce over 700 GWh per year. This is enough to

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do ice storms affect the turbines? • How does Brookfield intend to address the 25-30% decline in property values once this is built? • How will electromagnetic fields be increased in our area? • How great is the risk of stray voltage? • What happens to the turbines once they have expired? 		<p>power more than 50,000 Ontario homes. All of the power produced will be fed into the existing grid. This represents approximately 0.5% of current annual provincial electricity consumption, or about 3% of the total current contribution of coal to the provincial electricity supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is the custodian of this property and is in the best position to determine whether or not wind turbines constitute an appropriate and compatible use of this property. Even if the LTVCA agrees to lease this property, the project's environmental screening may reveal that this site is not suitable for a turbine or associated facilities. In summary, leasing activities are independent of the environmental assessment although both are required before wind turbines are sited in a particular location. • Brookfield Power and Stantec have commenced a comprehensive study on bird population, habitat and migration patterns in the proposed wind farm area. These studies are being done to determine the potential effects of turbines on the bird population. Generally some birds of prey are more prone to being killed by blades, and as they mature slower than smaller birds. However, the level of risk varies from species to species varies throughout the year. • An acoustic noise control engineering firm has been retained to conduct an ambient noise assessment for reporting baseline conditions. They will prepare an environmental noise model in accordance with the requirements defined by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and an Environmental Noise Impact Assessment (ENIA) Study to ensure sound level limits are not exceeded at points of reception to assess any impacts and prepare a noise mitigation plan, if required, to ensure compliance with the relevant Provincial (i.e.

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			<p>MOE) Noise Regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brookfield Power will be conducting shadow flicker studies. Studies to investigate the health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) have taken place around the world since the 1960's. EMFs associated with the wind farm facilities are no more significant than those generated by the transmission and distribution lines that carry power to every modern home. • Stray voltage is defined as electricity that results from poorly grounded utilities. Stray voltage occurs solely from improperly grounded distribution lines (the lines that bring the electricity to individual households and farms). • Wind turbines have the potential to interfere with radio or TV signals as a result of the turbine being in the "line-of-sight" between a receiver and the signal source (AWEA, 2006). Prevention and mitigation measures will be provided in the EA. • Like many other structures, the wind turbines will be grounded to protect them from lightning strikes. • Accumulation of ice on the turbine blades is possible during the winter months with extreme weather events where the turbines may be subject to coating from freezing rain or interception of low clouds containing super cooled rain. Unlike telecommunication towers the wind turbines purchased for this Project will have a solid conical tower. This design reduces the potential for ice build up on the tower itself since there is no lattice or crevices for ice to accumulate. In terms of ice throw, when the rotor becomes unbalanced due to a change in blade weighting (e.g., caused by ice build up), the turbine brake is automatically applied to stop the blades from turning (i.e., it shuts itself off). The blades will not restart their movement until the imbalance is removed (e.g., the majority of ice is removed). This design feature greatly

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			<p>reduces potential ice throw from the turbines on the few days per year when icing is possible. In addition, appropriate setbacks for wind turbines from roads, residences and other structures ensure that ice throw does not pose a risk to persons or property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property evaluation studies carried out in the U.S., Australia, and Europe, where wind turbines are more common, generally indicate that the installation of such facilities has no material adverse effect to property values. • According to the National Research Council, Health Canada, and the Cancer Society, available laboratory and human data have not clearly demonstrated what, if any, magnitudes of power line EMF cause human health effects. EMF exists in everyday life – in our homes and environment – so people are constantly exposed to varying levels of EMF on a daily basis. However, these fields tend to be much smaller than those produced naturally by your brain, nerves, and heart. • Once the leases expire new leases will be negotiated or turbines will be decommissioned and removed.

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