



*Randy R. Hope*



*Municipality of Chatham-Kent*

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April 20, 2017

Hon. Glen R. Murray  
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change  
Ferguson Block, 11th Floor  
77 Wellesley St West  
Toronto ON M7A2T5

Dear Minister Murray:

As you are no doubt aware, there remains a concern within some of the Chatham-Kent community over the health and status of water wells. Many of our residents, businesses and agricultural operations depend on water wells, not only for their homes, but also for the operation of their businesses.

A group of our residents has expressed serious concern about the impact that proposed industrial wind turbines that will be built later this year will have on water wells and the underlying aquifer. Some citizens have expressed that they are upset to the point of losing sleep and peace of mind because they do not know what is going to happen to their water wells, health and livelihood.

It is imperative that the owners of local water wells and our community understand what is happening to the local aquifer and also understand what impact the installation of wind turbines may or may not have on wells.

North Kent Wind, as part of their Renewable Energy Approval and with the guidance and approval of the MOECC, has been conducting water well testing for local well owners. Otter Creek Wind has also, voluntarily, agreed to conduct water well testing for local well owners. In addition, a local water well advocacy group, Water Wells First, has also been conducting water well testing for local well owners.

There is a high degree of uncertainty amongst some local well owners over what is an appropriate testing regime and also over who is testing for what parameters and why. It is important to realize that one aspect of protecting local well owners is that the well owners, MOECC, Council, local wind companies, Water Wells First and the general public should understand what level of testing is being done or should be done.

Cont'd...

We believe that your Ministry has the expertise and ability to properly determine what testing is required to address the concerns brought forth to us. We are asking you to immediately convene a meeting in Chatham-Kent to fully discuss water well testing and provide recommendations (where indicated) to local water well owners. We would ask that you specifically address the following:

1. What testing (number and type of parameters tested for, cost, complexity etc.) is currently being done or planned by North Kent Wind, Otter Creek, and Water Wells First?
2. Should well owners be obtaining any additional testing and, if so, who will pay for this testing and any other testing already paid for?

By doing this, all local water well owners, wind companies, Water Wells First, Council and the general public will be fully aware of what testing is being done at no cost to local water well owners.

Your assistance in clearing up the confusion and providing your expertise and advice to local water well owners would be sincerely appreciated. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent is willing to assist your ministry with the logistics of setting up this very important meeting.

Attached please find a copy of the Notice of Motion by Councillor Jeff Wesley that has been tabled until further notice.

Sincerely,



Randy R. Hope, Mayor/CEO  
Municipality of Chatham-Kent