



Report to Independent Electricity System Operator Large Renewal Procurement – Phase I 2015

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1. Introduction

Save The Nation is a grassroots, volunteer movement created in direct response to proposed industrial wind turbine (IWT) projects in The Nation Municipality, which groups a collections of small communities in the eastern part of Ontario. *Save The Nation* represents our united community that is in strong opposition to IWT.

We offer this report in direct response to proposals submitted by wind developers for IWT projects in St-Isidore (by EDF EN Canada) and St-Bernardin (by Leader Resources), both of which are part of The Nation Municipality.

Through this report we are exercising our right, afforded through current government policy, to play a critical role in the IESO's decision-making process, by reporting the events and activities of a small, yet resolute community over the past 90 days. We also provide critical information about the unique features of our community and the tactics employed by wind developers leading up to this date.



2. The Nation – Not A Willing Host

On August 10, 2015 The Nation Municipality Council passed a resolution declaring The Nation Municipality a NOT WILLING HOST for industrial wind turbines.

On September 10, 2015 The Nation Municipality Council passed another resolution rescinding all previous resolutions of support for industrial wind turbines, including the offered Community Benefit Fund Agreement from EDF EN Canada Inc.

It is our understanding from The Nation Clerk that these crucial actions have been formally communicated to IESO.

3. Chronology of Events

The following are the events, as we know them that led The Nation Municipality to consider IWT projects. Also included are key dates for *Save The Nation* activities.

2011-2012

EDF EN Canada Inc (EDF) & Sierra Nevada Power Leader Resources (LR) hold private meetings with individual and small groups of landowners in The Nation Municipality.

2013

- EDF, LR and 'secret' landowner group approach The Nation Municipality Council to lobby for approval of IWT projects.
- **May 13**
Resolution 279-2013 is passed at a special meeting of Council closed to the public supporting the Leader Resources Project.

2014

- **January 20**
Resolution 23-2014 is passed at a special meeting of Council closed to the public supporting Projet éolien St-Isidore presented by EDF EN Canada.
- **September 15**
Resolution 525-2015 is passed at a regular meeting of Council supporting Ferme Éolienne Gauthier presented by Sierra Nevada Power and developer Leader Resources.

2015

- **May 25**
Resolution 315-2015 is passed at a regular meeting of Council adopting the EDF EN Canada Community Benefit Fund Agreement.
- **June 23**
First notice to the public. EDF EN Canada hosts information exhibit in St-Isidore. Only nine (9) weeks before IESO RFP deadline.
- **June 24**
Leader Resources holds an information exhibit in St-Bernardin.
- **July 15**
First meeting of concerned citizens occurs in St-Bernardin – *Sauvons La Nation* is born. Signs begin to show up on residents' lawns.



- **August 5**
First public meeting by Save The Nation/Sauvons La Nation in St-Bernardin. 550 residents attend.
- **August 10**
 - *Save The Nation* efforts rewarded when The Nation Municipality Council passes Not Willing Host resolution.
 - EDF contacts The Nation Municipality prior to the vote and doubles their Community Benefit Fund contribution from \$150,000 to \$300,000.
- **August 31**
 - *Save The Nation* presents relevant information to The Nation Council to increase their knowledge and supply important facts.
 - *Save The Nation* presents to Council a 3,000 name petition representing 85% against IWT in The Nation.
- **September 14**
Following a strong phone and email campaign to the Mayor and Councillors by concerned citizens, The Nation Council passes a resolution to rescind resolutions 279-2013, 23-2014, 525-2014, and 315-2015, removing all municipal support for IWTs in The Nation.
- **October 20**
Save The Nation rents the St-Albert Community Centre to make both English and French presentations to interested residents in bordering areas of The Nation. Close to 100 residents show up to hear firsthand the reasons for the opposition.
- **October 22**
Save The Nation submits this report to the Large Renewal Proposal group of the Independent Electricity System Operator in the province of Ontario.

4. Shameful Tactics

Throughout the above identified chronology, there were frequent instances where manipulation, deceit and nefarious influence were at play.

- a) The Nation Municipality Council on more than one occasion deliberately misled its residents by passing resolutions during special meetings, holding private meetings with developers and landowners, and burying all discussion and decisions about IWTs under "other business" on the agenda to not attract observers or opponents to the Council meetings.
- b) The two wind developers (EDF and LR) purposely kept the residents in the dark as long as possible. There was no effort made to be open, transparent and **timely** in informing the public directly affected by these projects.

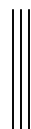
- c) The timing of their information exhibit sessions (June 23 and 24) were a full week after the end of school in our region, a time when many residents have already left on vacation.
- d) The information exhibits were not an actual public information meeting. Visitors on the sole evening session were forced to figure out what the true issue was as no actual presentations were made. A questions period offered in St-Bernardin soon proved to be an opportunity for the company to deliver their sales pitch. Residents' questions and concerns were not adequately answered.
- e) The end of June dates chosen were deliberate to ensure that the residents would not be able to organize, betting on the busy summer months for farmers, and vacation time for non-farmers.
- f) EDF attempted to influence, even bribe The Nation Municipality's Council on the day of the Not Willing Host vote, by doubling the CBF contribution.
- g) In obvious attempts to conceal and deceive, the two companies went so far as to willingly provide English only literature and legally binding contracts to Francophones, and French only literature to Anglophones.
- h) Bribes or "signing bonuses" were a common tactic when meeting with prospective landowners, as was the gross exaggeration of the number of neighbouring landowners who had already signed up for wind turbines, leaving the impressions that this was a popular project.

5. Save The Nation Is Formed

The *Save The Nation* movement came into existence soon following the 'information session' held by EDF and Leadership Resources on June 23 & 24, 2015.

These information sessions were the first and only notifications the residents of The Nation Municipality received concerning the proposed IWT projects, and only nine weeks before the project proposal submission deadline to IESO of September 1, 2015.

Local residents easily came to the realization that the 'information' provided by these companies was intentionally limited, bias, exaggerated, and misleading. Advantages to the region were grossly overstated, while all negative impacts were either omitted, downplayed, or dismissed.



Concerned citizens began banding together to take on industrial wind developers and adopted the name *Save The Nation*.

6. *Save The Nation Gets Active*

In the nine weeks that followed June 24, an incredible number of responsible public actions were taken by the volunteers of *Save The Nation*, which included a much-needed open public meeting and the following:

A. Initial meetings with local elected representatives

Volunteers met with each of the four municipal councillors and the Mayor to discuss the situation, to voice public concerns, and to obtain further information on what transpired during the decision process. It was quickly discovered that discussions regarding these projects had taken place during closed special meetings over several years. This abhorrent lack of transparency is reprehensible, and consideration is being given to the drafting of a formal 'transparency' complaint to the Ontario Ombudsman.

B. Informal meeting with wind developer

Volunteers conducted an informal two-hour long meeting with EDF representatives on July 28, 2015, in order to gain a deeper understanding and clearer picture of what was planned.

During this meeting, citizens were very concerned with the scope of the proposed project. EDF claimed the project would not be as large as initially thought, and would be scaled down to 100 MW instead of 150 MW, therefore reducing the number of turbines. EDF mailed a newsletter to residents with this piece of misleading information, the project they submitted is indeed is 150 MW.

Nowhere on EDF's website was the exact number of turbines or their size disclosed for the public to understand the magnitude and impact of both. Also, during this meeting very little creditable information was offered by the company. They remained steadfast in offering only exaggerated advantages to the region, and ignoring any and all negative impacts. The meeting proved fruitless.

C. First real open public meeting

On August 5, 2015, 550 residents filled the St-Bernardin community hall to capacity with standing room only to attend an open public meeting organized and paid for by *Save The Nation* volunteers.

The public meeting discussed and debated the impacts IWTs have on agricultural land, sensitive soils (Leda clay, peat), the environment, human health, livestock health, and wildlife including birds, bats, and other endangered

species. Also considered in detail were the long-term social and economic factors critical to rural communities.

The turnout to this meeting was remarkable for a small rural community such as ours. The overwhelming passionate response was unwavering support for the *Save The Nation* mandate, and a call to take all necessary action to strongly oppose the IWT projects in our municipality. The volunteer group grew with new members bringing their expertise to the table.

D. Lawn Signs

Save The Nation volunteers ordered the first 50 lawn signs in early July, and sold them at cost. Now over 1,000 lawn signs can be found on over one quarter of the lawns of residents in The Nation Municipality. The demand for these signs continues, and we continue to produce more to supply the demand.

E. The petition

One amazing action undertaken by this democratic grass roots citizen's movement was to conduct a door-to-door population survey and petition. The results demonstrated that statistically, 85% of the local population are strongly opposed to these IWT projects in The Nation. 3,500 residents were canvassed and 3,000 names were collected on the petition in just four weeks.



Mapping and data provided by EDF has revealed that there are only 40 landowners who have signed in favour of the projects among the local population of 11,600 who are 85% opposed. Truly an unfair, uneven and undemocratic outcome.

F. Sharing information

The volunteers of *Save The Nation* quickly realized that their fellow residents were desperate to find credible information about IWT projects. To help quench the thirst, a website and a Facebook page were created.

G. Informing and educating municipal council

On August 31, 2015, the *Save The Nation* group were accorded an official delegation at the Council meeting. *Save The Nation* took the opportunity to make a professional and fact-based presentation that included a series of researched concerns, aimed directly at the true impact these projects would have on our local municipality, our region, and our citizens. We also formally presented Council with the 3,000 signature petition.

H. Going public

Hundreds of emails and phone calls to The Mayor and the Councillors of The Nation were successful in getting their attention. The citizens of The Nation answered the call and made their individual opinions heard, ensuring the overturning of past resolutions in support of IWT and the declaration of Not Willing Host.

Save The Nation activities also attracted and continue to attract the attention of local and regional media outlets.

Dozens of articles, news stories

and radio interviews have taken place putting The Nation in the spotlight, for an issue it would much rather have avoided.



7. Municipal Impacts and Liabilities

The Nation Municipality Council naively considered hosting IWT, without ever considering the significant number of possible and likely disastrous outcomes. They also made decisions that would have profound and lasting impacts on their constituents without ever informing or consulting us. Here are just a few of the outcomes we outlined to them during our August 31st presentation.

A. Fire suppression and disaster preparedness

The Nation is not prepared for catastrophic failures of IWT including fires, collapses and hazardous material contaminations. These all pose serious health and life risk to residents of The Nation and the volunteer fire department staff.

The Nation would need to make an impossible investment in fire and hazardous material handling infrastructure if IWT projects were to be approved. This major financial cost to tax payers provides no obvious return. The monstrous financial cost to respond to an event could very well bankrupt our community. Some considerations not accounted for by Council:

- Comprehensive expansion of Fire and Emergency Services
- Procurement of specialized apparatus
- Procurement of specialized equipment
- Procurement of specialized training
- Ongoing certification and recurrent training requirements

B. Increase probability of landslides

Peat and Leda clay are unique ground materials that present particular difficulties for IWT developers. It is important to note that both those ground materials are abundant and of unknown distribution in The Nation Municipality.

There are 14 recorded landslides along the Casselman-Lemieux corridor dating back to 1885. The most recent of which, in 1993 was predicted, and is well-known and documented. This incident required the complete relocation of the Lemieux village. There remain many landslide prone areas along the prolific secondary waterways also.

Vibration is a trigger for Leda Clay and peat collapse, and the Leda Clay and peat deposits in The Nation are essentially unmapped. Reports indicate Wind turbine vibration is significant and radiates up to 6 km.

Wind Turbine construction and operation are triggering landslides in other regions across the globe (e.g. DerryBrian Ireland). It is imperative to avoid The Nation for this reason alone.

C. Severe road damage during construction

Compensation for road damage will not come close to repairing the vast number of roads accessed during construction. EDP paid the municipality of Dundas and the United Counties nearly \$2.7 million for road damage. Public Works Manager Chris Bazinet says the compensation is "just a drop in the bucket".

D. Property tax impact

The tax revenue for one industrial wind turbine has the potential of \$2,385.79. The tax revenues for one home valued at \$345,000 is the same at \$2,387.66. If the municipality added 60 new homes each at \$350,000 that would exceed the net IWT revenue, without all the negative impacts.

It is a known fact that people avoid IWT project areas when relocating or building.

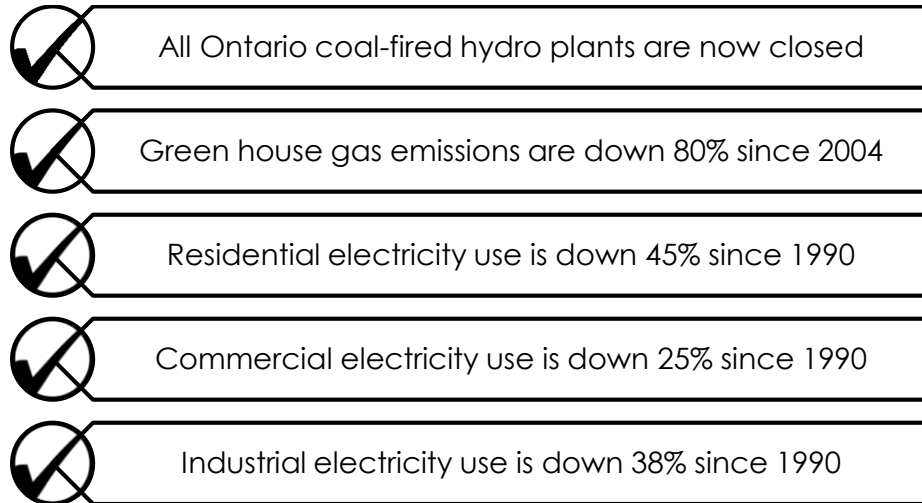
A recent media based survey in August of 2015 reported that 78% of Greater Ottawa Area residents would not live in proximity to an IWT project. The loss of 78% of the potential client base for The Nation, plus outward migration is what will cause the collapse of property values in our municipality and a stagnation of growth. The Nation Municipality cannot afford this, it would be devastating.



8. Ontario Policy – The Root Cause

The province of Ontario continues to invest heavily in IWT projects; however the true benefit to the people and the environment remain unclear.

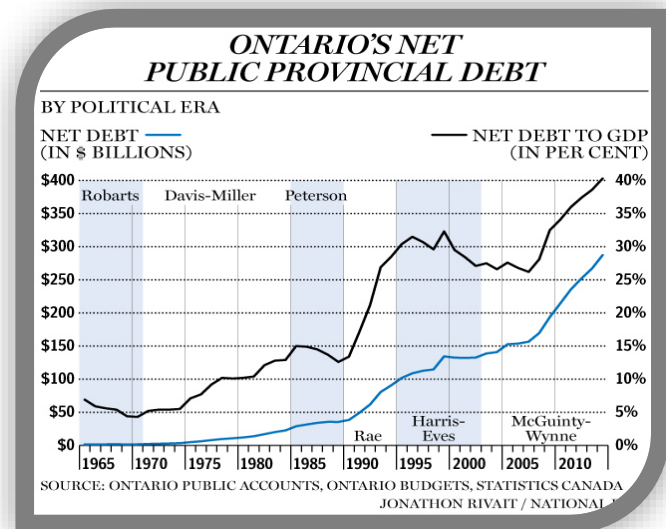
Consider the following:



However, the following is also true:

- Hydro rates were on a decline prior to the Green Energy Act.
- Between 2008 and 2015 Ontarians have shouldered a 100% increase in the cost of hydro.
- IESO data estimates a further 70% increase will occur between 2015 and 2030
- The Green Energy Act forces Ontarians to pay twice for our hydro:
 1. Our hydro bill
 2. Taxation for subsidies to for-profit companies

An economic calamity is inevitable. Ontario's debt has doubled since implementation of the GEA. Ontario has the fastest growing debt in history, and we have the highest public debt of any sub-sovereign state in the world. Those on the hook are Ontario tax payers.



9. Ontario's Hydro Surplus

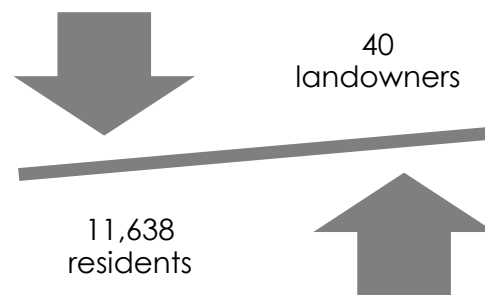
In 2011, Auditor General Jim McCarter reported that between 2005 and 2010, Ontario consumers lost \$1.8 billion on electricity exports. Electricity export losses for the first 6 months of 2015 are \$1.1 billion, with forecasts for all of 2015 to exceed \$2 billion.

Reports state that tax payer costs of the Green Energy Program till July 2015 has been \$40 billion in direct, unrecoverable costs.

Ontario now has among the highest hydro rates in all North America. We have seen that as hydro cost goes up, business investment goes down.

10. Unbalanced Equation

In The Nation Municipality, should IWT projects be approved, 40 landowners will benefit to the detriment of 11,638 residents.



The 11,638 residents will lose:

- Financially – increased taxes
- Financially – decreased property values
- Health - sacrificed
- Wellbeing – sacrificed
- Community - destroyed
- Environment – trampled and desecrated
- Happiness – stolen

11. First Nations not consulted

In consulting with the local First Nations groups, we were informed that neither the Algonquin nor the Mohawk Nations have been approached or consulted for their input and approval. These two First Nations have land rights in our region and fully expected they would have been consulted prior to any project proposal submissions.



12. A Question To Ponder

We are clear-cutting forests, industrializing farm land, killing millions of birds and bats every year, burning massive amounts of energy in gas plants that must run to back up the wind power, mining billions of tonnes of resources, manufacturing, transporting and constructing thousands of turbines; that cause serious health and wellbeing problems for humans and animals alike, and the environment.

Recent reports demonstrate when all factors regarding IWTs are considered, we are actually increasing our carbon output, and all in the name of saving the environment. This makes no sense at all.

13. In Conclusion

Out of professional respect we feel a need to apologize for being somewhat late in the process of refuting the proposals by EDF and Leader Resources to IESO. However this is entirely due to the nefarious attempt by the project developer to dishonour and violate the required public process of notification and consultation.

Despite conspiring in a clandestine manner with a small handful of landowners since 2011, public notification of these projects was not revealed until June of 2015. This is repugnant and unacceptable in any democratic society.

We will reiterate our united and firm call in opposition to these two IWT projects. *Premiere Wynne has publicly assured Ontarians that IWTs will not be approved in communities where the majority of residents are clearly opposed.* The Nation Municipality and residents have declared the region a 'not willing host' through legal resolution, the municipality has rescinded all past resolutions of support for IWTs, and we have terminated all relations with IWT developers.

The residents of The Nation municipality have gone above and beyond the requirement to meet the governments required threshold of refusal in a professional and respectful manner. It is therefore our reasonable expectation that these projects be easily and unequivocally rejected.



We stand ready to fulfil our role towards our community and to duly play our role within the sustainability equation of the power grid in our province through increased conservation and efficiency, and through continued hosting of ecologically and economically sound and human friendly biogas and solar projects.

After exhaustive research, education, and consultation, we remain firmly opposed to the installation of IWTs in The Nation Municipality.

If you require any further information with regards to please contact us.

On behalf of the majority residents of The Nation Municipality,



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