**SPRINGWOOD WIND FARM**

**wpd** Canada Corporation is proposing an industrial wind farm on 3rd line, between Belwood and Fergus.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP.** If you are a neighbor of any of the proposed wind farms in our community, please help oppose this **wpd** project. We cannot allow any wind company to establish infrastructure in the area.

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**Project Name:** Springwood Wind Farm

**Size and Equipment:** 9.2MW, 4 turbines, electrical collection lines, interconnection line (2km long 44kV line), access roads, etc.

**Approval Status:** The new Green Energy Act centralizes applications for wind farms, and municipalities no longer have the authority to grant or deny approvals. **wpd** already has a power contract through the Ontario Power Authority. **wpd** now needs a Renewable Energy Approval from the Ministry of the Environment.

**Project Documents:** All available documents for this project can be accessed at: [http://canada.wpd.de/ca/projects/in-canada/springwood.html](http://canada.wpd.de/ca/projects/in-canada/springwood.html)

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Oppose Belwood Wind Farm Association  
710 Tower St. South, PO Box 50009, Fergus, Ontario, N1M 3S9  
Website: www.obwf.ca  
Email: OpposeBelwoodWindFarm@gmail.com
**Why Be Concerned?**

**Risk to Property Values and Salability:** “Of the studies and reports showing property loss, the average negative effect is -20.7%” (Appraisal Group One, Wind Turbine Impact Study, 2009). Realtor Chris Luxemburger found that inside the turbine zone (3 nautical miles) at the Amaranth/East Luther wind farms, the days on market was more than double, the sold price was on average $48,000 lower, and the number of homes not sold was 11% vs. 3%.

**Risk of Noise:** Industrial wind turbines emit a pulsing “swish, swish, swish” noise. Low frequency noise, infrasound, and vibration from wind turbines are a serious potential concern. The noise does not stop at night when people are trying to sleep, and the noise is reported to be more annoying than aircraft, road traffic, or railway noise at the same sound levels.

**Risk of Health Effects:** Commonly reported symptoms include sleep disturbance, sleep deprivation, dizziness, inner ear symptoms, headaches, annoyance, and reduced quality of life. 550 m is the minimum setback to homes in Ontario. Public safety risks to residents and drivers include: ice throw from turbine blades, blade and blade fragment throw, and turbine collapse.

**Risk to Visual Landscape:** Industrial Wind Turbines can be 40 stories high, and are visually distracting. They can create “shadow flicker” where turbines cast moving shadows on the ground, and have blinking aviation lights at night.

**Risk to Environment, Wildlife, and Livestock:** Bird mortality can result from collisions with turbine blades; bat mortality can result from air pressure changes around turbines causing bat lungs to rupture and hemorrhage. Bats play a vital role in controlling insect pests for humans and agriculture. There are concerns about the potential impact of stray voltage and low frequency noise on livestock and domestic animals.

**Risk to Taxpayers/Ratepayers:** The wind blows unreliably, and stable backup plants have to idle inefficiently to ramp up any time the wind drops. Electricity rates are now increasing to connect projects such as industrial wind farms, and the Ontario government pays guaranteed, above market rates for wind power (more than double).

**What Can You Do?**

1) **Please write to wpd and decision makers about your concerns.**

   wpd is required to demonstrate how they have responded to the concerns of the community.

   **wpd Canada Corporation**
   Khaled Parre,
   Director, Permits & Environmental Studies
   405 Britannia Road East, Suite 214
   Mississauga, Ontario, L4Z 3E6
   E-Mail: SpringwoodProject@wpd-canada.ca

   **Doris Dumais**, Director, Approvals Program
   Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
   **Ministry of the Environment**
   Floor 12A, 2 St. Clair Ave. West
   Toronto, Ontario, M4V1L5
   Email: doris.dumais@ontario.ca

   **John Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment**
   77 Wellesley Street West
   11th Floor, Ferguson Block
   Toronto ON M7A 2T5
   Email: minister.moe@ontario.ca

   **Please send copies of letters and wpd’s responses to:**

   **Oppose Belwood Wind Farm Association**
   710 Tower St. South
   PO Box 50009
   Fergus, Ontario, N1M 3S9
   Email: opposebelwoodwindfarm@gmail.com

2) **Attend wpd’s public meeting for the Springwood Wind Farm:**

   wpd states the 1st of two public meetings will take place in Fall, 2010. Meeting date will be announced in the Wellington Advertiser, and by Oppose Belwood Wind Farm Association.

3) **Support the opposition group:**

   Oppose Belwood Wind Farm Association (OBWF) is a non-profit organization established to oppose industrial wind turbine developments near Belwood. Memberships are $25. OBWF is working on opposition and legal challenges to this project. To join or make a donation, send a cheque to: Oppose Belwood Wind Farm Association, 710 Tower St. South, PO Box 50009, Fergus, Ontario, N1M 3S9. To join our email list for updates, send an email to OpposeBelwoodWindFarm@gmail.com. Go to www.obwf.ca for more information.