

APPENDIX E

Public Consultation Details

Consultation Activities 1998

Public Consultation 1998 – Site Specific [Toronto Island Residents]

The Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative (TREC) has been involved in community consultation activities with respect to siting since March 1998.

MARCH

Toronto Islander Residents Meeting

TREC hosted its first community meeting of key Toronto Islanders, comprised of approximately 20 community leaders, local organizers, and concerned residents. At the initial meeting, participants raised a few key issues common to the public consultation process associated with siting wind turbines: noise, visual impact and birds.

MAY

Power Trip #1

To familiarize Islanders with modern wind turbines, TREC took a number of people on a “Power Trip” to the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant to see a 600 kW turbine similar to the one proposed for the Toronto Island. This was an extremely useful activity, which resulted in a significant number of people signing up to be members of the Co-op.

JUNE

Toronto Islander Public Meeting

TREC hosted an official community meeting open to all Islanders advertised several weeks in advance through a door-to-door flyer drop. Though similar issues were identified by some participants, only one person had significant concerns. Previous buy-in from a number of residents and key community leaders helped people feel comfortable with the proposal. Only one person continued to express concern after these three activities. Of the 54 people TREC has signed up as members to date, 11 are Toronto Islanders who joined during the local public consultation process.

Soon after the last community meeting in June '98, TREC became aware of Transport Canada's regulations governing height restrictions near the Toronto Island Airport. As well, TREC learned that there were serious soil and erosion issues on the Island and that a City timetable for mitigation strategies would not meet our own timelines. These two issues were sufficient to prevent TREC from further pursuit of the Toronto Islands as a prospective site.

Public Consultation 1998 – General

TREC also engaged in a number of community education exercises within the City of Toronto generally.

JUNE

TREC attended and staffed a booth at the Environmental Festival at the Design Exchange.

TREC held a launch and media event at the Bamboo Club to create a community profile for the project for the first time.

TREC staffed a booth event for the members of the Metro Credit Union.

AUGUST

TREC attended and staffed a booth at the Toronto Bay Initiative's "Big Splash" event.

SEPTEMBER

TREC made a presentation to the Task Force to Bring Back the Don and staffed a booth at the Festive Earth Festival.

OCTOBER

TREC made a presentation to the Toronto Field Naturalists and staffed a booth at this same event. TREC also met with representatives from the Fatal Light Awareness Project in order to discuss the TREC windmill project. TREC also made a presentation to Options for Homes, to the Windward Housing Co-operative and to Greenpeace Canada.

NOVEMBER

TREC was part of a panel for the Coalition for Green Economic Recovery at City Hall for an event called, "Green Power Now!"

DECEMBER

TREC made a presentation and staffed a booth at a Toronto Dollar Society event. TREC also made a presentation to members from Citizens for a Lakeshore Greenway.

Consultation Activities 1999

Public Consultation 1999 – Site Specific

Toronto Hydro and TREC signed a letter of intent in June to jointly develop up to three wind turbines on the Toronto waterfront. Toronto Hydro began its involvement in consultation activities after that point. Two clusters of sites were identified internally by TREC early in 1999, which included the R.L. Clark Water Filtration Plant and the Colonel Samuel Smith Park in Etobicoke, and the ABSTP.

TREC has been involved in a process of community consultation for these three candidate waterfront sites since February 1999. In the East end, residents and stakeholders of South Riverdale and the Beaches have been targeted, in the West end, residents and stakeholders of South Etobicoke have been targeted.

We have attended several public meetings hosted by various local stakeholder groups to these sites as well as initiating our own public meetings to identify issues of concern for the purposes of informing our Environmental Assessment.

FEBRUARY

Meeting with SRELC

TREC made a presentation to the South Riverdale Environmental Liaison Committee.

MARCH

Meeting with Colonel Sam Smith Park Design Committee

TREC made a presentation to the Design and Management Committee of the Colonel Samuel Smith Park. (The Committee is comprised of local Councilors, City staff and local ratepayer and other interest groups such as Lakeshore Area Multi-service Project, the Local Historical Board, and Citizens Concerned for the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront).

APRIL

Meeting with Lakeshore Ratepayers

TREC attended a meeting with representatives from the Lakeshore Ratepayers Association and the Lakefront Homeowner's Association. TREC also submitted a project summary to the Technical Advisory Committee of the Design and Management Committee of Colonel Samuel Smith Park. TREC also staffed a booth at Councillor Irene Jones and Blake Kinahan's Earth Day event.

MAY

Meeting with South Etobicoke Residents

TREC was invited to attend and respond to questions at a South Etobicoke public planning meeting, which was discussing a number of proposals for the lands at and around Humber College and Colonel Sam Smith Park. In May '99, TREC also attended a meeting of the Neighbourhood Liaison Committee of the Ashbridges Bay Sewage Treatment (ABSTP). TREC presented on the wind mill project and the benefits of siting at the ABSTP.

Meeting with FLAP

TREC met with the President of the Fatal Lights Awareness Program (FLAP) and Rob Nisbet, a wildlife consultant from LGL Ltd., in order to discuss the project and concerns FLAP may have with respect to siting turbines on the Waterfront near the Leslie Street Spit and Colonel Samuel Smith Park.

Meeting with SRELC

TREC met again with representatives from the South Riverdale Environmental Liaison Committee in order to give an update on the project and to field questions from participants.

JUNE

Meeting with CSE

TREC attended the Citizens for a Safe Environment AGM in order to update members on the project and to answer questions concerning the project and our siting objectives.

Meeting with the NLC

Joyce McLean and the partnership with Toronto Hydro were introduced to the Neighbourhood Liaison Committee of the ABSTP (NLC). A project update was also provided.

Festival Event in South Etobicoke

TREC attended the very well attended Lakeshore Festival at Humber College, Etobicoke, with its booth and fielded questions from many local residents.

Meeting with NLC Co-Chairs

TREC and Toronto Hydro arranged a meeting with the Chairs of the NLC and Greenpeace. Director of Greenpeace Canada, Peter Tabuns, who is very supportive of the project and who knows personally the Chairs of the NLC as a former City Councillor for the area, offered to act as a mediator. The purpose of the meeting was to get a better understanding of the basis of the Chairs' concerns regarding siting a turbine at the ABSTP. Essentially the concern raised by one of the Chairs was twofold:

- 1) the footprint of the turbine was too big and could potentially prevent progressive sewage treatment expansion at the site, and;
- 2) an energy project at the site could set a precedent for other energy projects such as energy from waste, hence, the return of incineration at the site.

The other Chair stated that her concern was more about birds and suggested that if we could persuade Friends of the Spit to support siting at the ABSTP, then it would influence her support.

JULY

Meeting with the NLC

TREC and Toronto Hydro attended a meeting of the NLC in order to provide an update on the project and to discuss the terms of the Mediation Agreement which requires that proponents wishing to use ABSTP lands for an alternative use to sewage treatment submit a report to Works which satisfies specific principles listed in the Agreement. The Agreement specifies that the NLC be consulted regarding projects effecting the ABSTP. To this end, a copy of the report will be sent to the NLC upon its completion.

Environmental Assessment – Scoping Meeting – Etobicoke Community

TREC and Toronto Hydro held their first official Community Public Meeting in Etobicoke at Humber College, Lakeshore Campus to discuss community concerns around siting a wind turbine in South Etobicoke at either the Clark Filtration Plant or the Colonel Sam Smith Park.

Approximately 75 people attended. An official minute-taker appointed by Environment Canada was present. A presentation that included TH, TREC and the Toronto Environmental Alliance was given and a three hour question and answer session followed. The comments from attendees could largely be categorized into the following general comments:

- 1) This project is too small to address smog, so why not do something larger in some other location;
- 2) We love the project, but we don't want turbines in our neighbourhood;
- 3) Putting the turbines on the R.L. Clark property is more palatable than putting them in Colonel Samuel Smith Park;
- 4) What about birds and noise?
- 5) A few people raised questions regarding the financial viability of the project and the appropriateness of a "private" venture on public lands.
- 6) A number of people present expressed an immediate interest in the project and were fully supportive of siting a turbine on either the Clark or Park property.

Environmental Assessment – Scoping Meeting –Riverdale/Beach Community

TREC and Toronto Hydro hosted its first Community Public Meeting in the Riverdale Beach area at the Royal Canadian Legion on Coxwell Avenue. Approximately 50 people attended this meeting. An official minute-taker appointed by Environment Canada was present. A few people raised the common concerns relating to windmill siting: birds, noise and visual impact. One individual, a member of the NLC, raised the issue of compatible land use with respect to the ABSTP. Most participants were very supportive and the meeting was not nearly as divisive or hostile as the Etobicoke meeting.

These initial scoping meetings were intended to:

- 1) introduce the neighbourhood communities adjacent to our candidate sites to the joint venture and,
- 2) ascertain the concerns of the community so as to provide the project with direction in terms of research and analysis, and
- 3) to scope out the issues to be addressed by the EA.

Both meetings were advertised in community newspapers and through flyer drops to approximately 1500 households in each of the two neighborhoods.

AUGUST

Supporter/Volunteer Meeting

Responding to the request of a few individuals who had attended the July 12 and 13th meetings, a "Waterfront Windmill Supporters" group was initiated. This group, while started by the residents

of neighbourhoods near the candidate sites, was open to anyone in the City of Toronto. The first “Etobicoke supporters” meeting was held in early August. Ten supporters, most of who are local residents, came out to discuss the project and ways of bringing information forward to Etobians. It was decided that TREC/TH should host a few screenings of David Suzuki’s video, “Turning Down the Heat” and people offered to be available to help advertise the events. The first “Riverdale/Beach supporters” meeting was held the following evening. Five people came out, 3 of who are local residents. A number of ideas were put forward for how to acquire more support in Riverdale and people generally agreed that screenings of “Turning Down the Heat” would be useful.

Community Video Screenings – “Turning Down the Heat”

TREC and Toronto Hydro hosted two screenings of “Turning Down the Heat”, one in Etobicoke and one in Riverdale. These events were attended by approximately 25 people in each location and were advertised through a local flyer drop to approximately 1500 households in each neighborhood. A brief overview of the wind mill project was offered and a guest speaker from the ENGO community also presented on smog and climate change. There was an opportunity for questions and answers after the video. Most people were curious about the project, but no one raised any objections.

SEPTEMBER

Canvassing South Etobicoke Residents

TREC spent two consecutive weekends canvassing the residents of 23rd and 13th streets in south Etobicoke, the two closest streets to the Clark/Park site. This has been perhaps our most successful activity with respect to Etobicoke to date. Out of 20 or so people we spoke with on 23rd street, most (at least 15) were either fully supportive or indifferent to the project and our siting objectives with respect to their neighbourhood (i.e., the Park or the Clark). Two people mentioned that they had previously called Irene Jones’s office to express their concerns but stated they would come to the next community meeting, the date of which we advertised upon speaking to a householder. Another two said that as long as they could not see it, they did not care. A final resident said he knew nothing of the project but did not like the sounds of it. He stated he would not likely attend a public meeting. On 13th street, of the 10 or so people we spoke to, no one expressed any concern.

Meeting with Lakefront Homeowners Association in Etobicoke

TREC attended a Lakefront Homeowners Association meeting where the wind mill project was discussed. TREC and Toronto Hydro were not invited to present or to speak. Members were invited to both the upcoming “Power Trip” to see a turbine on the Bruce Peninsula and the public meeting scheduled for October. Some members expressed concern, others stated that as long as it could not be seen, they didn’t care.

Power Trip #2

TREC and Toronto Hydro representatives took 40 residents and stakeholders from Etobicoke and Riverdale/Beach neighbourhoods up to Kincardine to see a wind turbine similar to the ones being proposed for the Toronto Waterfront. Both the TREC and TH representative gave presentations regarding the project. As well, Rob Nisbet was available to address concerns regarding potential avian impacts. This was an extremely useful exercise and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. On the return trip, we asked people to complete a form which asked people to rate their concerns (specifically relating to noise, visual impact and other). Each person filled out the form and submitted it before leaving the bus. The results of the survey were extremely positive – for most people, their level of concern around noise and visual impact went down significantly. [Please see Appendix G for the Power Trip survey results]. “Other” issues identified were around birds and financial viability. The issue regarding birds went down and the issue relating to financing remained the same. The purpose of this trip, however, was not meant to alleviate any concerning around financing hence that there was no change on this issue was to be expected.

Supporters Meeting

TREC hosted a general supporters meeting, the west end and east end supporters together, at a Community Centre, at Bathurst and Queen's Quay. About 15 people came out in order to be updated on the project, specifically the process with respect to the City and the upcoming Works Committee meeting on October 6. People were informed that the wind mill project would be a deputation item and we asked if anyone would be interested in making either a written or verbal deputation. Many people made either written or verbal deputations at the October 6th meeting or Works.

OCTOBER

Environmental Assessment – Scoping Meeting #2 –Riverdale/Beach Community

TREC and Toronto Hydro held their second official Community Public Meeting in the Riverdale/Beach area, to discuss the wind mill project, particularly with respect to the EA process and City Process to respond to specific community concerns raised at the first meeting, particularly around birds and noise, and to determine any new issues of concern. Approximately 20 people attended this meeting, most of who were TREC members/supporters and various public officials. No new issues were raised, however, two people (out of approximately 6) were decidedly opposed to the project's siting objectives. The event was advertised in the community events listings of local papers, and through a flyer drop to approximately 1500 households.

Environmental Assessment – Scoping Meeting #2 –Etobicoke Community

TREC and Toronto Hydro held their second official Community Public Meeting in Etobicoke at Humber College, Lakeshore Campus to discuss the wind mill project, particularly with respect to the EA process and City Process; to respond to specific community concerns raised at the first meeting, particularly around birds and noise, and; to determine any new issues of concern. Approximately 100 people attended this meeting. Most of the people who made verbal contributions raised common concerns around noise, birds, visual impact and the compatibility issue with respect to turbines in Parks. It did not appear that we had made any significant headway from the first meeting to this one. An interesting thing to note, however, is that there were only two residents present from the immediate neighbourhood who we had canvassed, despite the fact that they had received two door to door notices. Additionally, few people who had participated in the Power Trip were present. Also, there were a number of people in attendance who have been involved in either local supporters meetings and other events we have hosted who remained silent.

NOVEMBER

Supporter/Volunteer Meeting

TREC hosted another meeting of the project supporters at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update and to discuss a survey intended for the Etobicoke community immediate to the candidate sites in the west end. The purpose of the survey is to determine the degree of awareness of environmental issues generally and the wind mill project specifically, as well as level of support/concern for the wind mill project. The upcoming avian stakeholder meeting and Neighbourhood Consultation Committee meeting were also on the agenda for discussion.

Environmental Assessment – Neighbourhood Community Consultation Meeting – Riverdale/Beach

On November 16th, TREC and TH hosted the first Neighbourhood Community Consultation (NCC) meeting in the Riverdale/Beach community. At the October 6th meeting of the Works Committee, TREC and TH were requested to establish an NCC in communities affected “to assist in the site selection process, the terms of reference for such environmental assessment process as may be required and such environmental assessment processes themselves”. The initial meeting was to present to the “affected community” our Scoping Document, as prepared by Laurie Bruce,

and our Siting Report, as prepared by TREC in consultation with Jim Salmon, a principal with Zephyr North, a meteorological company.

Avian Stakeholder Meeting

On November 24th, LGL Ltd., facilitated an avian stakeholder meeting. Of the 15 naturalist and ornithological groups that were invited, 13 attended as did representatives from City Works and Parks, EC, CWS and the TRCA. Deb Doncaster, TREC, Joyce McLean, Toronto Hydro, Rob Dobos, EC, Ross Harris, senior biologist LGL. Ltd., and Dr. Ross James, former Curator of Ornithology, ROM, gave presentations. Essentially Ross Harris provided an historical overview of the bird-turbine issue. Ross James provided a very extensive overview of wildlife-turbine studies from Europe and North America. Individuals were given an opportunity to ask questions. Everyone, including those who could not or declined to attend, received a copy of the Literature Review Summary, the Scoping Document and the Siting Report.

On November 29th, a letter was sent out to all those who attended and did not attend the November 24th Avian Stakeholder meeting asking people to respond to the documents and/or presentations by early January so that Ross Harris and Ross James could consider their comments/questions etc., by the end of January when they have been requested to complete the Literature Review Document.

DECEMBER

Environmental Assessment – Neighbourhood Community Consultation Meeting – Riverdale/Beach

A second meeting of the NCC met on December the 8th. The second meeting was to provide community members with an opportunity to respond to the two aforementioned documents. Each person was given an opportunity to speak for 5 minutes before, or to submit a written response to TREC, TH, Environment Canada and Works staff. Minutes of the meeting were recorded and will be sent to all those who attended.

Public Consultation 1999 – General

Along with specific siting meetings oriented to the neighbourhood communities, TREC and Toronto Hydro have also attended and made presentations to a number of broader groups interested in the project.

JANUARY

TREC made a presentation to Circles of Concern, a community public health organization at the Ontario Institution for Studies in Education.

MAY

TREC staffed a table at Councilor Saundercook and Nunziata's Earth Day event.

JUNE

TREC staffed a table at Councilor Pam McConnell and Jack Layton's Earth Day event.

TREC and Toronto Hydro announced at a Press Conference their partnership in the "Waterfront Windmill Project".

TREC staffed a table at the Earth Day events of Councilor Bussins and Jacobek, Councilors Silva and Pantalone.

TREC staffed a booth at the highly popular Festive Earth celebration at Riverdale Park.

JULY

TREC staffed a booth at the Toronto Dollar Society event at the St. Lawrence Market.

AUGUST

TREC made a presentation and staffed a booth at a Greenpeace “Solar Pioneers” event in Riverdale.

TREC also staffed a booth at the Toronto Bay Initiative’s Summer Splash event.

SEPTEMBER

TREC staffed a table and made a presentation on the main stage at the Harvest Fair in Riverdale Park.

October

Toronto Hydro attended a meeting of and made a presentation at the Skywide Amateur Radio Club in Etobicoke.

TREC also made a presentation to a Woman’s Sorority Group in South Etobicoke.

NOVEMBER

On November 17th, TREC staff made a presentation to the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Toronto.

On November 27th, TREC staff gave a talk put on by the Pembina Institute for Ontario Secondary School teachers.

DECEMBER

On December 2nd, TREC staff attended an made a presentation at an eco-film festival hosted by the Women’s Network on Health and the Environment at Metro Hall.

Consultation Activities 2000

Public Consultation 2000 – Site Specific

JANUARY

Meeting with the NLC

On January 18th, TREC and Toronto Hydro met with members of the Neighbourhood Liaison Committee of the Ashbridges Bay Sewage Treatment Plant. We provided information relating to the siting process, particularly a copy of a letter from Works which outlines the next steps necessary to further pursue siting at the ABSTP.

Meeting with the SRELC

On January 19th, Toronto Hydro attended a meeting with South Riverdale Environmental Liaison Committee members in order to update them on the status of the project and siting objectives with respect to south Riverdale.

Environmental Assessment – Neighbourhood Community Consultation Meeting – Etobicoke

On January 24th, TREC and TH hosted the first Neighbourhood Community Consultation (NCC) meeting in the Etobicoke community. At the October 6th meeting of the Works Committee, TREC and TH were requested to establish an NCC in communities affected “to assist in the site selection process, the terms of reference for such environmental assessment process as may be required and such environmental assessment processes themselves”. The purpose of this meeting was to present to the “affected community” our Scoping Document, as prepared by Laurie Bruce, and our Siting Report, as prepared by TREC in consultation with Jim Salmon, a principal with Zephyr North, a meteorological company. Participants were given a period of time to submit comments in writing to TREC and Toronto Hydro so as to be included in the upcoming stage of the environmental assessment process, the development of the Draft Screening Document.

FEBRUARY

Supporter/Volunteer Meeting

On February 9th TREC hosted another meeting of the project supporters. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update and to discuss upcoming approvals processes and the development of a grass-roots marketing plan. Three students from the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University have chosen to work with TREC for course credits. These students are developing a survey to ascertain the level of interest of consumers in purchasing green power through involvement in an organization such as the TREC Windpower Cooperative. The marketing plan and survey was also discussed at the meeting and a number of volunteers offered to help develop the plan and implement the survey.

Environmental Assessment – Neighbourhood Community Consultation Meeting – Open to All Toronto Residents

On February 17th, TREC and Toronto Hydro will host a public meeting to present our Draft Screening Document. This meeting is open to all Toronto residents, although special attention will be paid to inviting the residents and stakeholders of the Etobicoke and Riverdale/Beach communities. The Draft Screening Document attempts to respond to the perceived environmental effects which have been raised during the public consultation process.

A number of people will present on the following topics: Laurie Bruce, Dillon Consulting, will provide an overview of the Environmental Assessment process and the purpose and content of the Draft Screening Document; Dr. Ross James will present his research on potential impacts to birds and other wildlife; Jim Salmon, Zephyr North, will present on issues of safety, particularly ice-shedding; Bryan Young, TREC, will present on potential noise impacts to nearby residents and park users; and Joyce McLean from Toronto Hydro will present on the visual impact of turbines sited at the preferred locations.

Participants will be allotted a 2 hour period in which to ask questions about the Draft Screening Document and the public process. As well, there will be a 30 day period in which participants can submit comments to TREC and Toronto Hydro for their consideration with respect to the final version of the Screening Document. The Draft Screening Document will also be available on both the Ministry of the Environment Web Site and Environment Canada’s web site.

Public Consultation 2000 – General

JANUARY

Presentation before the Coalition for Green Economic Recovery

On January 19th, TREC made a presentation before the Coalition and invited members of the public. Siting, the Environmental Assessment Process and provincial regulatory issues around the new energy market were discussed.

FEBRUARY

Supporter/Volunteer Meeting

On February 9th, TREC held a meeting for members of the public who have come forward to volunteer for the project. Participants were given an update and individuals volunteered to help with developing and staffing an Earth Day event for April, get involved in the marketing committee, as well as organizing a petition for the Riverdale/Beach community.