

St. Columban Energy Limited Partnership (SCELP)

St. Columban Wind Project / 160960953

Date/Time: May 16, 2016 / 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Place: Huron East Council Chamber
Next Meeting: This was the last scheduled CLC meeting
Attendees: CLC member: Dennis Mueller, Carole-Michelle Cronin
Veresen: David Hayles, Hali Martin
Stantec: Meghan Bertenshaw, Krista Walkey (Chair)
Approximately 16 members of the public
Absentees: N/A
Distribution: CLC, SCELP, Project website

Item:

- **Greetings – Krista Walkey (KW)**
- KW thanked CLC members, and members of the public for attending the CLC meeting. KW asked for members of the public to sign in on the sheet and passed around copies of the agenda
- Krista indicated that she would pass around agenda and advised that she would follow the items listed on the agenda which supports the CLC Terms of Reference (ToR).
- Advised that the terms of the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) requires 4 CLC meetings and this is the fourth of four meetings.
- KW advised that any community member may reach out directly to the project team at any time with questions or concerns and noted the toll free number.
- **Introduction of CLC Members - KW**
- Krista went around the room and the CLC members and all Project Team members present introduced themselves.
- Krista provided the agenda for the meeting and indicated that they would start with Operational Updates from the Project Team, and then would review the community questions that were submitted and the Project Team would address the questions.
- Krista advised that written correspondence was requested by Wednesday May 11, 2016 to be considered in the meeting and to ensure that appropriate individuals were available to address the comments. Those submissions would be considered and discussed prior to any open floor questions.
- **Project Update – David Hayles (DH)**

- Project was fully operational in July of last year, since that time a 500 hours service inspection has been completed and was successful.
- Last fall and this spring we have been completing acoustic audits that are still not finished due to the availability of information (i.e., not all the data that is required for the study to submit to Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) have been collected due to environmental conditions and HONI curtailment). We are close to being complete for these studies.

Review and Discussion of Submitted Questions

1. It was brought to my attention at the last meeting, that each Turbine has approximately a 2 million dollar lien. Do these liens still exist today? Do liens also exist on the 'lines' buried along the roadsides from St. Columban to Howick Townships supply connection?
 - KW – The purpose of the CLC is to answer questions and share information regarding the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the facility. A lien is a legal issue that is between the property owner and Veresen, and falls outside of the scope of the CLC.
 - **Hali Martin (HM)** – There are no liens that are outstanding for this Project.
2. The retirement of the project is approximately 20 years. Who is responsible for decommissioning and removing the Turbines from the St. Columban site? Who will pay any outstanding liens at the time the project is retired?
 - HM – St. Columban Energy Inc. or the holder of the REA for the Project would be responsible for the decommissioning activities. Details on this subject are available in the Decommissioning Plan Report prepared as part of the REA Application (available on the Project website). Project components are expected to be in service for the 20 year term of the power supply agreement between St. Columban Energy LP and the Ontario Power Authority/ Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). Following this time period, a decision would be made regarding whether to extend the life of the Project components or to decommission. Decommissioning would include the removal of Project components and restoration of the land to an acceptable condition for its intended use.
 - DH – As a company we are required to put money aside for decommissioning each year so that we are prepared when the time comes.
3. What is the plan for the 'lines' buried on the roadsides from St. Columban to Howick Township site when the project is retired? Who will pay any outstanding liens for these 'lines' at the time the project is retired?
 - HM – Any above-ground distribution lines and poles that are no longer being used by the local distribution system will be removed from the site and recycled, reused or disposed of appropriately. Underground collector lines on optioned properties would likely remain in place, approximately 1.0 m below grade, in consultation with the landowner and in accordance with the land lease agreements. The underground interconnection line within the municipal road right-of-way would likely remain in place,

- and both ends that come to the surface would be excavated to approximately 1.0 m below grade, in consultation with the municipalities. Below ground wires, buried at a depth of greater than 1.0 m do not present a significant hazard to the environment if left in place; removal of the buried wires may present more of a disturbance to the local environment and agricultural activities due to the required excavation. The decision of whether to remove the cables from the ground or leave them buried will be made in consultation with the landowners and municipalities taking into account the potential salvage value of the cables.
4. We were told that sound testing results (from last fall) would be made available in early spring. Wondering when those will be available and if they will be made public?
 - HM – There is specific data that has to be collected in order to meet requirements of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change protocols. Due to environmental conditions and unanticipated HONI curtailment, the studies have not been completed as of yet. The reports will be provided to the MOECC for their review when they are complete and will not be posted to the Project website. If you have a specific noise concern, you can reach out to us at any time and we will discuss the results of the acoustic audits as they relate to your concern, however there is no intention to make the reports available to the public.
 5. Wondering why SCLEP's turbines always seem to be spinning, when in comparison to other nearby wind projects, blades there are often not spinning (even when windy)? Are government contracts for wind power paid to developers regardless of whether they are producing or not?
 - DH - Wind permitting, the Project will operate whenever possible. We cannot comment on the operation of other Facilities, but our Project is distribution connected and is therefore not subjected to regular curtailment. Under the FIT contract(s), the Project receives contract payments for electricity generated and successfully injected into the distribution system which the Project is connected to.
 6. Is SCELP considering another project in our area for the next round of procurement bidding?
 - HM – No. There is no expansion or further development being considered in the area at this time. There are other resources to refer to as there are other developers that may be considering development in the area. On the IESO website (<http://www.ieso.ca/Pages/Participate/Generation-Procurement/default.aspx>), you can see a list of proponents and proposals for possible upcoming projects. A proponent would likely be in contact with the municipality in advance as well, so you can contact your municipal planner to see if they are aware of any projects in the area.
 7. Is SCRLP's substation (located near Wroxeter) set up to accommodate more power than what this project is currently producing? Can it accept more MW's? If so, how much more? Has any other company approached SCLEP to use their substation to put wind power on the grid?
 - DH – The substation was designed to only support the capacity of the current Project and has not been designed for expansion. The Project has not been contacted by

another proponent for this purpose.

8. Have there been complaints from Veresen's other project in Grand Valley?
 - KW – The purpose of the CLC is to answer questions and share information regarding the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the facility, not other projects.
 - HM – We encourage you to review the CLC meeting minutes posted to our website for the Grand Valley project, which demonstrate that a number of questions were raised by the community and responses were provided; however, complaints were limited.
9. A culvert was going to be replaced months ago (among other things) in the project area—that still has not taken place.
 - DH – The culvert will be replaced and the concerned citizen was advised a couple of months ago that the culvert will be replaced in June. It was scheduled to be replaced in the fall; however the contractor later backed out of completing the work. The culvert was investigated and the damage was not a result of our work; however, given its proximity to our infrastructure, we offered to replace the culvert at our expense. We will continue to work with the community if there are any other concerns.
10. Why does the community have to submit questions in writing for this project when we do not receive any response in writing for the St. Columban Wind Project?
 - HM – If we receive questions or concerns regarding the Project, we always respond in e-mail or in a letter. There is also the avenue of calling the Operations Coordinator or the toll free number if you wish to speak with someone about a concern.
 - **Dennis Mueller (DM)** – I guess the concern is that the issues that were raised last meeting by 14 different properties were never followed up with after the meeting.
 - HM – When we receive a direct complaint, we always follow-up as soon as possible. We need to be contacted directly at the time that an issue is occurring with specific details as to the concern so that we can investigate and address the issue in current time. We encourage individuals to contact the Project directly or report concerns to the MOECC immediately for follow up.
11. Who is the Veresen contact person for this area for complaints for the St. Columban Wind Project and who is the one site investigator that will attend the area?
 - a. What are these employee's contact numbers and hours of operation?
 - DH – That would be me. We have provided the community with a mail-out with all my contact information. I am happy to give out my cell phone or any contact information needed.
 - HM – The Project Team receives notifications of all voicemails left on the toll-free line immediately through e-mail. Every email is also immediately distributed to the Project

Team for follow up.

- DM – I have never received a call back after I have called the toll free number.
- HM – You need to leave a voicemail and we will follow up with all voicemails. We have a record of all voicemails received on this line.
- DM –Is the CLC meeting a venue to reach out?
- HM – If the complaint is relevant right now, we would follow-up but if the complaint is from a past period of time, it is hard for us to determine the conditions at that time and what the cause of the issue is. We will do our best to address your concerns.
- **Carole-Michelle Cronin (CC)** – I am just following-up regarding a previous question from the last CLC as I tried calling before and the voicemail did not work.
- DH - There was an outage previously that we were unaware of and we are sorry for that. The line has been working since two weeks after the last CLC meeting.
- CC – So if we call this number (referring to complaint protocol), who will I reach?
- DH – That is my cell phone number so I often let it go to voicemail so I have records and then I will call back immediately.

12. Why is the contact number of 1-844-337-3736 listed on the Veresen website for complaints or concerns have a message saying "voice mailbox not set up yet" when it is called before 9:00 AM?
- a. Why does this phone number not have voicemail, a contact name or a secondary contact number to call for a complaint in the event that the employee at 1-844-337-3736 is on holidays and or the call is placed outside of their regular business hours?
 - HM – This issue was addressed at the last CLC meeting. The voicemail works at all times and the outgoing message provides an alternate contact number for urgent calls. Messages left on the toll-free and alternate contact numbers will be responded to immediately, unless the caller requests that the call be returned during regular business hours.
13. Why has Veresen not sent out contact numbers for complaints to any residents in the St. Columban Wind Project by mail and or registered mail (to ensure that residents received the numbers) as some do not have computers and or have access to the Veresen website?
- HM – This issue was addressed at the last CLC meeting. A notice was sent out for the entire project area. Contact information is also on every notice that has gone out for this Project since at least 2011.
14. Who is the Veresen investigator available for calls in the middle of the night for complaints that require the person to attend base on the problem experienced at that specific time?

- KW – It has been addressed tonight that David Hayles is the contact.

15. What is the response time of this employee for attendance to assess the complaint?

- DH – It may take up to 1.5 hours to respond if a call is received at night, during the day it could be less than that depending where I'm located.

16. Who in Veresen has contact with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to address and to rectify the complaints filed by residents?

- a. How does Veresen work with the MOE to rectify any complaints received?
 - b. What follow up occurs with the resident(s) who filed any complaint?
- HM – We have a communication and complaint protocol (<http://www.vereseninc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SCELP-Communication-and-Complaint-Response-Protocol-REV1-Final.pdf>) that addresses what we have to do to notify the Ministry. This protocol is also available from the municipality. If there is a complaint alleging an adverse effect, we must notify the MOECC within 48 hours. Within 8 days of that, we must follow-up with a report. Our REA requires that specific conditions must be reported to the Ministry such as the duration of the event, wind speed, wind direction for example. We must demonstrate to the MOECC that we have followed-up with the community member and checked the turbine/issue of concern. The form that Dave would complete in the field is in the communication and complaint protocol report as an appendix.
 - DM – Were the 14 properties that raised concern at the last CLC meeting submitted to the ministry?
 - HM – Information on the complaints raised at the last CLC meeting was provided to the MOECC, but reports were not filed. Following the last CLC meeting, we requested that the CLC members advise individuals to contact us directly to discuss their concerns or to notify the MOECC of their concerns. Additionally, we asked the CLC members to provide the details of any future complaints that they may receive to the Project immediately upon receipt. If we don't receive the necessary details in a timely manner, we can't complete a meaningful investigation in support of the reports to be submitted to the MOECC. We need the effected community members to contact us directly in order to address their concerns.
 - HM – We encourage everyone to participate by contacting us directly and following the procedures in place so that we can follow-up and investigate concerns. As I said previously, we need specific information in order to submit meaningful information to the Ministry. In addition, we would like the opportunity to discuss issues directly with the community members that have concerns.
 - HM – We are unable to do the appropriate follow-up based upon a complaint to something that happened months earlier.
 - DM – I have left many voicemails or e-mails that have never received a response.

- HM – We have logs of all messages that have been received and we always follow the procedures and follow-up and address concerns received. We can go through and review the logs at another date if you wish to address any anomalies.
 - KW – I think the message has been clearly stated that you should contact the Project directly if you would like to submit a complaint. If you aren't comfortable contacting the Project, you can contact the MOECC directly.
 - CC – So if we contact the MOECC will they contact you directly?
 - HM – You don't need to contact both the MOECC and the Project but you are more than welcome to. The MOECC would let us know that a complaint has been received by them and may request follow-up information from us.
17. What contact is made by Veresen with the Health Unit to address any of the following complaints that are received from the residents in the area: sleeplessness (noise during the night), headaches, nausea, and or annoyance?
- a. What follow up occurs with the resident(s) from the Health Unit and or Veresen once a complaint is filed for any of the following: sleeplessness (noise during the night), headaches, nausea, and or annoyance and how is the complaint rectified?
 - HM – We have had contact with the health unit but we are not required to consult with the Health Unit and provide them with any information. We cannot speak to the procedures that the Health Unit follows if a complaint is filed with them.
18. What steps are being taken by Veresen to address the complaints that have been filed to date?
- HM – We are unaware of any complaints filed to the Health Unit. You should contact the Project directly or the MOECC if you have concerns that you would like the Project to address.
19. What statistics are Veresen tracking with residents in the area to guarantee that the turbines are not having negative health effects on the residents?
- a. Are the only statistics being measured the ones in the criteria that has to be met with the MOE?
 - b. How are complaints tested and included in Veresen's statistics, especially those not included in the criteria noted by the MOE?
20. HM – We don't have a specific system where we do statistical analysis; however we do track all complaints and details associated with them. We have not been able to identify any trends related to complaints. For example, if we received numerous complaints for one specific turbine, we would investigate to determine if there are issues.
21. DH – We would come investigate if perhaps there was a specific concern that something was not operating properly. It is possible that the turbines can be out of

- calibration, so if someone complains, we will definitely investigate.
- HM – We only report the required information to the MOECC as part of our REA. We do track other information and try to look for trends to determine if there is a specific issue.
20. How has Veresen delivered the information of how to report a complaint to the residents of the St. Columban area?
- HM – The Communication and Complaint Response Protocol is available on the Project website and at the municipality. Notices with contact information have been sent out to all community members.
21. How do the residents know that their complaints are being followed up with other governing organizations to ensure that these are being properly assessed and addressed?
- a. What feedback or contact do the residents receive from Veresen after their complaint?
- HM – As documented in the protocol, we have obligations to report to the Ministry within specific time limits. The Project responds to individuals by contacting them to discuss the issue and make arrangements to investigate. We cannot speak to the procedures that governing organizations follow if a complaint is filed with them.
21. Why during the sound testing locations test plots that Veresen organized for the last 3 weeks were numerous turbines not turning during the duration of the test?
- a. How is this test accurate when on a daily bases, there may only be 1 not operating?
 - b. When will Veresen provide residents with the results of these tests, as it directly affects them?
- DH – There are specific conditions in which the acoustic assessments are completed. For example, they never test during the day unless it is a private sound audit. The auditor will review the forecasted weather conditions (as they can't test during rain or snow) and then will contact the Project and request that specific turbines be shut down to gather measurements under these conditions. This is so they can assess the typical background noise. The auditor will then complete an assessment while the turbines are running. They will then compare the background noise with the results from when the turbines are operating.
 - HM - The results go directly to the MOECC and will not be made available to the public. However, if you have specific questions about the acoustic audit, you can contact us to discuss.
22. If your tests do not accurately assess or measure the complaints, what are Veresen and or the MOE doing to address this?
- HM – The Project will maintain compliance with its REA. As required by our REA, we will conduct acoustic audits and technical experts at the MOECC will be reviewing these reports to ensure they are accurate. In addition, Dave as operations coordinator can

make arrangements to complete an individual acoustic audit in consultation with a landowner. Any third party consultant would be a qualified engineer.

23. Currently, if a resident cannot access an investigator in the middle of the night while the problem is experienced, if they attend the site location there is no confidentiality. Why has Veresen not made any attempts to release proper contact names, numbers, and hours of operation for complaints to the residents of the St. Columban Wind Project?
- KW – The information has been mailed to everyone in the Project Area.
24. Why has Veresen not provided residents with a form to complete by mail and or registered mail or one to access on line to report the general problem areas residents are experiencing?
- HM – We have ensured that members of the public have a means of communicating any questions and/or concerns about the Project 24 hours a day. Numerous factors can affect noise emissions (e.g., wind speed, direction, etc.) and noise emissions can vary at points of reception due to numerous other factors (e.g., distance, direction, etc.). If individuals are not willing to provide their contact information, SCELP is simply not able to follow up to ensure that their concerns are appropriately investigated and resolved, if necessary.
25. On a final note, what steps has Veresen taken to rectify the problems address at the last CLC meeting on Jan. 27, 2015 (Refer to page 11 of 12 of the meeting minutes) of the for the following (also see attachment included – middle paragraph):
- a. Safety concerns and question brought forward;
 - b. Regarding the phone lines, construction damage, drainage tiles and other construction related concerns; and,
 - c. The last paragraph claims to contact Veresen at the phone number noted above but this reporting system is not affective. What will Veresen do to correct this?
- KW – These again are questions from the last CLC meeting that have been previously addressed. Those were all questions that were submitted prior to the meeting. We can now open the floor to other questions.

Public Questions

Public – Who addresses shadow flicker?

- HM – If there is a complaint, you can contact us directly or the MOECC. We treat shadow flicker the same as a noise complaint.
- DH – We understand that the Ministry does not respond to shadow flicker. However, we will investigate and provide mitigation options if necessary.

Public – Will you shut down the turbine during the time that the shadow flicker occurs?

- DH – No, but we will investigate other mitigation techniques such as blinds or planting trees.

Public – Let's assume this is happening right now, what are the next steps?

- DH – I would come to your house to investigate, we can then discuss mitigation options for your concerns.

Public – During the last studies, were there any turbines out of compliance?

- DH – No.

Public – Why were they curtailed during the past few weeks then?

- DH – Hydro One had a gas leak on one of their high voltage switches. SC2 was moved to a different feeder to accommodate the repair. We could not run at full capacity until this issue was fixed.

Public – There were a few days a few weeks ago, that they were all shut-down for a period of time, why was that?

- DH – I would have to check with my logs as to why this occurred. It is possible that it was an outage associated with Hydro One.

Public – Last fall, you said you would make the sound testing available public but tonight you said you won't be making that available?

- HM – We are required to submit the reports to MOECC which we will be doing. If you have specific noise concerns, you should contact Dave directly and he can arrange for an independent audit, if necessary.

Public – The culvert issue is on a property that I rent. I find it interesting that you couldn't get this work completed earlier.

- DH – The culvert was damaged prior to the Project. We have pictures of the culvert prior to construction. We had the work scheduled for the fall, however the contractor cancelled and we needed to reschedule for the spring.

Public – The damage was a result of the Project. The old culvert was replaced with a shorter one.

- DH – I don't believe it was a result of the Project; we have pictures of the culvert from before construction. The culvert will be fixed in June as previously communicated

Public – Do you actually expect us to call every night, starting at 11:15 for an issue that continues all night and all day?

- HM – I wouldn't expect you to but I think it is in your best interest to let us know immediately if you are experiencing issues.

Public – Can you test infrasound yet?

- HM – Will we complete acoustic audits in accordance with the requirements of our REA.

Public – So all of these issues that have been brought up at previous meetings are not going to be addressed (sleeplessness, noise bleeds)?

- HM – We will be happy to investigate if you let us know when you are experiencing an issue so we can document the conditions and concerns at the time.

Public – but if you can't address the issue, which is likely infrasound, then you can't address the complaints?

- HM – You need to let us know when the issues are occurring so that we can investigate.

Public – Will you investigate if there is technology available?

- DH – Yes we would bring in an engineer who could conduct an acoustic audit and investigate the issues.

Public – But will they test for infrasound? If I Call you David, will you find the equipment available to test for infrasound? If you can't test it on a sound meter, than how can you determine if there is an issue?

- DH – We will investigate any incident to the best of our abilities. Infrasound has not been determined by the MOECC to be a requirement for testing.

Public – if it's not a requirement of the Green Energy Act, will you go further and investigate if there is infrasound equipment available, and use it to test for infrasound in our homes?

- HM – Once we receive formal complaints with all of the information then we can start actively participating in researching and investigating the issue with you. Dave will come to your house, we will log the information and then discuss options for further investigation or mitigation.

Public – You are going to come out when I call, what are you going to do when you come?

- DH – I will listen for abnormal noise and try to determine any abnormal issues -

Public – What about inaudible noises?

- DH – We can't measure for that.

Public – Are you still considering providing a vibrancy fund to the community?

- DH – It is under discussion.

Public – You have suggested contacting the MOECC, however the MOECC can't speak to health issues.

- HM – We cannot speak to the procedures that the MOECC follow if a complaint is filed with them.

Public – When I spoke to the MOECC when they were out testing, they said they are too busy to deal with these issues. They were doing testing during days when many of the turbines were off.

- DH – I am disappointed. If the MOECC had contacted me, I would have tried to work with them so it wouldn't have been during an outage.

Public – Unless the turbine exceeds 40 dbA, the turbine will not be shut down? The infrasound was successfully lobbied out of the government's mandate?

- HM – I can't speak to issues related to the government's legislation. If the turbines are out of compliance, we would shut down the turbines to investigate and mitigate if necessary. The turbine would not be shut down permanently, unless mitigation was unavailable.
- KW – The proponent is required to meet specific requirements regulated by the MOECC. You need to reach out to the MOECC and your MPP if you have concerns with the regulations.

MC – With regards to the turbines in the area, is there a maximum RPM for the turbines that will stop them from running? Does this change seasonally?

- DH – The maximum rotor speed is 18 RPM. If the turbine exceeds this, it will perform an emergency stop and cannot be restarted until a technician has investigated. The turbine RPM is based purely on wind speed. .

Next Steps

- KW – Advised for all members of the public of what the scope of the CLC meeting is and requirements for questions to be submitted. As for issues that are beyond the scope of the CLC such as MOECC regulations, these questions are not for the Project to address or comment on, and community members will need to go to the MOECC or MPP directly. By sending in comments in advance, you allow the Project to ensure they are prepared and have the correct people here to answer your questions.
- KW – Advised that the meeting minutes would be available on the Project website, and that this was the last scheduled CLC Meeting. Thanked everyone for coming out to the CLC meeting.
- HM – Although this is the last CLC meeting, please still reach out to us to discuss any issues or concerns you have.



May 16, 2016

St. Columban Energy Limited Partnership (SCELP)

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The meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

CLC Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Krista Walkey'.

Krista Walkey

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