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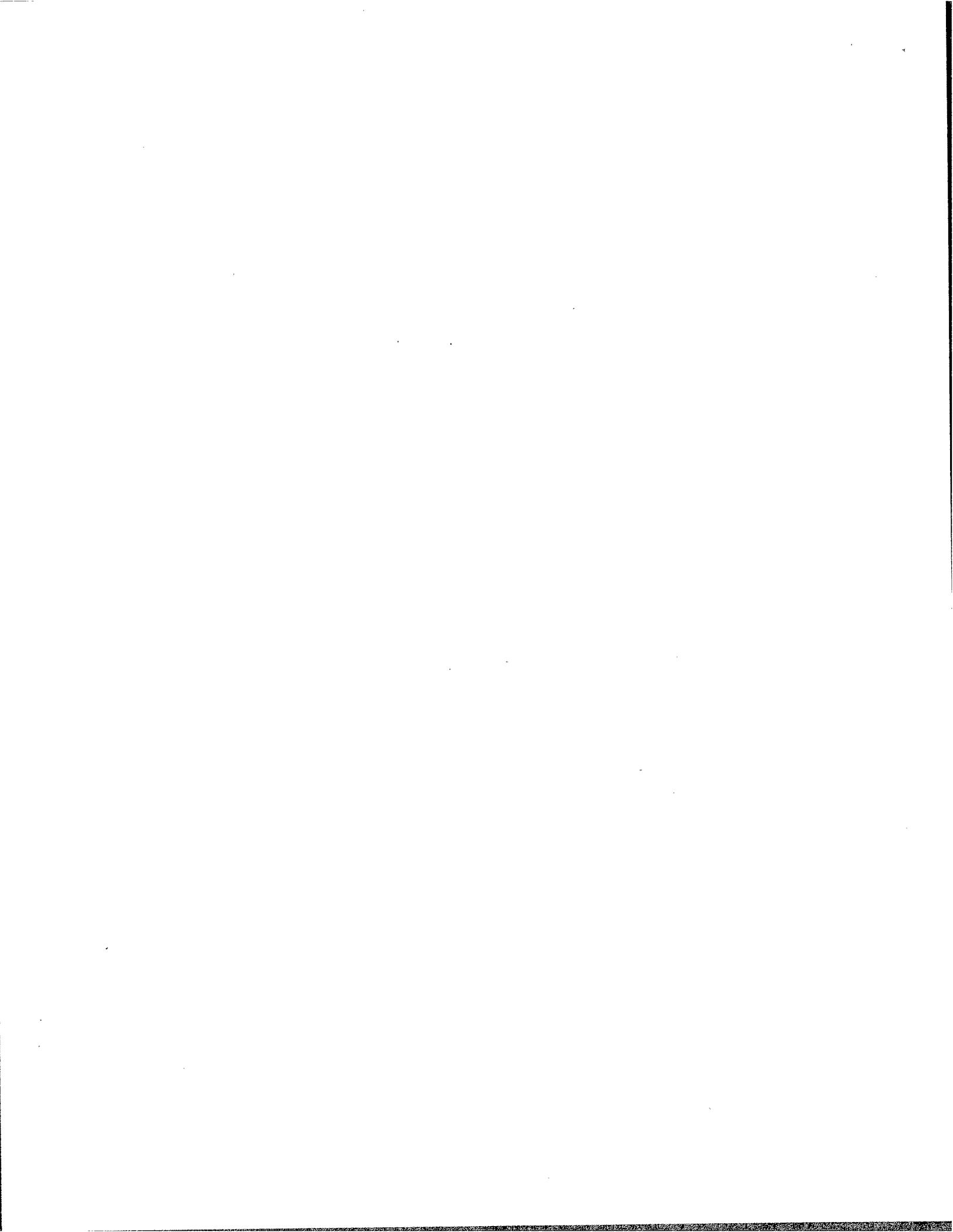
Projet d'aménagement d'un parc éolien
dans la MRC de L'Érable

6211-24-020

De: Lorrie
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Objet: Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Peter Gillis

Projet d'aménagement d'un parc éolien dans la MRC de L'Érable



Evidence from around the world strongly suggests that industrial wind developments can have a very negative effect on human health and quality of life. A proper health study is required to prove that the project can be constructed and operated without harming the local residents.

A recent community-based self-reporting health survey conducted in areas with operational industrial turbines has found that 70% of the respondents reported a significant increase in the frequency of at least one health problem (the average was five health problems), or the onset of new health issues since the turbines began functioning near them. The preliminary results of the survey are posted on www.windconcernsontario.org. The health issues reported are serious and include: sleep deprivation - which leads to serious health problems (this is the number one problem); headaches; tinnitus (ringing in the ears); cognitive dysfunction; and some serious cardiac effects such as irregular heart rhythm, palpitations and high blood pressures. Reports of adverse effects continue to come to light. Some victims have been forced to move from their homes.

Dr. Robert McMurtry M.D., F.R.C.S.(C), F.A.C.S. has stated that enough evidence of adverse health effects exists in wind turbine complexes to demand a proper epidemiological study before any more turbines are installed. Dr. McMurtry's deputation to the Standing Committee on General Government is attached (Deputation to Standing Committee McMurtry.pdf).

Dr. McMurtry's deputation discusses the inadequacy of the dBA scale for measuring noise from wind turbines because it does not take into account low frequencies. Todd et al. have published research that proves the human inner ear is extremely sensitive to low frequency noise (reference can be found in the deputation). It also points out the similarity between the health effects being reported in Ontario and those reported by Dr. Nina Pierpont (New York) and Dr. Amanda Harry (U.K.). Dr. Michael A. Nissenbaum has recently conducted medical interviews with residents of a wind complex in Maine. Dr. Nissenbaum presented his preliminary findings before the Maine Medical Association. He described the results as alarming. The residents are experiencing serious health problems related to shadow flicker and noise emissions from the turbines near their homes. The onset of symptoms including sleep disturbance, headaches, dizziness, weight changes, possible increases in blood pressure, as well as increased prescription medication use, all coincide with the time of turbine commissioning.

Shadow flicker and noise pollution are not the only sources of problems for residents near turbine complexes. Improper electrical integration of the turbines into the grid and a lack of proper filters can expose residents to high frequency electrical pollution that can cause electromagnetic sensitivity. The symptoms associated with electrical pollution include: ringing in the ears; headaches; sleeplessness; dangerously elevated blood pressure (requiring medication); heart palpitations; itching in the ears; eye watering; earaches; bleeding noses; and pressure on the chest causing difficulty breathing.

(<http://windconcernsontario.wordpress.com/2009/04/28/modern-wind-turbines-generate-dangerously-%e2%80%9cdirty%e2%80%9d-electricity/>)

There are many unanswered questions about long term impacts regarding the elderly, infants, children, and the unborn that are exposed during the mother's pregnancy, and workers such as farmers and technicians who work near wind turbines. Some wind complex residents are being approached to participate in long-term health studies. Rural

residents should not be taking the place of laboratory specimens.

Ontario has approximately 600 operating turbines, currently, 98 victims have reported problems. Such a high incidence of injury is criminal. The Ministry of the Environment has overseen the development of these existing turbine complexes and issued their certificates of compliance, and yet people throughout the province are suffering severe health effects. The current guidelines are clearly inadequate. Quebec citizens must be properly protected. A proper epidemiological study must be performed before any more wind projects are developed.

Thank you for your attention to this request.