

WHITE PAPER – PROPOSED L'ANSE TOWNSHIP INDUSTRIAL WIND FARM

FRIENDS OF THE HURON MOUNTAINS

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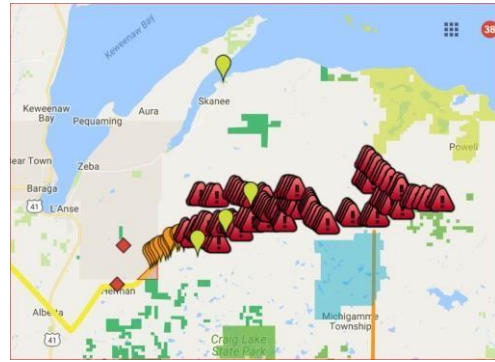
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this white paper is to (1) educate readers about our concerns with the proposed industrial wind farm and (2) make informed recommendations to the L'Anse Township officials who have the authority to change zoning restrictions that would permit its construction.

WHO WE ARE

The Friends of the Huron Mountains is a volunteer group consisting of Baraga County residents, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) members, vacationers, nonresident property owners, RV enthusiasts, boaters, hunters, berry pickers, leaf-peepers, fishermen (and women) and other assorted lovers of the relatively unspoiled Huron Mountains. Our informal survey of interested parties, with 500+ votes, indicates more than 80% are opposed to the proposed wind farm project. Various local petitions also oppose the project.

We are considering incorporation as an L3C (Low-profit Limited Liability Company).

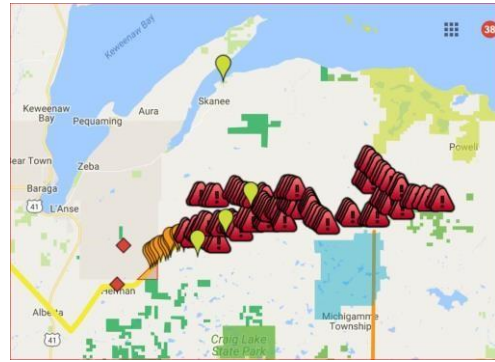
WHAT WE ARE NOT

We are not “anti-wind power.” We are not opposed to development.

CONCERNS

Rush to Judgment

- This is perhaps the most significant zoning decision that will ever be made by L'Anse Township. Project proponents have years of experience in marketing and selling their proposals, while local residents are slowly coming up to speed. It is unconscionable to make a decision that will have permanent consequences without giving the public ample opportunity to learn and debate and to express their wishes through a referendum.



Quality of Data

- Is the wind sufficient and reliable? What do the data from the local test towers show? Are data available for all seasons? KBIC chose solar over wind because their tests determined the wind resource is inadequate.
- What are the general assumptions about turbine efficiency? Are they supported by data from sites that experience extreme winters such as ours?

Collateral Damage

- Where will access roads be built? Is a detailed plan available? Environmental issues halted the proposed Humboldt – Eagle Mine road. What watersheds will be affected? How will they get the heavy trucks up to the top of these hills: Through L’Anse? Peshekee Grade? AAA from the Eagle Mine through Marquette County?

Environmental Destruction

- Proponents argue that environmentally friendly power will be put on the grid. However, in this case environmentally destructive sources of energy would be put on the grid. How does that make sense?
- Have L’Anse Township officials researched the many available studies regarding impact of runoff and noise on fish and wildlife?
- The L’Anse Warden Power Plant is a cautionary case study in “green energy” gone wrong, requiring remedial action. The wind farm is much more complex and risky, adding to concerns about premature decisions.

Delivery on Promises

- The Alliance for Wise Energy Decisions <http://wiseenergy.org/on-theissues/> says “So, after a policy has been in effect for 10+ years, we wonder ... why there are numerous other negative consequences that we were never told about...” Should we believe that the results for the Huron Mountain project will differ from this worldwide experience? Is there anything we are not being told?

Adequacy of Planning



- Has an Economic Impact Study been performed? What is the expected Return on Investment? Has the potential drop in tourism and vacation home ownership been weighed against any assumed economic benefit? What is the spending plan for the projected tax revenue? What is the cost vs. benefit calculation? For example, will projected revenue for roads more than offset the cost of maintenance, given the extremely large, heavy loads required to deliver the construction materials?
- Economic effects presumably assume a “best case scenario.” What is the range of best-to-worst case? Is there a guarantee that the taxation agreements will not be modified?

Effect on Neighbors

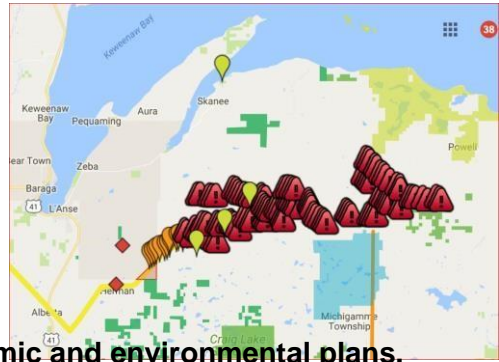
- Have L’Anse Township officials consulted with their counterparts in Arvon Township, whose residents and visitors will primarily experience the day-to-day visual and environmental impact of 492 feet tall towers? How about Marquette County? And KBIC?

Effect on Existing Access Rights

- What will be the public’s access rights in and around the individual turbine sites in addition to the transmission lines, given changes to CFR agreements, exclusionary zones and setbacks, etc.? Studies show that a windmill can have a throw distance of 328 feet to 1.2 miles in the event of an overspeed condition, vs. the current L’Anse Township zoning set-back standard of 0.5 miles. What are the associated potential liability issues?

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Delay zoning decision pending resolution of concerns.**
2. **Appoint an advisory committee of local citizens representing both sides of the issue, assisted as appropriate by experts.**
3. **Consult with other local jurisdictions.**



4. Demand detailed, researched economic and environmental plans.
5. Challenge assumptions in proponents' presentations.
6. Conduct a public referendum.