

DACOTAH AREA RESIDENTS FORM GROUP TO OPPOSE WINDFARM PROPOSAL

**For Immediate Release
Dacotah, MB.**

JULY 5, 2007

A majority of Dacotah-area residents are opposed to the proposal put forward by Sequoia Energy to construct a Windfarm in the Dacotah area. A large group representing opposing residents will express their serious concerns at a Public Hearing at the Municipal Office in Elie, Manitoba on Monday, July 9 at 7:30 PM

The Municipality is holding a Public Hearing to amend the Rural Municipality of Cartier Zoning By-Law 1153, to include the provisions for wind energy generation systems (WEGS) in Agricultural Zones. Areas to be affected are Restricted Agriculture, Agriculture and Agriculture Livestock.

The full and real long- term cost of such a project on the affected area is very unclear. The limitations placed on some of Canada's best farmland has not been measured with the due diligence required. Many negative socio-economic concerns have been raised regarding the construction of a wind energy project located in and around a community rather than an unpopulated area.

If the project did proceed, residents of the affected area have suggested setbacks of 2000 m from houses. This was the distance discussed by council and as requested by residents in the presentations and comments of the Zoning By-law currently being considered. However to the surprise of attending residents both opposing and supported; the Reeve, at the last public meeting stated that the project is good for the community at large and setbacks should be 200m in keeping with provincial standards. Yet no other municipality in the province has adopted such guidelines.

Manitoba Hydro has posted a study on wind measurements in various areas of the Province to consider windfall project viability and have identified 9 locations where wind measurements are most favourable. The Dacotah area was not one of the preferred 9 locations identified by Manitoba Hydro.

The Dacotah opposition group does not oppose the production of clean – 'green' renewable energy. The group does oppose the absence of due-diligence for any of the serious socio-economic impacts this project will have on the area. Why would a windfarm project get constructed in one of Canada's historically best productive agricultural areas in favour of less productive land with fewer future opportunities for other growth?

Some members of the council for the RM are on record as holding a personal financial gain through land-lease agreements for the placement of wind turbines with Sequoia Energy, the private corporation promoting the Dacotah Windfarm project. They have made these representations to assure the community that they would not participate in votes and other such conflicts. This issue requires procedural accuracy through the public consultation process as a result.

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