

Ministry of Energy

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Sessional Paper No. P-12

Petition related to moratorium on industrial wind development (Sessional Paper No. P-12), Mr. McDonnell and Mr. O'Toole (Tabled March 1, 2012).

The Green Energy Act (GEA) has made Ontario a North American leader in clean energy. Our clean energy economy has attracted over \$27 billion in investment for the province and created over 20,000 new jobs for Ontarians at a time when our economy needs it most.

Our clean energy strategy represents a shift in Ontario's electricity policy direction to what's important: building our clean energy economy, creating jobs and cleaning up the air we breathe. At the heart of the GEA is North America's most comprehensive Feed-in Tariff (FIT). On October 31, 2011, we launched our scheduled review of the FIT program, which considered a wide range of issues including local consultations and the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process.

Our government is committed to protecting the natural environment and health of residents in communities that are home to renewable energy projects. Ontario's rules for wind are based on peer-reviewed science that protects human health and the environment. We have taken a cautious approach when setting standards for wind setbacks and noise limits to protect Ontarians. Our minimum noise setback distance of 550 metres is a stringent standard that was designed using a conservative approach and existing scientific research from around the world.

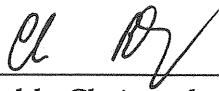
The government will continue to rely on the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) to provide objective advice on the potential health impacts of renewables. The CMOH's report found the scientific evidence does not demonstrate any direct causal link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects.

There is an opportunity for municipalities to play a greater role in the development of renewable energy across the province. Following the FIT Two-Year Review, a new priority points system will encourage greater community and Aboriginal participation and will prioritize projects with municipal support. A focus on local community and Aboriginal projects ensures that projects are rooted in the community and investment returns remain there.

The FIT Two-Year Review report can be viewed at:

<http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/fit-and-microfit-program/2-year-fit-review/>

Building a clean energy system is part our government's plan to create and support jobs for Ontario families while ensuring we have the electricity we need to power our homes, schools, hospitals and our economy.



The Honourable Christopher Bentley
Minister