



**Having access to clean water is essential. This is an issue that the North Kent Wind (NKW) team understands can be unsettling and takes very seriously.**

Some community members have communicated to us that they have concerns our construction activity may be impacting their water wells. We would like to share how we are responding to these concerns and the results of the research and investigations conducted by independent third-parties to date.

**1. Beginning with the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process that requires comprehensive analysis of the project area, we conducted assessments to help ensure our activity will not affect groundwater quality at nearby wells.** Geological and hydrogeological surveys were conducted and site-specific geotechnical investigations confirmed the soil and groundwater conditions at each turbine foundation location.

**2.** Despite attempting to resolve questions from the community with our team of technical experts, certain individuals still had concerns about impacts to water wells and appealed our REA. In response to those concerns, we retained scientific experts to study the issues raised in the appeal. **The research completed by Golder Associates concluded that construction and operation of the turbines will not cause harm to groundwater quality at the wells or in the broader subsurface groundwater environment.**

**3. The study also found there is no plausible mechanism by which fine rock particles can be transported hundreds of metres from turbine locations to water supply wells.** Water well quality issues are more likely to be affected by regional water quality characteristics and their natural variability, near-well conditions (within a few metres), well construction details, well and pump conditions, and pump operations. Following this study and North Kent Wind agreeing to additional protocols in a settlement with the appellants, the REA appeal was dismissed.

**4.** Golder Associates conducted an intensive test-piling program in March 2017, which measured subsurface vibrations at the bedrock. This test program confirmed that vibration monitoring from construction activity is only required at ground surface. **Following approval of these test results by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), the mandated independent vibration monitoring program for construction activity was developed and approved by the MOECC.** Piling began at the first turbine foundation site in June. All 34 foundations are expected to be complete in November.

**5. The vibration monitoring program provides data to assist with an investigation if we receive a water quality complaint.** If we receive a complaint either directly from a well owner or from the MOECC, we mobilize third-party experts to investigate. Analysis involves collecting well-water samples at the residence by a qualified, licensed expert in assessing wells and

groundwater, reviewing vibration monitoring data, and comparing water samples from the well to baseline water samples taken prior to construction.

**6.** To date, we have received 9 complaints from 8 well owners since July 31, 2017. The first 5 investigations by environmental consultant AECOM have been completed and concluded that **based on the information gathered during the investigations, the groundwater quality and supply issues reported by the property owners are not a result of turbine foundation construction or pile-driving activities.** No indication of water quantity or quality impacts at the wells were apparent relative to the baseline data collected prior to the onset of construction. In some cases, problems were observed related to well construction, maintenance, or existing well pumping and treatment equipment.

Golder Associates has also determined during the investigations that **the vibration magnitudes from pile driving were inconsequential for the wells and no greater than what may be induced by other common day-to-day sources, such as operation of the water well pumps themselves.** These investigation reports can be viewed on our North Kent Wind website, with the identities of the well owners redacted. Four other complaints are currently under analysis.

We know water quality issues can be stressful for well owners and their families, and we are committed to continue working with well owners, the MOECC, and the Municipality as construction progresses. We will continue to investigate any water quality complaints promptly and be transparent with the results of the analyses.

We remind everyone who experiences water well disturbance near our activity to please contact [info@northkentwind.com](mailto:info@northkentwind.com) or call, toll free, 1-855-780-3859.

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### **Statement Following Court Appearance**

On September 6, 2017, North Kent Wind appeared before the Superior Court of Justice seeking an injunction prohibiting blockades and other interference with the construction of its wind project. We respect the right of citizens who disagree with wind energy or the Project to have their voices heard. The motion for injunctive relief became necessary because some protestors were engaging in what we believe was unlawful conduct, raising serious concerns about the safety of workers and protestors alike.

North Kent Wind sought the assistance of the Court to enforce the rule of law and keep the peace. At the request of the Court and out of respect for those who oppose the Project and wish to be heard, we agreed to cease construction at one turbine site, which was blockaded and occupied by protestors, until the motion is heard by the Court on September 28/29. The Court has otherwise granted an interim order restraining and preventing anyone from blockading, obstructing, or impeding access to any of the construction sites for the Project.