



## WIND FARMS IN LAKE ONTARIO

If you don't have pictures of the beautiful sunsets over Lake Ontario, you might want to start taking some before the view is marred by the field of looming 300 foot wind turbines planned for the lake waters.

The New York Power Authority recently unveiled plans to erect wind farms, 450 foot wind turbines, in Lake Ontario waters. Plans for the project were presented in a meeting of elected officials and community leaders in Oswego, New York on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. There was also a small contingency of (uninvited) concerned citizens.

According to the map presented as we understand it, wind farms are planned off the shoreline of

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- Niagara County - 60 turbines near the Niagara River outlet into Lake Ontario
- Monroe County - 103 turbines spread from Parma to Webster
- Wayne County - 20 turbines off the shoreline of Williamson east and north of Sodus Bay
- 106 turbines spread from Sodus Bay, across the Towns of Huron and Wolcott, north of Cayuga County, Town of Sterling**
- Oswego & Jefferson Counties – 560 turbines in Mexico Bay
- and 205 more turbines as you move into the northeast waters of the lake toward the St. Lawrence Seaway.

According to the information provided these are choice locations from the standpoint of wind velocity and suitable water depth (less than 150 feet) for construction of the turbine.

The presentation was made by Richie Kessel, President of the New York Power Authority. It is interesting to note that the President of the Authority is appointed by the New York State Governor. Accordingly, the New York Power Authority does not function under or report to any State department or agency. When New York State created the Authority it effectively stripped the people of the State of any say in matters or decisions taken by the Authority.

The Huron Town Board in its meeting on the November 16, 2009, passed a resolution expressing our opposition to the development of wind farms in the waters of Lake Ontario. It is hoped that we can encourage other towns and the County Board of Supervisors to do the same.

Nothing short of a tremendous outcry from the people can avert this absolute abuse of power. I don't expect the Governor to appreciate the blight such a move would have on one of the most significant attractions New York State has to offer. In the years I have lived here, I have observed countless numbers of people who make a trip to the bluff and just to watch the splendor of the sunset unfold – every day different from the day before.

The push for developing wind energy in this area of the state peaked three to four years ago. Last year in an informal discussion of the topic with the Huron Supervisor, I passed the remark that all the State would have to do to circumvent negotiations with and resistance from local municipalities, is construct their wind farms in the lake waters. I never expected that a plan would surface so soon. Just imagine a field of 106 turbines looming 300 feet above the surface of the water off the shores of Huron and Wolcott.



Mr. Kessel made a similar attempt to construct wind farms off the shores of Long Island, which attempt failed. I've used the simple illustration of the sun set, trying to imagine what this picture would look like with a field of 300 foot wind turbines in the field of vision.

Obviously there other, more significant issues to be considered; property values, tourism, the recreational sport fishing industry, ect., each contributing to the economic stability of the region. And what about the impact on the environment? Surely it would seem that some of the other state agencies concerned with such matters would stand up to this madness.

I think of the impact on the Monarch Butterflies and all the migrating birds that use the lake as a corridor to their destination.

Unfortunately the issue is more about money than anything else. Should you be interested in more information and

wish to keep informed of developments, there is a very interesting blog that contains a lot of information – just go to the following link – <http://bewarenywind.blogspot.com> .

Just imagine this view with 300 foot wind turbines silhouetted against the sky –



## PROPOSED WATER DISTRICT NO. 7

We encourage you to access the Town of Huron web page ( [www.townofhuron.org](http://www.townofhuron.org) ) for updated information regarding the progress of forming Water District No. 7. To date, the Town of Wolcott has not received Rural Development approval of the loan. However, you may have noticed surveyors in your area compiling information for MRB, for the ultimate design plans for the project.

## PBIA MEMBERSHIP

With the addition of one new member this month, the total active membership in the Association reached 300. We can and should do better next year – with your help. The annual membership drive will be launched in January 2010.



*Wishing you and yours,  
A Happy Thanksgiving  
We have much to be thankful for. Take time for  
the simple joy of sharing with family and friends.*