

The Niagara Escarpment in Southern Ontario is protected from any wind project development. This begs the question: Why is our mountain in Northern Ontario not protected?

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NOR'WESTER MOUNTAIN RANGE

- 1.6 billion years old
- Animikie geological rock
- Name designation in honour of the North West Company 1962
- Loch Lomond was a Fresh water source for Fort William and later the South portion of Thunder Bay
- Home to protected wildlife species
- Scottish Tartan registration 1963
- Recreational Hiking trails

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

- 455 million years old
- Dolomite and shale
- Plaques erected 1993 at Queenston
- Niagara Falls is a source of Hydroelectric power
- Home to protected wildlife species
- Recreational hiking trails

Is this project 'green'?

Wind energy is in the class of energies known as 'green' energy. This type of energy produces no emissions, unlike coal fired energy.

*However, we request that you consider whether the **proposed site of this particular project** is 'green'.*

The mountain is 1.6 billion years old.

The area is home to the most northerly Sugar Maple stand in North America and Peregrine Falcon nesting sites.

The proposed turbine locations are on pristine untouched wilderness near a watershed area which is protected by the bylaws of the Municipality of Neebing. The Green Energy Act overrides this bylaw protection, essentially nullifying it. This watershed was formerly the primary source of drinking water for Fort William and later the South portion of the City of Thunder Bay. Should this water source not continue to be protected for possible use in the future?



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ENVIRONMENT

Four acres of mature forest will be cleared for each industrial-sized wind turbine. Huge concentrations of mature Sugar Maple trees are found in this area. The Sugar Maple tree's capacity to store carbon increases as they age.



HOW IS THIS GREEN?

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TREES



The Nor'Westers are home to the most northerly Sugar Maple stand in North America.

Sugar Maple trees are special as they possess a taproot. This means that the root goes down almost as far as the tree is tall, making them virtually impossible to transplant.

These protected trees cover much of the range atop the Nor'Westers. The MNR recognizes a portion of the Nor'Westers as an Area of Natural and Scientific interest (ANSI). Maps identifying the concentration of Sugar Maple trees have not been revised since 1996. Even these outdated maps show a high concentration of Sugar Maples in many of the sites where turbines are proposed. Since Sugar Maples spread when undisturbed, it is likely that the areas identified on these maps are of even higher concentration today and have likely expanded.

If the wind developer is allowed to clear this area of Maple trees for road access, construction, and installation, it may take hundreds of years for this sugar maple mature forest to get back to the beautiful state it is in today.

IS DESTROYING BEAUTIFUL OLD GROWTH FOREST 'GREEN'?

GEOLOGY

The Nor'Wester mountains are 1.6 billion years old.

In order to make a base strong enough to stabilize these industrial-sized turbines, and to build the access roads necessary to get to the top of the ridge, the delicate rock on this mountain will have to be blasted.



A full engineer's study of the slope stability is necessary, and should be insisted upon before any further progress.



IS CHANGING THE FACE OF A 1.6 BILLION YEAR OLD MOUNTAIN 'GREEN'?

PEREGRINE FALCON

The MNR has been working on a recovery plan for the Peregrine Falcon for many years. Nesting sites are located in the area of the Nor'Wester mountains; however, these birds receive limited habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Horizon Wind has indicated that they may be required to apply for a Section 17 Permit under the ESA due to the presence of the Peregrine Falcon. A Section 17 Permit would allow the company to proceed despite the fact that activities may otherwise be prohibited under Sec. 9 or Sec. 10.



Section 9 prohibits persons from killing, harming, harassing, capturing, possessing, transporting, collecting, buying, selling, leasing, trading or offering to buy, sell, lease or trade or take a living member of a species that is listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List as an extirpated, endangered or threatened species.

Section 10 prohibits persons from damaging or destroying the habitat of a species that is listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List.

IS KILLING ENDANGERED BIRD POPULATIONS 'GREEN'?