

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 3:03 PM  
**To:** Linda Fraser  
**Subject:** D. Murphys presentation

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the PAC. Thank you for the opportunity to address you on this important topic – the introduction of wind turbines into the Rossway – Gullivers Cove area.

My name is Dermot Murphy CFA. I am truly from away having been born in Ireland. I have lived in Canada for over 37 years. Eleven of those years were spent here in Nova Scotia working in this very area as part of my territory. Approximately 10 years ago I purchased property in the area and am now planning to retire and permanently live here

. My wife and I were attracted to the Rossway –Gullivers Cove area due principally to it's natural, unspoilt beautiful landscape. I want to state up front and in an open manner that my wife and I support a global decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and the provincial government's commitment to actually reducing these emissions NOW.

At the end of my address I propose to read and present a petition to the committee which deals with a request for maximum public participation and information sharing and the issue of separation distance or set back from wind turbines. Before doing so however I wish to address the issue of decommissioning.

The decisions on decommissioning which are made today will generate consequences well into the future. The challenges surrounding decommissioning are significant. As an individual who works in the nuclear insurance industry let us look at that industry to see how strictly controlled the decommissioning process is. By decommissioning we mean the safe and secure removal from service of a formerly active producer of power. Indeed decommissioning for nuclear reactors is controlled by federal legislation in the form of the Nuclear Safety and Control Act. A ball park estimate as to the cost to decommission a nuclear facility is approximately one billion dollars. The nuclear power operators are obliged to make financial provision in advance for decommissioning costs.

I am not suggesting for a moment that this would be the cost associated with decommissioning a single wind turbine. I can tell you that it is not cheap as you will hear shortly. In order to gain a better appreciation of what we would be facing in a wind turbine decommissioning situation, we must be aware of some facts. A typical GE 1.5 MW turbine with 116 ft. blades sitting on 212 ft. tower has a weight of over 160 tons. This is sitting on a base comprising of 1000 tons of concrete and steel rebar. The pit into which all of the aforementioned concrete goes is anywhere between 30 and 50 ft. across. Add to this the requirement for anchor pylons which can be anywhere between 6 and 30 ft. deep and your now have an idea of just what has to be decommissioned.

What does it take to decommission a wind turbine? You would need a massive crane with capacity between 400 and 700 tons along with two smaller 50 ton capacity cranes. A metal press and shredder will be required –a Copex CVM 500 will work. Add in the manpower requirement and you are probably looking at 5 workers for 21 to 30 days doing the unbolting, blow torching and shredding the metal parts. Disposal on non-reusable parts will be an additional expense. A bid submitted to decommission a 3 MW wind turbine in St. Etienne France recently came in at \$1.3 million dollars and this did not include any work on the concrete base! It is unlikely that land owners who leased their land for wind turbine use would be in a position to incur the costs of decommissioning.

You have been made aware via the Jacques Whitford report that, where turbines are permitted 'as of right', the municipality has no way of imposing consequences on the developer or operator if the developer does not follow decommissioning requirements. Is this the position the PAC wishes to consciously place the Municipality in? In the report several examples were given as to how decommissioning was treated elsewhere. Cumberland County and Grey Highlands appear to have a

balanced business-like approach which affords adequate protection in this matter. Cumberland County require that within 18 months of the turbine ceasing to operate, that all structures be removed including power lines and restored to a natural state. Grey Highlands clearly spell out that it is the developer's responsibility to fund and fully complete the decommissioning process. Remember some of the people in this room or involved in making decisions will not be around in 25 to 30 years at the end of the turbines expected life span. What we are talking about here is a question of LEGACY for our children and grandchildren. Quoting a Greek proverb, ' A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in'

I would now like to read and present the petition I referenced earlier.