

From: [ainsliewillock@hotmail.com](mailto:ainsliewillock@hotmail.com)

To: [esa.guelph@ontario.ca](mailto:esa.guelph@ontario.ca)

CC: [paulandberny@gmail.com](mailto:paulandberny@gmail.com); [cthornleyhall@gmail.com](mailto:cthornleyhall@gmail.com);  
[melody.pounder@gmail.com](mailto:melody.pounder@gmail.com); [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org);  
[geopal@eastlink.ca](mailto:geopal@eastlink.ca); [hessel4bayfield@tcc.on.ca](mailto:hessel4bayfield@tcc.on.ca); [johngill@hay.net](mailto:johngill@hay.net);  
[jeangeorgeirvin@hay.net](mailto:jeangeorgeirvin@hay.net); [janzim75@gmail.com](mailto:janzim75@gmail.com); [kjwise@bell.net](mailto:kjwise@bell.net);  
[s.mcauley@town.bluewater.on.ca](mailto:s.mcauley@town.bluewater.on.ca); [wjdowson@tcc.on.ca](mailto:wjdowson@tcc.on.ca);  
[jim@jimfergusson.ca](mailto:jim@jimfergusson.ca); [hoscarboa@gmail.com](mailto:hoscarboa@gmail.com); [paul.nairn@ofa.on.ca](mailto:paul.nairn@ofa.on.ca);  
[dmaclare@tcc.on.ca](mailto:dmaclare@tcc.on.ca)

Subject: Bobolinks & NextEra Energy Canada: EBR Registry Number 011-8951

Date: Fri, 31 May 2013 11:12:22 -0400

Dear MOE,

**Re: Local Ratepayers Association Requests that Permits Not be Issued to kill species at risk**

On behalf of the Board and Members of the Village of Bayfield Ratepayers Association, located in the Municipality of Bluewater, thank you for this opportunity to comment on NextEra Canada's request for a permit under clause 17(2)(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Rather than not build one Industrial Wind Turbine in a species at risk's habitat they are asking you to issue a permit to allow them to "adversely" affect or "remove" 2 hectares of Bobolink habitat near Bayfield.

Bobolinks are listed as a "Species at Risk" in Ontario and their nests and habitat are protected. They're about 7 inches long and nest on the ground in grasses in late May to mid July, often returning to their previous nesting spot. They have the longest migration of any North American song bird, wintering in the pampas (native grasslands) of Brazil. They are highly regarded for their bird songs.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's 2013's Watershed Report card lists bobolinks in 13 of the 16 Ausable Bayfield Sub Watersheds. So this is an important nesting area to provide protection for them. Source: <http://www.abca.on.ca/page.php?page=watershed-report-card-2013>

If NextEra's request is granted by the Ontario government, bobolinks would pay the price with their lives.

We ask that the government recognize that citizens efforts to save the bobolink, especially by the agricultural sector, are worthy ones and that that work should be respected and therefore a permit should not issued.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment on a threat to the survival of a species at risk directly adjacent to where we live.

We ask you to do the right thing and not issue the permit to build an industrial wind turbine in bobolink habitat outside the Village of Bayfield.

Sincerely,

Ainslie Willock  
President  
Bayfield Ratepayers Association  
Box 6, 17 Bayfield Terrace  
Bayfield, ON N0M 1G0  
519-565-2469

P.S. Photo of Bobolink here: [http://www.bobolinkproject.com/why\\_bobolinks.php](http://www.bobolinkproject.com/why_bobolinks.php)

and

EBR Notice: <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTE5NDI0&statusId=MTc4NjE1&language=en>

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