

## Report TR-TAPS-10-15

**To:** Chair Barfoot and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee  
**From:** M.J. Kelly, Director of Transportation Services  
**Meeting Date:** January 22, 2015  
**Subject:** NextEra Energy/East Durham Wind Entrance Permits - Wind Turbine Development  
**Status:** Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution TAPS28-15; Endorsed by County Council February 3, 2015 per Resolution CC35-15;

### Recommendation(s)

**WHEREAS** at its meeting on September 5, 2013 the Transportation and Public Safety Committee directed that it receive an information report outlining the staff assessment of current outstanding entrance applications related to industrial wind turbine projects, before staff rendered a decision on the applications;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Report TR-TAPS-10-15 regarding the six (6) NextEra Energy/East Durham Wind's wind turbine entrance permits on Grey Road 4 be received for information;

**AND THAT** it is understood that the entrance permits submitted meet the County's entrance criteria for industrial wind turbine development and will be approved by the Director of Transportation Services under authority granted by County Council through its Delegation of Duties Policy, G-GEN-008 as amended, and in accordance with Entrance Permit Procedure MS-TS-001-001.

### Background

#### *Entrance Permits*

The location, number and usage of entrances have a significant effect on the safety, efficiency and longevity of a road. It is therefore, important to regulate access onto County roads.

Grey County has implemented policies and procedures to ensure that entrances are administered fairly and meet industry safety requirements while maintaining the integrity of the road.

### *NextEra Energy/East Durham Wind Entrance Permit Submissions*

NextEra Energy/East Durham Wind wishes to construct sixteen (16) wind turbines, one (1) substation, two (2) meteorological stations, and one (1) laydown area in the Municipality of West Grey.

NextEra Energy/East Durham Wind will be leasing property to accommodate the proposed turbine development.

Entrance permits are provided to the property owner and not to parties that lease the land. Therefore, all entrance permits to access a turbine facility constructed on leased land must be submitted by the landowner.

Grey County has received six (6) entrance permits from individual property owners to access seven (7) wind turbines, one (1) MET, and one (1) substation.

The remaining facilities are adjacent to roads under the jurisdiction of West Grey and as a result will not be administered by Grey County.

At the September 5, 2013 Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting, the following resolution was made and endorsed by County Council on October 1, 2013.

*THAT Grey County considers industrial wind turbines to be classified as industrial for entrance permit purposes;*

*AND THAT Traffic Impact and Road Assessment Studies shall be provided to the County before permits are considered;*

*AND THAT once staff have completed its assessment of the current outstanding entrance applications related to industrial wind turbine projects and before staff renders its decisions on those applications, a report be submitted to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee for information, outlining the nature of staff's review including:*

- Policy considerations and interpretation;*
- Applicable fees;*
- Issues considered in the review;*
- Conditions or preconditions of approval;*
- Financial securities;*
- Staff's intended decisions on each.*

At the March 4, 2014 County Council session, the issuance of six (6) entrance permits was endorsed as they met all the required conditions.

The permits were issued; however, the permits were not constructed in the six (6) month time frame identified within the permit.

NextEra Energy/East Durham Wind requested a time extension to construct the six (6) entrance permits.

At the October 23, 2014 the following resolution was passed at the Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting and endorsed at the November 4, 2014 County Council:

*THAT NextEra Energy / East Durham Wind's request for an extension to its entrance permits not be granted.*

NextEra Energy/East Durham Wind has resubmitted entrance permits for the same six (6) entrances.

The entrance permits submitted meet the criteria for wind turbine development and as a result, it is recommended to approve the permits.

## Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

### Considerations

None.

### Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Not applicable.

### Attachments

[Entrance Permit Procedure](#)

Respectfully submitted by,

M.J. Kelly  
Director of Transportation Services