

The Wind Power EA Process

Newsletter

About the Project

Kruger Energy Group (Kruger) is proposing to build a wind power project in the Port Alma area. The wind project would include 44 turbines, each generating 2.3 MW. This project would produce enough electricity to supply about 30,000 homes. Access roads to the turbine locations, transformers, and transmission lines will need to be put in place to transmit electricity and build and maintain the wind turbines. Kruger has retained Stantec Consulting Inc. (Stantec) to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project.

Public Open House

This Public Open House aims to provide interested and affected parties with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Port Alma Wind Power Project. Stantec will incorporate the input received at this Public Open House into the EA process.

At this Public Open House, we are particularly looking for your comments on environmental, social, and economic features in the study area, and any concerns you may have about the proposed project.

What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

According to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, the EA process:

- Identifies potential effects of a project
- Proposes measures to reduce or mitigate effects
- Predicts what effects will occur during the course of the project, and how they will influence the surrounding socioeconomic and natural environments

How is the EA process for Wind Power determined?

Two pieces of legislation determine how the Port Alma Wind Power EA is carried out: the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act applies because KEPA is applying for a Wind Power Production Incentive from the Federal Government.



Under provincial legislation, the EA process is set out by the Electricity Projects Regulation, under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. The Port Alma Wind Power Project is classified as a "Category B" project, meaning that an Environmental Screening Report (ESR) must be prepared, and the project must receive approval from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) before it can begin.

The federal process is determined by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and requires a screening report, as well as approval by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency). Usually, one report will meet the requirements of both levels of government. The report includes:

- A description of project activities
- A description of the surrounding social, economic, and natural environments
- A screening checklist (required by the Electricity Projects Regulation)
- An analysis of potential environmental effects
- Proposed mitigation measures
- Determination of the significance of environmental effects

The inset below shows the steps that an Environmental Screening takes before it reaches the approval stage.

How is your input included in the EA process?

The most important part of the EA process is consultation with the public and government agencies. Public consultation permits Kruger Energy and Stantec to:

- Become better informed about the study area
- Better determine what effects might occur as a result of the project
- Address potential issues as they arise

Public consultation permits stakeholders to:

- Become informed about the project, and contribute to background data collection
- Have a say in the project design and potential mitigation measures
- Have concerns addressed as they arise

Please keep on reading to find out how you can be involved in the Port Alma Wind Power Project after this Public Open House.

What happens after the Public Open House?

After the Public Open House, Stantec will evaluate the results of the questionnaire and other input. The information will then be incorporated into the ESR. Kruger Energy will also use this information to confirm the constraint mapping and preliminary turbine layouts.

An additional Public Information Session will take place in June 2006 to confirm turbine locations and to discuss site-specific mitigation measures.

The EA (to be completed in September 2006) will outline the plans to reduce and control effects of wind turbine construction and operation on the environment, identify plans to monitor the project, and any other contingencies.

What's next in the EA process?

- Analysis of public input (public input and analysis occurs throughout the EA process)
- Confirmation of turbine locations (May 2006)
- Second Public Open House (June 2006)
- EA report completion (September 2006)
- Submission of ESR to relevant agencies (September 2006)
- 30-day review of the EA by agencies and the public
- Approval of the ESR (December 2006)



Contact the Port Alma Wind Power Project team

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