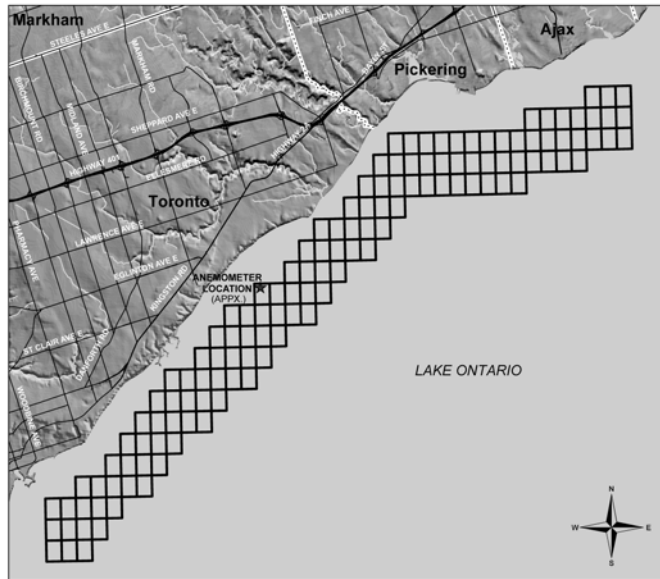


RESEARCH ANEMOMETER IN LAKE ONTARIO

Background

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is seeking new sources of electricity supply. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is encouraging the development of renewable energy generation from wind and water sources through the lease of provincial crown land. Under that process, Toronto Hydro is investigating the feasibility of a windfarm offshore in Lake Ontario.



Where is the site?

Toronto Hydro has secured access to a series of lake-bed grid cells approximately 25 kilometres in length, roughly 2 to 4 kms offshore southeast of the Scarborough Bluffs.

What are the first steps?

The first step in siting a windfarm is research to confirm whether the wind resource is sufficient to support a business case to construct and operate the turbines. In order to do that, we need to erect an anemometer and leave it in place in the lake for two years to confirm the wind resource.

What is an anemometer?

An anemometer measures wind speed and direction. The anemometer is a stand-alone structure with no moving parts that would be affixed to the lake-bottom, but would be removable after it has served its purpose. The specific location has been determined following a non-intrusive geotechnical study of the lake bottom area, and will have minimal disruption to the lake bottom. The platform will consist of a structural steel platform located in approximately 12 m of water, and extending approximately 4 m above lake water level with a width of approximately 5 m. The platform will contain the anemometer instrument, auxiliary power system, communication and navigation beacons. The anemometer instrument measures wind speed and direction using light imaging radar. This method results in a compact structure which is difficult to see from shore.

What is the timing?

Currently, we are speaking to community and stakeholders about the research anemometer platform. Engineering, platform fabrication and permit applications have been completed. Construction of the anemometer is slated for June-2009 after all necessary permits are received.

Does this mean Toronto Hydro is building a windfarm?

It's too early to determine whether the location granted to us by the MNR has sufficient wind energy to develop a wind farm. Once the wind resource is confirmed, we will be making that determination at that time considering many economic and environmental factors. If the decision is to proceed to construct a windfarm, a full environmental assessment would be required.

Where can I get more information?

www.torontohydroenergy.com/offshorewind

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How much of the anemometer platform will be seen from the shoreline?

The anemometer platform is located a considerable distance offshore (1.8 km) and will only rise 4 m above the water level of Lake Ontario. It will not create adverse visual or noise effects. As a result, current amenities in the area will not be negatively affected.

How can our community comment on the wind anemometer process?

Toronto Hydro's goal is to fully engage the community to ensure that the public understands the value of researching the potential for wind energy in this area, and to ensure that local concerns are addressed. In addition to tonight's opportunity to comment, the community will have the opportunity to comment on the Project Evaluation Report during the 30 calendar day review period.

Will the public receive notification on MNR's decision on the project?

Following the Public Open House, Toronto Hydro will include additional comments received and complete a Project Evaluation Report. The public will then be notified via mail and newspaper advertisements as to where the Report will be on display for their review. The public will have 30 calendar days to review and provide comments on the Report.

Who do direct my questions and concerns about the future potential wind farm?

A number of questions/concerns have been raised about a future potential wind farm. It should be noted that comments being sought at this time are in relation to the installation of the anemometer platform only. If a wind farm were proposed in the future, the project would be subject to a separate and comprehensive environmental assessment with full agency and public participation.

What are the potential Benefits?

- Renewable energy with virtually zero emissions
- Potential 200 MW Offshore Wind Project
- Project will produce 575,000 MWh electricity/year
- Corresponding 287,500 tonnes CO₂ savings/year
- Short-term employment of an estimated 200 construction jobs and long-term employment of skilled operators and maintainers.
- Adds to Ontario's tax base.
- Meaningful environmental stewardship.

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