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Save Ontario Shores calls on Gov. Cuomo to study possible air base encroachment

The president of Save Ontario Shores (SOS) has written to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, asking that New York's Article 10 Siting Board thoroughly investigates all potential impacts and encroachments as many as 70 proposed industrial wind turbines could have on future missions at Niagara Falls Reserve Air Station (NFARS).

In the letter, SOS president Pamela Atwater said recent comments made by a spokeswoman for Fort Drum raise concerns about NFARS.

Apex Clean Energy, which has proposed installation of massive industrial wind turbines in the towns of Somerset and Yates, is also proposing 30 industrial wind turbines for the Town of Hounsfield, which is near Fort Drum.

Fort Drum spokeswoman Julie Halpin told the *Watertown Daily Times*, the Apex project, "would have an impact on radar as it increases the clutter on the scope." She also expressed concerns that industrial wind turbines in the area could negatively affect instrument approaches for aircraft and negatively impact its air traffic control services.

The future of NFARS is at stake, Atwater wrote to the governor. She pointed to previous Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions which called for the closing of the Niagara air base. It took strong grassroots efforts to keep the base open, but other military installations in New York were not as fortunate.

"Previous BRAC's have been successful in closing seven military installations in New York State. We cannot stand by and allow an out-of-state company to place NFARS at risk of being the eighth New York installation to close."

Atwater said SOS believes the radar issue, as it relates to NFARS, has not been given the study it deserves. "Any rush to judgement on this critical issue could have disastrous effects on the base, the community and the entire Western New York region."