

Lighthouse Wind is dead!

Happy spring, everyone! We wanted to share some encouraging news with you related to the Lighthouse Wind project.

As we reported last fall in our [September newsletter](#), Apex withdrew Lighthouse Wind from the Article 10 queue. This wasn't too surprising given that the 94-c process for siting projects now exists and is the likelier method should Apex submit an application. Apex did not make any statement in their withdrawal letter that indicated their future plans for the project.

However, in October 2022, an article by Tom Zambito that featured our fight against Lighthouse Wind was published in the Journal News (Lower Hudson Valley) and the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. <https://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/new-york/2022/10/12/wind-turbines-on-lake-ontario-shoreline-hit-headwinds-in-wny/69547381007/>. A portion of it reads:

Apex won't say whether their decision to pull their permit out of Article 10 means it won't re-file an application with ORES under the new 94-C process.

Apex spokesman Steve Bowers would only say this:

"After years of investment and engagement with the Somerset and Yates communities, Apex decided to conclude its development of Lighthouse Wind."

Our level of trust with anything Apex says is extremely low so our reaction was that we'd believe it when we saw it. We wanted to see leases expire or be terminated. That's exactly what has been happening.

Leases: We have been regularly monitoring the Niagara and Orleans County Clerks' offices for almost 9 years. Often Apex doesn't record documents for up to a year after being signed. Leases automatically expire 7 years after being signed unless terminated or extended prior to their expiration. As of May 2023, many have expired or were terminated, a few were extended and others are still valid. To see the details pertaining to all the leases and easements, go to our [website](#) where they are listed.

Turbine sites: The project was to consist of 47 turbines: 39 in Somerset and 8 in Yates. We created a map of their locations based on information given by Apex at their 2018 Community Forum. Not all leases ended up hosting turbines. As of May 2023, leases have been terminated that would have hosted 30 (64%) of the turbines. Leases that would host 10 turbines (21%) may have already expired or could expire by the summer. Other leases hosting 7 turbines (15%) have been extended. Beginning in April 2021 Apex started extending leases signed in 2014 but discontinued that practice in July 2021. Some leases not close to expiring were terminated in 2022 and early 2023.

We can't explain why Apex is terminating some leases and letting others expire. But too many leases have been terminated or expired to maintain the viability of this project. We now feel confident in saying that **the Lighthouse Wind project is dead!**

SOS Lives On!

Next Steps: In case you were wondering, Save Ontario Shores isn't going anywhere. While our mission has been to fight this specific project, to this end we also want to create an environment where no developer will propose our towns for their wind project. We follow energy issues across the state and support others with the knowledge we have gained. We will continue with the following:

- SOS is a plaintiff in the [lawsuit against ORES](#). When we have an update on that front, we will share it with you.
- The SOS website is regularly updated and is a valuable resource to people across the country.
- SOS will monitor the county clerk offices for updates on the leases.
- Our towns are in a migratory bird pathway. The large migration numbers played an important role in discouraging the Lighthouse Wind project. SOS worked with a professional birding expert to survey the numbers and types of birds that cross our region. We would like support the completion and publication of this survey. This documentation of our important bird habitat will help protect our area in the future.

As always, we appreciate your support. We think back to what this fight has encompassed since 2015 and it is truly impressive to have so many people join in a cause to protect our area. Thank you!