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Letter: Wind project will not have negative impact on air base

Wind project will not have negative impact on air base

A recent Another Voice raised fears that the Lighthouse Wind Project, with its 620-foot-tall wind turbines, may encroach on the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station's airspace and prompt a future base closing commission to shutter the facility. Base Operations Group Commander Col. Joseph Janik studied the question and said the 70 wind turbines of Lighthouse Wind Project would have no impact on operations at the air base because training missions will occur far above any wind turbine. Asked if he thought the wind project was a non-issue for the base, Janik replied, "At this time, with the new mission, yes."

Underscoring his point, the Federal Aviation Administration said, "the proposed wind turbine project in Somerset presents no negative impact on the line of sight or navigational aids at the airport."

There already is a 612-foot-tall structure within the boundaries of the proposed Lighthouse Wind Project. Although the chimney at Somerset coal plant has been there for over 40 years, two air base closing commissions never batted an eye about this tower, which is almost 100 feet taller than Buffalo's tallest building, One Seneca Tower.

Apart from possibly supplying much-needed clean electrical energy to the air base, the Lighthouse Wind Project will have zero affect on the base's operations.

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