

[LETTERS]

NIMBYism IN DURHAM

Re: the letter by Elio Comello, P.Eng., "We're not at fault," *Engineering Dimensions*, July/August 2014, p. 52.

Hooray for Mr. Comello, P.Eng.! He couldn't have expressed my opinions of NIMBYs any better. I sent a letter to our local paper about one year ago, which was in response to an article they wrote regarding youth unemployment in Durham region—the highest in Canada, if I recall correctly ("NIMBYism to blame for rise in youth unemployment," *Clarington This Week*, July 25, 2013).

I received a lot of comment about this letter, most of it positive but some negative. One man said "I am not a NIMBY, I am an activist."

He's wrong. An activist is a person who is trying to promote in a positive way some constructive activity, like park enhancements, crossing guards, etc. A NIMBY, if I can be

blunt about it, is a hypocrite. He/she doesn't want something near their place but it's okay if it goes near someone else's place. Don't put it here; put it over there. But forgetting that their "there" is someone else's "here."

Unfortunately, Clarington and Durham are full of NIMBYs and it is costing us all in jobs and increased taxes. The only positive thing that I can see for professional engineers is that some are hired as consultants for extra unnecessary studies. Many more P.Eng. jobs would be created if the proposed projects were allowed to proceed.

I don't hate politicians but I am very cynical about politics and what it does to make folks who, for the most part, are hard working, conscientious people who want to help society do things that, deep down, I believe they would rather not do.

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NEED FOR MORE STUDY?

Re: "Energy policies and social acceptance of small wind turbines," *Engineering Dimensions*, July/August 2014, p. 40.

I'm curious. Has there ever been a comprehensive, quantifiable

analysis of the return on energy investment, ROEI, for the life cycle of networked wind turbines? I'm not aware of one and skeptical the ROEI is greater than one. If there is a study, this is something I believe should be shared with the public—positive or negative.

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