



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of Second Marsh welcome withdrawal of application for ethanol facility in Oshawa

Ontario's Ministry of the Environment has announced that FarmTech Energy Corporation has withdrawn its controversial application for an air emissions approval for its proposed \$185 million ethanol refinery on Oshawa's waterfront.

FarmTech proposed to construct the large-scale refinery beside (and upwind) of the provincially significant Oshawa Second Marsh. An area of 372 ha of wetland and other ecologically significant habitats, Second Marsh is the largest such open space in the Greater Toronto Area.

"Given the risk of adverse impacts from the proposed facility upon Second Marsh, we are pleased that the company has withdrawn its application for a certificate of approval," stated Brian Brasier, Executive Director of Friends of Second Marsh. "We are especially concerned about the emission of odour, noise, particulate matter, combustion products, and volatile organic compounds from the proposed facility."

According to the Ministry's posting on the *Environmental Bill of Rights* Registry, FarmTech's rationale for the withdrawal is to address "all of the deficiencies related to the original application." The EBR Registry notice may be viewed at: <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTA0MjY0&statusId=MTYxNjI1&language=en>

The Ministry received over 100 public submissions regarding the FarmTech application, including a detailed brief submitted by the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), which represents Friends of Second Marsh.

"In our opinion, there were significant data gaps and information deficiencies in the FarmTech application," stated CELA lawyer Richard Lindgren. "More fundamentally, there are a number of unresolved environmental and planning concerns about constructing this facility in such a sensitive location."

Despite the withdrawal, the EBR Registry notice indicates that FarmTech may submit a new complete application for approval.

“We will remain vigilant, and will again carefully scrutinize any further applications filed by FarmTech,” stated Mr. Brasier. “It is our overall position that this is an environmentally unsuitable location for the proposed industrial complex.”

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Friends of Second Marsh is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to encouraging the protection and appreciation of Second Marsh, other Great Lakes wetlands, and our natural heritage system. We promote a healthy environment through education, communication, and partnerships with all sectors of the community. Visit www.secondmarsh.com for more information.