

4.0 Amendments to the Records Review

The project area initially examined for the Parkhill Interconnect Records Review Report extended beyond the previously proposed project area to help compensate for any later changes in the project's layout. Upon review of the changes to the project's layout, all project areas of this proposed layout were previously studied and included with the Records Review submission to the MNR. Thus, there are no records of new habitats of seasonal concentrations of animals, rare vegetation communities or specialized habitats for wildlife, species of conservation concern, or other natural features that need to be amended in the NHA.

5.0 Amendments to the Site Investigation

After reviewing the changes made to the Parkhill Interconnect project location since its NHA confirmation, it has been verified that the proposed alteration to the project layout has only led to changes in distance between project components and previously studied natural features and has not resulted in any new features being included in the project area. Initial site specific field surveys conducted on August 25, 2011, September 19 and 30, 2011, and additional field surveys conducted on September 16 and 25, 2013 resulted in changes to generalized significant wildlife habitats and significant natural feature boundaries, which have been outlined below.

5.1 Changes in Distance to Project Location

Given the changes in project location, described and mapped above, NRSI has identified where the distance of the project location to a natural feature has changed. These changes in distance have been outlined below in Table 1 and include the feature identification number, feature type, and comparison of distances from project location to natural feature between the presented layouts. Six natural features, (woodlands), resulted in having a change in distance from the project location.

Two woodlands (WOD-045 and WOD-004) that were previously located near, but not overlapping, the project location are now overlapped by the proposed disturbance area for the transmission line. Although vegetation removal will be kept to a minimum within the footprint, the total extent of vegetation removal that would occur, should the entire project location be used, is shown in Table 2. Appropriate mitigation measures, monitoring commitments, and other applicable measures to prevent significant impact to these features can be found in Table 4.

Table 1. Updated Distances between Project Components and Significant Natural Features in the Parkhill Interconnect

Feature ID	Feature Type	Distances from NHA Submission	New Layout Distances	Amendment to the EOS and/or EIS Required? (Y/N)	
WOD-004	Woodland	OL - >0.1	OL – Overlapping	Yes – woodland is no longer generalized significant wildlife habitat and feature is now overlapped by the project location.	
WOD-045	Woodland	OL – 5	OL - Overlapping	Yes – woodland is no longer generalized significant wildlife habitat and feature is now overlapped by the project location.	
WOD-046	Woodland	OL – 10	OL – 2	No - EOS completed with NHA. Distance did not change enough to warrant amendment to the EIS.	
WOD-047	Woodland	OL – 13	OL – 1	No - EOS completed with NHA. Distance did not change enough to warrant amendment to the EIS.	
WOD-048	Woodland	OL – 3	OL – 2	Yes – woodland delineation has been altered.	
WOD-052	Woodland	SI – 55	SI - 53	No - EOS completed with NHA. Distance did not change enough to warrant amendment to the EIS.	

Legend OL: Overhead Line

EOS: Evaluation of Significance

SI: Supporting Infrastructure

EIS: Environmental Impact Study

Table 2. Extent of Project Location Overlap with Woodland Habitat for the Parkhill Interconnect

Feature ID	Total Area (ha)	Percent of Feature Removed (%)
WOD-004	0.25	1.25
WOD-045	0.06	0.54

5.2 Changes to Generalized Significant Wildlife Habitat

Based on changes in distances to project location, certain wildlife habitats could no longer be considered Generalized Significant Wildlife Habitat. Further site investigation in September 2013 of the potential wildlife habitats within features WOD-004, WOD-045 and the southern portion of WOD-048 have resulted in the removal of some of the generalized wildlife habitat designations (see Table 3). The entire area of WOD-004 and WOD-045 and the southern portion of the area previously delineated as WOD-048 are no longer considered generalized significant wildlife habitat. These further site investigations, following the same methods as outlined in the approved *Parkhill Interconnect Natural Heritage Assessment Report* (NRSI 2013), indicate there are no candidate significant wildlife habitats within these features. Field notes from the field visits conducted in 2013 have been included in Appendix II. See Figure 3 for updated generalized significant wildlife habitat mapping.

In addition, NRSI biologists have also reviewed the potential for additional generalized significant wildlife habitat that may be present within 120m of the amended project location. Due to minor changes in the project layout, no additional generalized significant wildlife habitats were identified within the project area.

Table 3. Changes to Features Previously Considered Generalized Significant Wildlife Habitat in the Parkhill Interconnect NHA

Facture ID	Habitat Criteria/ Requirements	Criteria Rationale			Significance (Yes/No)		
Feature ID		WOD-004	WOD-045	WOD-048*	WOD-004	WOD-045	WOD-048*
Bat Maternity Colony	 All ELC Ecosites in ELC Community Series: FOD, FOM¹, Maternity colonies can be found in tree cavities, vegetation and often in buildings (buildings are not considered to be SWH)¹, Maternity roosts are not found in caves and mines in Ontario¹, The area of the habitat includes the entire woodland or the forest stand ELC Ecosite containing the maternity colonies¹, If the wildlife tree density is ≥10 snags per hectare of trees ≥25 cm dbh, then the site is a candidate for maternity colony roosts¹, Female Bats prefer wildlife tree (snags) in early stages of decay, class 1-3 or class 1 or 2¹, Northern Myotis prefer contiguous tracts of older forest cover for foraging and roosting in snags and trees¹, Silver-haired Bats prefer older mixed or deciduous forest and form maternity colonies in tree cavities and small hollows. Older forest areas with at least 21 snags/ha are preferred¹. 	Community type is WODM4-3, Fresh sugar maple deciduous woodland. Does not meet habitat criteria.	Community type is FOCM6, Naturalized coniferous plantation. Does not meet habitat criteria.	Community type is WOMM3, Fresh-moist mixed woodland. Does not meet habitat criteria.	No	No	No

Facture ID	Habitat Orienia / Dannia	Criteria Rationale			Significance (Yes/No)		
Feature ID	Habitat Criteria/ Requirements	WOD-004	WOD-045	WOD-048*	WOD-004	WOD-045	WOD-048*
Red-headed Woodpecker Habitat	 Open woodland and woodland edges, especially in oak savannahs and riparian forest², Can be found in fields or pastures, orchards and small woodlots², Habitats contain a higher density of dead trees, which they commonly use for nesting and perching³, Require a tree with a diameter at breast height of at least 40 cm for tree cavity nesting and require around 4 ha for territory², 	No evidence of red- headed woodpecker during site investigation surveys of woodland.	No evidence of red- headed woodpecker during site investigation surveys of woodland.	No evidence of red- headed woodpecker during site investigation surveys of woodland.	No	No	No
Chinese Hemlock Parsley Habitat	 Calcareous cedar swamps, wet borders of streams and rivers, seepage slopes in wet coniferous woods, swampy thickets, moist clearings and damp roadsides¹, Blooms August-September⁴. 	No Chinese hemlock parsley observed during site investigation surveys of the woodland.	No Chinese hemlock parsley observed during site investigation surveys of the woodland.	No Chinese hemlock parsley observed during site investigation surveys of the woodland.	No	No	No

^{*}This applies to the portion of habitat previously delineated as WOD-048, located south of Elginfield Road

1: OMNR Significant Wildlife Habitat Ecoregion 7E Criterion Schedule (2012)

2: OMNR Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide - Appendix G (2000)

3: OMNR Species At Risk in Ontario – Red-headed Woodpecker (2008)

4: University of Wisconsin: Robert W. Freckman Herbarium (n.d.)

5.3 Changes to Significant Natural Features

Survey methodology and significant natural feature delineations for woodlands followed the same methods as outlined in the *Parkhill Interconnect Natural Heritage Assessment Report* (NRSI 2013). The woodland boundaries of WOD-048 have been amended based on additional areas examined for this Addendum Report, which previously had restricted site access. The area south of Elginfield Road was previously delineated as part of the woodland and has been removed from the WOD-048 boundaries. This area has been delineated as meadow habitat, MEMM4. See Figures 4a-4c for updated vegetation community mapping and Appendix I for photos of the meadow habitat.

