

Request to Have Supplemental Post Construction Bird Fatality Monitoring

For the Suncor Cedar Point Industrial Wind Power Facility
Located in: Plympton-Wyoming/Lambton Shores, Ontario

March 22, 2016





UNIQUENESS OF OUR REGION

With this region being located adjacent a Great Lake, we possess some of the rarest and most threatened Ecosystems in Canada.

Our area is a Major Migration Corridor, Stop Over and Staging area, a Wintering Hub for Many Birds including Raptors, Year Round species, and Summering Birds and Bats.

Our environment is the most suitable for tall prairie grasses which are in great decline in our region.

Our Ecosystems consists of many wetlands, bogs, inlets, rivers, streams, conservation areas, scattered Carolinian Forests and provincially significant landscapes.

Our Climate is one of the warmest year round in Canada therefore making it an ideal location for wintering Birds/Raptors and Waterfowl to congregate.



SUPPLEMENTAL MONITORING

- The MNR's Minimum Requirement for Post Construction Monitoring is from May 1 – October 31 and weekly monitoring for Raptors until November 30.
- When Monitoring is Performed Past this time frame it is considered Supplemental Monitoring.
- One of the reasons Supplemental Monitoring would be Required is when there is Seasonal Concentrations of Species outside the minimum required time frame.
- Few agencies have actually Monitored Migratory Bird Paths, Wintering Bird/Raptor Concentrations and Migratory Bat Colony Paths and they will have little information on the relative importance of this region.
- Therefore Data provided by the local community and naturalists is necessary to confirm the features of this region.

SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE EXISTS OUTSIDE THE CURRENT MONITORING TIME FRAME

- This Region Supports Wintering Habitat for Upwards of 37 Different Bird/Raptor Species.
- The MNR has Identified 26 different Species of Birds for this region as either of Special Concern, Threatened or Endangered, of which some Winter or Live Year Round in this region.
- Tundra Swans migrate in the thousands here and it has been identified by the MNR as a Significant Area for this bird. Yet Suncor's One Day Field Study only looked for Wetland Staging Areas and did not consider the much wider foraging areas throughout the project parameters.





WINTERING RAPTORS

- Our Area is considered to be the hotspot for Bald Eagles to spend their Winters.
- Although there are Bald Eagles year round, this area experiences a population burst during the winter months not only for this raptor, but also many other raptors, including the Golden Eagle and many species of waterfowl.
- The Corridor for all Migratory Birds whether arriving for the winter or entering for the summer spans from 2- 25km's inland from Lake Huron, therefore encompassing the entire Suncor Industrial Wind Farm Project area.
- The varying movements of Birds and Bats through the Corridor are Weather dependent and many times will fall outside the Calendar Months noted for Monitoring.

Thousands of Birds are Killed By Buildings/Vehicles and Even Cats!

– *So What's the Big Deal if Birds are Killed by Turbines?*

- The FACT is that birds killed by buildings, vehicles and cats are mainly common ground foragers, like Sparrows. Despite the amount of deaths, there is no threat to the survival of these common and well known species.
- Industrial Turbines are however built in areas that mainly consist of species that have never been integrated or known to breed and habitat in an industrial setting.
- You are never likely to see many of the species of birds/bats that exist in these rural settings at your bird feeder, window of your home or in your cats mouth. They exist in nature away from human interference providing their individual input into a healthy environment, one that is already very fragile.
- Some of these species are fragile as well and listed as threatened or endangered. *-This is Why It's a Big Deal!*

SUNCOR'S COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

- Suncor, as a good corporate neighbor, your adherence to MNR Minimum Standards are not acceptable to the people of this community.
- Our local Environment has already been irreversibly impacted by decisions and lack of oversight from Suncor with the destruction of Tall Prairie Grasses and the loss of a large swath of a very precious Wetland Complex.
- It is expected that Suncor apply the highest Quality of Standards in order to safeguard our already fragile ecosystems and wildlife.
- You do not need the MNR or the MOE to tell you what you already know should be done.
- Now is the time to enact Supplemental Monitoring as Migrations have already begun for this region.

This Presentation Was Prepared As A Supplement to
the Full Report on This Subject Previously Submitted
to the Suncor Community Liaison Committee on
February 3, 2016,
Titled:

***“Request to Have Post Construction Bird/Bat Fatality
Monitoring Extended to 12 Months Annually”***

Kristen Rodrigues
Plympton-Wyoming, ON
Resident