

January 15, 2013

NextEra Energy Canada
5500 Service Road, Suite 205
Burlington, ON L7L 6W6

RE: NHA Confirmation for Goshen Wind Energy Centre

Dear Tom Bird:

In accordance with the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE's) Renewable Energy Approvals (REA) Regulation (O.Reg.359/09), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has reviewed the *Natural Heritage Assessment Report – Goshen Wind Energy Centre* for the Goshen Wind Energy Centre project located in the Municipalities of Blue Water and South Huron, and submitted by Nextera Energy Canada, ULC on January 15, 2013.

In accordance with Section 28(2) and 38(2)(b) of the REA regulation, MNR provides the following confirmations following review of the natural heritage assessment:

1. The MNR confirms that the determination of the existence of natural features and the boundaries of natural features was made using applicable evaluation criteria or procedures established or accepted by MNR.
2. The MNR confirms that the site investigation and records review were conducted using applicable evaluation criteria or procedures established or accepted by MNR, if no natural features were identified.
3. The MNR confirms that the evaluation of the significance or provincial significance of the natural features was conducted using applicable evaluation criteria or procedures established or accepted by MNR.
4. The MNR confirms that the project location is not in a provincial park or conservation reserve.
5. The MNR confirms that the environmental impact study report has been prepared in accordance with procedures established by the MNR.

In accordance with Section 28(3)(c) and 38(2)(c), MNR also offers the following comments in respect of the project.

Turbines 9, 46, 47 and 82

At this time, information available in the Natural Heritage Assessment and Environmental Impact Study is insufficient to support development of turbines 9, 46, 47 and 82. Candidate significant waterfowl stopover and staging habitats WSST-15 (near turbine 9) and WSST-36 (near turbines 46, 47 and 82) require additional wildlife surveys and information about potential negative environmental effects. As a result, this letter does not confirm the following section of the Environmental Impact Study:

- Table 5.6 as it relates to Waterfowl Stopover and Staging Areas

The alternative infrastructure layout proposed in a memo submitted January 14, 2013 has been accepted and supersedes information provided in the Natural Heritage Assessment and Environmental Impact Study.

Preconstruction Monitoring

In accordance with Appendix D of MNR's NHA Guide, a commitment has been made to complete pre-construction assessment(s) of habitat use for the following candidate significant wildlife habitats:

- Bat Maternity Colonies (features BMC-235, BMC-242, BMC-249, BMC-267, BMC-282, BMC-285, BMC-352, BMC-358, BMC-372, BMC-648, BMC-720)
- Turtle Wintering Ares (features TOW-01, TOW-03)
- Reptile Hibernacula (features RH-01, RH-02, RH-03, RH-04, RH-05, RH-06, RH-07, RH-08)
- Amphibian Woodland Breeding Habitat (features AWO-02, AWO-33, AWO-34, AWO-35)
- Colonial Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (feature CNB-01; Note: this habitat was deemed significant but requires supplemental data collection)

MNR has reviewed and confirmed the assessment methods and the range of mitigation options. Pending completion of the assessments and determination of significance, the appropriate mitigation is expected to be implemented, as committed to in the environmental impact study.

Post-Construction Monitoring

A commitment has been made in the Environmental Impact Study to conduct post-construction monitoring and if determined necessary, implement mitigation measures. For the Goshen Wind Energy Centre this includes the following significant natural features:

- Bat Maternity Colonies (features BMC-189, BMC-229, BMC-326, BMC-342, BMC-757)
- Amphibian Woodland Breeding Habitat (features AWO-14, AWO-25, AWO-27, AWO-30)
- Colonial Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (feature CNB-01)
- Habitat for Plant Species of Conservation Concern – multiple species (features SCP-12, SCP-13, SCP-14, SCP-15, SCP-16, SCP-17)
- Habitat for Bird Species of Conservation Concern – Red-headed Woodpecker (feature SCB-03)

The following candidate significant natural features will also be monitored post-construction if they are deemed significant during pre-construction surveys:

- Bat Maternity Colonies (features BMC-235, BMC-242, BMC-249, BMC-267, BMC-282, BMC-285, BMC-352, BMC-358, BMC-372, BMC-648, BMC-720)
- Turtle Wintering Ares (features TOW-01, TOW-03)
- Reptile Hibernacula (features RH-01, RH-02, RH-03, RH-04, RH-05, RH-06, RH-07, RH-08)
- Amphibian Woodland Breeding Habitat (features AWO-02, AWO-33, AWO-34, AWO-35)

In addition to the NHA and EIS, an Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan (EEMP) that address post-construction mortality monitoring and mitigation for birds and bats must be prepared and implemented. Environmental Effects Monitoring Plans for birds and bats must be prepared in accordance with MNR Guidelines and should be reviewed by MNR in advance of submitting a REA application to MOE in order to minimize potential delays in determining if the application is complete. Comments provided by the MNR with respect to the EEMP must be submitted as part of the application for a REA.

This confirmation letter is valid for the project as proposed in the natural heritage assessment and environmental impact study, including those sections describing the Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan and Construction Plan Report. Should any changes be made to the proposed project that would alter the NHA, MNR may need to undertake additional review of the NHA.

Where specific commitments have been made by the applicant in the NHA/EIS with respect to project design, construction, rehabilitation, operation, mitigation, or monitoring, MNR expects that these commitments will be considered in MOE's Renewable Energy Approval decision and, if approved, be implemented by the applicant.

In accordance with S.12 (1) of the Renewable Energy Approvals Regulation, this letter must be included as part of your application submitted to the MOE for a Renewable Energy Approval.

Please be aware that your project may be subject to additional legislative approvals as outlined in the Ministry of Natural Resources' *Approvals and Permitting Requirements Document*. These approvals are required prior to the construction of your renewable energy facility.

If you wish to discuss any part of this confirmation or additional comments provided, please contact Jim Beal at Jim.Beal@ontario.ca or 705-755-3203.

Sincerely,



Kazia Milian
Regional Planning Supervisor
Southern Region MNR

cc Jim Beal, Southern Region Renewable Energy Coordinator, MNR
Amy Cameron, Renewable Energy Planning Ecologist, MNR
Ian Hagman, Guelph District Manager, MNR
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