

Shadow Flicker - Adelaide Wind Energy Centre

Shadow flicker may occur under certain combinations of circumstances with regards to the sun's position and wind direction; when the sun passes behind the rotating blades of a wind turbine, a moving shadow is cast in front of or behind the turbine. When viewed from a stationary position, the moving shadows cause periodic flickering of the sunlight, otherwise known as "shadow flicker".

The effect is most noticeable inside buildings, where the flicker appears through a window opening. The likelihood and duration of the effect depends on a number of variables, namely:

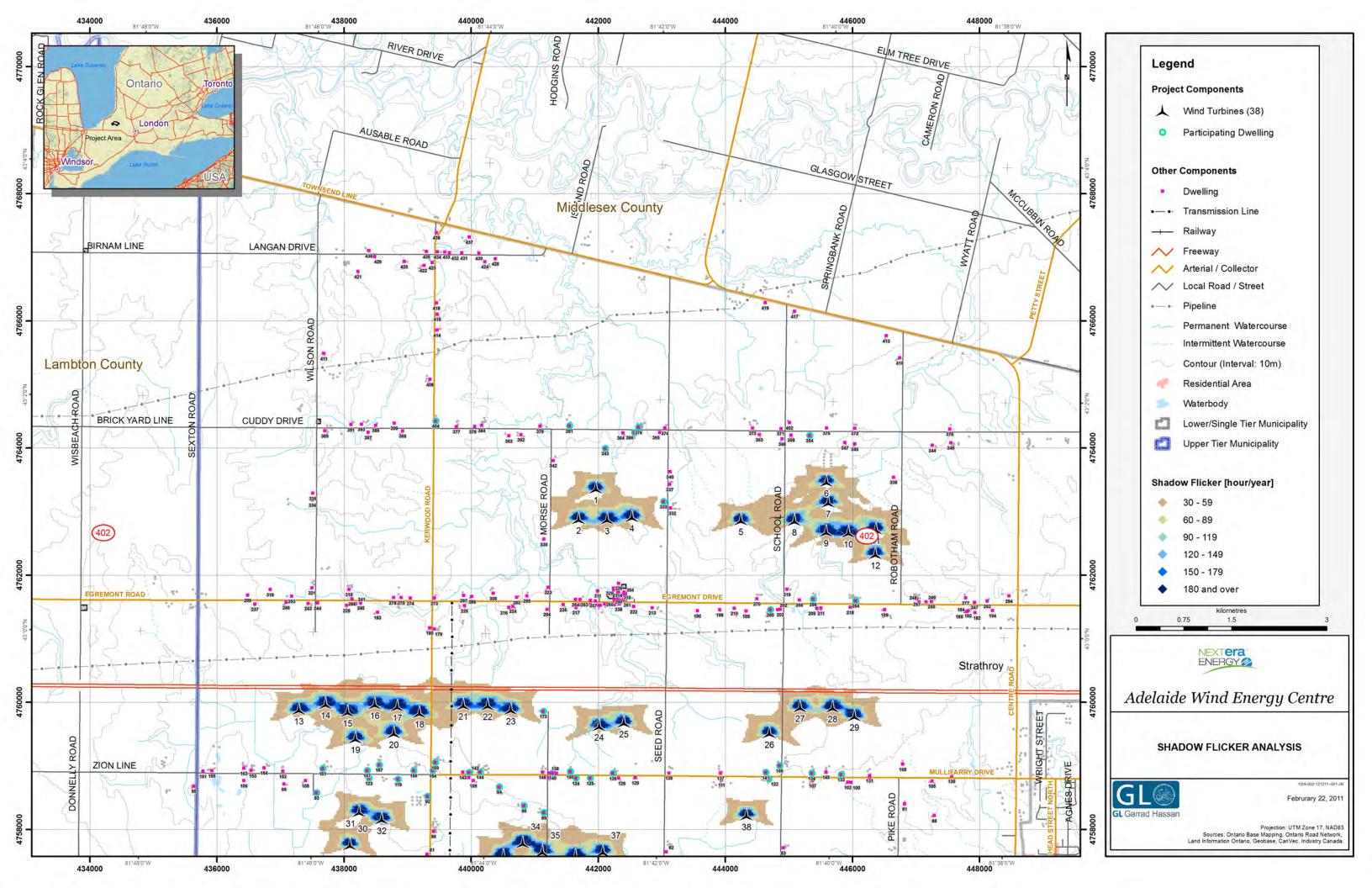
- Orientation of the building relative to the turbine;
- Wind direction: the shape and intensity of the shadow are determined by the position of the sun relative to the blades (the turbine rotor continuously yaws to face the wind so the rotor plane will always be perpendicular to the wind direction;
- Distance from turbine: the farther the observer from the turbine, the less pronounced the effect;
- Turbine height and rotor diameter: a larger turbine rotor diameter will cast a larger shadow, meaning a larger area will be prone to incidences of shadow flicker;
- Time of year and day: position of sun relative to the horizon;
- Weather conditions: cloud cover reduces the occurrence of shadow flicker;
- Vegetation and other obstacles that help to mask shadows; and
- Whether or not the turbines are operating

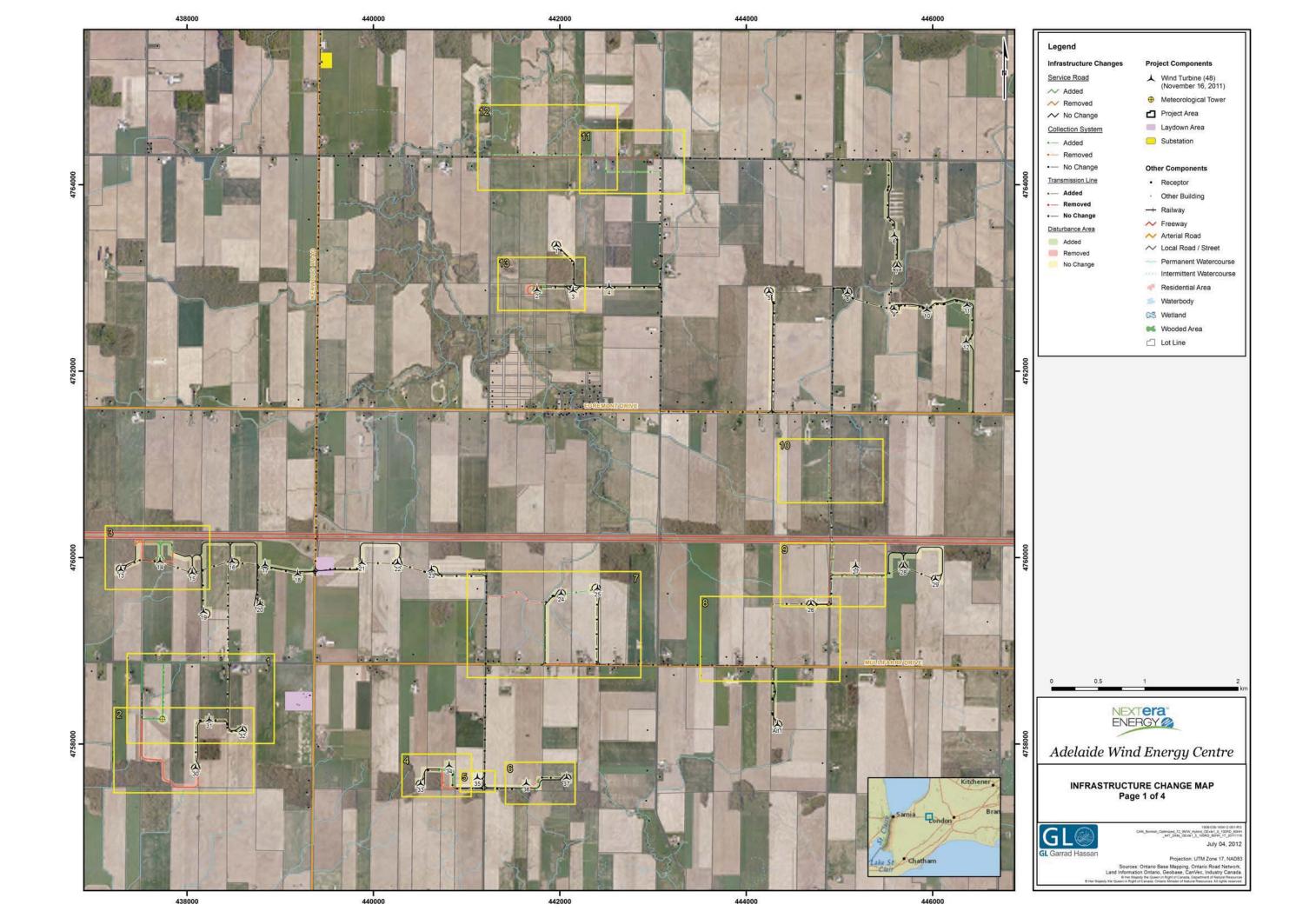
Shadow Flicker Assessment and Results

- To assess the effect of shadow flicker, receptor location, hourly meteorological data, topography of the wind farm site, and turbine specifications such as rotor diameter and hub height were considered.
- The worst case maximum shadow flicker per day was calculated to be 57 min/day and 18 hr/year.
- This is a conservative analysis as it does not account for
 - Operational downtime due to low winds, high winds or maintenance
 - The amount of time the turbine is not directly facing the sun which will reduce the area of the projected shadow thus the shadow flicker incidence
 - ▲ The presence of vegetation and other physical barriers
 - ▲ The amount of aerosols (moisture, dust, smoke, etc.) in the atmosphere

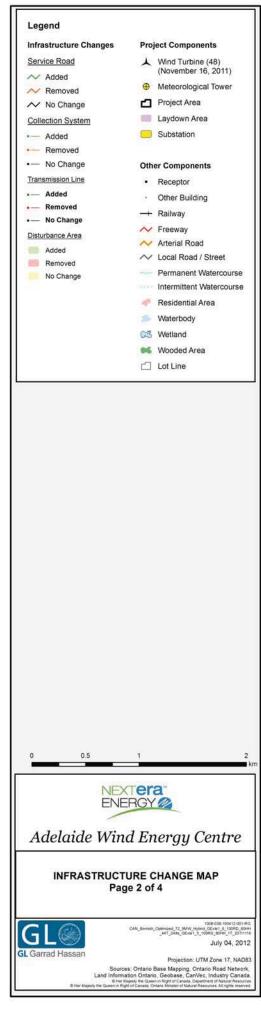


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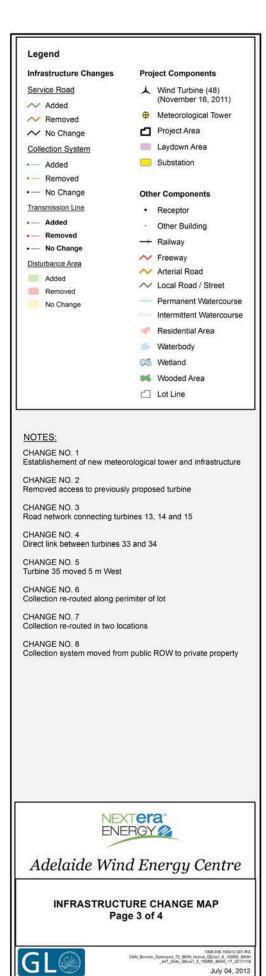








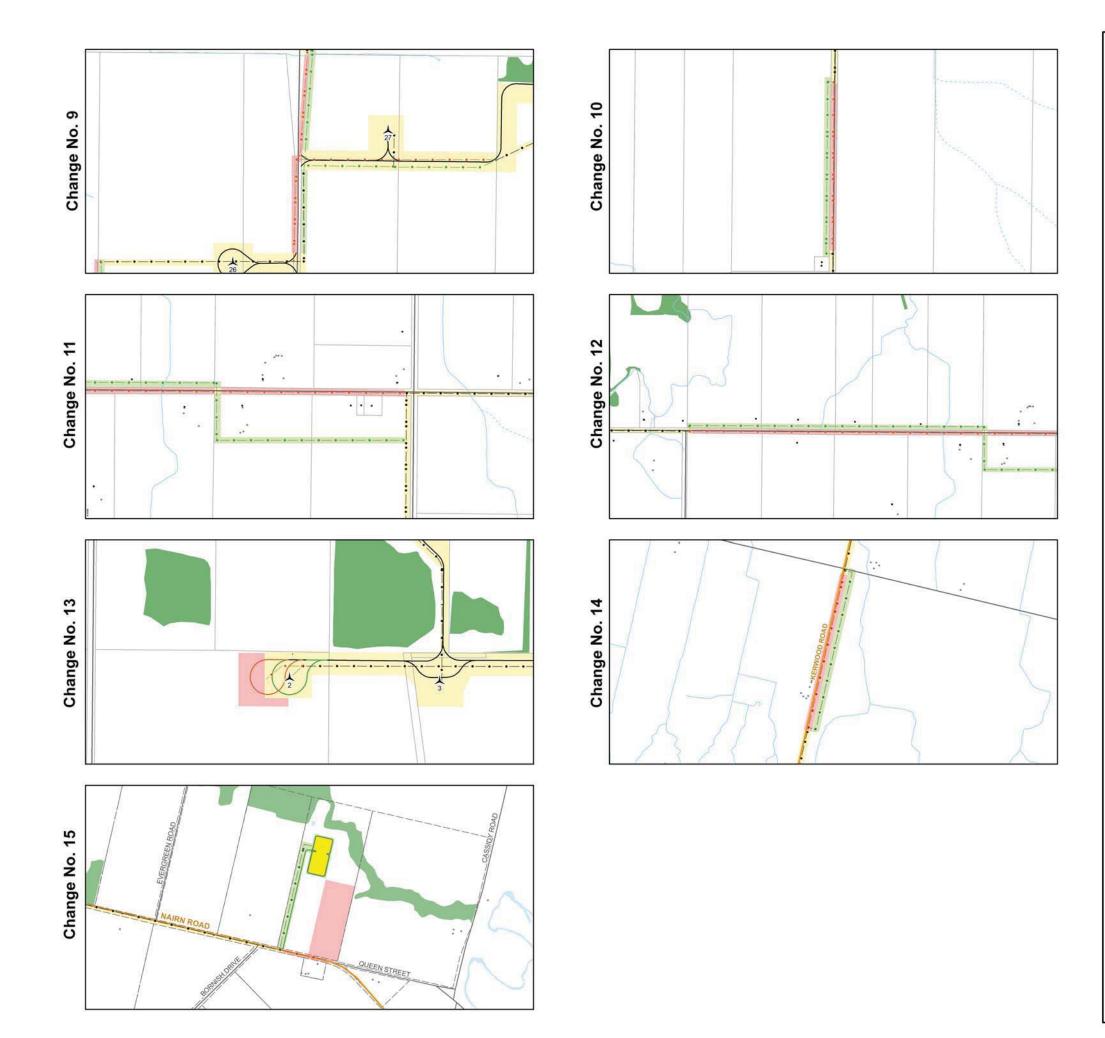


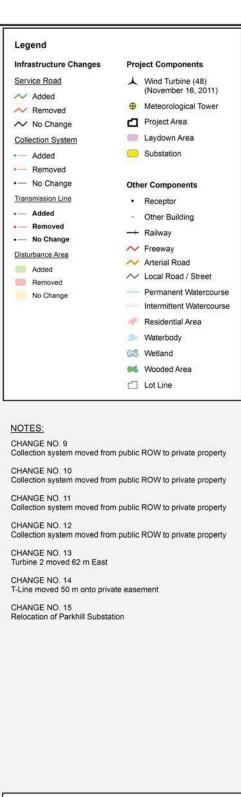


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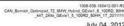






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INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGE MAP Page 4 of 4



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July 04, 2012

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