

Natural Heritage: Water

- Aquatic studies have been underway since March 2009
- This work involves aquatic biologists visiting watercourses within 120 m (394 feet) of proposed project infrastructure and conducting investigations to:
 - ✦ Measure stream width and depth
 - ✦ Characterize vegetation cover, substrate composition and water flow patterns
 - ✦ Observe the presence of fish and groundwater
- Findings from these studies will be used to determine potential effects on fish, water quality and surface and ground water quantity as a result of the proposed project. These findings are being considered in the wind farm design to minimize impacts
- NextEra Energy Canada will submit a Water Assessment and Water Body Report to the Ministry of the Environment that will outline potential effects, proposed mitigation measures and monitoring commitments and determine the significance of residual effects
- NextEra Energy Canada will obtain all applicable permits from the appropriate approval agencies, including the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)



Natural Heritage: Bats

- Properties that contain wooded areas within 120 m (394 feet) of proposed infrastructure were examined by biologists to search for suitable bat habitat
- After examining the habitats, certain properties were chosen for more extensive monitoring which involved installation of bat monitoring equipment within (or adjacent to) the wooded habitats in June and early July 2011 and 2012
- These properties also required 10 nights of visual surveys, completed in June to early July 2012, which involved examining woodlands with spotlights and microphones to look for bat activity
- In July 2011, the MNR issued new guidelines “Bats and Bat Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects” with more specific criteria to evaluate bat habitat. Assessments of all woodlands within 120m of proposed infrastructure are being completed in 2012
- Findings from these studies will be considered in the wind farm design to minimize impacts



Natural Heritage: Birds

- NextEra Energy Canada has utilized an avian (bird) monitoring protocol that meets the requirements of MNR's natural heritage assessment guidelines for turbines and birds
- Bird surveys are being conducted to include Spring Bird Migration Surveys, Breeding Bird Surveys, Fall Bird Surveys and Winter Bird Surveys
- Bird surveys will be conducted over all four seasons to profile species and look at the following factors:
 - ✦ Migration Patterns
 - ✦ Breeding Activity
 - ✦ Behaviour Patterns
 - ✦ Significant or Critical Habitats
- The bird surveys are being conducted by establishing survey plots, visual and sound observations, and a search of habitat in the study area
- The results of these studies will be submitted to the MNR for review and approval as part of the Natural Heritage Assessment Report
- Findings from the natural heritage studies are being considered in the wind farm design to minimize impacts

