

GOSHEN WIND ENERGY CENTRE

Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Reports Summary

SEPTEMBER 2012

Goshen Wind, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Canada, ULC (NextEra) is proposing to construct a wind energy Project in Bluewater and South Huron, Huron County, Ontario. The project will be referred to as the Goshen Wind Energy Centre (the "Project") and will be located on private lands in the vicinity of the shoreline of Lake Huron. The wind turbine technology proposed for the Project is the GE 1.6-100 Wind Turbine and one GE 1.56-100 Wind Turbine. With a total nameplate capacity of 102 MW, the Project is categorized as a Class 4 facility. Although NextEra is seeking a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) for up to 72 wind turbines, only 63 will be constructed for the Project.

The purpose of a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment is to find out whether there are any known archaeological sites on or near the Project area. If the Stage 1 Assessment determines there is archaeological potential, a Stage 2 Assessment is completed to identify any archaeological resources and confirm if further archaeological studies are required.

The Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Reports were prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in Ontario Regulation 359/09, the regulation governing renewable energy projects in Ontario, in addition to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's (MTCS) 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. The reports are reviewed and a satisfaction letter is issued by the MTCS prior to submitting the Renewable Energy Approval to the Ministry of the Environment.



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STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment was completed in June 2012 and involved reviewing background research, such as land use history and historic maps of the area, a property inspection and a review of the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database.

CONCLUSIONS

The potential for Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian Archaeological resources within the study area was determined to be moderate to high. For pre-contact Aboriginal Sites, this is based on nearby drinking water sources, a relatively flat landscape, soils that can be used for agriculture, and known archaeological sites. For post-contact Aboriginal Sites, this is based on nearby drinking water sources, a relatively flat landscape, and Euro-Canadian historic documents. For Euro-Canadian Sites, this is based on historic documents and historic transportation routes.



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A “pre-contact Aboriginal site” was identified where any artifact had been left behind by one of the original First Nations inhabitants of the area, dating before about 500 years ago. A “post-contact Aboriginal site” was identified where any artifact had left behind by a First Nations inhabitant of the area who would have had the potential to interact with the European immigrants to North America in the last 500 years. A “historic Euro-Canadian site” was identified where 19th century European immigrants to the area had left behind remains from their homesteads or other structures.

Finally, two independent First Nation monitors participated in the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments to address specific First Nations’ interests.

Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment

FIELD METHODS

The Stage 2 assessment was completed in September 2012. The study involved “pedestrian surveys” (i.e. archaeologists either walking ploughed fields) or “test pitting” (i.e. digging holes by hand that are 30 centimeters (m) wide and an average of 25 to 30 cm deep) to look for archaeological resources. Pedestrian surveys were completed for the majority of the study area whereas test pitting was only conducted where pedestrian surveys were not feasible e.g. woodland areas and road rights of way.

CONCLUSIONS

A total of 61 archaeological sites were identified through pedestrian surveys; these included:

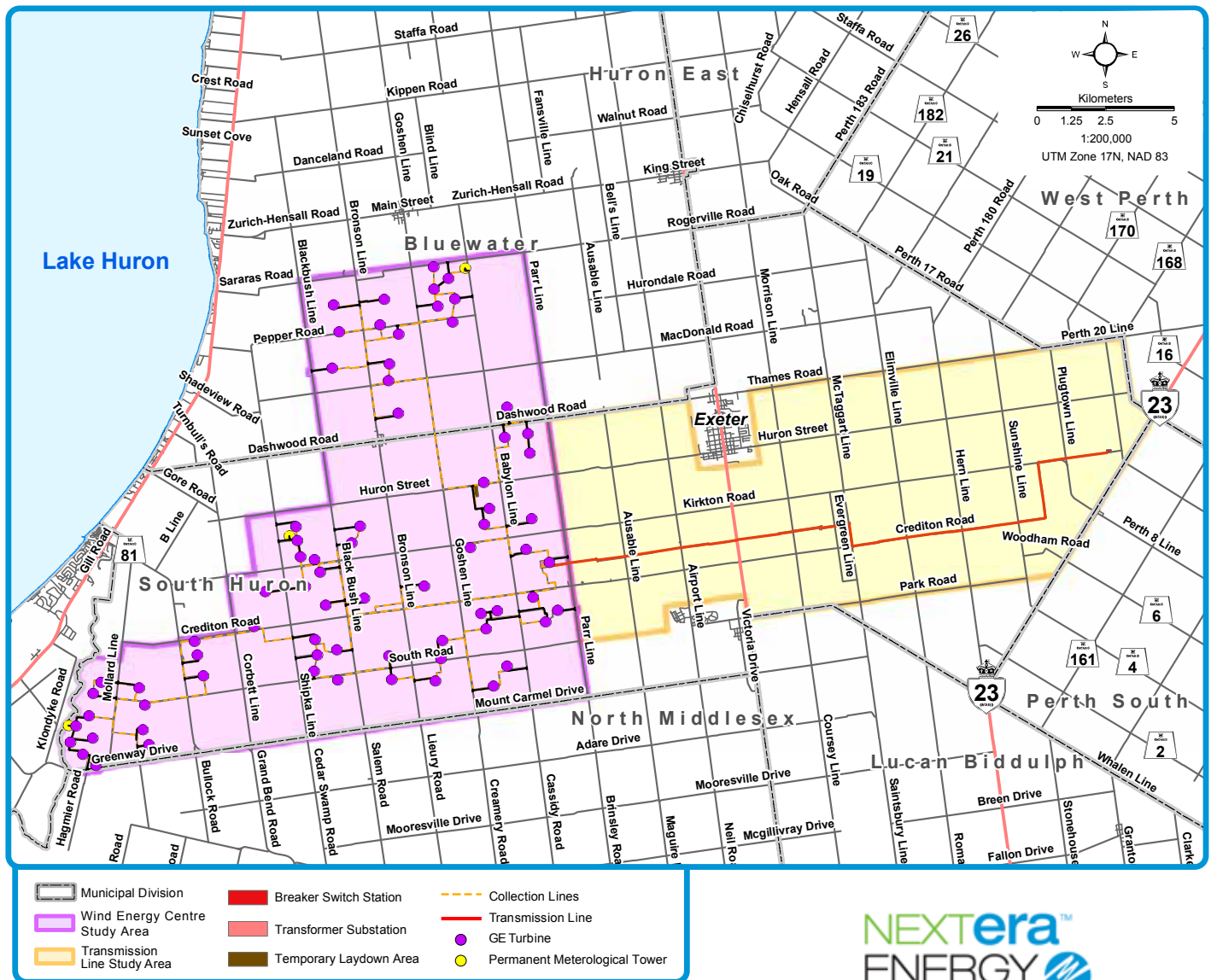
- ✦ 36 pre-contact Aboriginal sites;
- ✦ 20 historic Euro-Canadian sites; and,
- ✦ 5 multi-component sites.

Approximately 30 sites were recommended for further archaeological assessments (called a Stage 3 Assessment) because at those locations, more than 20 artifacts from before the year 1900 were found. This meant that the locations have cultural heritage value or interest that needs further study. The cultural heritage value or interest of the other sites was sufficiently studied, and no further assessments were recommended.



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Have A Question?

We hope you find this Plain Language Summary helpful. In case you would like additional information or have any questions, please contact us directly:

Project Proponent

Derek Dudek

Community Relations Consultant
 NextEra Energy Canada, ULC
 5500 North Service Road, Suite 205
 Burlington, Ontario, L7L 6W6
 Phone: 1-877-257-7330
 Email: Goshen.Wind@NextEraEnergy.com

Project Consultant

Marc Rose

Senior Environmental Planner
 AECOM
 300-300 Town Centre Blvd.
 Markham, Ontario, L3R 5Z6
 Phone: 905-477-8400 x388
 Email: marc.rose@aecom.com