



1. INTRODUCTION

The Dufferin Wind Power Project is currently being developed by Dufferin Wind Power Inc. (DWP). The proposed wind farm (the “project”) will consist of 18 General Electric (GE) 2.75 MW and 31 GE 1.6 MW wind turbines for a total of 49 wind turbines and a 99.1 MW nameplate capacity. The wind farm project components will be situated entirely on privately owned land that is currently under agricultural production, pastureland or land that has been left fallow.

The project will require approval under *Ontario Regulation 359/09 – Renewable Energy Approval (REA)* under Section V.0.1 of the *Ontario Environmental Protection Act*. The REA process replaces previous requirements for several separate approvals under (among others) the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Planning Act* and *Environmental Protection Act*. Based on the REA Regulations, this project is a “Class 4” wind facility.

Ontario Regulation 359/09 requires that renewable energy projects prepare an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Report to address natural features that are located within the project location or a prescribed setback area and have been evaluated to be significant or provincially significant in the Evaluation of Significance Report (*REA* Section 38). This EIS Report was completed to address the regulatory requirements for the *REA* process and is the fourth and final report in a series that fulfills the requirements of the natural heritage assessment as required by *Ontario Regulation 359/09*. The EIS Report will detail the potential impacts, mitigation and monitoring requirements to protect natural features within and adjacent to the project location. Discussions regarding Species at Risk and other information needs, as outlined in the MNR’s Approval and Permitting Requirements Document for Renewable Energy (MNR 2009), are outlined in a separate report, under direction from the MNR and in compliance with *Ontario Regulation 359/09*.

Additional information about the Project can be found in the *Construction Plan Report*, *Design and Operations Report* and the *Project Description Report*. Technical studies associated with the REA requirements have been completed. In addition to this report the draft REA submission package includes:

- Project Description Report;
- Construction Plan Report;
 - Archaeological Assessments;
 - Cultural Heritage Self-Assessments;
 - Cultural Heritage Assessment;



- Design and Operations Report;
 - Noise Assessment Report;
 - Environmental Management Plan;
 - Emergency Response and Communications Plan;
 - Post Construction Monitoring Plan;
- Wind Turbine Specification Report
- Decommissioning Plan Report;
- Property Line Setback Assessment Report;
- Water Body and Surface Water Assessment Report;
- Natural Heritage Assessment Reports;
 - Records Review;
 - Site Investigation;
 - Evaluation of Significance; and
- Supporting Documents.