

Renewable Energy Operations Team
P.O. Box 7000
300 Water Street
4th Floor, South Tower
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5

May 9, 2012

Dufferin Wind Power Inc.
TD Canada Trust Tower
161 Bay Street, Suite 4550
Toronto, ON
M5J 2S4

RE: NHA Confirmation for Dufferin Wind Farm

Dear Jeff Hammond:

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 and environmental impact study for the Dufferin Wind Farm located in the Township of Melancthon in Dufferin County, the final version of which was submitted by Dufferin Wind Power Inc. on May 9, 2012.

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 assessment report has been prepared in accordance with procedures established by the MNR.

In accordance with Appendix D of MNR's Natural Heritage Assessment Guide, a commitment has been made to complete pre-construction assessments of habitat use

for candidate significant wildlife habitats. MNR has reviewed and confirmed the assessment methods and the range of mitigation options. Pending completion of the pre-construction assessments and determination of significance, the appropriate mitigation is expected to be implemented, as committed to in the environmental impact study for the following candidate significant wildlife habitats:

- Colonial Bird Nesting Habitat (feature CNH 6, 7, 12)
- Waterfowl Nesting Habitat (feature WNH 4, 11-14, 16-18, 20-24)
- Woodland Area Sensitive Forest Breeding Bird Habitat (feature IFB 9)
- Open Country Breeding Bird Habitat (feature OCBB 11)
- Marsh Breeding Bird Habitat (MBB 11, 13, 17, 18, 28, 31, 45)
- Amphibian Woodland Breeding (features ABH 18, 27, 38, 48, 59)

As detailed within the NHA reports, 2 options are proposed for the transmission route associated with this project. A decision has not yet been made as to which option will be selected. The Alternative Option Package Appendix of the Environmental Impact Study describes that within the 2nd option there are alternative scenarios which, based on the outcome of wetland evaluations, will determine if construction can occur within the wetlands. If the proponent decides to pursue the option laid out in the Alternative Option Package, the following pre-construction assessments must take place. MNR has reviewed and confirmed the assessment methods at the range of mitigation options. Pending completion of the pre-construction assessments and determination of significance, the appropriate mitigation is expected to be implemented, as committed to in the Alternative Option Package of the environmental impact study for the following candidate significant wildlife habitats and wetlands:

- Colonial Bird Nesting Habitat (feature CNH 13, 14, 15)
- Marsh Breeding Bird Habitat (MBB 30, 32, 33, 36-39, 42, 46, 49)
- Amphibian Woodland Breeding (features ABH 30, 31, 34, 35, 37, 42, 48)
- Wetlands (features 47, 48, 51-54, 56-61, 71, 72, 81)

In addition to the NHA, Environmental Effects Monitoring Plans that address post-construction monitoring and mitigation for birds and bats must be prepared and implemented. It is recommended that post-construction monitoring plans be prepared in accordance with MNR Guidelines and 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.

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 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 me at amy.cameron@ontario.ca or 613-732-5506.

Sincerely,



Amy Cameron
Southern Region Renewable Energy Operations Team Coordinator
Regional Operations Division
Ministry of Natural Resources

- cc. Mark Shoreman, District Manager, MNR Midhurst District
- cc. Brad Allan, A/Planning & Information Supervisor, MNR Midhurst District
- cc. Emily Gryck, Renewable Energy Planning Ecologist, MNR Southern Region
- cc. Narren Santos, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, MOE
- cc. Sandra Guido, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, MOE