



**Grand Bend Wind Farm
Natural Heritage Assessment Part V
MNR Confirmation Letter**

Prepared By:

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Prepared for:

Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership
Northland Power Inc., as agent

February 2013

File No: PIA019991

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January 28, 2013

Gordon Potts, P.Eng.
Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership
c/o Northland Power Inc.
30 St. Clair Avenue West, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON, M4V 3A1

RE: NHA Confirmation for Grand Bend Wind Farm

Dear Gordon:

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 for Grand Bend Wind Farm in Huron County submitted by Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership on January 25, 2013.

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

In accordance with Section 28(3)(c) and 38(2)(c), MNR also offers the following comments in respect of the project.

Preconstruction Monitoring

In accordance with Appendix D of MNR's NHA Guide, a commitment has been made to complete pre-construction assessment(s) of habitat use for the following candidate significant wildlife habitats:

- i. Bat Maternity Colonies (BMC-001, BMC-003, BMC-004, BMC-005, BMC-006, BMC-007, BMC-009, BMC-010, BMC-011, BMC-012)
- ii. Turtle Wintering Area (TWA-003)
- iii. Habitat for Special Concern and Rare Species (SCC-001, SCC-002, SCC-003, SCC-004, SCC-005, SCC-006, SCC-007, SCC-008, SCC-009, SCC-010, SCC-011, SCC-012, SCC-013, SCC-014, SCC-015, SCC-016, SCC-017)

MNR has reviewed and confirmed the assessment methods and the range of mitigative options. Pending completion of the assessments and determination of significance, the appropriate mitigation is expected to be implemented, as committed to in the environmental impact study.

Post-Construction Monitoring

In addition to the NHA, Environmental Effects Monitoring Plans (EEMP) that address post-construction mortality monitoring and mitigation for birds and bats must be prepared and implemented. Environmental Effects Monitoring Plans for birds and bats must be prepared in accordance with MNR Guidelines and should 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. Comments provided by the MNR with respect to the EEMP must be submitted as part of the application for a REA.

A commitment has been made in the Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan, part of the Design and Operations Report, to conduct post-construction monitoring and if determined necessary, implement mitigation measures. For the Grand Bend Wind Farm this includes;

- i. Bat Maternity Colonies (BMC-001, BMC-003, BMC-004, BMC-005, BMC-006, BMC-007, BMC-009, BMC-010, BMC-011, BMC-012)
- ii. Amphibian Breeding Habitat (ABH-001)
- iii. Turtle Nesting Area (TNA-002)
- iv. Turtle Wintering Area (TWA-003)

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/EIS 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, please contact please contact Jim Beal at jim.beal@ontario.ca or 705-755-3203.

Sincerely,



Kazia Milian
Planning Coordinator
Southern Region MNR

cc Jim Beal, Renewable Energy Operations Team, Coordinator, MNR
Ian Hagman, District Manager, Guelph District, MNR
Narren Santos, Environmental Approvals Access & Service Integration Branch, MOE
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