



September 6, 2012

Via: E-mail & Courier

Ms. Doris Dumais
The Ministry of the Environment
Director, Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, ON M4V 1L5

Dear Ms. Dumais:

**Re: Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership, c/o Northland Power Inc.
Grand Bend Wind Farm REA Submission Extension Request
File No.: PIA019991**

The purpose of this letter is to serve as a formal written request, pursuant to O.Reg. 359/09 subsection 55 (2.6), to extend the six-month period in which an application is made for the issue of a renewable energy approval on the above noted project. The six-month period currently ends on October 17, 2012.

Grand Bend Wind Limited Partnership, c/o Northland Power Inc. ("Northland") is proposing to develop, construct and operate a 100 MW wind facility located north of Grand Bend, Ontario. An application for approval is being prepared under Ontario Regulation 359/09 of the *Environmental Protection Act*. The project is classified as a Class 4 Wind facility under the Regulation. The Grand Bend Wind Farm ("the Project") is located in Huron County, spanning the lower-tier municipalities of Bluewater and Huron South. Portions of the transmission line also traverse the municipality of Huron East and municipality of West Perth in Perth County. The Project has received a FIT contract (#F-002178-WIN-130-601), and Northland is preparing to make an application for the issue of a renewable energy approval.

Project field studies commenced early in 2011. The Project completed a first round of public meetings between April 2 and April 12, 2012, followed by the issuance of a notice of draft site plan issued on April 18, 2012. It was deemed necessary to issue the notice of draft site plan to define a point in time in which existing noise receptors would be considered for the Project. This provided clarity for the community with respect to the proposed turbine locations, and confirmed the study area for the required investigations. As outlined in O.Reg. 359/09, subsection 55 (2.4), the noise receptors established by the above noted draft site plan remain fixed as long as an application is made for the issue of a renewable energy approval by October 17, 2012. If, for reasons beyond Northland's

control, an application is not made within this time period, the Director of Renewable Energy Approval may elect to extend the six-month period in response to a written request (O.Reg. 359/09 subsection 55 (2.6)).

After issuance of the draft site plan, the following investigations and reports were completed, and all of the draft reports noted below were submitted for information to the Ministries of the Environment, Natural Resources, Energy, Tourism Culture and Sport. The draft reports as required under O.Reg. 359/09 were also sent to local Municipalities, and Aboriginal communities on August 27, 2012 to commence the formal 90 day review period:

- Project Description Draft Report;
- Project Summary Report (Aboriginal communities only);
- Construction Plan Draft Report;
- Design and Operations Draft Report including the following:
 - Property Line Setback Assessment
 - Visual Study;
- Decommissioning Plan Draft Report;
- Stage 1 and 2 Archeological Assessment Draft Report;
- Stage 2 Supplemental Report (Aboriginal communities only);
- Cultural Heritage Assessment Draft Report;
- Natural Heritage Assessment Draft Reports including the following:
 - Records Review;
 - Site Investigation;
 - Evaluation of Significance;
 - Environmental Impact Study;
 - Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan for Birds and Bats;
- Water Assessment and Water Body Draft Report;
- Environmental Noise Impact Assessment Draft Report;
- Wind Turbine Specifications Draft Report; and,
- Telecommunication Systems Draft Impact Study.

All of the investigations and reports outlined above were well underway prior to issuance of notice of draft site plan, and were completed as quickly as possible, while maintaining the level of rigour required by O.Reg. 359/09 and associated guidelines.

One investigation in particular that caused delays in the Project schedule was the Stage II Archeological Assessment. In order to prepare the agricultural lands for visual archaeological assessment, specific site conditions were required to be met. The lack of rainfall and field conditions in Southwestern Ontario during spring and summer of 2012 made it difficult to achieve these conditions in a timely fashion. Certain fields were also required to be re-ploughed numerous times to satisfy the visual conditions required for the archaeological survey. Also, field work required for natural heritage studies required additional time to complete. The delays experienced in completing these investigations and reports have impacted the consultation timelines such that a complete application for Renewable Energy Approval is not possible to be made by October 17, 2012.

The next round of public meetings is scheduled between November 27 and December 7, 2012. After consideration of public and agency comments on our draft reports it is possible that additional field work will be required in selected areas along with corresponding revisions to reports. Following completion of the reports, an application will be made for the issue of a renewable energy approval. It is anticipated that this submission will be made on or before July 31, 2013.

Table 1 below summarizes Project milestones, and outlines the schedule for future work.

Table 1 Project Schedule

Project Activity	Schedule
Issue Terms of Reference to MNR	Spring 2011
Comments Received from MNR on Terms of Reference and other reports	Fall 2011 through to current date
Issue First Draft of Project Description Report to MOE	January 2012
Notice of Proposal and Notice of Public Meeting (#1)	February 29, 2012
Public Information Center #1	April 2, 3, 5, 12, 2012
Notice of Draft Site Plan	April 18, 2012
Issue Draft REA Reports (90 day review period)	August 27, 2012
Issue Draft REA Reports to Public (60 day review period)	Anticipated September 26, 2012
Public Information Center #2	Anticipated from November 27 to December 7, 2012
REA Submission for Approval	On or before July 31, 2013
Additional Permitting and Approvals	During 2013
Start of Construction	September 2013
Commercial Operation Date	November/December 2014
Project Operation	2014 – 2034

Northland has made every effort to submit an application for the issue of a renewable energy approval by October 17, 2012, but is committed to providing a more comprehensive application on or before July 31, 2013 and accordingly requests an extension to the draft site plan until July 31, 2013.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Your response would be appreciated by September 28, 2012.

Yours truly,

Neegan Burnside Ltd.



Lyle Parsons
Project Manager
LP/jw

cc.

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