

# Appendix C

## Information from First Public Meeting

# Northland Power

## ***Welcomes You to the First Public Meeting***

*for the Abitibi Solar Project  
Empire Solar Project  
and Martin's Meadows Solar Project*

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Tim Horton's Event Centre, 7 Tim Horton Drive  
Cochrane, Ontario

# Purpose of this Public Meeting

A public meeting to solicit stakeholder input is an important aspect of the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process and project planning.

This public meeting provides an opportunity to:

- Gain further understanding about Northland Power's proposed solar energy projects in your area
- Obtain information about the REA Process
- Ask questions regarding the proposed Projects
- Raise concerns or issues regarding the proposed Projects

## How can I provide comments or concerns?

A variety of methods are available for providing comments or concerns.

You can:

1. Fill out a comment form provided at this public meeting. This form can also be used to register your name and mailing address so you are included on the Project mailing lists.
2. Discuss your comments or concerns with one of the representatives of Northland Power or Hatch present at this public meeting.
3. Contact the Environmental Coordinator for the Project via the following information:

**Sean Male**, MSc

Environmental Coordinator  
Hatch Ltd.

Address: 4342 Queen Street, Suite 500  
Niagara Falls, Ontario,  
L2E 7J7

Phone: 905-374-0701 Ext 5280

Fax: 905-374-1157

Email: [smale@hatch.ca](mailto:smale@hatch.ca)

For more information please visit:

[www.northlandpower.ca](http://www.northlandpower.ca)



# Northland Power

*Northland Power develops and operates clean and green power generation projects, mainly in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with Saskatchewan being added to that list shortly. Our facilities produce about 900 MW of electricity. Northland Power has been in business since 1987 and has been publicly traded since 1997.*

Sustainability is a core value at Northland Power. All of our development efforts and operational practices focus on providing long term benefits to our customers, investors, employees, communities and partners.

*For Northland Power, sustainability has many dimensions:*

**Environmental:** Northland Power was founded on the belief that clean and green energy sources are vital to the future of our planet. Our construction and operational practices are engineered to meet the highest environmental standards, even in jurisdictions where lower standards are legislated.

**Community:** Northland Power takes an active interest in its host communities, to ensure they remain vibrant, healthy places to live.

**Operational:** Northland Power maintains and reinvests constantly in their operating assets to achieve maximum efficiency and economic life.

**Health and Safety:** Ensuring that our staff has the knowledge, tools and time to work safely is Northland's first priority. Our culture of safety, respect and independence helps to ensure we attract and retain the people that we need to perform.

**Financial:** Northland Power consistently chooses long term success over short term gain. Northland Power only pursues projects that meet strict return thresholds and have creditworthy customers. As a result, we have paid stable monthly dividends since 1997.



Northland Power has retained Hatch Ltd. to undertake the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process, subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09. Hatch is an Ontario-based consulting, engineering and management company with operations worldwide and a reputation for excellence acquired over 80 years of continuous service to its clients. Hatch will undertake the REA process from its Niagara Falls, Ontario office.

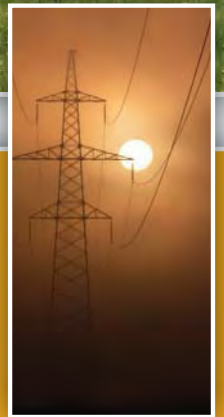
# Solar Technology

A solar photovoltaic (PV) module (or panel, as they are often called) transforms the sun's energy into electrical energy. Silicon, a semi-conductor, is the material that transforms a ray of sunshine into electricity. The silicon is located within a grid (commonly made of metal) that conducts electricity. When the sunlight hits the silicon, electrons flow from the silicon into the grid, thereby producing electricity. The silicon and metallic grid are located beneath a layer of glass to provide weather protection. The glass has a special coating applied to maximize the capture of sunlight by the panel, thereby reducing glare.

## Advantages of Solar Energy

Solar power has a multitude of advantages compared to most other power generation technologies.

- First and foremost, the fuel is free. As the cost of many fossil fuels is expected to increase in the future, having solar energy on the grid at a set price will give greater stability to future energy prices.
- Another key benefit is the absence of any green house gas emissions and other pollutants. This ensures that the local community will not have to live with poor air quality or noxious odours.
- Solar PV systems are comprised of safe, common materials that will not affect the lands on which they are located, allowing for easy remediation upon decommissioning.
- Most solar PV systems have no moving parts, unlike almost all other power generation technologies. Having no moving parts reduces the environmental impact, maintenance costs, and noise levels of this type of power generation,
- There is a natural supply/demand match that is inherent to solar power, as the sun rises and sets in parallel with society's general daily electricity demand pattern. This helps mitigate the need for the development of other technologies that traditionally meet peak electricity demand.



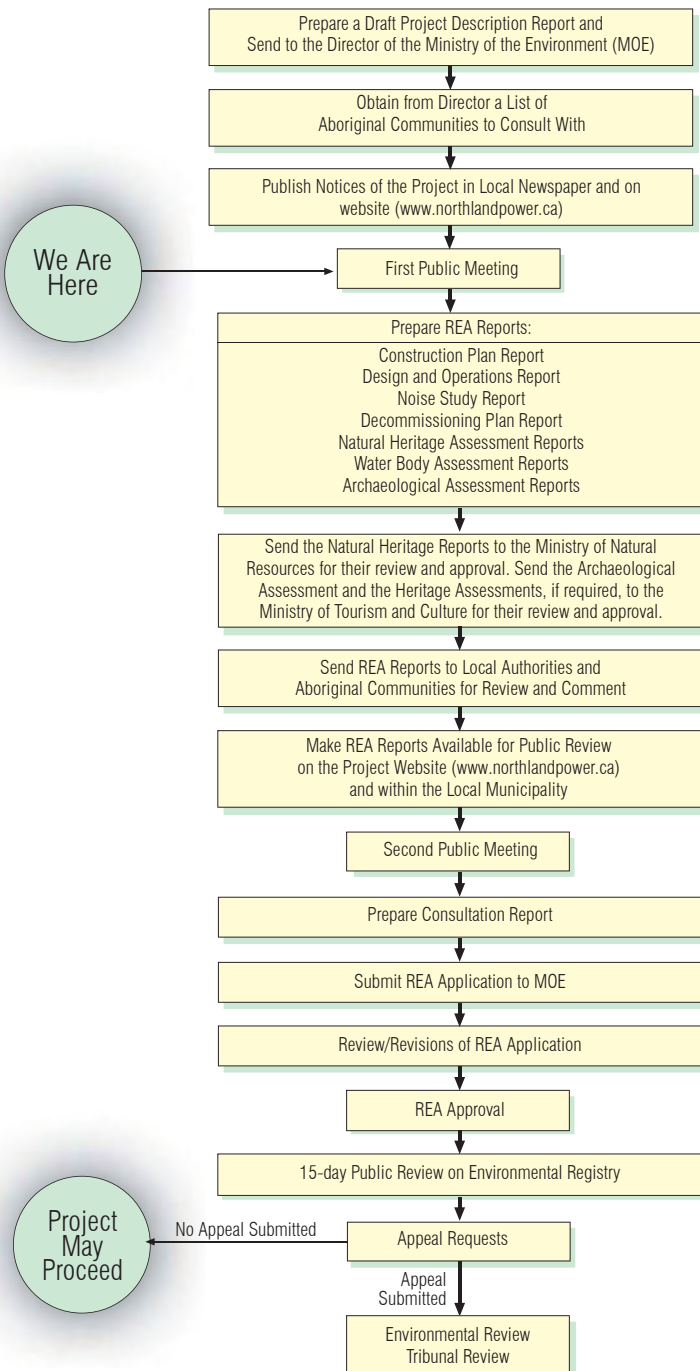
**FIT**  
Ontario's Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) program was launched by the Ontario Power Authority on October 1, 2009 to encourage the development of renewable energy resources and to stimulate growth in green technology and renewable power industries.

The Ontario Power Authority awarded 184 FIT contracts to renewable power developers in Ontario on April 8, 2010. Northland Power was awarded a total of 13 contracts for proposed solar ground-mount developments throughout the province. These projects are currently proceeding through the REA process.

# Renewable Energy Approval Process

The proposed Project is subject to the (REA) process, subject to the provisions of Part V.0.1 of the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Regulation 359/09. The REA process entails consideration of environmental aspects, including natural heritage features and water bodies, as well as heritage and archaeological resources. In addition, the REA process includes public, government agency and First Nation consultation.

The main components of the REA process are shown in the flow diagram.



# Abitibi Solar Project

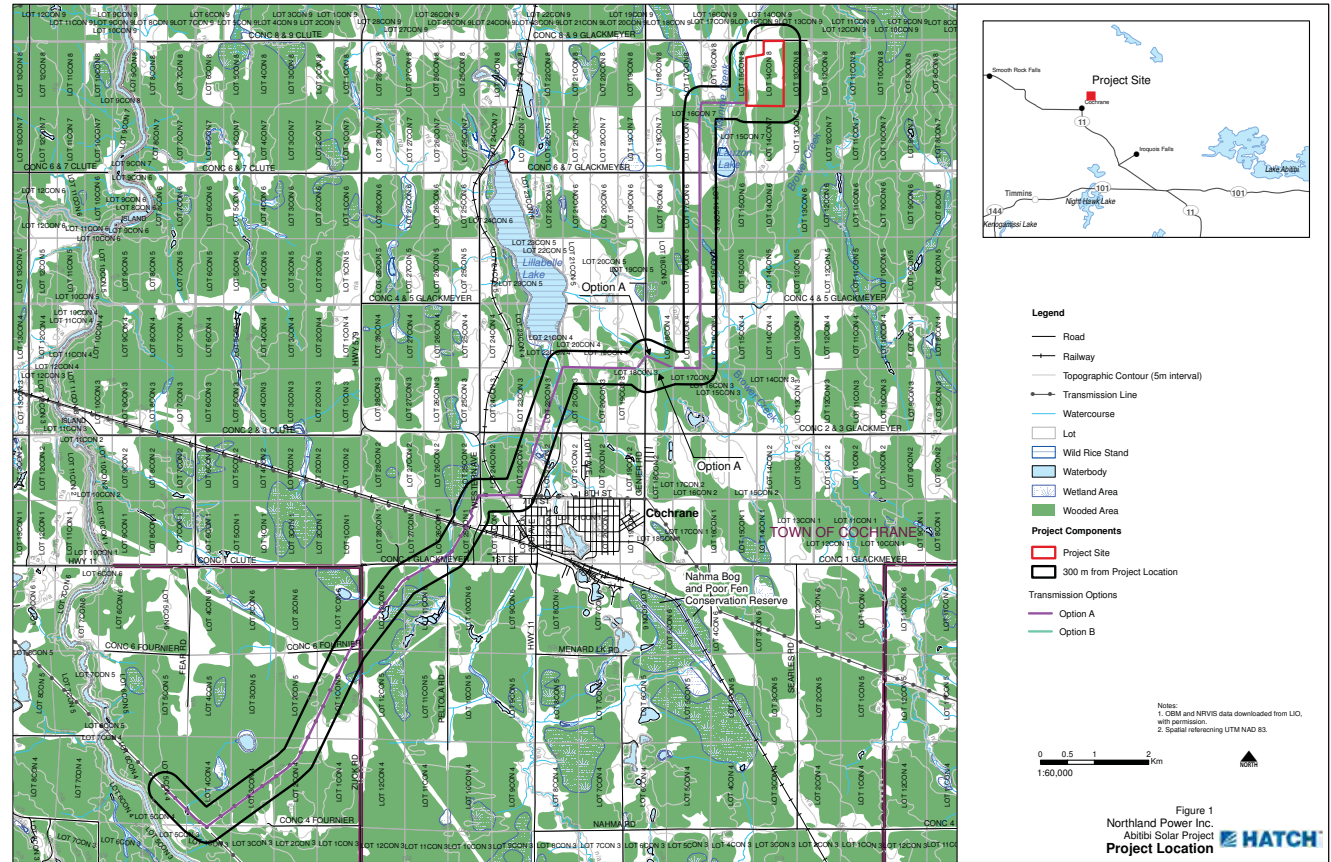
## Project Location

The proposed Project is located on Lots 14,15 Concession 8, northeast of the Town of Cochrane. The proposed Project, if approved, will be constructed on privately owned lands.

## Project Description

The proposed Abitibi Solar Project is considered to be a Class 3 solar facility, as defined under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09. Class 3 solar facilities are defined as having a name plate capacity of 10 kilowatts (kW) or greater and the solar panels are mounted on the ground. Specifically, this proposed Project has a nameplate capacity of 10MW (ac).

The proposed Project will use crystalline technology photovoltaic (PV) panels installed on ground-mounted rack structures made of steel and aluminum. The panels will be tilted and fixed in place (i.e., they will not move to track the sun). The project will consist of approximately 50,000 panels and will be designed to optimize energy production.



## Project Schedule – Abitibi Solar Project

- FIT Application – November 2009
- Submission of Project Description to MOE – April 2010
- FIT Contract Award – April 2010
- First Public Meeting – July 2011
- Second Public Meeting – November 2011
- REA Application Submission – December 2011
- REA Received – May 2012
- Start of Construction – May 2012
- Commercial Operation Date – December 2012

For more information regarding this Project please visit the Project website at [northlandpower.ca/abitibi](http://northlandpower.ca/abitibi).

Figure 1  
Northland Power Inc.  
Abitibi Solar Project  
Project Location





# Abitibi Solar Project

## Natural Heritage Features

As per Ontario Regulation 359/09, both a records review and site investigation were conducted in order to identify environmental features of the Project site and surrounding area. A variety of features were identified and considered during this process, including but not limited to:

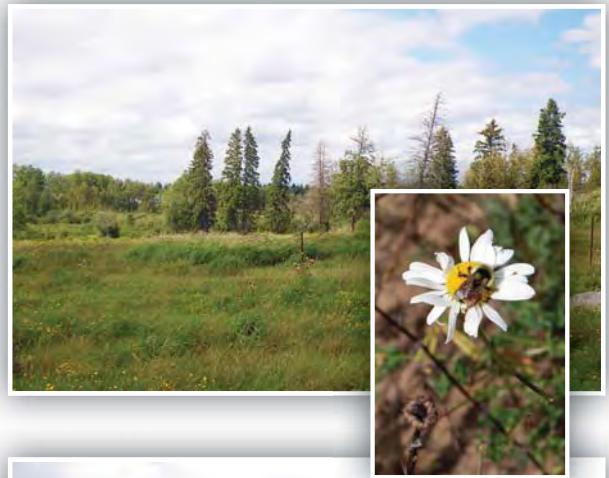
- Wildlife/Wildlife habitat
- Vegetation communities, including woodlands and wetlands
- Species at risk
- Waterbodies



## Terrestrial Environment

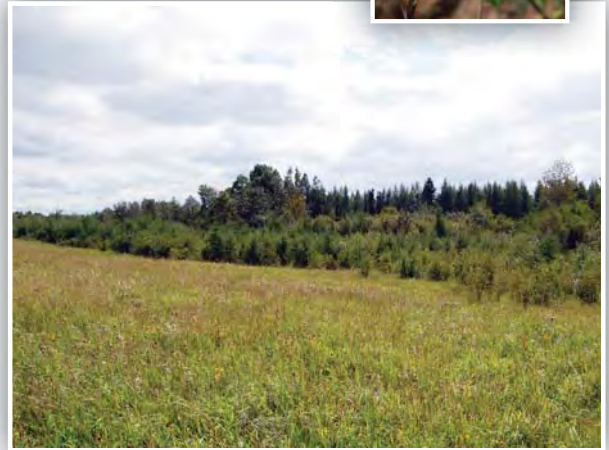
The Project Site contains equal amounts of agricultural field and woodlands. The majority of low lying woodland on the Project Site is dominated by black spruce, intermittent with balsam poplar, and upland areas consisting of a less-dense poplar species composition. The agricultural fields are primarily used for the production of hay.

Wildlife species observed during the site visit included ruffed grouse, raven, wood frogs, American toad, and spring peepers, although the site is known to be used by moose, gray wolf, and black bear throughout the year. No species currently listed on the Species at Risk Act or Endangered Species Act were recorded during the site investigation.



## Aquatic Environment

Several low-lying wet areas with associated marsh habitat are located on the Project Site. These areas were found to provide breeding habitat for amphibian species like spring peeper, American toad, and wood frogs. An excavated drainage channel also runs from the centre of the site through the south woodlot to the southern Project Site boundary.



*More information on the findings of these studies will be available in the Natural Heritage and Water Bodies Reports that will be posted to the project website ([www.northlandpower.ca/northburgess](http://www.northlandpower.ca/northburgess)). A notification will be mailed to those on the mailing list and published in the local newspaper when these are available.*

# Empire Solar Project

## Project Location

The proposed Project is located on Lots 17,18 Concession 7, northeast of the Town of Cochrane. The proposed Project, if approved, will be constructed on privately owned lands.

## Project Description

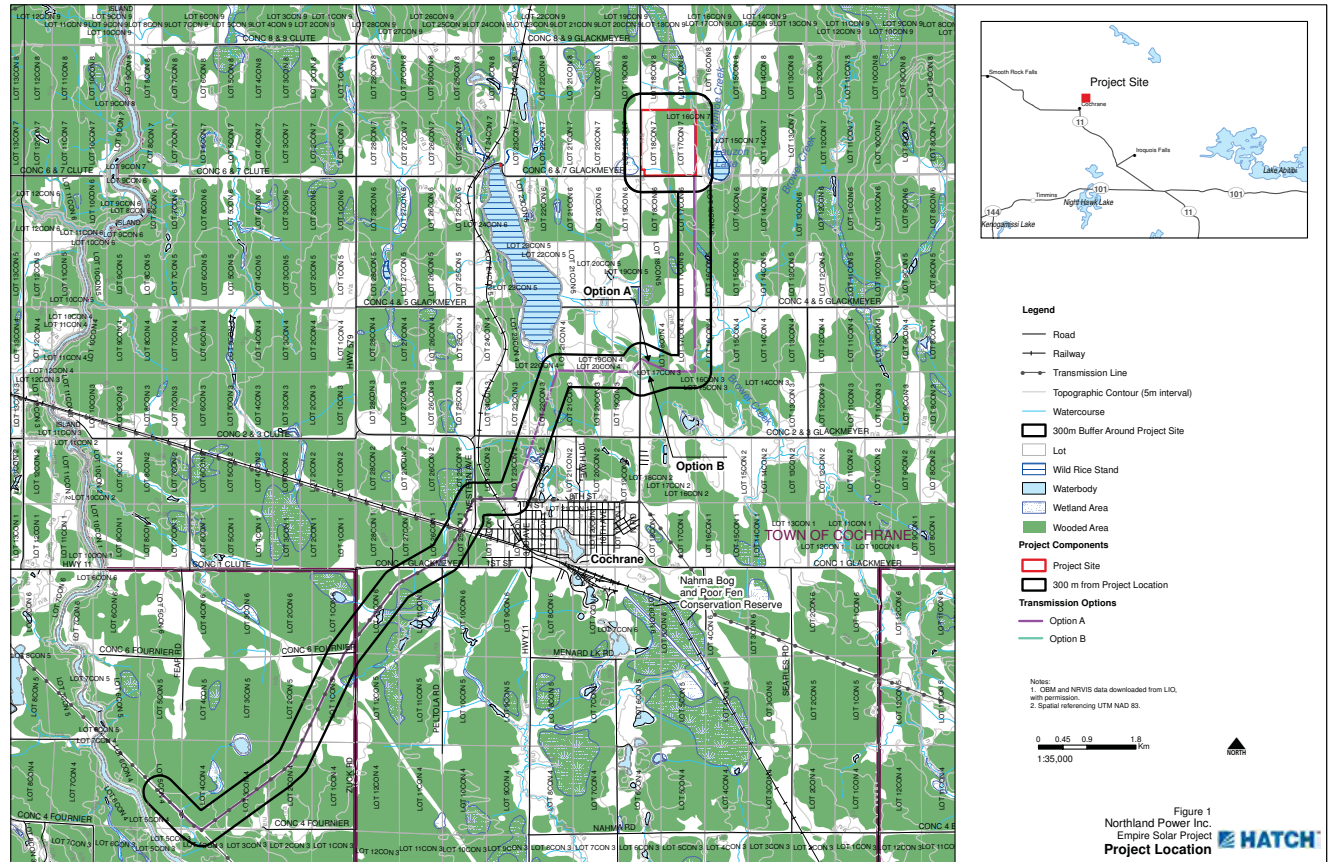
The proposed Empire Solar Project is considered to be a Class 3 solar facility, as defined under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09. Class 3 solar facilities are defined as having a name plate capacity of 10 kilowatts (kW) or greater and the solar panels are mounted on the ground. Specifically, this proposed Project has a nameplate capacity of 10MW (ac).

The proposed Project will use crystalline technology photovoltaic (PV) panels installed on ground-mounted rack structures made of steel and aluminum. The panels will be tilted and fixed in place (i.e., they will not move to track the sun). The project will consist of approximately 50,000 panels and will be designed to optimize energy production.

### Project Schedule – Empire Solar Project

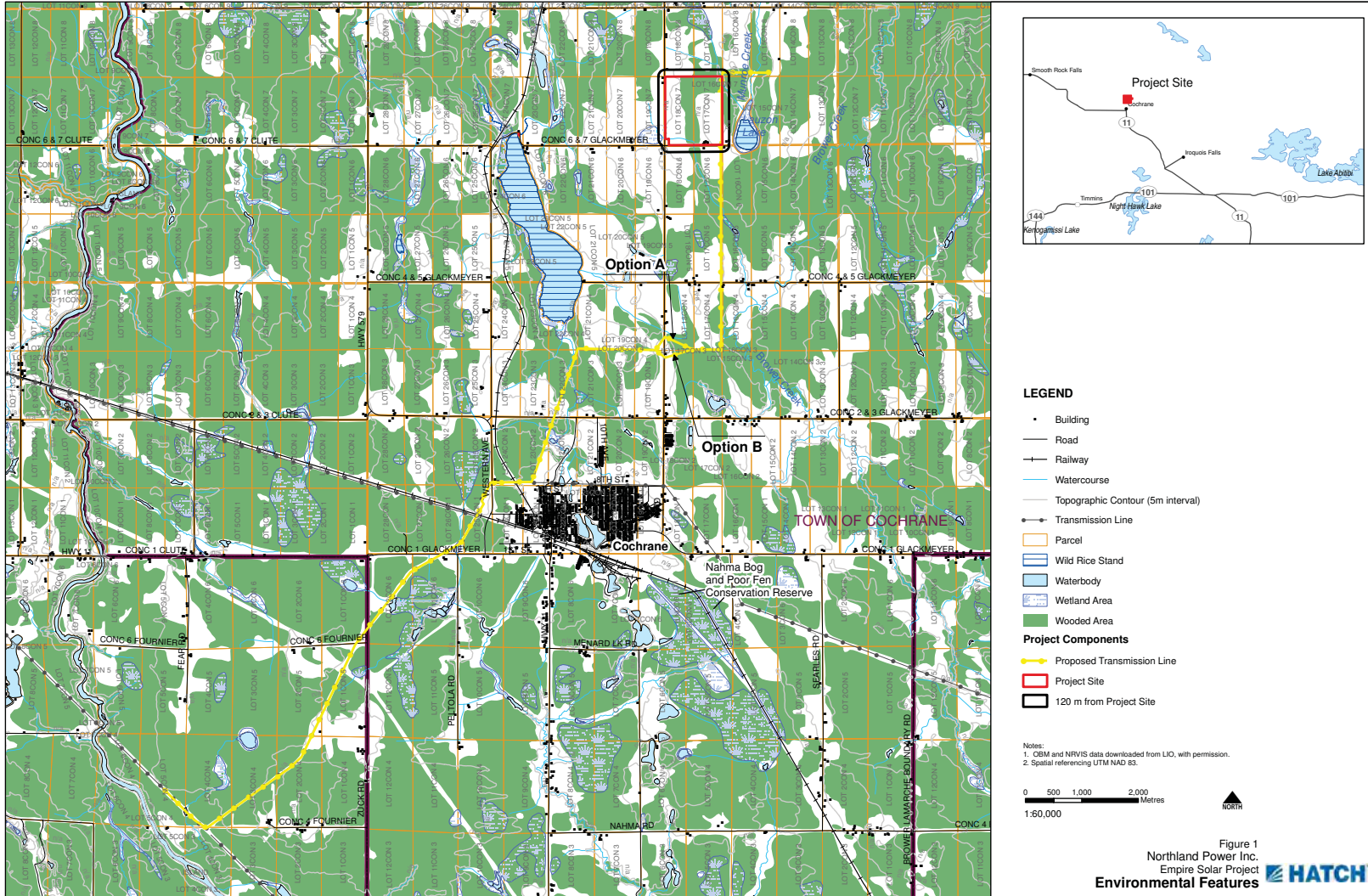
FIT Application – November 2009  
 Submission of Project Description to MOE – April 2010  
 FIT Contract Award – April 2010  
 First Public Meeting – July 2011  
 Second Public Meeting – November 2011  
 REA Application Submission – December 2011  
 REA Received – May 2012  
 Start of Construction – April/June 2012  
 Commercial Operation Date – October/December 2012

For more information regarding this Project please visit the Project website at [northlandpower.ca/empire](http://northlandpower.ca/empire).



# Empire Solar Project

## Environmental Features



# Empire Solar Project

## Natural Heritage Features

As per Ontario Regulation 359/09, both a records review and site investigation were conducted in order to identify environmental features of the Project site and surrounding area. A variety of features were identified and considered during this process, including but not limited to:

- Wildlife/Wildlife habitat
- Vegetation communities, including woodlands and wetlands
- Species at risk
- Waterbodies



## Terrestrial Environment

The Project Site consists of equal areas of agricultural field and woodlands. The woodlands located along the northern boundary and through the centre of the Project Site are typical Northern Ontario woodlands dominated by dense black spruce intermittent with upland areas of poplar species. Agricultural fields located on either side of the centre woodlot are primarily used in the production of hay.

Wildlife species observed during the site investigation included ruffed grouse, raven, wood frogs, green frogs, American toad, and spring peepers; although the area is known to be used by black bear, moose, and gray wolf throughout the year. No species currently listed on the Species at Risk Act or Endangered Species Act were observed during the site visit.



## Aquatic Environment

Several vernal pools and small shallow wet areas are located throughout the woodlands containing riparian marsh habitat. A small creek runs along and exits the Project Site at the southern boundary, with a marsh area along the road on each side of the creek, providing breeding habitat for amphibian species such as wood frogs and spring peepers. A small tributary of Munroe Creek flows south through the northeastern property boundary, eventually draining into Lauzon Lake.



*More information on the findings of these studies will be available in the Natural Heritage and Water Bodies Reports that will be posted to the project website ([www.northlandpower.ca/northburgess](http://www.northlandpower.ca/northburgess)). A notification will be mailed to those on the mailing list and published in the local newspaper when these are available.*

# Martin's Meadows Solar Project

## Project Location

The proposed Project is located on Lot 16 Concession 8, northeast of the Town of Cochrane. The proposed Project, if approved, will be constructed on privately owned lands.

## Project Description

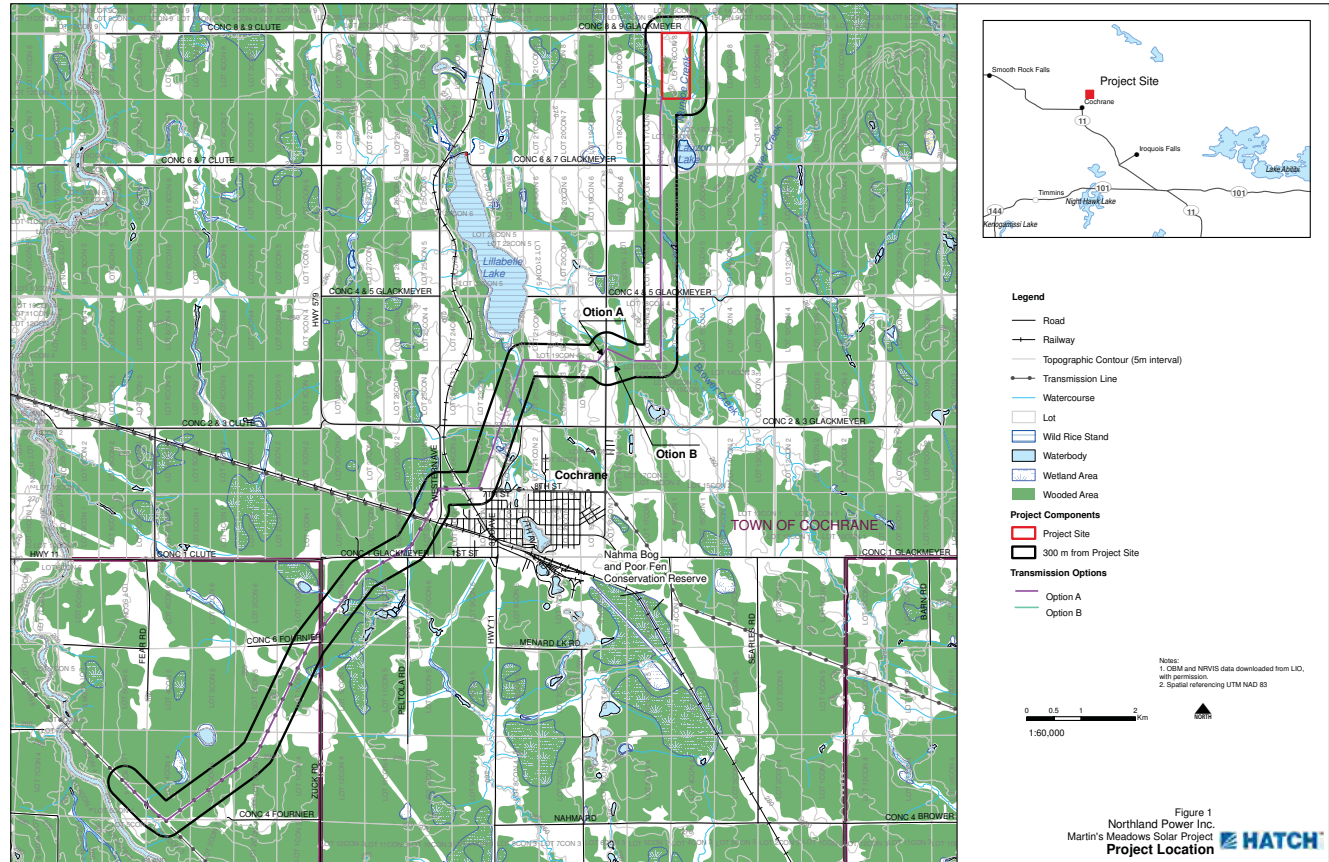
The proposed Martin's Meadows Solar Project is considered to be a Class 3 solar facility, as defined under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09. Class 3 solar facilities are defined as having a name plate capacity of 10 kilowatts (kW) or greater and the solar panels are mounted on the ground. Specifically, this proposed Project has a nameplate capacity of 10MW (ac).

The proposed Project will use crystalline technology photovoltaic (PV) panels installed on ground-mounted rack structures made of steel and aluminum. The panels will be tilted and fixed in place (i.e., they will not move to track the sun). The project will consist of approximately 50,000 panels and will be designed to optimize energy production.

## Project Schedule – Martin's Meadows Solar Project

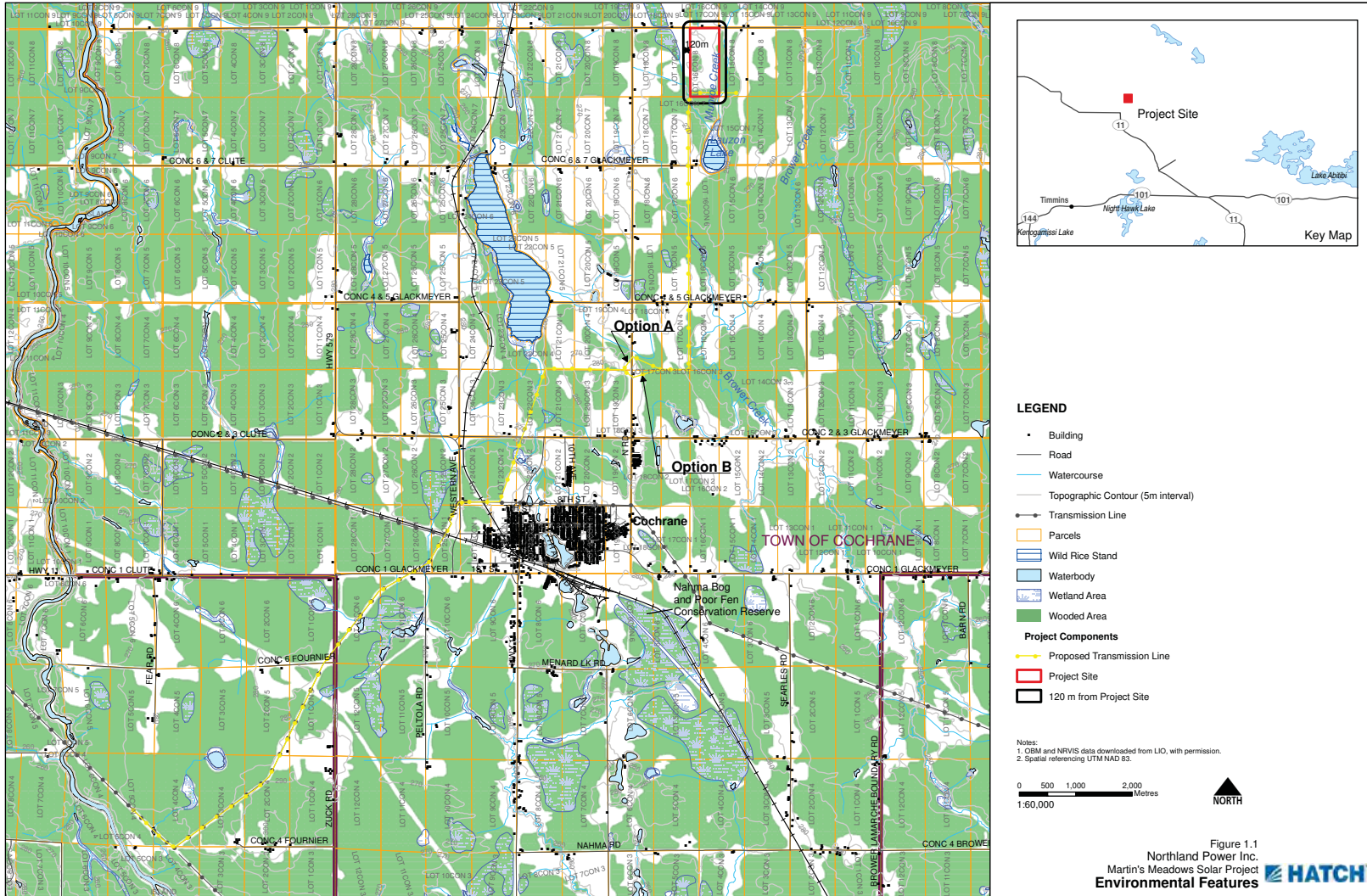
FIT Application – November 2009  
Submission of Project Description to MOE – April 2010  
FIT Contract Award – April 2010  
First Public Meeting – July 2011  
Second Public Meeting – November 2011  
REA Application Submission – December 2011  
REA Received – May 2012  
Start of Construction – May 2012  
Commercial Operation Date – December 2012

For more information regarding this Project please visit the Project website at [northlandpower.ca/martinsmeadows](http://northlandpower.ca/martinsmeadows).



# Martin's Meadows Solar Project

## Environmental Features



# Martin's Meadow Solar Project

## Natural Heritage Features

As per Ontario Regulation 359/09, both a records review and site investigation were conducted in order to identify environmental features of the Project site and surrounding area. A variety of features were identified and considered during this process, including but not limited to:

- Wildlife/Wildlife habitat
- Vegetation communities, including woodlands and wetlands
- Species at risk
- Waterbodies



## Terrestrial Environment

The Project Site is primarily composed of agricultural field used in the production of hay. Woodland is located along the south and east Project Site boundary, with a small isolated wooded area along the western border. Woodland composition is typical of Northern Ontario consisting of mixed forest dominated by black spruce, and upland areas dominated by poplar species.

Wildlife species observed during the site investigation included raven, wood frog, green frog, American toad, and spring peeper. The area is known to be used by black bear, moose and gray wolf throughout the year. No species currently listed on the Species at Risk Act or Endangered Species Act were recorded during the site visit.



## Aquatic Environment

No watercourses or water bodies are located directly on the Project Site. Munroe Creek is adjacent to the eastern boundary flowing south into Lauzon Lake, and has associated marsh habitat extending approximately 30m on both sides, providing breeding habitat for amphibian species. A small tributary of Munroe Creek also runs along the south west boundary of the Project Site.



*More information on the findings of these studies will be available in the Natural Heritage and Water Bodies Reports that will be posted to the project website ([www.northlandpower.ca/northburgess](http://www.northlandpower.ca/northburgess)). A notification will be mailed to those on the mailing list and published in the local newspaper when these are available.*

# Environmental Effects

## Potential Negative Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

Environmental Component	Potential Environmental Effect	Proposed Mitigation
Physiography/Topography	During construction, re-grading of excavated soils and some minor alterations to local topography may occur.	Decommissioning of the Project site will include regrading to original conditions, to the greatest extent possible.
Soils	Reductions in soil quality/loss of soils as a result of accidental spills, erosion and soil compaction during construction.	The use of erosion and sedimentation control, soil loosening, and spill prevention and response measures will limit the impact on soils.
Aggregate Resources	Not applicable.	Not applicable
Surface Water	Surface water quality of the watercourses could be impaired due to contamination from accidental spills or increased turbidity due to site erosion.	A 30-m setback will be put in place from all water bodies. As well, erosion and sedimentation control measures and spill prevention and response measures will decrease any further impacts.
Groundwater	Excavations may result in a minor, localized drop in the groundwater table due to dewatering. In addition, groundwater may also be impaired by contamination due to accidental spills.	Spill response measures will prevent any accidental spills. Dewatering during construction anticipated to be minimal.
Aquatic Habitats/Biota	The installation of the Project may result in indirect effects due to erosion and sedimentation and changes in surface water runoff.	30-m setbacks from all waterbodies will be implemented to protect surface water runoff quality. Stormwater management plan implemented to control surface runoff.
Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)	Not applicable as there are no ANSI identified within 300 m of the Project location.	Not applicable
Wetlands	Wetlands on and adjacent to the Project location may be indirectly affected by Project activities, such as the generation of dust during construction which could impact vegetation communities.	Mitigation measures proposed in respect of vegetation communities and surface water quality will be effective at mitigation potential effects on the wetland community.
Vegetation, including wooded areas	Vegetation clearing on agricultural land as well as within hedgerows will be required. Additional clearing within the wooded area may be required. Vegetation communities adjacent to the Project site may be indirectly affected by Project activities, such as the generation of dust during construction which could impact vegetation communities.	Work areas will be flagged to limit the extent of clearing. Clearing from wooded areas to be minimized where possible. Dust control measures will be implemented during the construction period.
Terrestrial Wildlife/Wildlife Habitat (including species at risk)	Potential loss of wildlife habitat and potential wildlife avoidance of the Project area during construction and operation may occur as a result of disturbance.	Work areas will be clearly marked and will not infringe further than necessary. Mitigation measures will include not clearing in bird breeding season, if required.
Air Quality	Reductions in local air quality from operation of construction equipment and dust displacement may occur due to vehicle traffic.	Through the use of standard best management practices and mitigation measures dust will be suppressed and discharge of exhaust minimized to maintain local air quality during construction.
<b>Social Environment</b>		
Land Use	Current land use will be discontinued within the Project footprint.	After decommissioning, there is a potential for the land to regain the past use.
Tourism and Recreation	Any tourism or recreational resources existing within the immediate Project vicinity will be considered in determining potential impacts.	Visual screening in those areas will be considered, if required.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Resources	Excavations during Project construction may result in the discovery of archaeological resources. Archaeological assessments will be conducted to determine potential. Potential heritage resources will be determined as per the requirements of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.	Mitigation measures recommended as a result of the archaeological or heritage assessments, if required, will be implemented as required.
Sound Levels	Temporary disturbance to neighbouring residents may occur during construction. The operation of inverters and transformers may result in increased ambient sound levels.	Noise studies will be conducted as per O. Reg. 359/09 to ensure noise during operations meets provincial guidelines. Construction will be conducted according to local noise by-laws, where applicable.
Visual Landscape	Installation of the Project will result in a change to the local landscape.	Visual barriers may be installed, where necessary, if this is determined to be effective and viable.
Community Safety	Construction of the Project will result in a risk to community and workforce safety. During operation, potential risks to public safety are limited.	Safety procedures will be followed to ensure both worker and public safety.
Local Traffic	Construction of the Project may result in increased local area traffic and temporary disruption along routes used resulting in delays to the local community traffic, and increased traffic as a result of equipment delivery to the Project site.	Transportation routes will be determined to minimize the impact on local traffic.
Waste Management and Disposal Sites	Construction and operation of the Project will likely result in the generation of recyclable material, and municipal hazardous and sanitary waste.	The disposal and proper storage of wastes and recyclables will occur.



# Next Steps

- All further Project Reports (such as the Construction Plan Report, Archaeological Assessment Report, etc) will be available for public review on the Project websites and at your local municipal office.
- The Notice of the availability of the reports and the Final Public Meeting will be advertised in the local paper and information will be sent to all those on the Project mailing list. You can be included on the mailing list by filling out a comment sheet with the appropriate mailing address.
- Finally, any written comments or concerns will be addressed within the Consultation Report as a part of the REA submission, which will be available for public review.



**We appreciate your attendance at this first public meeting and hope to see you at the next one. Thank you.**

*Your opinion is important to us,*

**Please Sign in and Complete a Comment Sheet**