

**Ministry of
Natural Resources**
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**Ministère des
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March 2, 2011

Peter Carrie
Vice President, Canada
First Solar
5115 Blackwell Sideroad
Samia, ON N7T 7H3

To Mr. Peter Carrie:

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 St. Clair Sombra Solar Farm in the Township of St. Clair, County of Lambton, submitted by First Solar on March 2, 2011.

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

- The MNR has noted that a minimum 20 m separation distance will be maintained between the project location and the Significant Wetland and that the majority of the wetland boundary will be separated from the Project Location by a buffer of 30-90 m. The MNR is comfortable with the setback distance proposed.
- Where the Environmental Impact Study states that the site will be planted with permanent vegetation groundcover, the MNR requests that species native to the area are used.

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.

If you wish to discuss any part of this confirmation or additional comments provided, please contact Heather Riddell, A/Planning Ecologist, Aylmer District at heather.riddell@ontario.ca or (519) 773-4723.

Sincerely,



for Mitch Wilson
District Manager
Aylmer District MNR

cc. Jim Beal, Renewable Energy Provincial Field Program Coordinator, Regional Operations Division, MNR
Narren Santos, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, MOE