

Ministry of Tourism and Culture
Culture Division
Culture Services Unit
Programs and Services Branch
401 Bay Street, Suite 1700
Toronto, ON, M7A 0A7
Telephone: 416 314 7137
Facsimile: 416 314 7175
Email : paula.kulpa@ontario.ca

Ministère du Tourisme et de la Culture
Division de culture
Unité des services culturels
Direction des programmes et des services
401, rue Bay, Bureau 1700
Toronto, ON, M7A 0A7
Téléphone: 416 314 7137
Télécopieur: 416 314 7175
Email : paula.kulpa@ontario.ca



November 30, 2010

Tom Bird
Project Manager, Environmental Services
NextEra Energy Canada
5500 North Service Road, Suite 205
Burlington, Ontario L7L 6W6

RE: **Conestogo Wind Energy Centre**

Wellington County

FIT-FU99SSXJ

MTC file no. PLAN-23EA020

Dear Mr. Bird:

This letter constitutes the Ministry of Tourism and Culture's written comments as required by s. 23(3)(a) of O. Reg. 359/09 under the *Environmental Protection Act* regarding heritage assessments undertaken for the above project.

Based on the information contained in the report you have submitted for this project, the Ministry is satisfied with the heritage assessment. Please note that the Ministry makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy or quality of the heritage assessment report. *

The report recommends the following:

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed renewable energy infrastructure has the potential to impact cultural heritage resources in a variety of ways. Impacts can include: direct impacts that result in the loss of resources through demolition or alteration, or the displacement of resources through relocation; and indirect impacts that result in the disruption of resources by introducing physical, visual, audible or atmospheric elements that are not in keeping with the resources and/or their setting. Four nineteenth century farm complexes and two roadscapes were identified as having the potential to be impacted by the undertaking. These resources were carried forward for application of Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act in accordance with Section 23 of Regulation 359/09 of the Environmental Protection Act. Based on the results of background research and information about the resources collected from publicly accessible road right-of-ways, application of Regulation 9/06 suggests that these resources are of cultural heritage value to varying degrees. Based on this result, impacts of the

undertaking on the six resources were assessed for the purposes of determining their significance and to accordingly propose measures to avoid, eliminate, or mitigate impacts where appropriate and feasible.

The results of impact assessment confirmed that the four farm complexes have the potential to have their setting temporarily altered and that new visual features will be introduced on each of the lots. These impacts were not found to represent permanent, adverse, and significantly incompatible alterations that would irreversibly compromise these resources' heritage attributes. On this basis, and given that the current turbine layout and related infrastructure have been developed to address required setbacks from roads, property lines, woodlots, watercourses, and known archaeological resources and to comply with noise constraints, mitigation measures that are appropriate and feasible for minimizing the extent of visual alteration to these resources may include maximizing setbacks from structures and utilizing landscape designs such as massing and screening. In the case of CHL 1, it is further recommended that where possible and should other environmental and noise constraints permit reconfiguration of the proposed turbine layout, Turbine No. 1 should be sited further east of the residential structure for the purposes of concentrating visible components of the infrastructure at lateral edges of the representative viewshed. Additionally, to ensure that alterations to these resources are temporary and that lots will be returned to their existing condition following decommissioning, it is recommended that the four farm complexes be subject to heritage recording in advance of construction activities. Permission to enter the four farm complexes should be secured for the purposes of conducting photographic documentation of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscape elements located within the entire limits of the property. Detailed land use histories should be included in the heritage recordings of the four farm complexes.

Of the two roadscares that were evaluated to retain cultural heritage value, one is expected to be altered through widening (CHL 4) and the other has the potential to be impacted through project related construction (CHL 6). Impacts to CHL 4 were determined to represent permanent impacts to the resource however these impacts can be mitigated through minimizing the extent of widening, maintaining a gravel road bed, preserving extant vegetation and hedgerows where possible, and employing native species and/or historic plant materials for new berms and/or vegetative screening. It is further recommended that this resource be subject to heritage recording in advance of construction activities to serve as a final record of the resource prior to permanent alteration. Impacts to CHL 6 are not expected at this time, however, it is recommended that should the resource be altered during construction, it should then be returned to its existing condition. It is further recommended that this feature be subject to heritage recording in advance of construction activities to ensure that the resource is appropriately returned to its existing condition should it be altered during project construction activities. Heritage recordings of the two roadscares should include photographic documentation, a township history, and information regarding development of the local road network, where available

Th[e] report should be submitted to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture for review and comment and future heritage recordings should be produced on archival paper and submitted to the Clerk in the Township of Mapleton and at an appropriate local repository.

The Ministry is satisfied with these recommendations.

This letter does not waive any requirements which you may have under the Ontario *Heritage Act*. Also, this letter does not constitute approval of the renewable energy project. Approvals of the project may be

required under other statutes and regulations. It is your responsibility to obtain any necessary approvals or licences.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Paula Kulpa
Heritage Planner

cc. Rebecca Sciarra, Manager and Cultural Heritage Specialist
Archaeological Services Inc.

Chris Schiller, Manager
Culture Services Unit, Ministry of Tourism and Culture

* In no way will the Ministry be liable for any harm, damages, costs, expenses, losses, claims or actions that may result: (a) if the Report(s) or its recommendations are discovered to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent; or (b) from the issuance of this letter. Further measures may need to be taken in the event that additional artifacts or archaeological sites are identified or the Report(s) is otherwise found to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent.