

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

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Sep 9, 2013

Paul Racher (P007)
Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. - Etobicoke
154 Otonabee Kitchener ON N2C 1L7

RE: Review and Entry into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports: Archaeological Assessment Report Entitled, "Stage 2 Property Assessment, Additional Lands and ROWs, Bluewater Wind Energy Centre, FIT-FJ17S7X, Municipalities of Bluewater and Huron East, Multiple Lots and Concessions, Geographic Townships of Hay, Stanley and Tuckersmith, Huron County, Ontario", Dated Sep 9, 2013, Filed with MTCS Toronto Office on Sep 5, 2013, MTCS Project Information Form Number P007-522-2013, OPA Reference Number FIT-FJ17S7X

Dear Mr, Racher:

This office has reviewed the above-mentioned report, which has been submitted to this ministry as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18.¹ This review has been carried out in order to determine whether the licensed professional consultant archaeologist has met the terms and conditions of their licence, that the licensee assessed the property and documented archaeological resources using a process that accords with the 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists set by the ministry, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations are consistent with the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario.²

The report documents the assessment/mitigation of the study area as depicted in Maps 27 to 60 of the above titled report and recommends the following:

The Stage 2 property assessment of the additional lands and municipal ROW portions was completed in August 2013. Legal permission to enter and conduct all necessary fieldwork activities on project lands was granted by the property owners. This assessment resulted in the discovery of two location of archaeological materials: Location 36 (AiHj-20) on parcel BLW1854 and Location 37 (AiHj-21) on parcel BLW1258. Location 36 comprised a 113 x 40 m scatter of 892 Euro-Canadian artifacts, and 403 artifacts were collected for laboratory analysis. The diagnostic artifacts indicated that the deposit dated to the late 19th century, and the site was found to be of further CHVI. Location 37 consisted of a 22 x 48 m scatter of 50 Euro-Canadian artifacts, and 16 artifacts were collected for laboratory analysis. The diagnostic artifacts indicated that the deposit dated to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the site was found to be of no further CHVI.

In order to avoid impacts to Location 36, the proponent removed the proposed infrastructure on parcel BLW1258. The site is now located 7.5 m south of a municipal ROW collector line (documented as disturbed under PIF #P218-040-2011 and #P319-017-2012) and 157 m east of the access road to Turbine 40. Given that the 20 m protective buffer around Location 36 is affected by permanently disturbed cultural form (the previously-assessed municipal ROW), a modified buffer zone that follows the edge of the disturbed area is warranted in accordance with the directions set out in Section 3.2.3 Guideline 1a and Section 4.1 Standard 2 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MTC 2011:50, 68).

Based on these findings, ARA recommends that an avoidance and protection strategy be implemented to prevent any impacts to Location 36 during construction. In accordance with the directions set out in Section 4.1.1 and Section 7.8.5 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MTC 2011:68–69, 140–141), it is recommended that a temporary barrier be established along the edge of the municipal ROW, that the modified buffer zone be observed around the identified site extent (the ‘protected area’), and that all construction activities within 50 m of the protected area be monitored by a licensed archaeologist to ensure the effectiveness of the avoidance and protection strategy (see Map 61; SD Map 3). ‘No-Go’ instructions must be issued to all on-site construction crews and engineers for the protected area, and the location of this area must be shown on all appropriate contract drawings. The protected area must be inspected by a licensed archaeologist after the completion of grading and other soil disturbing activities, and that the effectiveness of the avoidance and protection strategy must be reported to the MTCS. A letter confirming the proponent’s commitment to implementing this strategy and outlining the designation of ‘No-Go’ zones has been included in the report submission package.

Based on the information contained in the report, the ministry is satisfied that the fieldwork and reporting for the archaeological assessment are consistent with the ministry’s 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences. This report has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. Please note that the ministry makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy or quality of reports in the register.

Should you require any further information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paige, Campbell
Archaeology Review Officer

cc. Archaeology Licensing Officer
Thomas Bird, NextEra Energy Canada, ULC

¹This letter constitutes the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports written comments where required pursuant to section 22 of O. Reg. 359/09, as amended (Renewable Energy Approvals under the Environmental Protection Act), regarding the archaeological assessment undertaken for the above-captioned project. Depending on the study area and scope of work of the archaeological assessment as detailed in the report, further archaeological assessment reports may be required to complete the archaeological assessment for the project under O. Reg. 359/09. In that event Ministry comments pursuant to section 22 of O. Reg. 359/09 will be required for any such additional reports.

²In 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.