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 215 – 55 Wyndham Street North
 Guelph, ON, Canada N1H 7T8
 Tel: 519 763 7783 Fax: 519 763 1668



Minutes – Bluewater Community Liaison Committee

Attn.: CLC members, NextEra Staff

Subject: Bluewater Wind Energy Centre, Community Liaison Committee (CLC): Meeting No.1

Oct 16, 2013 6:00pm – 8:00pm
 Stanley Community Centre
 38594 Mill Road, Varna ON N0M 2R0

Present:

CLC Members

- Judy Keightly, Dean Jacobs, Barry Mills (in place of Les Falconer)

NextEra

- Nicole Geneau, Tom Bird, Clay Cameron, Andrea Garcia

Borea Construction

- Naomi Farough

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- Avril Fisken (Committee Chair), Adam Wright (Committee Organizer)

Absent:

CLC Members

- Paul Steckle, Fallon Burch (transferred to Adelaide CLC), Les Falconer

Minutes:

1. Welcome and Introductions (Slides 2 & 3)	Action
<p>Avril Fisken (CLC Chair) welcomed the CLC, and reviewed her role to facilitate a robust and respectful dialogue.</p> <p>She then welcomed the public and reinforced that anyone is able to provide a deposition to the Committee; people wishing to do so should submit an application to Avril one week in advance of the next meeting. It is the Committee’s role to review and approve any deposition. The agenda and presentation deck were distributed for the public’s review.</p>	



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<p>Avril thanked all for participating on the CLC and informed that Adam will be taking minutes for the meeting. Meeting summaries will be circulated to the CLC members and to NextEra for approval; while minutes are not intended to be verbatim, they are provided to participants to ensure that discussions have been accurately captured. Finalized minutes will be posted on the project website (http://www.nexteraenergycanada.com/projects/bluewater.shtml)</p> <p>Committee members then introduced themselves and stated their interest in participating in the CLC.</p> <p>Dean – I’m from Walpole Island First Nation (WIFN) I am the consultation liaison for the government. I have a lot of experience with the duty to consult and accommodate, and our first nation is an equity partner in a 100 Megawatt wind farm. Since this project is in our traditional territory, we have a peer reviewed document regarding wind energy. I also have experience with the CLC for the South Kent Wind Farm – a 350 (plus) Megawatt centre – and have attended four meetings so far.</p> <p>Barry Mills – I’m filling in for Les Falconer, Public Works Coordinator for the Municipality of Huron East. I’m interested in the transmission line from highway four to the substation.</p> <p>Clay Cameron – Project Manager of Ontario wind projects for NextEra. I ensure the contractor maintains the construction schedule and goals.</p> <p>Andrea – Environmental Permitting and Approvals for NextEra</p> <p>Tom – I work with Andrea on these projects; going forward Andrea will be the lead.</p> <p>Judy Keightly – I am representing several things; I am one of the directors of the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce, and I’m an educator and community member. I am here to listen and understand, in hopes of putting to rest any unnecessary hysteria around wind farms.</p> <p>Nicole Geneau – I’m the Project Director for the Bluewater wind energy centre. I’ve been working on this project since 2008.</p> <p>Naomi Farough (Boreas Construction) – I have constructed a lot of different wind farms, and have worked with the local communities to ensure landowners are happy with the project.</p>	
<p>2. Review CLC Terms of Reference / Charter (Slides 4 to 8)</p> <p>Avril reviewed the following items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose, objectives and composition of the Committee; explaining that the CLC is a mandate of the REA process (Slides 4 & 5) 	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reinforced that the mandate of the Committee is not to revisit those matters already addressed through the MOE approval process. ○ Reviewed the efforts made to recruit members and the intended membership composition ○ Confirmed that members were appointed to the Committee regardless of their position on the project ○ Confirmed that all people who completed an application and confirmed their agreement with the CLC Charter by signing were welcomed to the Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outlined role of CLC members, NextEra representatives, and AECOM (Slides 6& 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relayed that both CLC members and NextEra representatives are expected to work within the rules of the Charter (i.e., attend all meetings, review materials, listen to and consider the feedback of others, respectfully participate in discussions and provide constructive feedback.) <p>Avril Introduced Nicole Geneau (Project Director, Bluewater Wind Energy Centre) to speak about the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre and discuss construction plans.</p>	
<p>3. Present Bluewater Wind Energy Center (Slides 9 to 13)</p> <p><u>Wind Energy Centre Overview</u></p> <p>Nicole provided an overview of the approved wind energy centre, including a discussion around the project location and highlights of the study area. NextEra’s involvement with the Bluewater Project was prior to the establishment of the Green Energy Act. Additional information related to permitting (Slide 10) was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two approvals are required under the Act: (1) FIT Contract – a contract with the government to generate electricity (the FIT contract is more to sell electricity rather than to generate), and (2) Renewable Energy Approval – the master permit to construct and operate a wind farm ● The FIT contract is established first, then the company conducts the studies required to gain a REA. ● The Bluewater FIT contract was secured in 2011 and under that contract we (NextEra) have an obligation to deliver electricity by July 2014; three years from start of the project to delivery. ● NextEra completed the required studies and received approval in April 2013. The REA covers most of the aspects of the project including construction, operations and decommissioning. ● A copy of the REA and the studies conducted can be found at (http://www.nexteraenergycanada.com/projects/bluewater.shtml) 	



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Nicole addressed questions from the Committee.

How many wind turbines are included in the project?

There are 40 wind turbines permitted for the Bluewater project, but we will only construct 37.

Are there more NextEra wind energy projects in the area?

Yes, there are two different projects in this area; the Bluewater wind energy project consisting of 37 turbines and the Goshen wind energy project to the south that will include 63 turbines. These wind energy centres were permitted individually because the resulting energy will be delivered to different electricity transmission lines, and underwent individual consultation processes.

Why locate a wind energy centre here?

When looking for a good location to site a wind farm, we start by looking for the best wind. But we also need to consider how we will deliver the energy that is created – there needs to be close access to an acceptable transmission line. As well, we need to have a community that is willing to host the centre. The Bluewater wind energy centre has all of these; good wind, ready access to a 500 kv transmission line and landowners who have agreed to participate in the project.

How many wind farms has NextEra already constructed in Canada?

We have six operational projects in Canada; one in Nova Scotia, two in Quebec, two in Ontario, and one in Alberta. Of the six proposed projects in Ontario, two are located in Huron County, two in Middlesex County, one in Lambton County/Middlesex County and one is in Grey County. Of the 5 projects locally, Bluewater is the most northern. We split the Goshen and the Bluewater projects because of natural breaks (i.e., geographically and how they deliver the power.) We also have the Jericho, Adelaide and Bornish projects. Three of the southern ones were partially split due to geography. We have acquired some of these projects (Adelaide and Bornish) from other companies and have developed them into what they are now.

Detailed Design and Construction Schedule

Nicole and Clay explained the detailed design and construction schedule provided on Slide 11, including:

- Anticipate starting construction in November and finishing in late spring of 2014
- Expect to be in operation by July 2014, which meets the requirements of the FIT contract.
- In regards to decommissioning, agreements are in place to return land to its prior use (e.g., so that a farmer can grow crops again.)
 - Decommissioning is a requirement of the REA
- NextEra estimates the asset life of the project to be thirty years but the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) contract is for twenty years.



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<p>Questions from the Committee were addressed.</p> <p>When would you expect the local community to notice construction starting? We are managing the construction activities to minimize any noticeable impact from construction (e.g., traffic issues, excess dust). Our goal is to avoid invasive construction.</p> <p>Is NextEra aware that they are operating in the half-load season for concrete delivery? Yes, we are aware. We generally pour two foundations a day and we only have 37 turbines to complete. We will start pouring foundations early January, and expect this work to be finished mid-February. Throughout this process, we will do our best to avoid inconveniencing the community.</p> <p>Where are the blades coming from, and what is the delivery route? Will these blades be travelling by road? For the South Kent Wind Farm, a police escort was needed and, as a result, the police force was taxed to their max. If needed, Aboriginal police forces are available to assist. Some of the components are coming from the Windsor area and will travel by ship, rail and truck. NextEra and Boreas welcome the option of using Aboriginal police forces to help manage deliveries to this area; we will investigate these options. Our preference is to use local resources as they have a vested interest in their community, and that helps to make the project better. NextEra’s Summerhaven project contributed about \$25 million of indirect money into the community over a 9 month period.</p> <p>How does NextEra plan to compensate for loss of trees during construction? Prior to construction, we assess the trees that will be impacted to understand if they are protected and whether they need to be moved (e.g., Butternut spp.) If so, we arrange to move them, if possible. Regardless of species, our current plan is to replace each tree that is removed with two new trees. We are currently looking into the cost of this proposition and the land requirements to accommodate the increased tree plantings.</p> <p>NextEra could raise the bar and plant five trees for every one removed; then our community could go to other municipalities and say, “if we can do it, they can too.” We encourage the reclamation of flyways for birds. If the overall habitat is better, the area will be improved for our community’s bird population. Absolutely, NextEra’s first objective is to minimize and mitigate any impacts. We are looking at habitat replacement plans which would improve the overall quality of the habitat. We can share these at our next meeting.</p> <p>Derek Dudek outlined efforts with Trees for Mapleton and the funding that NextEra is providing over the next 5 to 10 years.</p>	<p>NextEra will look into this option</p> <p>Discuss Habitat Replacement Plans at next CLC Meeting</p>
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Additional Information RE: Trees for Mapleton

NextEra Energy Canada formed a new partnership with the Township of Mapleton. A five year agreement with Conestogo Wind LP, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Canada will contribute \$20,000 annually towards the community’s ‘Trees for Mapleton’ program.

Trees for Mapleton is an initiative that is committed to increasing the amount of forest cover throughout Wellington County. The program seeks to wrap every 100 acres with new trees that will grow to buffer the land. This approach will deliver many benefits to the area, including:

- Increased farm income through greater yields and lowered repair costs, mitigation of future climate change issues, and carbon sequestration
- Decreased road maintenance, salt requirements and number of car accidents as snow is prevented from blowing onto roads

NextEra Energy Canada’s contribution will be paid in five equal installments to the Township of Mapleton over a period of five years starting in November 2013.

Archaeological Studies

Tom provided further information on the requirements for archeological studies:

- Archaeology studies are required by the Heritage Act, as is the use of licensed archaeologists
- Mitigation measures that are appropriate to the cultural findings are required
- Found artifacts are required to be extracted and preserved according to Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport (MTCS) standards.

Tom and Nicole addressed questions from the Committee.

Are all of the archeological reports complete, and who conducted the field work?

All of the archeological reports are not yet complete; some stage 4 studies are still in progress. ARA (Archaeological Research Associates Ltd) out of Kitchener is conducting the field work.

Did NextEra have to drill bore holes to complete the Archaeological assessments?

Yes. For this type of work, excavations can occur every five metres to ensure a ‘statistically’ valid area is covered; if something is found in these investigations than a more comprehensive search occurs.

Would these assessments tie into the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority



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wetlands, would road allowances fall into the same category?

Permits are issued for flood drainage; if there is a road allowance, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority would be concerned as a culvert would need to be installed.

For transmission lines and road allowances, if there is a route that is sensitive (i.e. wetlands) do you avoid this?

When wetlands come out into the right of way we avoid these areas. Essentially NextEra has to show that we have designed around these areas and built poles to avoid them. If trees have to be removed, it becomes more complicated and requires further discussions with the MNR. NextEra prefers to look for existing pathways to avoid fragmenting existing habitat.

Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT)

Nicole discussed the Environmental Review process:

- The ERT is an adjudicative body not a court.
- On May 7th, the Middlesex Lambton Wind Action Group filed an appeal.
- On October 29, 2013 the ERT moved to dismiss the appeal.

Addressing Landowner Concerns

Nicole and Naomi reviewed how landowner concerns will be addressed:

- NextEra and Boreas recognize the importance of working with landowners and the community to eliminate or address concerns within the permitted areas
- The REA outlines stringent conditions of how NextEra is to respond, and NextEra complies with these
- NextEra hosts a dedicated 1-800 and email address, and staffs an onsite construction office to enable a timely response to all concerns
- We are on-site every day, and pride ourselves on our timeliness for answering calls. People can reach out to either the site manager or Naomi Farough to get concerns addressed.

Description of Community Vibrancy Fund

In addition to the economic benefits that the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre will bring on its own, NextEra Energy Canada is looking for ways to contribute to and invest in the community, either through the local government or community-based organizations.

We are currently engaging in meetings to determine the best approach; however, the commitment would present significant and long-term investment opportunities for



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<p>the community. The investment would span a period of 20 years and contribute over \$320,000 annually to the community. The funds may be used in a variety of ways including: land stewardship initiatives, such as habitat creation and tree planting, upgrading an arena or pool; improvements to infrastructure, community and protective services, such as roads, police and fire services; or any other undertakings deemed appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do not yet have a funding agreement in place, but are dedicated to investing no matter who the funding agreement is with. <p>Nicole addressed questions from the Committee.</p> <p>When do you anticipate the Community Vibrancy Fund (CVF) to be setup? Hopefully soon. There are numerous aspects that require discussions with the local municipality. NextEra considers the CVF discussions to be outside of these other agreements and deal with permitting and the other discussions through a different process.</p> <p>Looking at the reports listed on Slide 15, I don't see the Natural Heritage Report. This is an omission, we have completed a Natural heritage; our submission can be found online at http://www.nexteraenergycanada.com/projects/bluewater.shtml. This report was submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS).</p>	
<p>4. Future Items for Discussion</p> <p>Avril enquired if there were specific items that the committee would like to discuss at the next meeting?</p> <p>Comment / Request</p> <p>As Hydro One is a major player, it would be beneficial for them to participate in the process. We should make contact with them; they seem to be the regulator and would have a lot of input into the process from various perspectives. NextEra will discuss this with Hydro One.</p> <p>Comment from Chair Avril suggested a tour of the operating site, and Committee members agreed that this type of visit would be beneficial.</p>	<p>AECOM to work with NextEra to determine timing</p>
<p>5. Meeting Wrap Up</p> <p>Avril indicated that there are comment cards available for the CLC members to provide feedback, and that the minutes will be reviewed, approved and circulated.</p>	



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<p>CLC members will be notified of potential dates for our next meeting, tentatively scheduled for March 2014.</p> <p>Parking Lot items will be addressed and discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Meeting Adjourned</p>	
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PARKING LOT

Parking Lot Topic	Response / Action
Include map of projects for review at next meeting, including the Northland Project.	For the 2 nd CLC meeting NextEra will provide a broad map which outlines current projects including the Northland Project.
Habitat Improvement Plans	For the 2 nd CLC meeting NextEra will provide share Habitat Improvement Plans with the committee.
Revise Slide 15 to include completed Natural Heritage studies, prior to posting on NextEra website	Slide 15 has been revised