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Minutes

To/Attention	Notes to File	Date	January 17, 2014
From	Amy Shepherd	Project No	31676
		Steno	as
Subject	Conestogo CLC Meeting #4 PMD Arena, Drayton, December 2, 2013 (6:30 to 8:00 pm)		
Present	IBI Group: Amy Shepherd NextEra Energy Canada: Jason Seelmann, Nicole Geneau, Ray Dewaepenaere and Janine Bacquie CLC Members: Tara Fowles, John Hollen and Councillor Curry		
Distribution	NextEra and CLC Members		

Item Discussed

Action By

1 Introductions and Recap of 3rd

Amy Shepherd welcomed the CLC members and NextEra participants. She provided a brief recap of the third CLC meeting held April 30, 2013.

1.1 Operations and Maintenance

Amy reminded the CLC members that commercial operations of the facility commenced in December 2012 and that Siemens warranty personnel, along with NextEra staff, are operating the facility for the next two years. After the warranty period, two to three NextEra staff will take over operations and maintenance of the facility.

1.2 Status of Post Construction Activities

Amy explained how at the time of the third CLC meeting most of the post-construction work was still to be completed, largely due to the late spring. She noted that an update on clean-up and reclamation would be provided as part of the evening's agenda.

1.3 Monitoring and Mitigation

Amy reminded the group how NextEra must adhere to various provincial regulations pertaining to noise emissions and impact on wildlife (as detailed in the Renewable Energy Agreement (REA) for the Conestogo project). She explained that Janine Bacquie, a senior environmentalist with NextEra, would be describing the bird and bat monitoring process and the results from the first round of studies.

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1.4 Public Deputations

Amy explained there had been three public observers at the third CLC meeting. IBI Group had not received requests for formal deputations.

1.5 Minutes

Amy explained that the meeting #3 minutes were being finalized and that they would be posted soon on NextEra's publically accessible website.

2 Amendment to the REA

Amy explained that the centre of the transformer substation was moved very slightly from its original planned position, and as such the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) issued an amendment to the REA. Amy offered hard copies of the amendment and noted it was also available on NextEra's website.

3 Status of Post Construction Activities

Ray Dewaepenaere explained that all the post construction activities have been completed (i.e. clean-up of laydown area, repairs to roads, repair to the underground electrical cable and the installation of gates at select locations).

4 Monitoring and Mitigation

4.1 Noise

Amy explained that Acoustic Emission and Immission reports (undertaken by an independent, third party firm) had been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in November, and that the facility is operating below the maximum noise thresholds set by the Province.

Ray noted that noise emissions created by the turbines will not likely change unless there is damage to the equipment (e.g. the yaw or a blade). He explained that such damage would be immediately recognized by the computer monitoring system and repaired.

4.2 Avian and Bat Monitoring

Janine Bacquie explained that mortality surveys for birds and bats had been done twice weekly at all turbines between May and October of 2013 and that weekly surveys were done in November 2013 to capture the winter raptor movement. She described how NextEra and the independent third party consultants worked with landowners so that conditions around the turbines were clear, to ensure accurate recordings.

Janine noted that none of the mortality thresholds set by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) were exceeded. A CLC member asked how many mortalities were found, and what kind of species the birds were. Janine explained that bat and bird mortalities were found over the course of the monitoring period. Most of the birds were small warblers or migrant song birds. No waterfowl were found.

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Janine provided clarification on the Mortality Event Threshold table, shown on page 6 of the meeting handout (attached). She explained that the 'Single Mortality Event' maximum for migratory birds (i.e. 10 or more found at any one turbine or 33 or more birds found at multiple turbines) is the maximum mortality threshold for one night.

A CLC member inquired whether or not higher numbers of birds were found at certain turbines. Janine suggested yes, but explained that multiple years of monitoring is required to draw conclusions on nuances or patterns on bird and bat mortality. A CLC member asked if the bird and bat monitoring studies would be made available on NextEra's website. Janine explained that the MNR does not allow energy companies like NextEra to release the monitoring studies to the public. It was suggested that NextEra could provide a high-level summary of the bird and bat monitoring findings at an annual presentation to Council (which would be open to the public).

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NextEra to look into making an annual presentation to Council to keep them apprised of the Conestogo facility operations and the monitoring studies.

5 Retirement / Decommissioning

Ray noted that the typical lifespan of wind turbines is 25 to 30 years, but that at some facilities there are turbines which are 35 plus years old which are still operating well. At the end of a turbine's lifecycle it can be either decommissioned or repowered. Often given the infrastructure that is in place (roads, cables), in some cases it makes economic sense to repower a facility rather than retire and decommission (an example of a NextEra facility in California was discussed).

Ray noted that wind farms are still relatively new in Ontario, and none have gone through a repowering process. Nicole Geneau suggested that in the future, when companies are considering decommissioning or repowering, they will have to review legislation of the day to see if requirements have changed (e.g. recycling or waste management).

Ray described the process for decommissioning (i.e. setting up temporary work areas and removal of equipment and buildings). Nicole assured that group that with the REA, and through the posting of bonds, there is no chance a facility will be just abandoned by NextEra or any future owner of the Conestogo facility.

6 Community Support / Involvement

Amy explained how throughout the operation of the Conestogo facility NextEra will continue to work with local businesses and vendors where possible. She described some of the charitable donations NextEra has made to the local community (e.g. Trees for Mapleton and the municipality, for improvements to the Drayton Arena).

Amy noted that all the project information on NextEra's website will be left on it indefinitely for the public to access. General requests for information should be addressed to:
conestogo.wind@nexteraenergy.com or 1-877-463-4963.

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7 Complaint Resolution

Amy explained that as per the REA, all complaints about the operations or maintenance of the Conestogo facility should be directed to:

NextEra Energy Canada, ULC
390 Bay Street, Suite 1720
Toronto, ON M5H 2Y2
Toll Free Phone: 1-877-463-4963
Main Office Line: 416-364-9714
Email: conestogo.wind@nexteraenergy.com
Website: www.NextEraEnergyCanada.com

Amy described NextEra's formal complaint resolution process (as detailed in the handout, and previously discussed at the 3rd CLC meeting):

- NextEra representative will **contact the complainant within 24 hours of receiving the complaint** to understand and seek a resolution.
- NextEra will **notify the local MOE district office** of the complaint **within 2 business days** of receipt of the complaint (**1 business day** if the complaint is related to **Ground Water**).
- NextEra must provide the local MOE district office with a written record of the complaint **within 8 business days** of the complaint. As soon as possible, **no later than three (3) days** call customer/citizen.
- NextEra will prepare a letter to respond to customer/citizen and mail **within 5 days of receiving the complaint**.

A CLC member asked how many complaints had so far been received by NextEra, noting they had heard of several complaints being made to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). Jason indicated that to-date NextEra had received one complaint (which had been addressed). He explained that the MOE does not necessarily advise wind facility operators of complaints they receive directly. The MOE had visited the Conestogo facility to conduct their own noise studies, in response to a complaint they received.

Amy stressed the importance of directing all complaints through NextEra, in order to ensure they are properly documented and passed on to the appropriate people (within NextEra and the MOE).

8 CLC

Amy explained that the REA for Conestogo stipulated that the CLC was to operate for a minimum of two years and meet at least twice a year. To-date four CLC meetings had been held, along with a site tour.

Amy asked the CLC members whether or not they saw the need for additional CLC meetings. Three of the CLC members indicated that

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they do not see the need for ongoing formal CLC meetings but agreed annual updates to Council, which the CLC members would be notified of and the public could attend, are a good idea (particularly to provide updates on the monitoring studies).

One CLC member believes it is vital that NextEra maintain community participation and that the CLC should remain in place (suggesting perhaps public notification of the meetings is not required). If the CLC was discontinued, they think it is critical that CLC members have the contact information for someone at NextEra that can continue to provide information on an ongoing basis - rather than just a 1-800 number.

Jason and Nicole stressed that CLC members are welcome and encouraged to stay in touch with the NextEra representatives they have worked with on the Committee.

Amy thanked the CLC members for donating their time and energy to the CLC and for all of their value input. She explained that NextEra and the MOE would be discussing whether or not the CLC should continue, and that NextEra would provide an update to the CLC members in the new year.

*****Please report any errors or omissions to:**

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ashepherd@ibigroup.com
(T) 416.596.1930 ext. 536
(F) 416.596.0644



www.NextEraEnergyCanada.com

NextEra Energy Canada
Conestogo Wind Energy Centre

Community Liaison Committee (CLC): Meeting No.4



Tuesday, December 3rd, 2013 (6:30 to 8:30 pm)
PMD Arena

Introductions

CLC Coordinators and Facilitators (IBI Group):

- Amy Shepherd

NextEra Energy Canada:

- Nicole Geneau, Director – Development
- Ray Dewaepenaere, Wind Operations Manager
- Jason Seelmann, Wind Technician Leader, Conestogo Wind
- Janine Bacquie, Senior Environmental Specialist

CLC Members:

- Councillor James Curry
- Tara Fowles
- Sandy Little (unable to attend)
- John Hollen



Meeting Agenda

- 1. Recap of CLC Meeting No. 3 (held April 30, 2013)**
- 2. Amendment to Renewable Energy Approval**
- 3. Update on Post Construction Activities**
- 4. Update on Monitoring and Mitigation Measures**
- 5. Retirement / Decommissioning Process**
- 6. Ongoing Access to Information or Providing Input / Filing Complaints**
- 7. Conclusion of the CLC**
- 8. Public Dispositions**
- 9. Other**



Recap: CLC Meeting No. 3 (held April 30th, 2013)

Operations and Maintenance:

- The facility has been operating very well since commercial operations commenced in December 2012. Plans are in place for routine and unplanned turbine maintenance.
- Siemens warranty personnel along with NextEra staff are operating the facility for the first two years, then two to three full-time NextEra staff will take over the operations and maintenance of the facility.

Status of Post Construction Activities:

- Given the late spring, most post-construction work was still to be completed.

Monitoring and Mitigation Measures:

- Noise emissions will adhere to the *Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) and are not likely to change unless equipment is damaged (which would be immediately detected and fixed).
- The *Conestogo Wind Energy Centre Post Construction Follow-Up Plan* details the protocol for monitoring of birds and bats.

Public Deputations Meeting No. 3:

- No formal deputations. Three attendees.

Minutes of Meeting No. 3

- Draft minutes being reviewed and finalized minutes will be posted on NextEra's website.

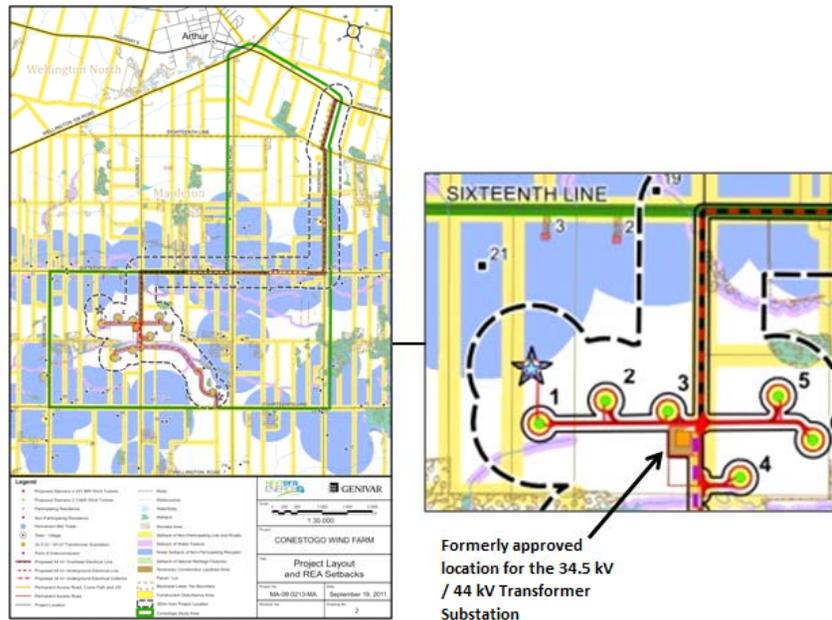
Amendment to the Renewable Energy Agreement

Issued by the Ministry of the Environment:

- July 15, 2013.

Amendments:

- The location of the centre of the transformer substation was moved slightly.



- The definition of the Application (point 8) was updated so that it now references the original application submitted December 16, 2010 and the amendment application submitted March 18, 2013 and all supporting documentation submitted up to the date of the approvals.

Post Construction Activities

- Clean-up and reclamation of construction area (e.g. laydown area) - completed.
- Modifications or repairs to roads - completed.
- Repair to underground electrical cable - completed.
- Gates (lockable) at each access point - completed.

Monitoring and Mitigation

Noise:

- The Acoustic Emission report and the Acoustic Immission report were submitted on August 12 and November 7, 2013 to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The facility is operating below the maximum noise emissions thresholds.

Avian and Bat Monitoring:

- Mortality surveys for birds and bats were done twice weekly at all turbines between May 1st and October 31st, 2013.
- Weekly mortality monitoring surveys for raptors were done in November 2013 at all turbines.
- None of the mortality thresholds were exceeded. Reports were submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).
- Year two of monitoring begins May 1, 2014.

Mortality Event Thresholds (as set by MNR)

Single Mortality Event – Migratory Birds	10 or more birds are found at any one wind turbine, or 33 or more birds are found at multiple wind turbines during a single mortality monitoring survey. Thresholds are applicable to all projects, regardless of size (e.g. number of turbines or MW).
High Annual Mortality Rates - Raptors (including Vultures)	0.2 raptors/turbine/year (all raptors) 0.1 raptors/turbine/year (raptors of conservation concern)
High Annual Mortality Rates - Migratory Birds	Projected annual mortality level of all birds, derived after one full monitoring period, is greater than or equal to 18 birds/turbine/year. Represents the actual (corrected) number of fatalities. The observed number of fatalities will be adjusted using site-specific measures of scavenger removal, searcher efficiency and percent area searched to obtain the actual (corrected) number of fatalities. If correction factors are not yet available, reasonable estimates will be assumed.
High Annual Mortality Rates - Bats	Projected annual mortality level of all bats, derived after one full monitoring period, is greater than or equal to 10 bats/turbine/year. Represents the actual (corrected) number of fatalities. The observed number of fatalities will be adjusted using site-specific measures of scavenger removal, searcher efficiency and percent area searched to obtain the actual (corrected) number of fatalities. If correction factors are not yet available, reasonable estimates will be assumed.
Single Mortality Event - Species At Risk	Any and all mortality of species at risk (i.e., a species listed as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern under Schedule 1 of the federal Species at Risk Act or a species listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario list as Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern under the provincial <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i>).

Source: Conestogo Wind Farm Post Construction Follow-Up Plan (revised November 2010), prepared by Natural Resource Solutions Inc.

Retirement / Decommissioning

Lifespan

- The average lifespan of a turbine is 25 years.
- At the end of its lifecycle, a wind facility can either be decommissioned or repowered.

Repowering:

- If the economics are viable, a facility may be repowered with new technology.
 - NextEra Energy recently replaced hundreds of old turbines with 34 Siemens 2.3 MW machines at the Altamont Pass facility in California. Several kms of overhead electrical lines, electrical poles and redundant service roadways were also removed.

Decommissioning:

- The process and impacts are similar to the construction phase, but in reverse sequence:

Temporary Work Areas

- Creation of temporary work areas (50 m x 50 m area with topsoil removed).
- Creation of crane pads (15 m x 35 m area with topsoil removed and crushed gravel added).

Retirement / Decommissioning

Removal of Equipment and Buildings

- Use of cranes to remove the blades and hub and tower segments and use of trucks for the removal of turbines, towers and associated equipment.
- Removal of above-ground lines and poles that are not shared with Hydro-One and filling of holes with clean fill.
- Demolition of the substation.
- Removal of roads and replacement with clean sub- and top-soil, unless the landowner requests that the roads be left in place.

Decommissioned Equipment Left in Place:

- Underground electrical lines will be cut and the ends buried 1 m below grade. These lines are inert and will have no negative impacts on the environment, soil and cultivation practices.
- Foundations will be left in place. The top 1 m will be removed and replaced with clean fill and stockpiled topsoil – to allow for cultivation of agricultural lands.

Recycling

- All materials will be recycled, where possible, or disposed offsite at an approved and appropriate facility.

Ongoing Community Involvement and Access to Information

NextEra Community Support:

- Local business and member of the community.
- Continued work with local businesses and vendors and use of local services/materials when possible.
- Charitable contributions, e.g.:
 - Supporting the local Trees for Mapleton organization by donating \$20,000 annually for the next five years; and
 - Contribution of funding for exterior signage at the Drayton Arena.



NextEra Website:

- The project information on NextEra's website will left indefinitely.
- Further communication may be posed on the website, or done via direct mail or through the media.

General Requests for Information:

Email: conestogo.wind@nexteraenergy.com

Telephone: 1-877-463-4963.



Ongoing Opportunities to File Complaints

Complaint Resolution:

- Complaints about operations and maintenance can be addressed to:

NextEra Energy Canada, ULC

390 Bay Street, Suite 1720, Toronto, ON M5H 2Y2

Toll Free Phone: 1-877-463-4963

Email: conestogo.wind@nexteraenergy.com

- A NextEra representative will **contact the complainant within 24 hours of receiving the complaint** to understand and seek a resolution.
- NextEra will **notify the local MOE district office** of the complaint **within 2 business days** of receipt of the complaint (**1 business day** if the complaint is related to **Ground Water**).
- NextEra will prepare response letter to customer/citizen and mail **within 5 days of receiving complaint**. A description of the measures taken to address and prevent a similar occurrence in the future will be provided.
- NextEra will provide the local MOE district office with a written records of the complaint **within 8 business days** of the complaint.

Conclusion of the CLC Process

Requirements Under the Renewable Energy Approval (REA):

- NextEra must make reasonable efforts to form a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) in order to facilitate two-way communications on issues or concerns related to the construction, installation, use, operation, maintenance and retirement of the Facility.
- The CLC is to operate for a minimum of two years from its formation and meet at a minimum twice a year.

CLC Meetings Held To-Date:

- 4 CLC Meetings (i.e. June 20, 2013, November 7, 2012, April 30, 2013 and December 3, 2013);
- Site Tour (September 12, 2012); and
- Event Response Session (June 7, 2013).

Requirement for Future CLC Meetings:

- As per the REA, at the end of the two-year period, NextEra and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) will discuss whether or not the CLC should continue operating.
- **Given the on-going opportunities for CLC members and the general public to access information on the Conestogo facility or to file complaints, do the CLC members see the need for the formal CLC process to continue?**

Depositions and Other Business

Depositions:

- None received.

Other:

- ?

NextEra and IBI Group would like to sincerely thank all the CLC members for donating their time over the past two years and for their valuable input and interest in the project.

- **NOTE: This meeting package was compiled by the CLC Coordinators and Facilitators (IBI Group) and as such may be subject to clarification or correction by NextEra Energy Canada and its technical staff/specialists. The CLC members will be notified of any revisions to the meeting package, and the final package will be posted and available for public review on NextEra Energy Canada's website.**

