



Environmental Protection Operations Division -Ontario
Environmental Assessment Unit
Environment Canada
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File No.: 2005-050

May 23, 2007

Patrick Henn
Section Head, Strategic and Environmental Studies
Helimax
4101, rue Molson, bureau 100
Montréal, Québec H1Y 3L1

Dear Mr Henn,

Re: EC Comments on the Final Draft Environmental Screening Report for the proposed Byng and Mohawk Point Wind Power Projects (originally referred to as Lowbanks)

This letter contains our comments on the final draft of the environmental screening report (ESR) for the Byng and Mohawk Point wind projects that you submitted for our review via email on May 4th, 2007. We understand that the ESR has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of both the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA).

We also understand that the project will be registered under the EcoENERGY for Renewable Power (ERP) program that is administered by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN). If the project is accepted under the ERP program it will be subject to CEAA and NRCAN will be a responsible authority (RA) for the environmental assessment (EA) of the project. Based on the information that has been supplied about the project, we have determined that Environment Canada (EC) does not have any obligations that would trigger a federal EA of this project under CEAA. The comments we have supplied in this letter should be considered by the proponent under the provincial EA process as well by any RA should CEAA be triggered, such as NRCAN if the project is accepted under the ERP program.

Turbine Lighting

As noted in the ESR (p. 87), we encourage the proponent to pursue discussions with Transport Canada (TC) about the possibility of using white flashing lights on the turbine towers at night and to keep strobe lighting to the minimal allowable levels. To facilitate these discussions, we suggest that results from the post-construction avian monitoring program at AIM PowerGen's Erie Shore's facility that relate to turbine lighting be presented for consideration during the discussions with TC.

Post-Construction Avian and Bat Monitoring

We were pleased to find a commitment in the ESR (p. 88) to develop a post-construction monitoring plan for detecting turbine-related avian mortality that will follow general guidelines established by EC's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). We request that the aforementioned plan consider the comments we submitted in our previous letter to Ansar Gafur (dated April 2, 2007) about post-construction monitoring for waterfowl and that it be presented to both our department and the MNR for review before it is implemented.

We also recommend that a post-construction monitoring program agreement be developed in concert with the relevant government review agencies (EC and MNR), the proponent, and any federal RAs, (e.g., NRCAN if the project is accepted into the ERP program). Such an agreement would help to establish a permanent record of post-construction monitoring program requirements that could transcend changes in



personnel and project ownership, and ensure that actions are carried out as expected, and for the necessary duration. The agreement should include a description of the post-construction monitoring work to be done and the data that will be collected, details of when data will be delivered for review, who will be responsible for the review of specific information, how and what information will be made available to the public, and what factors will be used to decide if the program or aspects of the program should be extended. I would be pleased to discuss this with you and to offer my assistance in developing an agreement outline.

We recommend that the sections of the ESR that are dedicated to follow-up and monitoring during the operational phase of the project for birds (5.3.5.5) and bats (5.3.6.5) be revised to indicate that a post-construction monitoring program agreement will be developed for birds and bats that satisfies the requirements of EC and the MNR. In making this revision, we recommend that you confer with the MNR about requirements in relation to provincial mandates and responsibilities for protecting raptors and bats.

Summary

I trust that these comments and recommendations will assist you in finalizing the draft ESR for the Byng and Mohawk Point (formerly Lowbanks) wind power projects. If you wish to discuss any matters related to this response, please contact me at (905) 336-4954 or by email at Rob.Read@ec.gc.ca

Sincerely,



Rob Read
Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: S. Allan, EC
J. Fischer, CWS
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