

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

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Ministère du Tourisme, de la Culture et du Sport

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January 31, 2013

Colin Varley
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
2791 Lancaster Rd., Suite 200
Ottawa, ON K1B 1A7

Dear Mr. Varley,

RE: Review and Entry into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports: Archaeological Assessment Report Entitled, *AMHERST ISLAND WIND ENERGY PROJECT STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT*, Revised Report Dated January 9, 2013, Filed by MTCS Toronto Office January 14, 2013, MTCS Project Information Form Number P002-243-2011, Stantec Project No. 160960595, MTCS File Number HD00579

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 of the study area as depicted in Figure 10 of the above titled report and recommends the following:

It is Stantec's professional opinion that all parts of the Project Study Area demonstrate elevated potential for the presence of significant archaeological deposits of integrity (Figure 10). It should be anticipated for Project component siting exercises that Stage 2

¹ This letter constitutes the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's 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.

² 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.

Archaeological Assessment is likely to be required for all locations of project-related infrastructure construction, including all turbine pads, access roads, underground cable links, construction offices, laydown areas and temporary storage areas and any other areas where soil disturbances into and below the topsoil may occur.

Stage 2 archaeological survey generally takes two forms: pedestrian survey and test pit excavation survey. Pedestrian survey, the preferred methodology, requires that the area to be surveyed be ploughed as if the ground were to be cultivated and allowed to weather through one hard or several light rainfalls. After weathering the ground is walked at a slow pace and the locations of artifacts recorded using a Geographic Positioning System (GPS). During a pedestrian survey only diagnostic artifacts are collected; all others are left *in situ*.

If ploughing is not technically feasible in some locations due to the nature and extent of existing ground cover or other conditions, Stage 2 assessment will need to be completed using a test pit excavation strategy. In this instance standard archaeological test pits of 30 x 30 cm or greater are excavated and all excavated soils passed through screens of 6 mm mesh. During test pit survey all artifacts encountered are retained. In either case the survey interval will be at no more than 5 m

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. Sean Fairfield, Algonquin Power Co.