

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

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Ministère du Tourisme, de la Culture et du Sport

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March 13, 2013

Colin Varley
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
2781 Lancaster Road
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 2 Archaeological Assessment, Various lots, South Shore Concession, North Shore Concession, Concessions 1 – 3, Amherst Island; and Lot 19, Concession 1; part of Lots 16-26, Concession 1; part of Lots 16-27, Broken Front, Township of Ernestown, Loyalist County, ON*, Revised Report Dated February 14, 2013, Filed by MTCS Toronto Office February 21, 2013, MTCS Project Information Form Number P002-284-2012, OPA Reference Number FIT-FUT3NOX, 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 Figures 4 to 8 of the above titled report and recommends the following (see next page):

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.*

Stage 3 AA (the Archaeological Site Assessment) of the 7 identified sites must be conducted according to the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*. For each site located under the current Stage 2 AA the Stage 3 AA will be composed of two elements: 1) a Controlled Surface Pick-up (CSP) of artifacts on the surface of ploughed fields and 2) test unit excavation. A CSP is a detailed survey of the ground surface in open fields that allows for precise recording of artifact locations and the collection of a representative sample of artifacts, including non-diagnostic artifacts. The second component of the Stage 3 AA, test unit excavation, will be required at all identified archaeological sites. The purpose of the test unit excavation is to document the extent of buried artifacts, cultural features, soil stratigraphy and structures and to recover a representative sample of artifacts from across the archaeological site.

For sites BaGe-5, BaGe-6, BaGe-7, BbGe-29, BbGe-30 Stage 3 AA will consist of a CSP of reploughed lands. CSP must be conducted at a sufficient interval to ensure identification and recording of all surface artifacts. After completion of the CSP, test unit excavation of 1 m x 1 m test units on a 5 m grid interval placed across areas of interest within the site, plus an additional 20% of the grid total, will be excavated by hand through the topsoil and 5 cm into subsoil. Work will meet other Standards as set out in Sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and Table 3.1 of the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.

For sites BbGd-56 and BbGe-31 the same procedures as noted above will be followed. IN the event that no further artifacts are identified at these isolated findspot sites then test unit excavations can be limited to the excavation of five 1m x 1m test units, one over the central Findspot location and one in each direction from the central unit. In the event that additional artifacts are located during the test unit excavation standard test unit excavation placement would be required.

Based on the results of the Stage 2 AA there are no sites that will require any special conditions during test unit excavation.

The cultural heritage value and interest of findspots IF#1, F#2, F#3 and F#4 has been sufficiently documented at the Stage 2 AA and no further work is recommended for these sites.

With Aboriginal archaeological sites being documented through the Stage 2 AA it is expected that engagement with First Nations in subsequent Stage 3 will continue. Ongoing Aboriginal consultation will be part of the overall Project development, for archaeological resources and for other environmental components, and is a requirement of the 2011 *Standards and Guideline for Consultant Archaeologists*. It is recommended that Aboriginal Engagement be carried out as required by the Standards and Guidelines and as outlined in the bulletin *Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology*.

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. Mr. Sean Fairfield, Algonquin Power Co.
Ms. Doris Dumais, Ministry of the Environment