

Boralex Inc.
36 Lajeunesse Street
Kingsey Falls, Québec J0A 1B0
Canada

T. 819.363.6363
F. 819.363.6399
boralex.com



January 7, 2019

Mohsen Keyvani
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
135 St. Clair Ave W, Toronto, ON
M4V 1P5

Dear Mr. Keyvani,

Re: Modification to Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan for the Niagara Region Wind Farm

Boralex retained Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI) to conduct three years of post-construction monitoring at the operational Niagara Region Wind Farm (Project), located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln, in Niagara Region and Haldimand County, Ontario. This wind energy generating facility consists of 77 turbines with a total nameplate capacity of 230MW. In accordance with the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) granted on November 6, 2014 (No. 4353-9HMP2R), the Niagara Region Wind Farm: Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan for Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat (EEMP; Stantec 2013) has been implemented for the Project. The purpose of this letter is to provide formal notification to the Director and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) that site conditions have changed due to regular agricultural activities, which has in-turn resulted in a modification to how the Project's EEMP (Condition L2 of the REA) is being implemented. The change in site conditions, and associated change in EEMP implementation, is entirely unrelated to the Project, or its development or operational activities.

In accordance with the EEMP, NRSI conducted the required raptor wintering area and short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) habitat surveys during January and February of 2017 and 2018. During these surveys, it was noted that the site conditions within each of the identified habitats have changed since the completion of baseline studies in 2011 and 2012. Due to changes in land use associated with common agricultural practices, the habitats no longer meet provincial criteria for candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat (OMNR 2012). NRSI prepared a memorandum (Niagara Region Wind Farm: Raptor Wintering Area and Short-eared Owl Habitat Suitability (2017)), dated January 10, 2018, describing the lack of suitability of these habitats to support over-wintering raptors and short-eared owls (enclosed). This memorandum was distributed to the Director and to the MNRF. Within the memorandum, NRSI proposed that the remaining monitoring associated with these habitats be discontinued, as any change in species use will be attributed to the change in habitat suitability that is entirely unrelated to the Project, or its development or operational activities.

NRSI received email confirmation from the MNRF supporting the proposed approach to adjust the monitoring at the raptor wintering areas and short-eared owl habitats on December 18, 2018 (enclosed). As of the receipt of email confirmation from the MNRF, the modification to the EEMP is considered accepted and further monitoring associated with the raptor wintering areas and short-eared owl habitats that no longer

provide functional habitat will be discontinued. As requested by the MNRF, NRSI will conduct habitat assessments in 2019 to confirm that the habitats continue to be used for intensive agricultural purposes. Boralex, as the owner of the Niagara Region Wind Farm, will publish this letter and enclosed documents to the Project website within 10 days of acceptance of modifications to the EEMP by the Director and the MNRF, in accordance with Condition L14 (1) of the REA.

As formal notification of a modification to the approved EEMP has been provided to the Director and the MNRF with this letter, and as the modification will be published to the Project website, Conditions L2 and L14 (1) of the REA have been satisfied.

Sincerely,



Stéphanie Bujold
Environmental Manager

cc: Mike Poskin, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Kaitlyn McGlade, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Enclosures (2)