

Final Consultation Report – Belle River Wind Project

Report

Consultation Report – Belle River Wind Project

Prepared by:

AECOM

105 Commerce Valley Drive West, Floor 7

Markham, ON, Canada L3T 7W3

www.aecom.com

905 886 7022

tel

905 886 9494

fax

Project Number:

60321891

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Appendix C.	Agency and Stakeholder Consultation
Appendix D.	Municipal Consultation
Appendix E.	First Nation and Aboriginal Communities Consultation

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Belle River Wind	SP Belle River Wind LP
BSC.....	Bird Studies Canada
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
CEAA 2012	<i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i>
CWS.....	Canadian Wildlife Service
dBA	Decibels
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EAASIB.....	Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch
EMF	Electromagnetic frequency
ERCA	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Hydro One.....	Hydro One Networks Inc.
km	Kilometres
LTVCA	Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
m	Metres
m/sec	Metres per second
MassDEP.....	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MDPH	Massachusetts Department of Public Health
MOECC.....	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
MNRF.....	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
MTCS.....	Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
MW.....	Megawatts
NRSI	Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
O. Reg.....	Ontario Regulation
Pattern Development	Pattern Renewable Holdings Canada ULC
PDR	Project Description Report
PPA.....	Power Purchase Agreement
Project.....	Belle River Wind Project
PSA.....	Project Study Area
REA.....	Renewable Energy Approval
Samsung Renewable Energy	Samsung Renewable Energy Inc.

1. Introduction

The Belle River Wind Project (“the Project”) is being proposed by SP Belle River Wind LP, by its general partner, SP Belle River Wind GP Inc. (“Belle River Wind”). Belle River Wind is a joint venture limited partnership owned by affiliates of Pattern Renewable Holdings Canada ULC (“Pattern Development”) and Samsung Renewable Energy Inc. (“Samsung Renewable Energy”).

This Consultation Report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Renewable Energy Approvals (REA) process outlined in Ontario Regulation (“O. Reg.”) 359/09, as amended, and the *Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals* (Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (“MOECC”), 2013a).

The following sections outline the consultation activities undertaken and the input received regarding the Belle River Wind Project to date. Belle River Wind has maintained communication with stakeholders (i.e., government agencies, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities, the public and other stakeholders) throughout the planning process and will continue to do so throughout the life of the Project.

1.1 Summary of Consultation Report Requirements

The requirements for the Consultation Report as defined under O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, and where those requirements are addressed in this report are provided in the following table (**Table 1-1**).

Table 1-1: Adherence to Consultation Report Requirements under O. Reg. 359/09, as Amended

Requirement	Completed	Corresponding Section
A summary of communications with members of the public regarding the Project.	Yes	Section 4
A summary of communications with members of First Nation and Aboriginal Communities regarding the Project.	Yes	Section 7
Evidence that the information required to be distributed to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities under subsection 17(1) was distributed.	Yes	Section 7 and Appendix E1a
Any information provided by a First Nation or Aboriginal Community in response to a request made under paragraph 4 of subsection 17(1).	Yes	Section 7, Appendix E1b and Appendix E2
A summary of communications with municipalities and agencies regarding the Project.	Yes	Section 6
Evidence that a consultation form was distributed in accordance with subsection 18(1).	Yes	Section 6 and Appendix D1a
The Municipal Consultation Form distributed under subsection 18(1), if any part of it completed by a municipality, Local Roads Board or Local Services Board.	Yes	Section 6
A description of whether and how comments from members of the public, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities, municipalities, Local Roads Boards and Local Services Boards were considered by the person who is engaging in the Project.	Yes	Section 8
A description of whether and how the documents that were made available under subsection 16(5) were amended after the final Public Meeting was held.	Yes	Section 8.1
A description of whether and how the proposal to engage in the Project was altered in response to comments from the public, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities and municipalities.	Yes	Section 8.2
A description of the manner in which the location of the wind turbines was made available to the public, if a person proposing to engage in a project in respect of a class 4 or 5 wind facility relied on paragraph 4 of subsection 54 (1.2) or paragraph 4 of subsection 55(2.2).	Yes	Section 4.1.2
If the above applies, proof of the date on which the location of the wind turbines was made available to the public.	Yes	Appendix B1

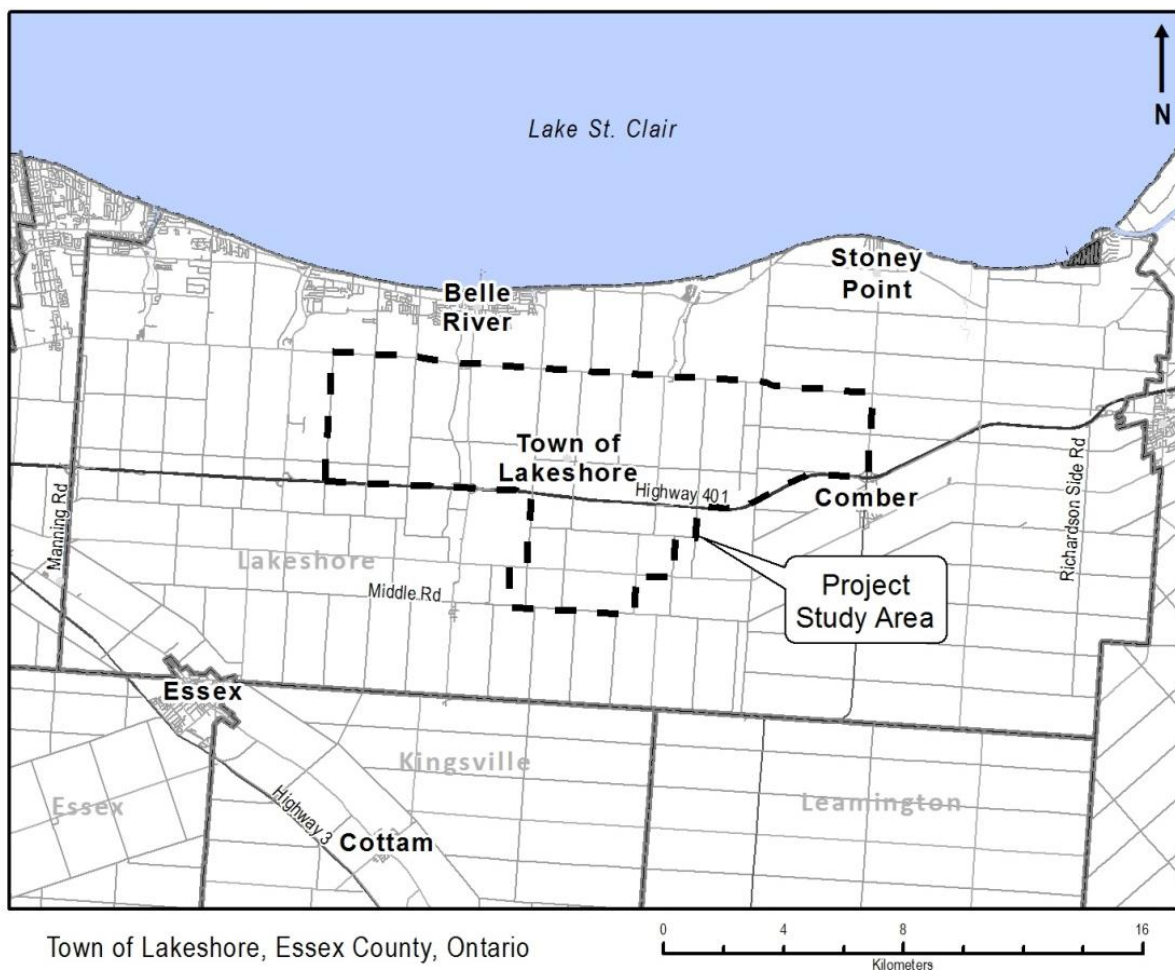
1.2 Project Location

Belle River Wind is proposing to develop a wind project in the Town of Lakeshore in the County of Essex, Ontario. The Project will be located on public and private lands south of the community of Belle River. The location of the Project was established based on interest expressed by local landowners, the availability of wind resources, and availability of existing infrastructure for connection to the electrical grid.

According to O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, the Project Location is “a part of land and all or part of any building or structure in, on, or over which a person is engaging in or proposes to engage in the project and any air space in which a person is engaging in or proposes to engage in the project”. As described therein, the Project Location boundary is the outer limit of where site preparation and construction activities will occur (i.e., disturbance areas described below) and where permanent infrastructure will be located, including the air space occupied by turbine blades.

The Project is generally bounded by County Road 42 to the north, Lakeshore Road 111 to the west, Highway 401 and South Middle Road to the south, and Comber Sideroad to the east. The area encompassed by these boundaries is referred to as the Project Study Area (“PSA”). **Figure 1-1**, below, shows a map of the PSA. To see the location of the Project within Ontario, please see **Figure 1-2**.

Figure 1-1: Project Study Area



The PSA covers approximately 22,200 acres¹ of land that the Town of Lakeshore's Official Plan (2010) and the Town of Lakeshore Zoning By-law (2014) identify as predominantly agricultural in use. The PSA also consists of fragmented areas of forest and riparian habitat associated with small creeks or farm drains. The Project is not situated on Crown land or within areas protected under provincial land use plans. The PSA represents the area being assessed as part of the REA process. The following co-ordinates define corners of the external boundaries of the PSA:

Longitude	Latitude
-82.769	42.277
-82.687	42.236
-82.645	42.2
-82.55	42.268

The Project will be located primarily on privately owned land with some components (e.g., electrical collector lines) being placed along public right-of-ways. Legal descriptions of the land parcels to be used for the Project are provided in **Appendix A** of the Project Description Report ("PDR").

1. Metric units are used throughout REA documentation when describing the size of Project infrastructure, except in instances describing areas of land. When describing land size, acres (imperial) will be used rather than hectares (metric) because it is the measuring unit most commonly used by the local community. It is assumed that 1 hectare of land is equal to 2.47 acres of land.

Figure 1-2: Study Area in Ontario



2. Consultation Approach

Belle River Wind is committed to ensuring there is ongoing communication with all stakeholders throughout the REA process. The consultation program carried out by Belle River Wind goes beyond the requirements of O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, and was initiated in the summer of 2014.

At the start of the planning process, Belle River Wind established the following objectives for the consultation process:

- Undertake consultation early in the planning process and continue throughout the construction, operations, maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Project;
- Inform stakeholders early of all relevant information about the Project and how the Project might affect the physical, natural, social and economic environment in the community; and
- Track and document all communications between stakeholders and the Project team to ensure stakeholder interests are considered in the planning, design, construction and operations of the wind facility, wherever possible.

Since Project commencement, various forms of consultation have taken place to achieve these objectives. A detailed account of these activities is outlined in the following sections, and includes:

- Meetings with the MOECC;
- Meetings and correspondence with the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex;
- Meeting with the Essex Region Conservation Authority;
- Discussions with other provincial and federal agencies;
- Meetings with First Nation and Aboriginal Communities (for the purposes of this report, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities include Métis Councils);
- Meetings and discussions with local landowners and the public;
- Public meetings, including the use of comment forms (review of comments and the issuing of responses);
- Notices published in local and First Nation and Aboriginal Community newspapers;
- Direct mailings of Project notices to the Project mailing list;
- Circulation of REA documents (e.g., Draft Project Description Report, Draft Site Plan, and Draft REA Reports) to the public, agencies, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities and other stakeholders for review and comment; and
- A Project website (www.belleriverwind.com).

Throughout the development of the Project, the community was provided with direct contact information for Belle River Wind to answer questions or to discuss the Project.

2.1 Project Contact List

A Project contact list was established early in the REA process, and regularly updated, to identify stakeholders and First Nation and Aboriginal Communities with a potential interest in the Project. The contact list includes federal, provincial and municipal agencies, elected officials, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities, other stakeholders and individuals who expressed interest in the Project. Relevant agencies were included on the contact list based on the *Technical Guide for Renewable Energy Approvals* (MOECC, 2013a). Additions to the contact list were made based on attendance at Public Meetings, through communication with stakeholders and as new project information became

available. Refer to **Appendix A** for a list of the government agencies, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities and other stakeholders contacted throughout the REA process. The public list has not been included in this report to protect private information such as names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. To date, 273 members of the public are included on the Project contact list.

2.1.1 *First Nation and Aboriginal Communities Contact List*

Belle River Wind obtained a list from the MOECC of First Nation and Aboriginal Communities who have, or may have treaty rights that may be affected by the Project, or otherwise have an interest in the Project. On September 26, 2014, the MOECC confirmed the list of First Nation and Aboriginal Communities to be consulted (**Appendix C1b** and **Appendix E3**). These communities are:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia 45;
- Caldwell First Nation;
- Oneida Nation of the Thames, Oneida 41; and
- Walpole Island First Nation, Walpole Island 46, Bkejwanong Territory

2.2 Notices

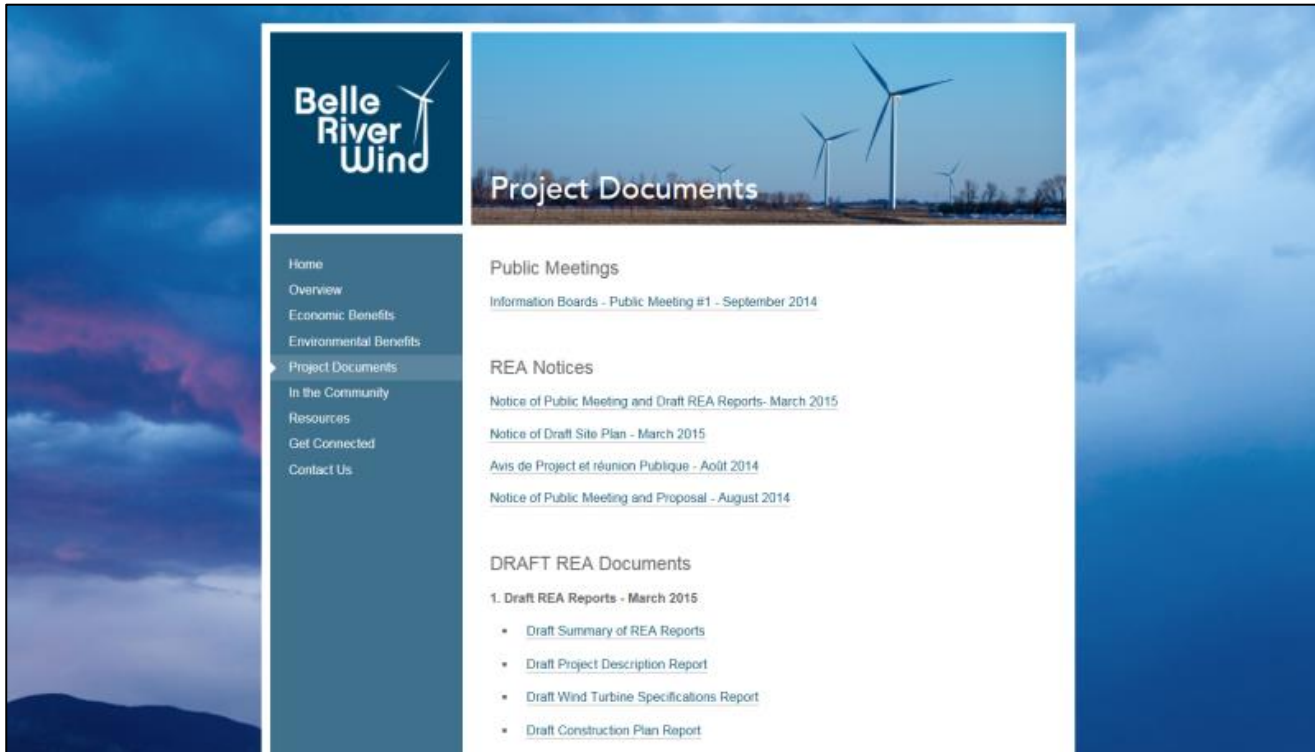
Project notices were used to provide Project information, locations and times of Public Meetings as well as the availability and location of Project documents for public review. Notices were prepared according to the templates provided in the *Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals* (MOECC, 2013a) and were distributed in accordance with O. Reg. 359/09, as amended. For each notice, the extent of distribution covered a larger physical area than required by O. Reg. 359/09, as amended. The contact list used for direct notice distribution is provided in **Appendix A** which includes all required First Nation and Aboriginal Communities as well as municipal and agency contacts. Canada Post Admail was used to send notices to assessed owners of land within a minimum of 550 metres (m) of the Project. Notices were also published within two local newspapers, a First Nation and Aboriginal Community newspaper (refer to **Section 4.1** for details) and was posted on the Project website (see **Figure 2-1**). In addition, since the area surrounding the Project is designated as a bilingual community, all public notices were also distributed in French and advertised in a French newspaper with circulation within the Town of Lakeshore and surrounding area.

The following REA notices were distributed during the planning process:

- Notice of the First Public Meeting and Proposal to engage in a project;
- Notice of the Draft Site Plan;
- Notice of the Draft REA Reports and the Second Public Meeting; and
- Notice of Submission and Posting on the Environmental Registry (to be completed).

Detailed descriptions of notifications are provided in **Section 4**.

Figure 2-1: Screenshot of the Project Website



3. Overview of Consultation Activities

Belle River Wind has undertaken a consultation program that goes beyond the requirements of O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, as shown in **Figure 3-1**. **Table 3-1** provides an overview of the required and additional consultation activities undertaken, in addition to the dates that Belle River Wind completed these activities. For a detailed account of consultation activities, please refer to **Sections 4** through **8**.

Figure 3-1: Belle River Wind REA Consultation Activities

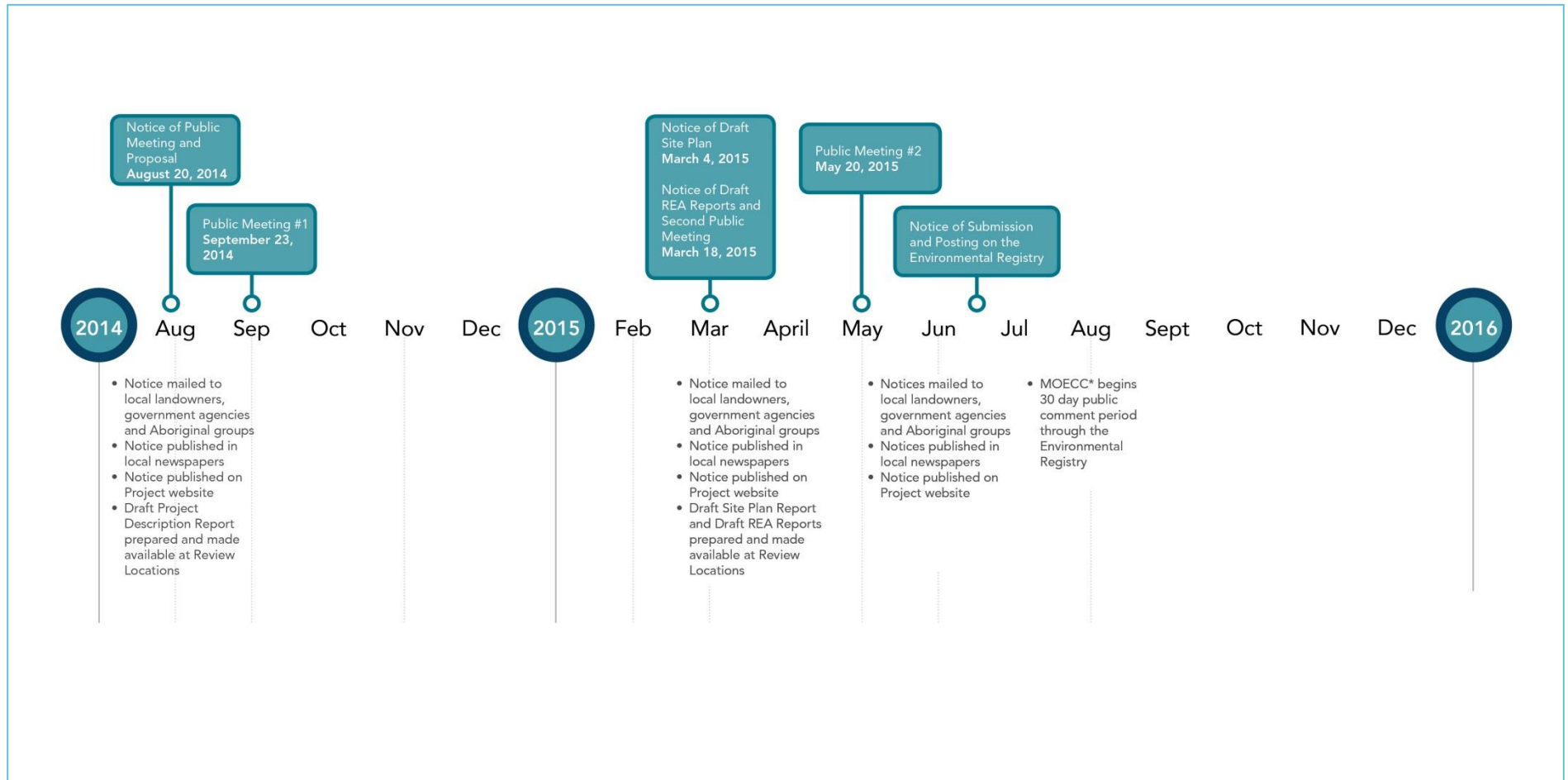


Table 3-1: Overview of Consultation Activities

Consultation Activity	Distributed To		Date Completed
Meeting with the Town of Lakeshore's Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer	▸ N/A		April 25, 2014
Mailing of Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal	▸ Agencies ² ▸ Stakeholders	▸ First Nation and Aboriginal Communities ▸ Public	August 20, 2014
Publication of Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal	▸ Local and First Nation and Aboriginal Community newspapers	▸ Project website	August 20 – 28, 2014
Circulation of Draft PDR	▸ Agencies ▸ Stakeholders	▸ First Nation and Aboriginal Communities ▸ Locations for public review	August 20, 2014
Posting of Draft PDR on the Project Website	▸ Project website		August 20, 2014
Circulation of Municipal Consultation Form and Draft PDR	▸ Municipalities		August 20, 2014
First Public Meeting	▸ N/A		September 23, 2014
Meeting with the Town of Lakeshore Mayor and staff	▸ N/A		September 25, 2014
Meeting with Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change staff	▸ N/A		October 1, 2014
Meeting with Town of Lakeshore staff	▸ N/A		November 13, 2014
Meeting with Essex Region Conservation Authority staff	▸ N/A		November 14, 2015
Meeting with Walpole Island Heritage Centre staff	▸ N/A		November 18, 2014
Meeting with Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change staff	▸ N/A		February 12, 2015
Circulation of Draft REA Reports	▸ Municipalities		February 13, 2015
	▸ First Nation and Aboriginal Communities	▸ Locations for public review	March 18, 2015
Posting of Draft REA Reports on the Project Website	▸ Project website		March 18, 2015
Meeting with Caldwell First Nation Council Members	▸ N/A		February 19, 2015
Mailing of Notice of Draft Site Plan	▸ Agencies ▸ Stakeholders	▸ First Nation and Aboriginal Communities ▸ Public	March 4, 2015
Publication of Notice of Draft Site Plan	▸ Local and First Nation and Aboriginal Community newspapers	▸ Project website	March 4 – 5, 2015
Circulation of Draft Site Plan	▸ MOECC ▸ Municipalities	▸ First Nation and Aboriginal Communities ▸ Locations for public review	March 4 – 5, 2015
Posting of Draft Site Plan on the Project Website	▸ Project website		March 4, 2015
Meeting with Town of Lakeshore staff	▸ N/A		March 10, 2015
Mailing of Notice of Draft REA Reports and Second Public Meeting	▸ Agencies ▸ Stakeholders	▸ First Nation and Aboriginal Communities ▸ Public	March 18, 2015
Publication of Notice of Draft REA Reports and Second Public Meeting	▸ Local and First Nation and Aboriginal Community newspapers	▸ Project website	March 18 – 19, 2015
Circulation of Summaries of REA Technical Reports to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities	▸ Municipalities ▸ First Nation and Aboriginal Communities	▸ Locations for public review	March 18, 2015

2. Based on feedback from agencies on the distribution of the Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal, Notices were sent to several agencies between August 20 and September 12, 2014.

Table 3-1: Overview of Consultation Activities

Consultation Activity	Distributed To		Date Completed
Posting of Summaries of REA Technical Reports to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities on the Project Website	► Project website		March 18, 2015
Mailing of Letters to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities	► First Nation and Aboriginal Communities		May 7, 2015
Meeting with Town of Lakeshore staff	► N/A		May 11, 2015
Second Public Meeting	► N/A		May 20, 2015
Submission of Final REA Reports	► MOECC		June 3, 2015
Circulation of Consultation Report to communities on the First Nation and Aboriginal Communities Consultation List	► First Nation and Aboriginal Communities		June 3, 2015
Mailing of Notice of Submission and Posting on the Environmental Registry	► Agencies ► Stakeholders	► First Nation and Aboriginal Communities ► Public	To be determined
Publication of Notice of Submission and Posting on the Environmental Registry	► Local and First Nation and Aboriginal Community newspapers	► Project website	To be determined
Posting of Final REA Reports, including the Consultation Report, on the Project Website	► Project website		To be determined

4. Public Consultation Activities

This section highlights the Project notifications provided to public stakeholders and consultation events held over the course of the REA process for the Belle River Wind Project. Please refer to **Appendix B1** for copies of the notices and **Appendix B3** for public meeting materials including display panels, comment forms and response letters. Note that all activities relating to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities consultation are included in **Appendix E**.

4.1 Notices

4.1.1 *Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and of Public Meeting #1*

In August, 2014, a combined Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal informed the local community of Belle River Wind's plans to engage in a renewable energy project and to host the first public meeting in the Town of Lakeshore. The notice also informed the community that the Draft PDR was available for review. Interested parties were encouraged to submit questions and comments to the Project team during the review period.

In accordance with the amended O. Reg. 359/09, the notice was first made available to stakeholders more than 30 days prior to the Public Meeting. The notice was distributed via Canada Post Admail to 11,558 residences and businesses throughout the PSA. It was also published in the following newspapers:

- Turtle Island News on August 20, 2014;
- Lakeshore News on August 21, 2014;
- Essex Free Press on August 21, 2014 and August 28, 2014; and
- Le Rampart (French language notice) on August 27, 2014.

In addition, the notice was posted on the Project's website on August 20, 2014 and mailed to relevant federal and provincial agency contacts, local municipalities and potentially interested First Nation and Aboriginal Communities.

4.1.2 *Notice of Draft Site Plan*

In March, 2015, a notice was prepared to inform the community that the Draft Site Plan Report and Noise Impact Assessment for the Project were available for review. The notice encouraged interested parties to submit questions and comments to the Project team during the review period. The notice was distributed to the following recipients:

- 9,845³ assessed land owners, residents and businesses within 550 m of the Project Location – sent via Canada Post Admail on March 4, 2015;
- 65 individuals who expressed interest in the Project by contacting the Project team or attending the first public meeting – sent via regular mail on March 4, 2015; and
- 114 individuals who expressed interest in the Project by contacting the Project team or attending the first public meeting – sent via email on March 13, 2015.

3. *Through consultation with the public, Belle River Wind reduced the size of the PSA. This change as well as confirmation of the Project Location resulted in the reduction of the number of assessed land owners within 550 m of the Project.*

In addition to being posted on the Belle River Wind website on March 8, 2015, the notice was also published in the following newspapers:

- Turtle Island News on March 4, 2015;
- Lakeshore News on March 5, 2015;
- Essex Free Press on March 5, 2015; and
- Le Rampart (French language notice) on March 4, 2015.

In addition, the notice was mailed to relevant federal and provincial agency contacts, local municipalities and First Nation and Aboriginal Communities listed in **Section 2.1.1**.

4.1.3 Notice of Draft REA Reports and Second Public Meeting

In March, 2015, a notice was prepared to notify stakeholders about the availability of Draft REA reports as well as the timing for the second public meeting. The notice invited interested parties to submit questions and comments to the Project team during the review period. In accordance with O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, the notice was first made available to the public more than 60 days prior to the second public meeting. The notice was distributed to the following recipients:

- 9,845 assessed land owners, residents and businesses within 550 m of the Project Location – sent via Canada Post Admail on March 18, 2015;
- 65 individuals who expressed interest in the Project by contacting the Project team or attending the first public meeting – sent via regular mail on March 18, 2015; and
- 120 individuals who expressed interest in the Project by contacting the Project team or attending the first public meeting – sent via email on March 31, 2015.

In addition to being posted on the Belle River Wind website on March 19, 2015, the notice was also published in the following newspapers:

- Turtle Island News on March 18, 2015;
- Lakeshore News on March 19, 2015;
- Essex Free Press on March 19, 2015; and
- Le Rampart (French language notice) on March 18, 2015.

In addition, the notice was mailed to relevant federal and provincial agency contacts, local municipalities and the First Nation and Aboriginal Communities listed in **Section 2.1.1**.

4.2 Public Meetings

4.2.1 Public Meeting #1

Public Meeting #1 was held on September 23, 2014 at the Knights of Columbus Club in Belle River, Ontario from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Project, provide an overview of the REA process, respond to questions from the community about the Project and obtain community input for consideration in the planning and design of the Project. The public meeting was organized as an information session. Information panels were grouped by topic and displayed around the venue, while Project factsheets, maps of the PSA, and copies of the Draft PDR were available for review (refer to **Appendix B3a** for copies of the information panels and factsheets). Throughout the meeting, members of the Project team were available to present information and answer questions.

An estimated 250 to 300 individuals attended the meeting, of which 196 individuals opted to sign-in at the registration desk and 46 comment forms were submitted (refer to **Appendix B3a**).

4.2.2 Public Meeting #2

Public Meeting #2 was held on May 20, 2015 at the Atlas Tube Centre in Belle River, Ontario from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to present and receive feedback on the final wind turbine layout and Draft REA Reports as well as to respond to questions from the community about the Project. The public meeting was organized as an information session. Information panels were grouped by topic and displayed around the venue, while Project factsheets, maps of the PSA, and copies of the Draft REA Reports were available for review (refer to **Appendix B3b** for copies of the information panels and factsheets). Members of the Project team were available throughout the meeting to discuss the Project and answer questions. An estimated 55 individuals attended the meeting, of which 49 individuals opted to sign-in at the registration desk and 12 comment forms were submitted (refer to **Appendix B3b**).

4.3 Distribution of Project Documents for Public Review

4.3.1 Draft Project Description Report

The PDR is a summary document that highlights the key aspects of the Project, including a description of Project components, the construction, operation and decommissioning phases, as well as any potential negative effects.

The first draft of the PDR was made available for public review at the Town of Lakeshore Municipal Office and Lakeshore Branch of the Essex County Library on August 21, 2014, 32 days prior to the first public meeting. This draft of the PDR was also posted on the Project website on August 21, 2014.

The final draft of the PDR, along with the other Draft REA Reports, was provided for public review at the Town of Lakeshore Municipal Office, County of Essex Municipal Office and Lakeshore Branch of the Essex County Library on March 19, 2015, 61 days prior to the second public meeting. The final draft of the PDR was also posted on the Project website on March 19, 2015.

4.3.2 Draft Site Plan Report

The Draft Site Plan Report outlines the location of proposed wind turbines in relation to noise receptors and other wind projects. Along with the Noise Impact Assessment that was appended to the Draft Site Plan Report, the report demonstrates that the Project is compliant with the setback requirements of Sections 35, 54 and 55 of O. Reg. 359/09, as amended.

The Draft Site Plan Report was distributed to the Town of Lakeshore Municipal Office, County of Essex Municipal Office and Lakeshore Branch of the Essex County Library on March 4, 2015 and made available for public review on March 9, 2015. The Draft Site Plan was also posted on the Project website on March 9, 2015.

4.3.3 Draft REA Reports

The Draft REA Reports for the Project include the following:

- Draft PDR;
- Draft Construction Plan Report;
- Draft Design and Operations Report;

- Draft Decommissioning Report;
- Draft Wind Turbine Specifications Report;
- Archaeological Assessment Report
- Heritage Assessment Report;
- Natural Heritage Assessment Report;
- Water Bodies Report; and
- Noise Impact Assessment Report (appended to the Draft Design and Operations Report).

As per the amended O. Reg. 359/09, the Draft REA Reports were made available to members of the public for review and comment 61 days prior to the second public meeting. These documents were distributed to the Town of Lakeshore Municipal Office, County of Essex Municipal Office and Lakeshore Branch of the Essex County Library on March 18, 2015 and made available for public review at these locations and on the Project website on March 19, 2015.

4.4 Summary of Public Comments

Table 4-1 presents a summary of comments received over the course of the Project and how Belle River Wind has responded to these comments. Copies of the correspondence, with personal information redacted, is available in **Appendix B2**.

4.4.1 *Description of How Comments were Considered*

The results of the public consultation program indicated that the main topics of interest included potential impacts to:

- Existing residences and future development of the Town of Belle River;
- Property values;
- Sound levels generated from turbines; and
- Wildlife.

Where possible, Belle River Wind modified the Project Location to avoid negative impacts while complying with provincial setback regulations. Refer to **Section 8** for a summary of the changes made to the Project and the rationale on how the change addresses the comments received.

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Project Study Area / Project Location	<i>Project Study Area</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why have you chosen to build wind turbines in our community? Why are known populated areas included in the PSA? The boundary should be moved further south to County Road 42. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, this area contains an excellent quality wind resource. The proposed Project Location is in ideal proximity to a transmission line and the Project has received interest from many local landowners to have a turbine placed on their property. These are the primary factors that contribute to the selection of a wind farm location. Following the first public meeting, Belle River Wind considered the feedback received from the community and decided to reduce the size of the PSA by moving the boundary south to County Road 42.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the PSA been compared with the Town of Lakeshore's development plans? The PSA leaves no room for the town to expand to the south. The wind turbines should be located east of Belle River Road only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind has consulted with the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex to understand land use plans and policies (e.g., development plans) that exist that will influence the design of the Project layout. Following the first public meeting, Belle River Wind considered the feedback received from the community and decided to reduce the size of the PSA by moving the boundary south to County Road 42, east to County Road 111 and west to Comber Sideroad.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the PSA include West Puce Road, north of County Road 42? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PSA does not include West Puce Road, north of County Road 42.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the area between Puce Road and Manning Road, north of Highway 401 been removed from the PSA? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the area between Puce Road and Manning Road, north of Highway 401 has been removed from the PSA as a result of feedback received from the community.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the size of the Project to areas farther east, or cancel it entirely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the first public meeting, Belle River Wind reduced the size of the PSA based on consultation with the Town of Lakeshore and comments received from the public. The PSA boundary was shifted south to County Road 42 and away from the community of Belle River to address concerns about future impacts on development opportunities within the community. The PSA was also reduced by moving the boundary east to County Road 111 and west to Comber Sideroad.
	<i>Location of Turbines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where will the turbines be installed and what is the proposed distance between turbines? How many turbines will be constructed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Draft Site Plan finalizes the locations of the proposed wind turbines for the Project. Each "x" on the map represents a proposed turbine. Approximately 49 turbines and associated infrastructure are being assessed for the Project. However, if approved, approximately 44 turbines will be constructed, depending on the nominal rating of each turbine (or the amount of power generated by each turbine).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why were specific locations for turbines chosen? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wind turbine siting process included the following steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of a sufficient wind resource; Optioning land for wind turbines and associated infrastructure with local landowners; Identification of technical and environmental constraints based on input from experts, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities and government agencies; Identification of locations to site Project infrastructure within the remaining land available while adhering to setback distances prescribed by the province.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When will the final location of wind turbines be determined? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible turbine locations were first presented to the public in the Draft Site Plan Report and Draft REA Reports on March 9, 2015 and March 19, 2015. The Final Site Plan and Final REA Reports will be submitted to the MOECC as part of the REA application in the spring/summer of 2015 for review and approval.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where will turbines be located in relation to the intersection of Highway 401 and County Road 27 / Belle River Road? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbines are located north of Highway 401 and east of County Road 27 / Belle River Road.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the turbines be installed north/south of County Road 42? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines will be located south of County Road 42.

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Project Study Area / Project Location (continued)	<i>Setbacks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How close will the turbines be to the road, property line or hydro lines? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siting wind turbines involves balancing the wind resource with environmental, socio-economic and engineering constraints, while at the same time adhering to the setback distances prescribed by the amended O. Reg. 359/09. This regulation stipulates specific setback distances from houses and schools as well as wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadway and Railroads: The setback requirement is the length of the turbine blade plus 10 m to the public right-of-way. Property Line: The setback requirement for property lines is the hub height of the turbine tower (excluding blades and base). Transmission Line: Belle River Wind is currently working with Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") to determine their guidelines for setbacks for the Project.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines should not be located where existing homes are without their approval. Turbines should be 1 kilometre away from residents; 500 metres is too close to residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Project layout has been designed to meet the regulatory requirements for renewable energy projects outlined by the MOECC. The minimum setback requirement from non-participating receptors (e.g., residential homes, schools, and other uses sensitive to noise) is 550 m. Sound levels from turbines must also be at or below 40 decibels ("dBA") at 6 metres per second ("m/sec") at all non-participating receptors. This standard is set by the provincial government under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> in O. Reg. 359/09, as amended.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maps do not properly illustrate some of the wooded areas within the PSA. As a result, a turbine is located too close to a woodlot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the turbine siting process, environmental constraints are identified based on input from technical experts and government agencies. Project components can be sited within the setbacks for some terrestrial features provided that an Environmental Impact Study is completed as part of a Natural Heritage Assessment and mitigation measures are identified to avoid impacts to wildlife and their habitat. The Natural Heritage Assessment must receive approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry ("MNRF") in order for the Project to proceed.
	<i>Transmission Line</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the transmission line run down County Road 31, north of Highway 401 to the new station? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this time, Belle River Wind does not intend to run the transmission line down County Road 31, north of Highway 401. However, this may change if the preferred route(s) prove impossible or unfeasible for construction.
Effects on the Socio-economic Environment	<i>Community Benefits</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What revenue will the Town of Lakeshore get? The government is investing a large amount of tax dollars on this Project with little to no foreseeable return on that investment. There is no benefit to the Town of Lakeshore. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some anticipated benefits to the community as a result of the Belle River Wind Project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the local economy as Ontario goods and labour will be used during construction and operation; Strengthening the local tax base by generating approximately \$220,000 annually for the Town of Lakeshore, Essex County and local schools, in addition to creating lasting benefits through a Community Benefits Program; Providing a steady income to farmers and property owners; Increasing revenue for all service businesses (such as hotels and restaurants) during planning, construction and operation; and Creating "green-collar" jobs in construction, operation and manufacturing.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many jobs will the Project generate in the community? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind expects that over 200 workers will be on-site during Project construction. During Project operations, up to 15 trained technical and administrative staff, including turbine maintenance technicians and a site supervisor, will be required.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is not a benefit to the community. It will affect future businesses as they will not want to invest next to the turbines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are many long-term benefits for the community associated with a wind project. Some anticipated benefits to the community as a result of the Belle River Wind Project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the local tax base by generating approximately \$220,000 annually for the Town of Lakeshore, County of Essex and local schools, in addition to creating lasting benefits through a Community Benefits Program;

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Effects on the Socio-economic environment (continued)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing revenue for all service businesses (such as hotels and restaurants) during planning, construction and operation; Providing a steady income to farmers and property owners; and Supporting the local economy as Ontario goods and labour will be used during construction and operation; Creating “green-collar” jobs in construction, operation and manufacturing.
	<i>Property Values</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind farms reduce the value of properties adjacent to the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a wide variety of factors that influence property values. In the case of wind turbines, numerous studies have demonstrated that proximity to a wind farm does not have a negative impact on property values. These studies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vyn, R., and McCullough, R. (September 2014). <i>The Effects of Wind Turbines on Property Values in Ontario: Does Public Perception Match Empirical Evidence?</i> Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics: Pages 365-392. MPAC News Summer 2012 (https://www.mpac.ca/sites/default/files/imce/pdf/MPACNewsSummer2012.pdf) which notes that property values have continued to increase in Ontario in many areas where wind projects either exist or are proposed for development. In the County of Huron, for example, residential property values increased by an average of approximately 14.8% since 2008; farmland has increased by approximately 65.3% since 2008. Canning, G., and L.J. Simmons. (February 2010). <i>Wind Energy Study Effect of Real Estate Values in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent</i>. Canning Consultants Inc. & John Simmons Realty Services Ltd. Prepared for the Canadian Wind Energy Association. Hoen, B., Wiser, R., Cappers, P., Thayer, M., and G. Sethi. (December 2009). <i>The Impact of Wind Power Projects on Residential Property Values in the United States: A Multi- Hedonic Analysis</i>. Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Prepared for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
	<i>Visual Effects</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind turbines are unattractive and we do not want to see them. Concerned about the aesthetics of turbines. Flashing red lights at night are not pleasant or calming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual effects are ultimately dependent on the perception of residents and visitors to the presence of turbines. The Project is committed to an overall net benefit to the community and province through community involvement, providing increases the municipal property tax base and increasing Ontario's renewable energy supplies. Transport Canada regulates the type of lighting required on turbines. The lights are necessary for navigation at night.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you limit the number of lights on the turbines to only the periphery? Concern related to the red lights. Is there any way to ask Transport Canada to raise the height of the tall structure lighting requirements to 400 or 900 m? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Canada regulates the type and location of lighting required on turbines. The lights are necessary for navigation at night.
	<i>Noise</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned that the turbines will be a nuisance because they are noisy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed project layout has been designed to meet the regulatory requirements for renewable energy projects outlined by the MOECC. The minimum setback requirement from non-participating receptors (e.g., residential homes, schools, and other uses sensitive to noise) is 550 m. Sound levels from turbines must also be at or below 40 decibels (“dBA”) at 6 metres per second (“m/sec”) at all non-participating receptors. This standard is set by the provincial government under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> in O. Reg. 359/09, as amended. In addition, Health Canada published a study on November 6, 2014 (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/noise-bruit/turbine-eoliennes/summary-resume-eng.php) that determined noise from wind turbines did not have any measurable effect on illness and chronic disease, stress, quality of sleep or overall quality of life. The findings from the Health Canada study and field research are consistent with a

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Effects on the Socio-economic environment (continued)			recent report commissioned through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) which provides one of the most comprehensive and multidisciplinary reviews of the scientific literature on wind turbines and human health to date. The MIT paper, entitled "Wind Turbines and Health: A Critical Review of the Scientific Literature" concludes that the levels of infrasound at customary setback distances are typically below audibility, there is no clear or consistent association between noise and health, infrasound and low frequency sound do not present health risks, and noise plays a minor role in comparison with other factors in leading people to report annoyance.
	<i>Effects on Agricultural Land</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind farms remove valuable agricultural land from production and future generations. • How many acres of farmland will be lost? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loss of agricultural land due to the Project is expected to be minimal. When accounting for the total land use of a wind project, including turbine access roads and operations infrastructure, the permanently disturbed land is typically less than 2 percent of the entire PSA. The remaining areas within the PSA can continue to be used for agricultural purposes.
	<i>Cost to Tax Payers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much is this going to cost the taxpayer? Are these turbines economically feasible without other government subsidies? • Turbines have been up for years, but coal burning has not been reduced. • The Project is going to raise hydro rates. It will be unaffordable to have hydro and will cause undue hardship for retirees and the general public. • There will be higher hydro costs in 20 years after the Project is decommissioned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no subsidies on this Project. Belle River Wind will only get paid for the energy generated. All project costs are being paid directly by Belle River Wind. • Through the installation of alternative sources of energy, such as wind, the last coal-fired power plant in Ontario ceased operations in 2014. • A study conducted by Tim Weis and P.J. Partington title "Behind the Switch: Pricing Ontario Electricity Options" (2011) found that the <i>Green Energy Act</i> has little or no impact to Ontario ratepayers. The reasons behind this were that currently planned renewable resources would have to be replaced with other options which would likely work out to be more polluting, less sustainable and in the long-term more expensive. Another important point raised in this study is the increased cost of continuing to use coal plants, notably the health care system. Further discussion about this study with Julia Kilpatrick (2011) as well as a link to the study itself is available at: www.pembina.org/blog/556.
	<i>Provincial Policy and Involvement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would we allow more expense to generate power at a high cost to Ontario rate payers to a foreign company when Hydro One is not buying solar power from local people? • Is the government paying more for hydro than what they are selling it to people? • There is a surplus of power generated by nuclear and green power. There is no need for more wind projects until we require the power. • We are already selling hydro to the States for bare minimum and we get about \$100 for delivery charges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the <i>Green Energy Act</i>, Ontario has made a commitment to diversify its electricity generation, removing the need to rely on any single source. Energy from nuclear, wind, solar and hydro power are all a part of Ontario's energy future. • Wind power can complement the provincial base load generation and create a more stable and reliable electrical grid. Wind power is intended to be part of the long-term energy supply plan for the province of Ontario, which accounts for forecasted supply and demand in the years to come. To review the Government of Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan, please visit the Ontario Ministry of Energy's website: http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Europe this technology is seen as obsolete, why are they still being built here? • Wind power has been proven to be a complete waste of money, as it is far more expensive to produce than what it generates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of new energy generation, such as wind, cannot be directly compared to existing generation, such as coal and hydro, as capital costs of existing facilities were financed and accounted for years ago. Further, due to historical subsidization, the cost of generating and delivering electricity to consumers was much lower. However, government agencies are in the process of adjusting the fee structure to more accurately reflect the true cost of energy production. • The true cost of generation for each energy technology varies greatly and cannot be compared to one another on a single price. The cost of generating wind power once turbines are installed will remain steady for decades as the fuel – wind – is free. Alternatively, regulations to make polluters pay for their emissions will mean that the cost of power from fossil fuels will continue to rise, on top of normal market fluctuations.

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Effects on the Socio-economic environment <i>(continued)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can this Project go forward, when a small farmer cannot get a roof-top solar project going? There is no room on the grid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Belle River Wind Project does not affect the ability for a farmer to install a roof-top solar project. The Belle River Wind Project is planned for connection to the transmission system, while a solar rooftop project connects to a local distribution grid. The distribution lines have different constraints from the transmission system. In order to connect to the transmission system, the Belle River Wind Project has to go through a technical connection and system impact assessment with the Independent Electricity System Operator.
	<i>Effects from Increased Traffic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about traffic near residences and the associated noise and disturbance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to minimize disturbances to local traffic patterns, the following mitigation measures are proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a traffic management plan for the construction phase and submit to the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex prior to construction. Conduct a survey in conjunction with the municipalities to determine if the roads and travel routes within the PSA are capable of accommodating the oversized vehicles and heavy loads prior to the delivery of Project components and equipment. Notify the community in advance of construction delivery schedules and install signage to notify road users of construction activity, where appropriate.
	<i>Hunting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the turbines or the Project restrict hunting? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During operations, the Project will not have any effect on hunting. There may be restrictions on hunting in active construction zones to ensure the safety of construction workers.
	<i>Vibration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about vibration levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vibration from the Project will be limited to construction activities which will be short-term and localized. No long-term potential effects are anticipated in the immediate vicinity of the turbines.
Effects on Natural Environment	<i>Effects on Birds and Bats</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the eagle nest on County Road 31 by Deerbrook in Mailloux Woodlot be protected? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The default habitat zone around an active bald eagle nest is 800 m from Project infrastructure. The eagle's nest on County Road 31 was considered through the Natural Heritage Assessment process for the Belle River Wind Project. The results of the Natural Heritage Site Investigation has confirmed that this bald eagle nest is located approximately 2 kilometres ("km") from the closest portion of the Project.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind turbines kill hundreds of thousands of birds every year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared to other human activities, wind farms have an extremely low impact on birds. According to Calvert, et al. (2013), predation by feral and pet cats, as well as collisions (e.g., with road vehicles and houses) represent more than 95% of the killed birds across all human-related sources.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the Project impact migratory birds? Environmental issues for migrating waterfowl need to be addressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary is located approximately 15 km from the closest portion of the Project area. The presence of migratory bird habitat within the Project area was considered through the Natural Heritage Assessment process for the Belle River Wind Project, including waterfowl stopover and staging areas (terrestrial and aquatic) and shorebird migratory stopover areas. Potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures and contingency plans for all significant wildlife habitats identified through the Natural Heritage Evaluation of Significance are detailed within the Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study Report. Based on the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, monitoring programs and contingency plans identified in the Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study Report, there is unlikely to be any significant impacts to migratory bird habitat.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are there fewer bird strikes from wind turbines now than previously? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two main factors that have likely contributed to an apparent reduction in bird interactions at newer operational wind energy facilities. The first is that there is a greater understanding and knowledge of the potential impacts to birds, thus resulting in better turbine siting exercises to avoid significant corridors for species that may be at higher risk to collision with turbines. The second factor is the evolution from lattice-style turbine towers to smooth tubular towers. Lattice towers provide perching habitat for birds and, therefore, encouraged birds to spend increased amounts of time within the vicinity of operational turbines. Tubular towers do not have the same appeal or function for perching birds and, therefore, they reduce the potential interactions between birds and operational wind turbines.

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Effects on Natural Environment (continued)	<i>Natural Heritage Assessment and Monitoring</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you limit any effects on wildlife? Why conduct wildlife monitoring if there are no impacts on the environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Natural Heritage Assessment identifies potential impacts and recommends appropriate mitigation measures to avoid potential significant or long-term effects on wildlife and their habitat. Natural heritage requirements described in Sections 23 through 28 of O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, were followed when preparing the Natural Heritage Assessment and the subsequent environmental effects monitoring plan. Wildlife and wildlife habitat monitoring is required to ensure that the mitigation measures that are proposed work as intended.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The studies on the effect of wildlife are not long enough to have conclusive determinations. The impact on wetlands and woodlands are not addressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Natural Heritage Assessment was submitted to the MNR for review. The Natural Heritage Assessment identifies potential impacts to natural heritage features and recommends appropriate mitigation measures to avoid potential significant or long-term effects on wildlife and their habitat. Natural heritage requirements described in Sections 23 through 28 of O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, were followed when preparing the Natural Heritage Assessment and the subsequent environmental effects monitoring plan. Information on wildlife and their habitat was obtained through field studies as well as interviews with agencies and environmental organizations.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Belle River Wind doing to ensure impacts to wildlife are avoided and what plans are in place to monitor impacts during operations? Who will pay for to undertake monitoring and what is the plan if unanticipated impacts to wildlife occur? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural heritage requirements described in Sections 23 through 28 of O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, were followed when preparing the Natural Heritage Assessment. Specifically, Section 23.1 of O. Reg. 359/09 requires the preparation of an environmental effects monitoring plan according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's "Birds and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects" (2011) and "Bats and Bat Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Projects" (2011). Within the Natural Heritage Assessment, contingency measures are identified in case unanticipated impacts to wildlife and their habitats occur. Any financial burden associated with monitoring during operations and contingency measures is the responsibility of Belle River Wind.
	<i>Ground Contamination</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the ground be contaminated when you are done? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contamination of soil and groundwater is not anticipated. However, in the event of an environmental incident, emergency response and spill and waste control plans would be immediately implemented to protect groundwater and the environment. Further details are included in the Design and Operations Report.
	<i>Domestic Animal Health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are concerned about the effect of turbines on our animals (horses, goats, alpacas, cats and dog). Can you provide studies on the effects of turbines on animals? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been a limited number of studies on domestic and agricultural animals living in close proximity to wind turbines. The most comprehensive review was prepared for the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in 2012, entitled "The Impacts of Wind Power on Terrestrial Mammals". The report concludes that studies suggest that noise emissions from wind turbines have a limited impact on wildlife and livestock. Further in already disturbed areas, such as agricultural landscapes, wind turbines may not affect species to the same extent as they would in a more remote area. There have not been widespread reports of impacts on agricultural or domestic animals.
	<i>Effects of Vibration on Wildlife</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The turbine would act like an earthquake. Even the worms would move away from the constant turbulence and then the farm field around the turbine would become barren. How far would that extend? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vibration from the Project will be limited to construction activities which will be short-term and localized. No long-term potential effects are anticipated in the immediate vicinity of the turbines.
	<i>Water Bodies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the definition of a water body? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1.1 of the REA Regulation defines a "water body" as a lake, a permanent stream, an intermittent stream and a seepage area, but does not include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> grassed waterways; temporary channels for surface drainage, such as furrows or shallow channels that can be tilled and driven through; rock chutes and spillways; roadside ditches that do not contain a permanent or intermittent stream; temporary ponded areas that are normally farmed; dugout ponds; and artificial bodies of water intended for storage, treatment or recirculation of runoff from animal yards, manure storage facilities and sites and outdoor confinement areas.

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Public Health and Safety	<i>Effect of Turbines on Human Health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about potential health effects from wind turbines (e.g., disruptions to sleep, noise). Would like to see a copy of recent Health Studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Canada published a study on November 6, 2014 (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/noise-bruit/turbine-eoliennes/summary-resume-eng.php) that determined noise from wind turbines did not have any measurable effect on illness and chronic disease, stress, quality of sleep or overall quality of life. The findings from the Health Canada study and field research are consistent with a recent report commissioned through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) which provides one of the most comprehensive and multidisciplinary reviews of the scientific literature on wind turbines and human health to date. The MIT paper, entitled "Wind Turbines and Health: A Critical Review of the Scientific Literature" concludes that the levels of infrasound at customary setback distances are typically below audibility, there is no clear or consistent association between noise and health, infrasound and low frequency sound do not present health risks, and noise plays a minor role in comparison with other factors in leading people to report annoyance. Many studies have been conducted world-wide to examine the relationship between wind turbines and possible human health effects. Overall, health and medical agencies agree that when sited properly, wind turbines are not causally related to adverse health effects. Some examples of such reports include: Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit, 2008; Australian Government, National Health and Medical Research Council, 2010; Australian Government, 2011; Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), 2012.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about shadow flicker and the strobe light effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shadow flicker refers to the movement of the shadow of a rotating turbine rotor and only occurs when the sun is low in the sky (e.g., shortly after sunrise or shortly before sunset). Wind turbine setbacks have been designed by the Government of Ontario to minimize the potential for health impacts and protect public safety.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will there be any radiation from turbines (e.g., electromagnetic frequency ("EMF"))? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind turbines themselves are not a significant source of EMF. EMF is emitted by current flowing through the power lines connecting the wind turbines to the power system – this is the same for all power lines and electronic devices.
	<i>Ice Throw</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it possible for turbines to throw ice? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to mitigate the potential effect of ice throw, wind turbines will be located on private property and meet (at a minimum) the setback distances from non-participating receptors (550 m) as well as roads (blade length plus 10 m) as outlined in O. Reg. 359/09, as amended. These setbacks are defined by the Government of Ontario to be protective of human health and safety. Further, wind turbines have a built-in safety mechanism to prevent ice throw; sensors located on the turbines will be able to detect ice build-up and turbines will be shut down if unsafe operating conditions arise.
	<i>Interference with Radar</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Canada stated in a press release that the turbines in the County of Essex interfere with weather radar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind will continue to consult with Environment Canada to understand how best to avoid any potential impacts of the Project on any meteorological equipment that might exist within the PSA.
Consultation Process	<i>Public Meeting Notice, Approach and Format</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The notice that was mailed looked like junk mail and was not clearly marked. The information provided in the mail was insufficient (the map was too small and not clearly labelled). Public Meeting #1 was only a "walk about" which is not good enough. A panel of experts would have been a better forum for Public Meeting #1. Public meeting #1 should have been held on a different date. There was a municipal council meeting on the same day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Project mailings were redesigned to provide better identification that the mailing contains "Important Information about the Belle River Wind Project". The notice for the public meeting adheres to the notice template included in the <i>Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals</i> (MOECC, 2013) and provides direction on where more information on the Project could be located. An open house format was selected because it allows attendees to process Project information at their own pace. This format also provides opportunities for one-on-one conversations with members of the Project team. Belle River Wind was not aware of a potential conflict on the day of the first Public Meeting and several members of municipal council attended the meeting. To ensure there were no conflicts, the second Public Meeting was scheduled on a date with no municipal council or committee meetings. Public Meeting materials are posted on the Project website following the meetings for those who cannot attend.

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Consultation Process (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why was Public Meeting #1 held if the location has not been determined and the plan will change? I would like copies of materials presented at the Public Meeting. There were limited copies of reports available at Public Meetings. I was told to access a copy of the reports online or at the local library. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early public involvement in the planning process is an important part of the REA process. Public Meetings provide an opportunity for the Project team to learn about the community's questions / concerns and solicit input from the community to inform the Project decision making. Information panels displayed at the Public Meetings are available on the Project website: www.belleriverwind.com. Copies of the reports were made available at the Public Meetings for reference purposes. The Draft REA Reports and Draft Site Plan Reports were made publically available for review at the Town of Lakeshore municipal office, the County of Essex municipal Office, the local Essex County Library (Lakeshore Branch) and on the Project website: www.belleriverwind.com.
	<i>Providing Feedback</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is not enough time given to study the information and provide feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind is committed to open dialogue with the community. The public is able to ask questions to the development team via email, phone, or through the Project website at any point. The Draft REA documents have been available for review by the public for 60 days before the second public meeting. The documents will remain on the project website and can be reviewed following the public meeting. Once the MOECC deems that the REA application is complete following submission, the Ministry will post the Project on the Environmental Registry and a minimum 30 day review period will begin. The public will have another opportunity at this time to provide feedback on the Project. Advertising for the public meeting was placed in local newspapers on the following dates: Turtle Island (March 18, 2015); Le Rampart (March 18, 2015); Lakeshore News (March 19, 2015) and, Essex Free Press (March 19 2015). On March 18, 2015, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities, local municipalities and government agencies were sent a letter and notice of the public meeting date and location. The notice was also mailed to approximately 10,000 land owners, residents and businesses within 550 m of the Project Location via Canada Post. On March 19, 2015 the notice was also posted on the Project website: www.belleriverwind.com.
	<i>Municipal Consultation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When did the Town of Lakeshore vote for the Project? It seems that Town council has approved the Project without informing the residents and giving us a vote. Council does not support any increase in wind turbines as they are representing the tax payers. The Town of Lakeshore put a moratorium on wind turbines, yet this is forced on us again. Is approval from the Town of Lakeshore needed in order for the Project to move ahead? Is this a "done deal"? Will the public get to vote on whether they want turbines in the area? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town of Lakeshore Council has provided resolutions endorsing the Project. These resolutions were made prior to the December 9, 2014 resolution to pass a moratorium on wind turbines. The December 9, 2014 resolution states that the moratorium will be on wind turbine projects that are not already supported by Council. As the planning process continues, Belle River Wind will continue to consult with both the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex. Several consultation opportunities with landowners, municipal governments and agencies have been provided to ensure that the community is able to participate in the planning process. Following the submission of the REA application, the MOECC is responsible for the approval of the Belle River Wind Project. An important part of the submission is the Municipal Consultation Form, which is completed by each municipality and documents the municipality's comments on the proposed Project. Belle River Wind is committed to ongoing consultation with the community. The layout of the Belle River Wind Project has changed based on feedback received from the public. Specifically, there are no longer any turbines north of County Road 42, which was originally included in the PSA. Community, agency, and municipal comments received have been documented in this Consultation Report and will be considered by the MOECC in their review of the REA application.

Table 4-1: Summary of Public Comments

Theme	Topic	Comments / Questions Received	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Construction and Operations	<i>Project Schedule</i>	• What is the timing of the Project?	• It is anticipated that the REA application will be submitted to the MOECC in the spring of 2015. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2016 and the operation phase is anticipated to begin in 2017.
		• What is the life span?	• The Project is anticipated to be operational for 20 years until 2037.
		• Is there any extension for the Project?	• There are no current plans to expand this Project.
	<i>Project Components</i>	• What is the capacity of the Belle River Wind Project?	• The total nameplate capacity of the Belle River Wind Project is 100 megawatts ("MW").
		• What height above grade of turbine generators and distance from highest point of blade rotation to grade?	• The height of the turbine nacelle, which encompasses the generator, is 99.5 m. The highest point of the blade from the base of the turbine is 154.5 m.
		• Will the roads be maintained during construction and operations?	• Belle River Wind will ensure that the public roads are maintained during construction. Refer to the Construction Plan Report for more information.
		• Using "as built" with concise measurements for placement as well as the marker posts during construction is extremely important.	• Comment noted.
	<i>Construction and Operations</i>	• Does the wind farm "take" power from the grid to turn blades, to power NAV lights or for communications? If so, is the public paying for this?	• If any aspect of the wind turbine operations require power from the grid, Belle River Wind covers that cost.
		• Why are some turbines not running for long periods of time?	• When a wind turbine is not running it is likely undergoing regular inspection or maintenance.
		• Who is responsible for decommissioning? Will it be stated in agreements to put aside a portion of funds to take down the turbines when the lease is done or in case of bankruptcy? • This is going to be monitored by whom and by what measures? • Will the turbines be kept in operation after their operational life or dismantled?	• Following the anticipated 20 year operational phase of the Project, the Project's lifespan may be extended, or it may be decommissioned depending on an economic evaluation at the time. If Belle River Wind makes the decision to decommission the Project, lands will be restored so that pre-existing land use (i.e., agriculture) can continue. Decommissioning will involve removing the wind turbine structures to the base of the foundation and excavating and backfilling the area with subsoil and topsoil. Any financial burden associated with the decommissioning of turbines is the responsibility of Belle River Wind. Belle River Wind will only get paid for the energy generated. Refer to the Decommissioning Report for more information.

5. Agency and Other Stakeholder Consultation Activities

Belle River Wind consulted with the agencies and other stakeholders listed below throughout the development of the Project:

Provincial:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs;
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry;
- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change;
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport;
- Ministry of Transportation; and
- Ontario Provincial Police.

Federal:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada;
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation;
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency;
- Canadian Wildlife Service;
- Environment Canada;
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- Health Canada;
- NAV Canada;
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and
- Transport Canada.

Conservation Authorities:

- Essex Region Conservation Authority; and
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

Pipeline Companies:

- Dundee Energy Limited;
- Enbridge Gas Distribution and Enbridge Pipelines Inc.; and
- Union Gas Limited.

Other Stakeholders

- Bird Studies Canada;
- Bell Canada;
- Blackburn Radio Inc.;
- Canadian Pacific Railway;
- Canadian National Railway;
- Country 95.7 FM;
- Essex Member of Parliament;
- Essex Member of Provincial Parliament;
- Hydro One Networks Inc.;
- Mix 96.7 FM;
- Rogers Communications;
- TELUS Communications Company; and
- Windsor Airport.

A list of the notices that were sent to these contacts and the dates they were sent is shown in **Table 3-1. Appendix C1a** contains the letters and notices that were provided to each agency and stakeholder.

Consultation activities, such as meetings and distribution of reports, are described in **Section 5.1** and correspondence with agencies and stakeholders is summarized in **Table 5-1. Appendix C1b** and **Appendix C2** contains records of correspondence agency and meetings.

5.1 Summary of Consultation Activities

5.1.1 Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

On August 20, 2014 the Draft PDR was sent to the MOECC Environmental Approvals Branch and the MOECC Windsor District along with the Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal. Based on the preliminary Project information provided, the Director of the MOECC provided the First Nation and Aboriginal Communities consultation list (see **Section 7** for more details).

Belle River Wind had a pre-submission meeting with the MOECC on October 1, 2014. At the meeting, Belle River Wind provided an overview of the work completed to date, a background on the history of the Project, the study area (including existing wind farms), feedback from the first public meeting, and possible changes to the project resulting from that meeting.

Belle River Wind had a follow-up meeting with the MOECC on February 12, 2015. Belle River Wind outlined that the Draft REA Reports were submitted to the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex for review on February 13, 2015. As well, Belle River Wind provided a timeline for future consultation events including when documents will be made available to the public and timing for the second public meeting. Additionally, timelines were provided for major Project events including MNRF and Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport (“MTCS”) approvals, Final REA submission and the start of construction.

On March 4, 2015 the Draft Site Plan Report was sent to the MOECC Environmental Approvals Branch along with the Notice of Draft Site Plan. The notice of the Draft REA Reports and Second Public Meeting was sent to the MOECC on March 18, 2015.

5.1.2 Essex Region Conservation Authority

On November 14, 2014, a meeting was held with Essex Region Conservation Authority (“ERCA”) to provide an overview of the Project and discuss ERCA’s permitting requirements. ERCA provided a description of the ERCA permitting process, their interests, and the process for obtaining information from the ERCA.

5.2 Summary of Agency and Stakeholder Correspondence

Table 5-1 presents a summary of key agency correspondence over the course of the Project and how Belle River Wind has responded to these comments. Copies of the correspondence are available in **Appendix C1b**.

Table 5-1: Summary of Key Agency and Stakeholder Correspondence

Date	Agency	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC)			
August 25, 2014	MOECC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch (“EAASIB”) is the lead for new projects. Contact information was provided for the EAASIB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project contact list was updated.
September 26, 2014	MOECC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A list of First Nation and Aboriginal Communities who have or may have treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the Project was sent by the Director of the Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the REA process, all of the First Nation and Aboriginal Communities identified by the Director (i.e., Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Caldwell First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Walpole Island First Nation) received project notifications. Belle River Wind also contacted the communities by phone and email with an offer to meet and discuss the Project.

Table 5-1: Summary of Key Agency and Stakeholder Correspondence

Date	Agency	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)			
October 7, 2014	MTCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MTCS confirmed there are no protected properties controlled by MTCS within the Project area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response required.
November 21, 2014	MTCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MTCS reviewed the report titled, <i>Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment - SP Belle River Wind LP, Belle River Wind Project, Various Lots and Concessions, Geographic Townships of Maidstone, Rochester and Tilbury West, Essex County, Ontario</i>. It was recommended that a Stage 2 archaeological assessment be performed for all areas that will be impacted by the proposed Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Stage 2 archaeological assessment was conducted and a report titled, <i>Belle River Wind Project Various Lots and Concessions Former Geographic Townships of Maidstone, Rochester and Tilbury West Now Town of Lakeshore Essex County, Ontario</i>, was submitted to the MTCS for review on February 5, 2015.
January 21, 2015	MTCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MTCS reviewed the report titled, <i>Heritage Impact Assessment - Belle River Wind Project Various Lots and Concessions Former Townships of Maidstone, Rochester and Tilbury West, Now Town of Lakeshore, Essex County, Ontario</i> and provided comments to be incorporated in the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revised Heritage Impact Assessment incorporating the recommendations and additional information requested by the MTCS was submitted to the MTCS.
March 13, 2015	MTCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MTCS reviewed the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment report titled, <i>Belle River Wind Project Various Lots and Concessions Former Geographic Townships of Maidstone, Rochester and Tilbury West Now Town of Lakeshore Essex County, Ontario</i> and provided a confirmation letter that the report and its recommendations were acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response required.
April 2, 2015	MTCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MTCS reviewed the report titled, <i>Heritage Impact Assessment - Belle River Wind Project Various Lots and Concessions Former Townships of Maidstone, Rochester and Tilbury West, Now Town of Lakeshore, Essex County, Ontario</i>. The MTCS is satisfied that the heritage assessment process and reporting are consistent with the applicable heritage assessment requirements established in Section 23 of o. Reg. 359/09, as amended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response required.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)			
September 11 and 19, 2014	MNRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MNRF confirmed that the District Office does not handle renewable energy projects and provided the contact for the Renewable Energy Co-ordinator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project contact list was updated.
October 10, 2014	MNRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MNRF provided available records relating to the Natural Heritage Assessment following a request on September 12, 2015 for background information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response required.
January 13, 2015	MNRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MNRF received the Natural Heritage Records Review Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revised Records Review Report was submitted to the MNRF on February 19, 2015 based on MNRF's comments, updated turbine specifications and a revised layout.
February 23, 2015	MNRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background information request relating to Species At Risk was submitted to the MNRF for available records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MNRF provided available Species At Risk records on March 20, 2015.
March 18, 2015	MNRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A conference call was held to discuss comments received on the Natural Heritage Records Review Report, Site Investigation, Evaluation of Significance, and Environmental Impact Study Reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments from MNRF were incorporated in the revised Natural Heritage Assessment reports.
March 19, 2015	MNRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MNRF provided confirmation of survey methods for Amphibian Breeding Habitats (Woodland). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey methods suggested by MNRF were incorporated in field work.

Table 5-1: Summary of Key Agency and Stakeholder Correspondence

Date	Agency	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)			
September 12, 2014	CWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWS provided available records relating to bird habitats and significant bird species following a request for background information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments from MNRF were incorporated in the Natural Heritage Assessment reports.
Bird Studies Canada (BSC)			
September 12, 2014	BSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background information request relating to bird habitats and significant bird species was submitted to BSC for available records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response was received from Bird Studies Canada.
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)			
March 21, 2015	DFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DFO provided available fish and mussel Species At Risk records following a request made on February 4, 2015 for background information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data received from DFO was incorporated in the REA reports.
Enbridge			
August 22, 2014	Enbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project Location is not within the Enbridge Gas Distribution franchise area; therefore, no comments will be provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response required.
CBC / Radio Canada			
September 17, 2014	CBC / Radio Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBC / Radio Canada provided the address to which to send Project information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project contact list was updated.
Hydro One			
September 23, 2014	Hydro One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed that Hydro One has high voltage transmission facilities within PSA. The affected transmission corridor may have provisions for future lines or already contain secondary land uses (i.e., pipelines, water mains, parking, etc.). Developments should not reduce line clearances or limit access to Hydro One facilities at any time in the PSA. Any construction activities must maintain the electrical clearance from the transmission line conductors as specified in the <i>Ontario Health and Safety Act</i> for the respective line voltage. The integrity of the structure foundations must be maintained at all times, with no disturbance of the earth around the poles, guy wires and tower footings. There must not be any grading, excavating, filling or other civil work close to the structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layout development considered comments from Hydro One Belle River Wind will continue to consult with Hydro One to ensure their infrastructure is not negatively affected by the Project.
Union Gas			
October 8, 2014	Union Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Gas maintains a large quantity of natural gas piping and underground facilities that may be in conflict with the Project. Union Gas requested notice when the plans for the wind farm have are final to analyze the potential effect of the turbines on underground infrastructure and complete any required protection activities. Pipeline protection activities should be completed at Belle River Wind's expense. It was recommended that a Customer Impact Assessment be added to the list of required permits and authorizations, and conducted 18 months before the anticipated start date for construction. As well, since this Project is likely to have a conflict with Union Gas piping, a Crossing Agreement should be developed once the Customer Impact Assessment has been completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind provided Union Gas with the Notice of the Draft Site Plan and Notice of Draft REA Reports and Second Public Meeting. Belle River will continue to consult Union Gas to determine if further permits or authorizations are required.

Table 5-1: Summary of Key Agency and Stakeholder Correspondence

Date	Agency	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)			
September 12, 2014	ERCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background information request relating to natural heritage and aquatic features was submitted to ERCA for available records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind included the information received when preparing the Natural Heritage Assessment Report.
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA)			
September 18, 2014	LTVCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area within the LTVCA's jurisdiction where the Project is proposed is subject to flooding under Regional Storm / Flood conditions. All transformers, substations and operations buildings will be required to be flood proofed to the minimum flood proofing elevation, with entrances into the wind turbine towers required to meet a minimum opening into the structure that is located above the known flood event for this area. Access roads are not to be elevated due to implications of restricting flows under flood flow conditions. A permit from this office is required for all structures requiring a minimum opening as well as for all culvert crossings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the circulation of the Draft PDR, it was determined that the Project Location is not within the jurisdiction of the LTCVA.
TELUS			
March 10, 2015	TELUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TELUS confirmed the correct contact person to whom to send Project notices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project contact list was updated.
Windsor International Airport			
March 14, 2015	Windsor International Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windsor International Airport requested information on the overall tower height and the placement of the towers that will be lit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about the proposed turbine technology and Project site plan were provided.
May 13, 2015	Windsor International Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windsor International Airport confirmed that the Project would not have any adverse impact on the airport. Windsor International Airport suggested that Belle River Wind should submit applications to NAV Canada and Transport Canada. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response required. Throughout the REA process, Belle River Wind has consulted with NAV Canada and Transport Canada to confirm permitting requirements.
Transport Canada			
April 10, 2015	Transport Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Canada outlined Acts administered by the agency that Belle River Wind should review to determine if the Project applies to the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i> ("CEAA 2012"). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Navigation Protection Act</i>, <i>Railway Safety Act</i> and <i>Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act</i> do not apply to the Belle River Wind Project nor will the Project interact with federal property.
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)			
March 25, 2015	CEAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEAA does not believe that the CEAA 2012 applies to the Project and the agency should be removed from the Project contact list. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project contact list was updated.

5.2.1 Description of How Comments were Considered

No concerns have been expressed to date by government agencies or other stakeholders that resulted in a need to make changes to the Project.

6. Municipal Consultation

The following describes consultation efforts with the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex. **Table 6-1** provides a summary of key municipal correspondence while **Appendix D1a** and **Appendix D1b** provide copies of notices, correspondence and the Municipal Consultation Forms provided to the municipalities. **Appendix D2** contains the minutes of meetings held with the Town of Lakeshore.

6.1 Notices and Report Distribution

6.1.1 *Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal, Municipal Consultation Form and Distribution of Draft Project Description Report*

The Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex were sent the combined Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal that was distributed to the public, agencies, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities and other stakeholders to notify them of Belle River Wind's plans to engage in a renewable energy project and to host the first public meeting in the Town of Lakeshore.

A Municipal Consultation Form was provided to the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex along with the Draft PDR on August 20, 2014. The form is intended to aid in highlighting key municipal issues associated with the Project. The Municipal Consultation Form was submitted to the municipalities 32 days before the first public meeting, in accordance with O. Reg. 359/09, as amended. Belle River Wind requested that the municipalities make the Draft PDR available at the municipal offices for public review.

6.1.2 *Distribution of Draft REA Reports*

Copies of all of the Draft REA Reports, with the exception of the Consultation Report, were delivered to the Town of Lakeshore and the County of Essex on February 13, 2015, more than 90 days prior to the second public meeting in accordance with O. Reg. 359/09, as amended. At the same time, a revised Municipal Consultation Form was provided to the municipalities for their review and comments. At the request of the Town of Lakeshore, a second copy of the Draft REA Reports was sent to the clerk on March 18, 2015.

Note, at the time of submitting the Consultation Report completed Municipal Consultation Forms had not been received from the Town of Lakeshore; however, on April 27, 2015 the Town of Lakeshore noted that they would provide a completed form in June, 2015.

6.1.3 *Notice of Draft Site Plan Report and Distribution of Draft Site Plan Report and Noise Impact Assessment*

In accordance with the amended O. Reg. 359/09, the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex received a copy of the Draft Site Plan Report and Noise Impact Assessment as well as the corresponding public notice. At the request of Belle River Wind, the municipalities made the Draft Site Plan Report available at the municipal offices for public review. At the request of the Town of Lakeshore, a second copy of the Draft Site Plan Report was sent to the Town's clerk on March 18, 2015.

6.1.4 Notice of Draft REA Reports and Second Public Meeting and Distribution of Summaries of REA Technical Reports for Aboriginal Communities

As per the amended O. Reg. 359/09, a notice was distributed to the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex on March 18, 2015 to notify them that the Draft REA Reports were being released for public review and that a second public meeting was scheduled. Along with the notice, a copy of the Summaries of REA Technical Reports for Aboriginal Communities document was sent to the municipalities. In addition, Belle River Wind requested that the municipalities make the Draft REA Reports, Summaries of REA Technical Reports for Aboriginal Communities and notice available at the municipal offices for public review.

6.2 Summary of Key Municipal Meetings

6.2.1 Town of Lakeshore

Belle River Wind met with the Town of Lakeshore's Mayor Bain and (now former) Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kirk Foran on April 25, 2014. The Project team requested the meeting to introduce the Belle River Project and the expected acquisition of the wind project formerly being developed by GDF Suez. During the meeting, the initial Project boundary was discussed along with the process for obtaining a municipal support resolution. Belle River Wind discussed Community Benefit Programs that were launched in four previous projects in Ontario and the desire to discuss similar programs with the Town of Lakeshore as part of the development process. The general timeline of the REA and construction activities was also discussed.

Two meetings were held on September 25, 2014 with representatives of the Town of Lakeshore. At a meeting with Mayor Bain, the comments received at Public Meeting #1 and the Project status were discussed. The Mayor had received comments regarding the Project boundary on the western side and turbines north of Highway 42. At the second meeting with the Director of Community and Development Services Steve Salmons, and the Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Services (now CAO) Tom Touralias, the parties discussed the Project boundary, specifically with respect to studies occurring west of Belle River Road and north of Highway 42, and how this boundary was received at the Public Meeting. It was also explained to the Township that, while a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) had been signed, the Project must still comply with the REA requirements. Belle River Wind also provided a timeline on the REA, construction and expected commercial operation.

On November 13, 2014, Belle River Wind met with the Director of Community and Development Services Steve Salmons, and the Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Services (now CAO) Tom Touralias, at the Town of Lakeshore to let them know about plans to go ahead with work in the western portion of the Belle River PSA. The process for municipal drain permits was also discussed.

Belle River Wind met with Director of Community and Development Services Steve Salmons, Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Services (now CAO) Tom Touralias and Mayor Bain on February 5, 2015 to advise that the Draft REA Reports would be provided to the municipality within the next week and discuss the wind turbine layout.

Belle River Wind met with Director of Community and Development Services Steve Salmons and CAO Tom Touralias on March 10, 2015 to provide an update about the REA process and to discuss the wind turbine layout.

Belle River Wind met with Director of Community and Development Services Steve Salmons and CAO Tom Touralias on May 11, 2015 to provide an update about the REA process, a Road Use Agreements, Community Benefits Plan, and other development timelines.

6.2.2 County of Essex

The County of Essex did not request a meeting with Belle River Wind during the REA process, nor did they raise any concerns about the Project. The County of Essex suggested contacting the Town of Lakeshore regarding the Project and Belle River Wind committed to discussing with the County questions or concerns they may have in the future.

6.3 Summary of Key Municipal Correspondence

Table 6-1 presents a summary of key municipal correspondence over the course of the Project and how Belle River Wind has responded to these comments. Copies of the correspondence are available in **Appendix D1b**.

Table 6-1: Summary of Key Municipal Correspondence

Date	Municipality	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
August 21, 2014	Town of Lakeshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested an electronic copy of the Draft PDR and Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents requested were provided.
February 12, 2015	County of Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested to contact the staff of the Town of Lakeshore to arrange a meeting as the County of Essex is not involved in the day-to-day aspects of planning and development within the seven lower tier municipalities. If the Project will require the use of designated County roads to deliver oversized or overweight components, an approval and/or permits from the County's Road Department may be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind has been working closely with the Town of Lakeshore as suggested, and those discussions are going well. We are still happy to discuss and meet with anyone at the County if there are any questions, or if any discussion is desired.
March 5, 2015	Town of Lakeshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning Department requested an electronic copy of the Draft REA Reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents requested were provided.
March 9, 2015	Town of Lakeshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk requested a second hardcopy of the Draft Site Plan Report and Draft REA Reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents requested were provided.
April 27, 2015	Town of Lakeshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed that the Draft REA Reports were received and feedback through the Municipal Consultation Form will be provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response required.
May 25, 2015	County of Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind provided an update on Public Meeting #2 and asked for confirmation that the County of Essex will not provide a Municipal Consultation Form for the Belle River Wind Project.

6.3.1 Description of How Comments were Considered

Through consultation with the Town of Lakeshore and County of Essex it was determined that the Town of Lakeshore was concerned with the proximity of the Project Location to residential areas. Belle River Wind modified the Project Location to minimize disturbance to residential areas while complying with provincial setback regulations. Refer to **Section 8** for a summary of the changes made to the Project and the rationale on how the change addresses the comments received.

7. First Nation and Aboriginal Communities Consultation

7.1 Executive Summary

Consultation with First Nation and Aboriginal Communities occurred throughout the REA process and was conducted in accordance with the objectives outlined in the *Aboriginal Consultation Guide for Preparing a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Application* (MOECC, 2013b).

The location of the proposed Project in the Town of Lakeshore is within an area in southwestern Ontario that has First Nation and Aboriginal Communities that were identified as having potential Aboriginal rights or treaty rights by the MOECC. The following First Nation and Aboriginal Communities were identified by the Director of the MOECC as communities to consult with during the REA process:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia 45;
- Caldwell First Nation;
- Oneida Nation of the Thames, Oneida 41; and
- Walpole Island First Nation, Walpole Island 46, Bkejwanong Territory.

In addition, consultation activities that were undertaken with Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, whom were not listed by the Director of the MOECC but had shown interest in the Project, are also documented.

Table 7-1 provides a summary of key correspondence with First Nation and Aboriginal Communities and **Appendix E** provides copies of correspondence and notices provided to the First Nation and Aboriginal Communities.

7.2 Communities Engaged and Information Provided to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities

7.2.1 Communities Identified by the Ministry

Belle River Wind requested a list from the MOECC of First Nation and Aboriginal Communities who have, or may have, Aboriginal rights or treaty rights that may be adversely affected by the Project, or otherwise have an interest in the Project. On September 26, 2014, the MOECC confirmed the list of First Nation and Aboriginal Communities to be consulted (**Appendix E1a**). The following First Nation and Aboriginal Communities were identified by the Director of the MOECC as communities to consult with during the REA process:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia 45;
- Caldwell First Nation;
- Oneida Nation of the Thames, Oneida 41; and
- Walpole Island First Nation, Walpole Island 46, Bkejwanong Territory.

Belle River Wind ensured to consult with these communities throughout the REA process as well as the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation who expressed interest in the Project following the distribution of the Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal.

7.3 Summary of Information Distributed to Communities

7.3.1 *Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal as well as Distribution of Draft Project Description Report*

The Notice of Public Meeting and Proposal was distributed to the following First Nation and Aboriginal Communities on August 20, 2014 along with a cover letter to notify them of Belle River Wind's plans to engage in a renewable energy project and to host the first public meeting in the Town of Lakeshore:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation;
- Walpole Island First Nation (Bkejwanong First Nation);
- Caldwell First Nation;
- Chippewas of the Thames First Nation;
- Delaware Nation (Moravian of the Thames);
- Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council;
- Métis Nation of Ontario;
- Munsee-Delaware First Nation;
- Oneida Nation of the Thames Oneida; and
- Windsor Essex Kent Métis Council.

The cover letter identified that the purpose of the notice was to share information regarding the Project and to obtain information related to any Aboriginal rights or treaty rights or interests that needed to be considered during project development. The cover letter also asked the communities to confirm whether they were interested in meeting to discuss the Project.

In addition to the notice, each First Nation and Aboriginal Community received a copy of the Draft PDR more than 30 days prior to Public Meeting #1 in accordance with O. Reg. 359/09, as amended. Furthermore, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities were encouraged to make a copy available in a Band Office or suitable place for members to review the Draft PDR.

Once the list of First Nation and Aboriginal Communities was received from the Director of the MOECC, all subsequent notices were delivered to the communities identified in the Director's list in addition to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities that expressed an interest in the Project.

7.3.2 *Notice of Draft Site Plan Report and Distribution of Draft Site Plan Report*

First Nation and Aboriginal Communities were notified that the Draft Site Plan Report was completed on March 4, 2015. In accordance with O. Reg. 359/09, as amended, the notice and covering letter along with a copy of the Draft Site Plan Report and Noise Impact Assessment were sent to all First Nation and Aboriginal Communities identified by the MOECC. The notice and the Draft Site Plan Report were also sent to Chippewas of the Thames First Nation as the community indicated that it would like to receive Project information.

7.3.3 *Notice of Draft REA Reports and Second Public Meeting, Distribution of Draft REA Reports and Summaries of REA Technical Reports for First Nation and Aboriginal Communities*

As per the amended O. Reg. 359/09, a notice and cover letter were distributed to communities on the MOECC First Nation and Aboriginal Communities consultation list and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation on March 18, 2015 to notify them that the Draft REA Reports were available for review and that a second public meeting was scheduled.

Hardcopies of the Draft REA Reports were sent to each community on the MOECC First Nation and Aboriginal Communities consultation list for review and comment more than 60 days prior to the second public meeting. The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation were sent a digital copy of the Draft REA Reports on a CD. The Summaries

of REA Technical Reports for Aboriginal Communities was also sent to all of the communities at the same time. First Nation and Aboriginal Communities were encouraged to make these documents available to their members to review, if desired.

Additional letters were sent on May 9, 2015 to the First Nation and Aboriginal Communities to follow-up on the Notice of Draft REA Reports and Second Public Meeting for the Belle River Wind Project. The letters reminded the communities about the second Public Meeting and requested that the communities provide:

- Any information that should be considered in the final Project documentation;
- Any information about potential adverse impacts on your Aboriginal rights or treaty rights; and
- Any suggested measures for avoiding, minimizing or mitigating potential adverse impacts.

7.4 Summary of Information Obtained from First Nation and Aboriginal Communities

The sections below present a summary of key correspondence from First Nation and Aboriginal Communities over the course of the Project and how Belle River Wind has responded to these comments by community. **Appendix E1b** and **Appendix E1c** contain copies of notices provided to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities and records of correspondence.

Each of the notice letters provided to First Nation and Aboriginal Communities included an offer for the Project team to meet with First Nation and Aboriginal Communities to discuss their interests in the Project.

7.4.1 Walpole Island First Nation

Correspondence with Walpole Island First Nation is described in **Table 7-1**.

Table 7-1: Summary of Walpole Island First Nation Correspondence

Date	Contact	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
August 27, 2014	Jared Macbeth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walpole Island First Nation is interested in having some community members to act as archaeological field monitors in Project studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members from Walpole Island First Nation were invited to participate in future archaeological field assessments for the Project.
October 15, 2014	Dean Jacobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walpole Island First Nation is interested in the Project as it will be located in the heart of their traditional territory. Belle River Wind was invited to a meeting with members of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belle River Wind met with representatives of Walpole Island First Nation on November 18, 2014. See Section 7.4.1.1 for details.

7.4.1.1 Walpole Island First Nation Meeting

On November 18, 2014, members of the Project team met with representatives from Walpole Island First Nation at the Walpole Island Heritage Centre. Project team members addressed questions from Walpole Island First Nation and committed to future meetings with the community, if desired.

7.4.2 Caldwell First Nation

Correspondence with Caldwell First Nation is described in **Table 7-2**.

Table 7-2: Summary of Caldwell First Nation Correspondence

Date	Contact	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
August 27, 2014	Chief Hillier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief requested information on the Project. Caldwell First Nation is interested in having some community members to act as archaeological field monitors in Project studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Draft PDR was couriered to Chief Hillier on September 19, 2014 as well as provided digitally on September 15, 2014. Members from Caldwell First Nation were invited to participate in future archaeological field assessments for the Project.
February 23, 2015	Chief Hillier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the proposed depth of transmission line poles for the Belle River Wind Project? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The approximate depth of the transmission poles will be 10 metres, regardless of the material used for the poles. This depth will ensure that the poles are secure and can withstand strong winds and other adverse weather.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could Belle River Wind please confirm if any of the specialists completing the field work for the Natural Heritage Assessment Report and Water Assessment Report are members of a First Nation and Aboriginal Community in Ontario? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The field work for the Natural Heritage Assessment Report and Water Assessment Report was completed by Natural Resource Solution Inc. (NRSI). None of the NRSI staff that completed the field work are members of a First Nation and Aboriginal Community.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could Belle River Wind please confirm how many employees hired to work in the Samsung manufacturing plants in Ontario are members of a First Nation and Aboriginal Community? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the Commercial Agreement that Samsung signed with the Government of Ontario in January, 2010 and updated in June 2013, Samsung opened four new manufacturing facilities to produce renewable energy components for Ontario and for export to markets around the world. Samsung is committed to supporting diversity within the workplace. While Samsung employs individuals from diverse backgrounds, there are no available statistics to report on the number of employees at those facilities that are members of First Nation and Aboriginal Communities in Ontario. We would be pleased to let your community know of any future employment opportunities at those facilities and at our proposed wind projects.

7.4.2.1 Caldwell First Nation Meeting

On February 23, 2015, members of the Project team met with Chief Hillier and Council representatives from the Caldwell First Nation. An overview of the Project and activity to date including field work and findings, consultation activities, schedule and opportunities for further engagement were discussed at the meeting. The Chief and Council asked several questions pertaining to the Project which Belle River Wind addressed accordingly (see **Table 7-2**). Chief Hillier expressed that Caldwell First Nation would like the Project to create jobs in the community and provide training opportunities for community members. On May 6, 2015, Belle River Wind responded to the questions from the Chief and Council in a letter to Chief Hillier.

7.4.3 Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Correspondence with Aamjiwnaang First Nation is described in **Table 7-3**.

Table 7-3: Summary of Aamjiwnaang First Nation Correspondence

Date	Contact	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
August 27, 2014	Sharilyn Johnston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aamjiwnaang First Nation is interested in participating in archaeological field monitoring through its agent, Tri-Tribal Monitoring Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members from Aamjiwnaang First Nation were invited to participate in future archaeological field assessments for the Project
October 14, 2014	Bonnie Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for information in the Stage 2 archaeological assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 18, 2015 the Draft REA Reports, which included the Archaeological Assessments and the Summaries of REA Technical Reports were provided.

7.4.3.1 Aamjiwnaang First Nation Meeting

No meetings were requested by the Aamjiwnaang First Nation regarding their interests in the proposed Project. Project notices continued to be sent to the community throughout the REA process, each of which included an offer to meet with members of the project team to discuss their interests.

7.4.4 Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation

Oneida Nation of the Thames was included as a community on the MOECC First Nation and Aboriginal Communities list. The community was sent each of the notices and reports identified in **Section 7.3** and were invited to participate in archaeological field monitoring on September 9, 2014. The community, however, provided no comments regarding the proposed Project. In addition, no meetings were requested regarding their Aboriginal rights or treaty interests in the Project.

7.4.5 Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

Correspondence with the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation is described in **Table 7-4**.

Table 7-4: Summary of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Correspondence

Date	Contact	Questions / Comments	Belle River Wind's Consideration and Response to Comments Received
August 27, 2014	Rolanda Elijah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation were invited to participate in future archaeological field assessments for the Project
October 9, 2014	Chief Joe Miskokmon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to be kept informed about the Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle River Wind continued to keep Chippewas of the Thames First Nation informed through notices throughout the REA process.

7.4.5.1 Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Meeting

On October 9, 2014 the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation requested information about the project and the opportunity to discuss their interests with Belle River Wind. Project notices continued to be sent to the community throughout the REA process, each of which included an offer to meet with members of the project team to discuss their interests. No response was received by the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

7.4.6 Consultation with Other First Nation and Aboriginal Communities

Delaware Nation and Munsee-Delaware First Nation were invited to participate in archaeological field monitoring prior to receiving the First Nation and Aboriginal Communities consultation list from the Director of the MOECC. Neither of these communities expressed interest in participating in the field monitoring and no comments were received regarding the proposed Project.

7.5 Summary of Responses to Concerns Heard

Table 7-1, Table 7-2, Table 7-3 and Table 7-4 present summaries of key correspondence with First Nation and Aboriginal Communities over the course of the Project and how Belle River Wind has responded to these comments. Copies of the correspondence and the minutes of meetings held with Walpole Island First Nation and Caldwell First Nation are available in **Appendix E1c** and **Appendix E2**.

7.6 Working with the Communities to Address Their Interests

Belle River Wind is committed to engaging interested First Nation and Aboriginal Communities regarding the Project, including identifying potential employment opportunities. Belle River Wind will continue to notify the First Nation and Aboriginal Communities on the MOECC's First Nation and Aboriginal Communities consultation list, along with Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, about project updates regarding permitting, construction, and operation.

8. Consideration of Feedback Received

8.1 Changes to Project Layout

The Project evolved throughout the planning process to address opportunities and concerns from various studies, the public, and the Town of Lakeshore. The majority of comments received throughout the Project planning process were general comments or concerns related to wind energy. Belle River Wind responded to these questions and concerns directly via email, telephone calls, conversations at Public Meetings and individual meetings. The following table outlines Belle River Wind's consideration of stakeholder comments received specifically related to the Project layout and associated alterations to the Project layout. Comments were considered throughout the planning process to minimize any effects or perceived effects.

Table 8-1: Summary of Project Alterations in Response to Comments

Topic	Alteration and Rationale
Concerns about the location of wind turbines in proximity to residential areas.	Belle River Wind reduced the size of the PSA based on consultation with the Town of Lakeshore and comments received from the public. The PSA boundary was moved to of County Road 42 and away from the community of Belle River to address concerns raised about potential noise impacts and future impacts on development opportunities within the community.
Impact of turbines on airports and aerodromes.	Wind turbine siting took into account the location of a private air strip to avoid potential interference with radar communication.
Adherence to sound regulations.	The Project has been designed to adhere to all applicable regulations, including those for sound.

9. Future Consultation

Following submission of the REA application to MOECC, Belle River Wind will continue to respond to correspondence received regarding the Project, including correspondence received from the Project email address or directly received by the Project team. As required, Belle River Wind will continue to discuss the Project with agencies, First Nation and Aboriginal Communities, the public and other stakeholders.

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