

Glen Tomkinson
Penn Energy Renewables, LTD
620 Righters Ferry Road
Bala Cynwyd PA 19004
Phone:(610) 668-0300 x1000
Fax:(610) 668-0365

February 8, 2013

Dear Mr. Tomkinson:

RE: Winter Raptor Survey Results for Roseplain Solar Facility

The Natural Heritage Assessment – Environmental Impact Study Report for the Penn Energy – Roseplain Solar Energy Facility prepared by Niblett Environmental Associates Inc. (NEA) indicated that a pre-construction winter raptor survey was required. The significant wildlife habitat (SWH) reference number in the report was SWH04. The pre-construction surveys were to take place during the winter of 2012-2013 and would focus on this area and the surrounding lands. If the site does not meet the *SWH Ecoregion 6E Criterion Schedule (SWHECS)*; then no post-construction monitoring will be required for this project.

The following letter report provides a summary of pre-construction monitoring methodologies, results and a conclusion to the presence/absence of a Raptor Wintering Area. This work was completed by Bowfin between December 30, 2012 and January 27, 2013.

Methodology

The methodology was developed by NEA in consultation with MNR. Prior to completing the work, Bowfin contacted MNR to confirm the methodologies and intent of the monitoring. The pre-construction survey consisted of a minimum of three visits to be completed during the month of January, approximately 10 days apart. The potential need to deviate slightly on the timeline (last few days of December) was discussed and accepted by MNR. As outlined above, the goal of the monitoring was to determine if the

area identified as SWH04 meets the SWHECS criteria for Ecoregion 6E with particular attention given to the woodlands scheduled to be removed (identified as such on Figure 1). If the number and species of raptors meet the guidelines during the January visits, then three additional visits would be required during the month of February.

The methods consisted of conducting observations from two fixed points and walking transects within the study area. The location of fixed points and transects are identified on Figure 1. At each point and during the walk, binoculars and/or spotting scope, as suitable, were used to locate raptors. When a raptor was observed, it was identified (where possible) and the number, location and behaviour were recorded. Each visit was to last a minimum of 30 minutes.

Results

Three winter raptor visits were completed between the end of December 2012 and end of January 2013 (Table 1).

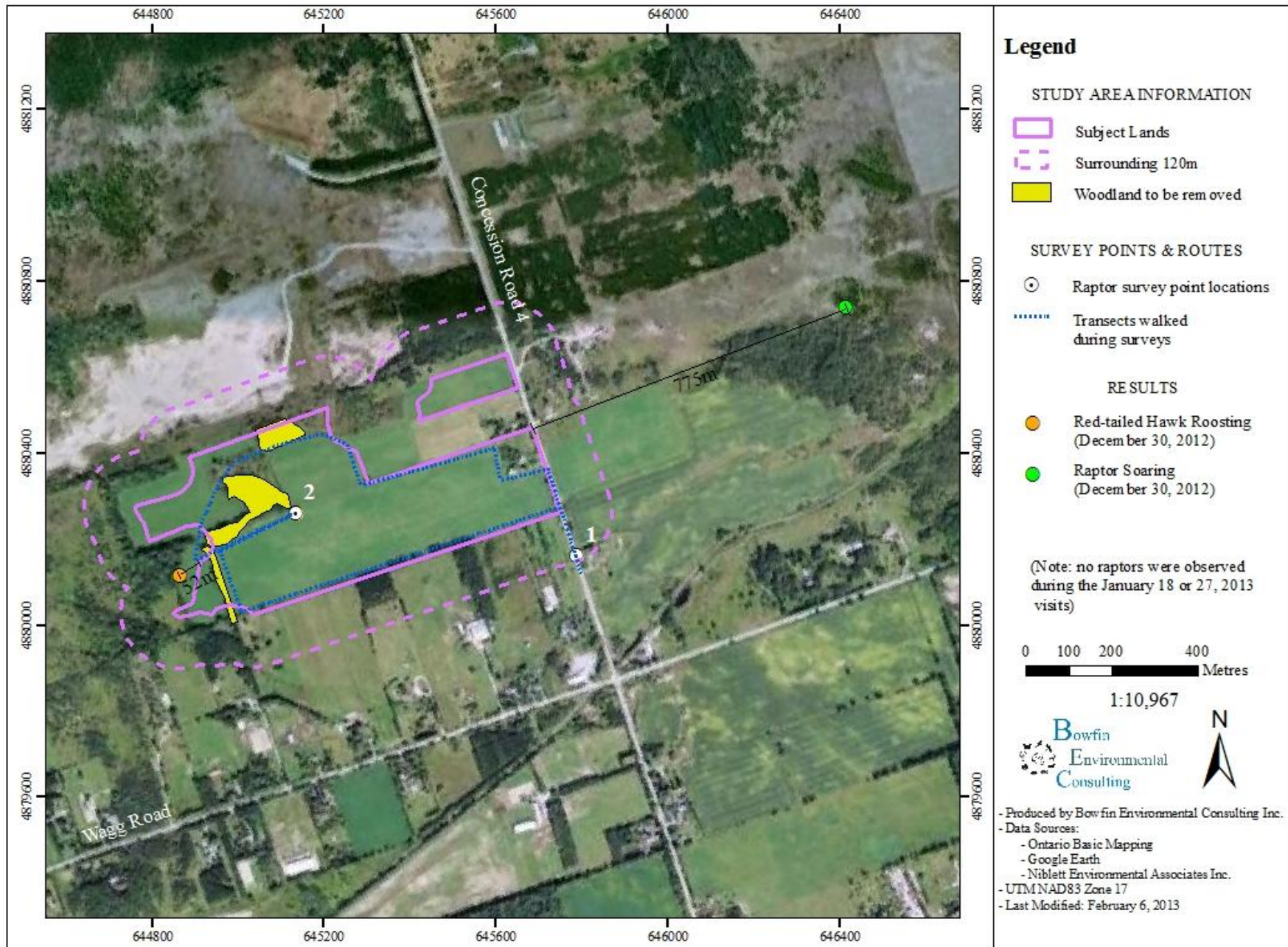
Table 1 Site Visit Summary

Date	Start Time	End Time	Staff	Staff Hours	Air Temperature (°C)	Weather
December 30 2012	1050	1300	Michelle Lavictoire	2 hours	-8	Sunny Light to moderate breeze (Beaufort scale 2-3) No clouds changing to 25% clouds at the end of the visit.
January 18, 2013	1500	1640	Rob Willson Dianna Wolfe	1.7 hours	-6 to -7	Light to moderate breeze (Beaufort Scale 2-3)
January 27, 2013	1100	1230	Michelle Lavictoire	1.5 hours	-7	Sunny Little wind (Beaufort Scale 1) 5% clouds

Michelle (Nunas) Lavictoire – M.Sc. Natural Resources

Rob Willson – M.sc Zoology

Figure 1 Study Area and Location of Survey Points and Raptor Observations



The three field visits were completed on days with good survey conditions (low wind speeds, seasonal air temperatures and no precipitation). The visits were conducted during the appropriate time of year and were spaced approximately 10 days apart.

With the exception of the one Red-tailed Hawk noted on December 30th roosting outside of the project location, no raptors were noted within the study area. This hawk was located in a deciduous tree situated 52 m from the project location and approximately 78 m from the nearest woodland to be removed. An additional raptor sighting was also noted during the December visit; this individual was seen soaring over the coniferous forest located approximately 775 m to the east of the project location. These sightings and their distances from the project location are shown on Figure 1. No raptor sightings were noted during either the January 18th or 27th visits.

Incidental wildlife notes included: crow, mourning doves and pine grosbeaks. Tracks belonging to cottontail rabbit, deer and wild turkeys were also noted.

Conclusion

In order for an area to be confirmed as a SWH for Raptor Wintering Area it must meet the SWHECS defining criteria which consist of the area being used by:

- One or more Short-eared Owls (MNR indicated that there was no potential for this species at this site); or
- At least 10 individuals or two or more of the following species:
 - Rough-legged Hawk
 - Red-tailed Hawk
 - Northern Harrier
 - American Kestrel
 - Snowy Owl

In addition to the above it must also:

- Be used regularly (3 in 5 years) for a minimum of 20 days by the above number and species of birds

The presence of the one Red-tailed Hawk within the study area and the one soaring hawk to the east is not sufficient to meet the SWHEC criteria. This was confirmed during email correspondence between MNR and Bowfin on January 28, 2013 (appended to the

end of this letter). During this exchange MNR confirmed that no visits would be required in February.

As such, it is concluded that SWH04 does not provide SWH Raptor Wintering Area and no further monitoring or mitigation measures are required.

Yours Sincerely,



Michelle Lavictoire
Biologist/Principal

Correspondences

From: Halloran, Joe (MNR) [mailto:Joe.Halloran@ontario.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 10:33 AM
To: michelle lavictoire
Cc: Max Frable; Glen Tomkinson; Beal, Jim (MNR)
Subject: RE: winter raptor survey results - Roseplain Solar Energy Facility

Hi Michelle,

Based on the results of the first three surveys, no further surveys in February are required.

Please send through the monitoring report at your earliest convenience for our records.

Thanks for the update.

Joe Halloran
Renewable Energy Planning Ecologist
Ministry of Natural Resources
Ph: 705-755-3225
joe.halloran@ontario.ca

From: michelle lavictoire [mailto:michelle.bowfin@cogeco.net]
Sent: January 28, 2013 10:27 AM
To: Halloran, Joe (MNR)
Cc: Max Frable; Glen Tomkinson
Subject: winter raptor survey results - Roseplain Solar Energy Facility

Hello Joe

I hope that all is going well.

As per the agreement, three winter raptor site visits were conducted for the Roseplain Solar energy Facility (located near Goodwood Ontario). The site visits were completed on December 30, January 18 and January 27. The only raptor noted within the study area was one red-tailed hawk noted outside of the project location but within the surrounding 120m (roosting). Another raptor was noted flying far off in the distance to the east (please see the attached jpeg). Since these sightings do not meet the raptor wintering area defining criteria of the SWH criteria we are not planning on completing any additional surveys in February. Please confirm that this is acceptable. A monitoring report will be prepared and sent out shortly.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Bowfin Environmental Consulting Inc.
168 Montreal Road
Cornwall, ON
Tel.: 613.935.6139
Fax: 613.935.6295

Glen Tomkinson

From: Halloran, Joe (MNR) [Joe.Halloran@ontario.ca]
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 1:08 PM
To: michelle lavictoire
Cc: Glen Tomkinson; Max Frable
Subject: RE: Roseplain Pre-construction monitoring report

Hi Michelle,

Thanks for sending through the pre-construction monitoring report for Raptor Wintering Areas.

This email confirms that the report meets the pre-construction commitments for Roseplain Solar.

Joe Halloran
Renewable Energy Planning Ecologist
Ministry of Natural Resources
Ph: 705-755-3225
joe.halloran@ontario.ca

From: michelle lavictoire [<mailto:michelle.bowfin@cogeco.net>]
Sent: February 7, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Halloran, Joe (MNR)
Cc: Glen Tomkinson; Max Frable
Subject: Roseplain Pre-construction monitoring report

Hello Joe

I hope that all is well.

Please find attached a copy of the letter report created for the winter raptor survey pre-construction monitoring of the Roseplain Solar Facility. Please confirm that this meets our deliverables for this project.

Sincerely,

Michelle

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Cornwall, ON
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area identified as SWH04 meets the SWHECS criteria for Ecoregion 6E with particular attention given to the woodlands scheduled to be removed (identified as such on Figure 1). If the number and species of raptors meet the guidelines during the January visits, then three additional visits would be required during the month of February.

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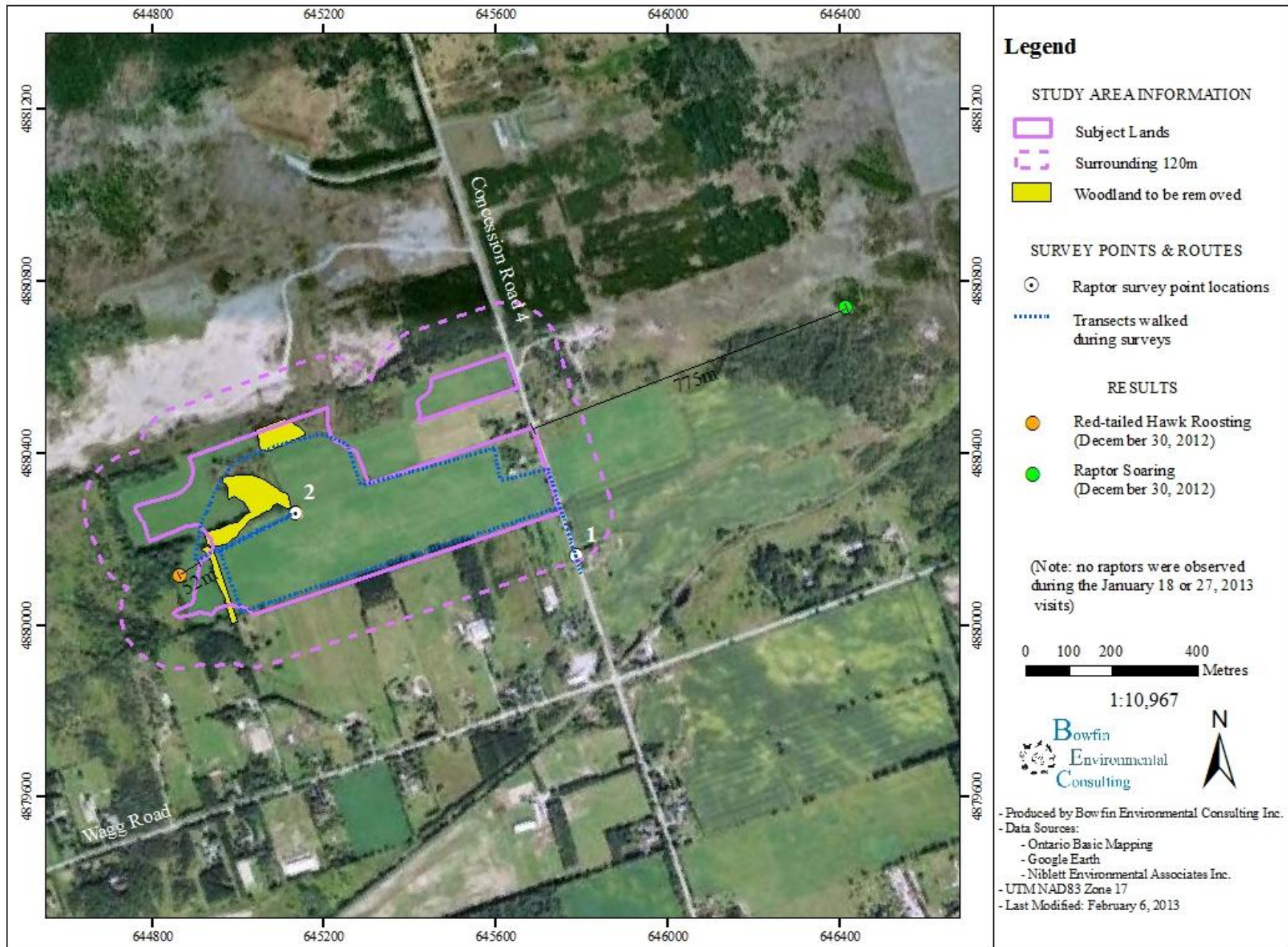
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Michelle Lavictoire
Biologist/Principal

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