



January 23, 2013

Sarah Raetsen Senior Program Support Coordinator Ministry of the Environment 2 St. Clair Avenue, Floor 12A Toronto, ON M4V 1L5

Dear Ms. Raetsen:

Subject: Proposed Technical Changes

Renewable Energy Approval (No. 5665-8YPKZU)

**Burk's Falls West Solar Project** 

Northland Power Inc. is proposing to develop and operate a 10-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (Solar PV) facility, on an approximately 40-hectares (ha) parcel of land, located south of Highway 520 at the border of Armour and Ryerson Townships, in the single tier municipality of Armour Township; herein referred to as "Burk's Fall West Solar Project" or the "Project". The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) issued a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) for the Project (No. 5665-8YPKZU) on November 21, 2012.

Verification of the previously delineated wetland boundaries was undertaken in the fall of 2012. As a result changes to the Project location have occurred.

This letter summarizes the proposed changes to the Project, including the rationale for each change, and identifies the amendments to each of the supporting documents prepared for the REA application to incorporate the proposed Project changes. This letter also provides an assessment of the potential for new negative effects not addressed in the initial REA supporting documentation. The revision does not affect any of the impacts or mitigation measures associated with the Project that have been outlined within the Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study for the Burk's Falls West Solar Project as all identified wetland setbacks contained within that report remain accurate with respect to the new revised boundaries. On the basis of this assessment, it has been determined that the proposed changes will not result in increased environmental effects, and therefore, that this constitutes a Project Design Change (Minor) Amendment.

#### 1. Proposed Project Changes

The proposed changes are as follows:

 Revised wetland boundaries located adjacent to the Magnetewan River, in the southern portion of the Project location, and corresponding revisions to the site plan.

The revised site plan is provided in Attachment A.

Table 1.1 provides a description of each proposed change, the rationale for the change, an assessment of potential for altered environmental effects and any additional mitigation or monitoring required.





Table 1.1 Table of Proposed Changes, Rationale for Change, Altered Effects and Additional Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

Change	Change Details	Rationale for Change	Altered Effect	Additional Mitigation Required	Additional Environmental Effects Monitoring
Wetland Boundaries	A re-assessment of the wetland boundaries, reduced the size of wetlands and revised the Project location.	The site layout has been optimized with respect to energy generation, constructability and cost.	Minor reduction in the amount of non-provincially significant wetland.	Yes	No

Overall, the proposed Project changes have minor additional negative effects not addressed in the original REA reports, however mitigation measures have been identified to minimize the effect. Other changes in site layout (e.g., solar panel locations) are not anticipated to result in any additional negative effects not discussed in the original REA application and supporting documents. Based on this, the proposed changes are determined to be Project Design Change (Minor) Amendment.

#### 2. Summary of Revisions to REA Supporting Documents

This section identifies the amendments to each of the supporting documents submitted with the original REA Application that are required to address the proposed Project changes.

The supporting documents that are amended by this letter include

- Project Description Report
- Construction Plan Report
- Design and Operations Report
- Water Body Records Review
- Water Body Site Investigation
- Water Body Environmental Impact Study.

The document "Field Study Report" Memorandum from M. Esraelian (Hatch) to A. Cameron (MNR)" and corresponding confirmation letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources amends the Natural Heritage Assessment reports for the Project (provided in Attachment F). Further, the proposed changes will not require additional mitigation measures than those proposed in the original REA Application supporting documents, as the changes will not infringe on any further significant features. Given this, a number of the REA supporting documents do not require revisions as a result of the proposed changes, including

- Decommissioning Plan Report
- Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessments
- Heritage Assessment Reports
- Protected Properties Assessment.





There have been no revisions to setbacks from identified waterbodies, while the defined setbacks from wetland communities remain the same. Mitigation measures proposed in the original REA application will continue to mitigate any potential negative impacts of the revised wetland boundaries.

The following sections identify the amendments to each of the REA supporting documents as a result of the proposed Project changes. For each amended report, a table is provided identifying the original text, the amended text and the original page and section of the text being amended. The tables provide the text submitted with the original REA application, the application to amend the REA and the most recent revisions in response to the currently proposed Project changes.

#### 2.1 Project Description Report

Table 2.1 identifies the amendments to the Project Description Report, as a result of the changes discussed in this letter.

Table 2.1 Project Description Report Amendments

Page	Section	Original Text	Amended Text
13	n/a	Project Location Map	See attached revised Project Location Map (Attachment B).

#### 2.2 Construction Plan Report

Table 2.2 identifies the amendments to the Construction Plan Report, as a result of the changes discussed in this letter.

Table 2.2 Construction Plan Report Amendments

Page	Section	Original Text	Amended Text
11	2.3.1.2	The proposed leased land has a woodland and several scattered trees	The proposed leased land has a woodland, a small portion of non-provincially significant wetland and several scattered trees
16	3.5	There will be some minor removal of natural vegetation required for the Project associated with the woodland on the Project location.	There will be some minor removal of natural vegetation required for the Project associated with the woodland and small non-provincially significant wetland on the Project location.
21	4.5	As was identified in Section 3.5, vegetation communities may be impacted by clearing of the woodland, accidental spills or movement of dust off site.	As was identified in Section 3.5, vegetation communities may be impacted by clearing of the woodland or non-provincially significant wetland, accidental spills or movement of dust off site.



Page	Section	Original Text	Amended Text
21	4.5	It is not possible to mitigate the impacts of clearing from the woodland. In order to minimize potential losses from surrounding vegetation communities, areas where clearing is required will be well marked, and workers will be instructed not to enter areas of natural vegetation. In addition, cleared and grubbed materials will be piled away from the surrounding woodlands, and trees will be felled into cleared areas. There will be no vegetation loss from the wetland as no construction activities will occur on or within a minimum of 5 m of the wetland.	It is not possible to mitigate the impacts of clearing from the woodland or non provincially-significant wetland. In order to minimize potential losses from surrounding vegetation communities, areas where clearing is required will be well marked, and workers will be instructed not to enter areas of natural vegetation. In addition, cleared and grubbed materials will be piled away from the surrounding woodlands and wetlands, and trees will be felled into cleared areas. There will be no vegetation loss from the provincially significant wetland as no construction activities will occur on or within a minimum of 5 m of the wetland.
29	Attachment A	Attachment A	See attached revised site plan (Attachment A).

#### 2.3 Design and Operations Report

Table 2.3 identifies the amendments to the Design and Operations Report, as a result of the changes discussed in this letter.

Table 2.3 Design and Operations Report Amendments

Page	Section	Original Text	Amended Text
23	Attachment A	Original Site Plan	See attached revised site plan (Attachment A).

#### 2.4 Water Body Records Review Report

Table 2.4 identifies the amendments to the Water Body Records Review Report as a result of the changes discussed in this letter.

Table 2.4 Water Body Records Report Amendments

Page	Section	Original Text	Amended Text
5	1.1	Figure 1.1	See attached revised Figure 1.1 (Attachment C).

#### 2.5 Water Body Site Investigation Report

Table 2.5 identifies the amendments to the Water Body Site Investigation Report as a result of the changes discussed in this letter.





Table 2.5 Water Body Site Report Amendments

Page	Section	Original Text	Amended Text
12	4.1.1.2	However, as noted in the Natural Heritage Site Investigation Report (Hatch Ltd., 2011b) the Wetland Swale A portion of this surface drainage feature does meet the definition of a wetland, since the community is dominated by wetland vegetation. Accordingly, as shown in Figure 1.1, the Project location does not encompass the portion of the feature identified as wetland.	Remove text; feature is no longer considered to be part of the provincially significant wetland.
19	Section 1.1	Figure 1.1	See attached revised Figure 1.1 (Attachment D).

#### 2.6 Water Body Environmental Impact Study

Table 2.6 identifies the amendments to the Water Body Environmental Impact Study Report as a result of the changes discussed in this letter.

Table 2.6 Water Body Environmental Impact Study Report Amendments

Page	Section	Original Text	Amended Text
9	Section 1.1	Figure 1.1	See attached revised Figure 1.1 (Attachment D).

Because the proposed changes as outlined in this letter do not result in any additional negative effects not addressed in the original REA application, it is our assessment that these proposed changes constitute a Project Design Change (Minor) Amendment.

Accordingly, we have notified via letter, the public, Aboriginal communities, the municipality and planning board about these proposed changes. The notification letters distributed on January 14, 2013 are included in Attachment E.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 905-374-0701, Ext. 5280.

Yours truly,

Sean Male

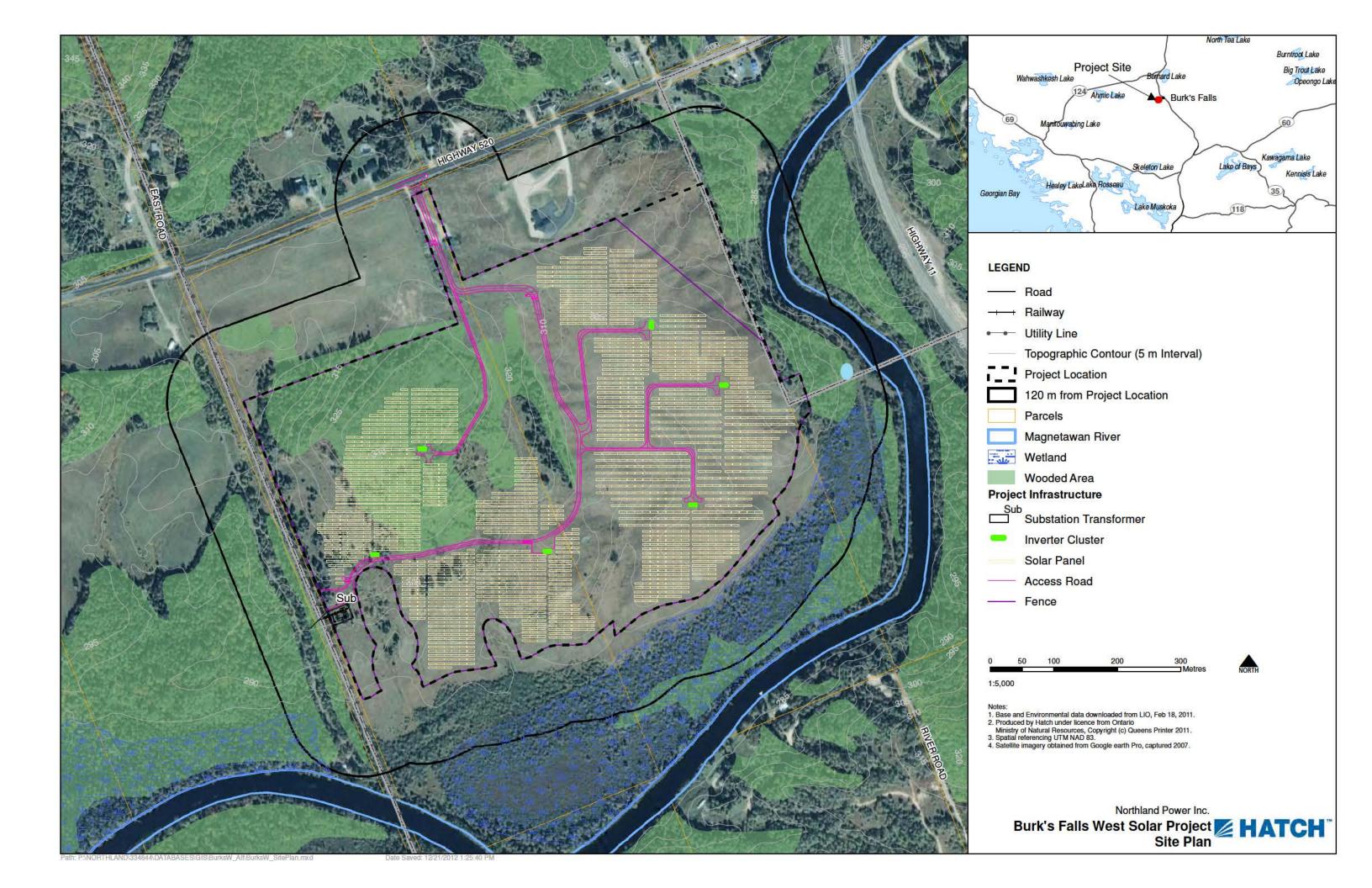
**Environmental Coordinator** 

SM:mg

cc: Rob Miller, Northland Power



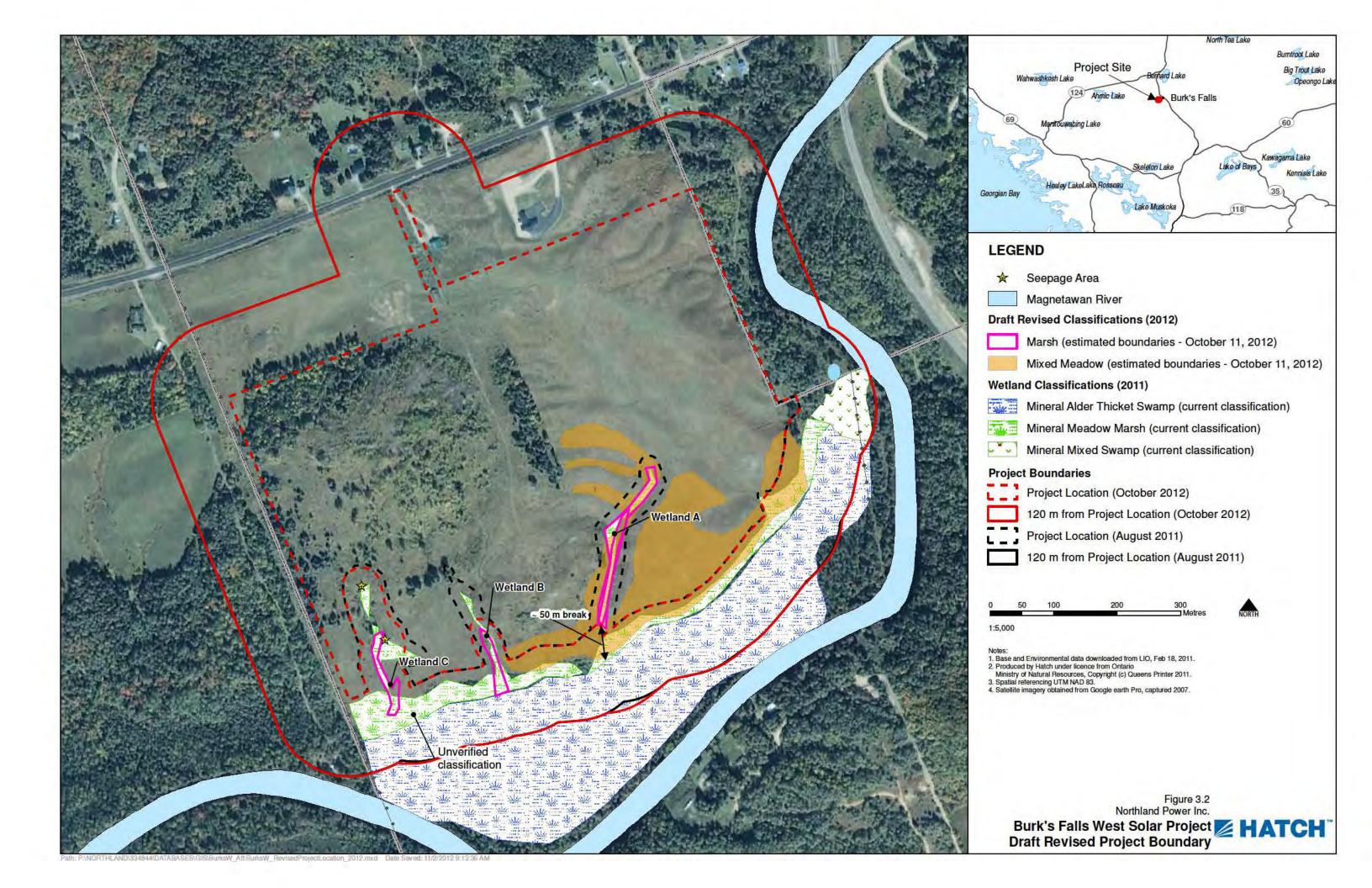
## Attachment A Revised Site Plan





# Attachment B Revised Project Boundaries

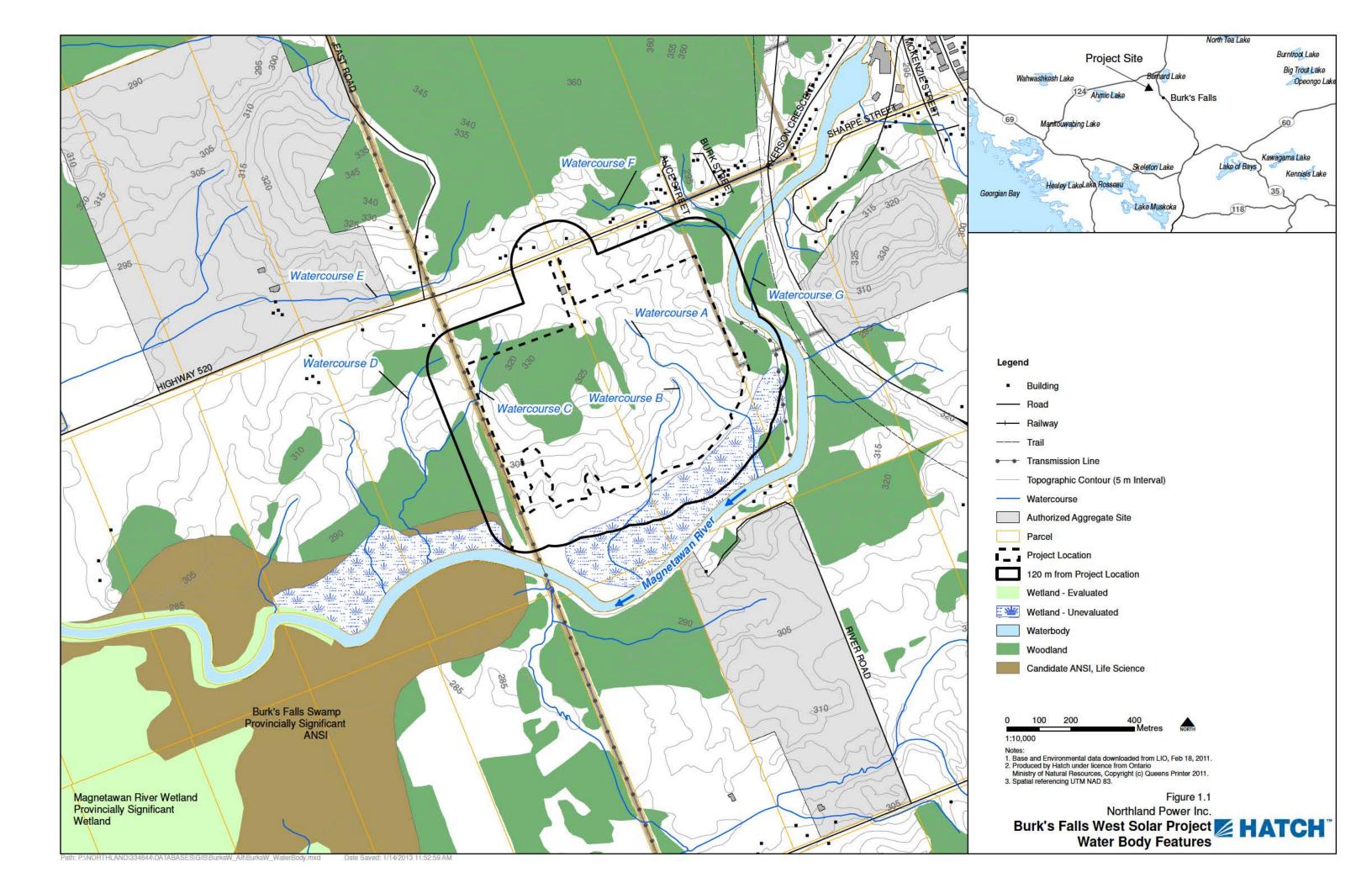






# Attachment C Revised Figure from Water Body Records Review Report



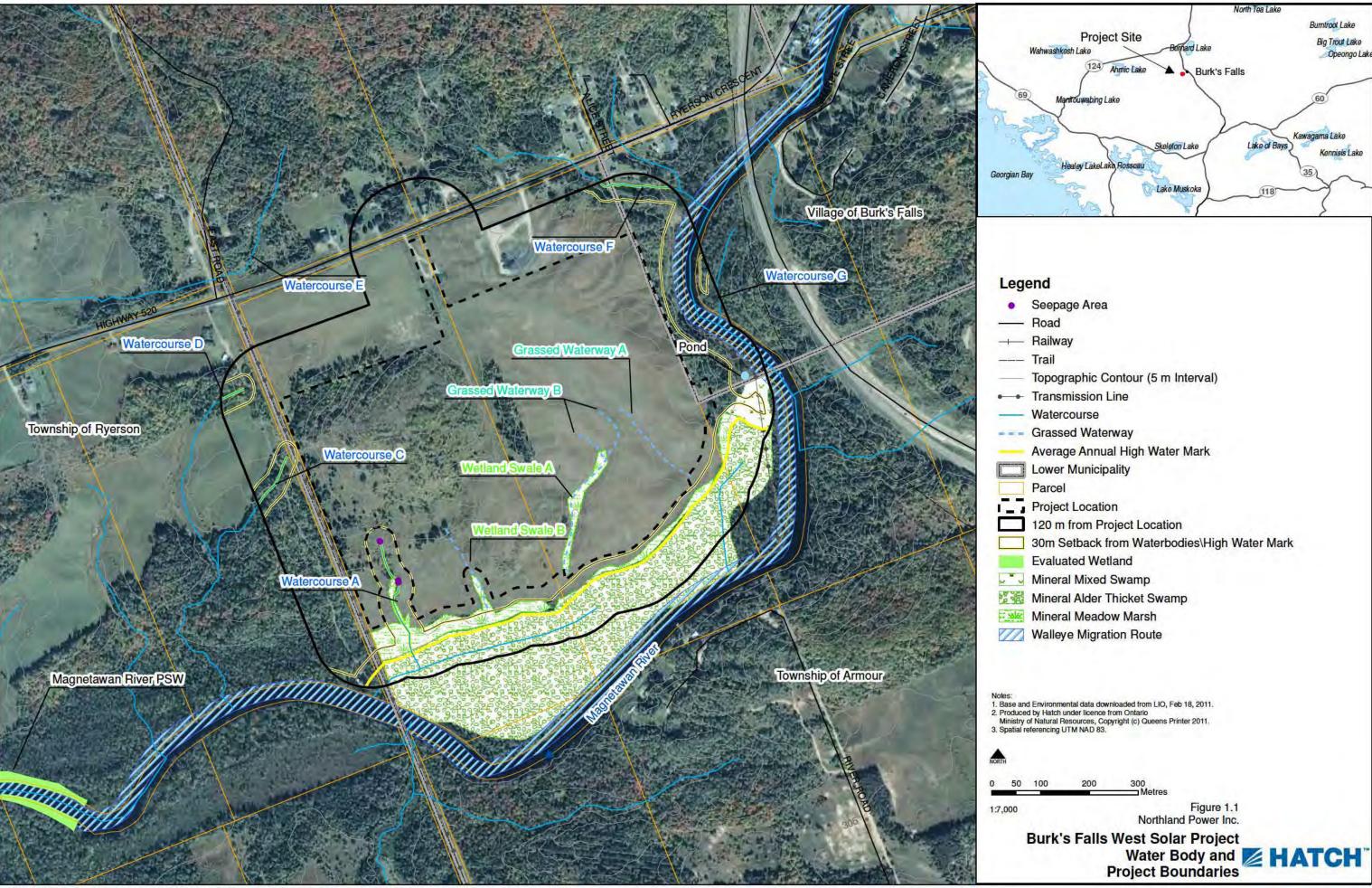




### **Attachment D**

Revised Figure from Water Body Site Investigation Report and Water Body Environmental Impact Study







# Attachment E Notification Letters





Vernon and Shirley Hewitt PO Box 662 Burk's Falls, ON POA 1C0

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

Notice of Project Change

As you are aware, Northland Power Solar Burk's Falls West L.P. is proposing to construct a solar project within the Township of Armour. The proposed project is named the Burk's Falls West Solar Project and will have an installed nominal capacity of 10 MW. This Project requires Renewable Energy Approval (REA) issued in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Environmental Protection Act Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09. Northland Power has retained Hatch to assist in fulfilling the requirements of the REA process.

This notice is provided to make you aware of a Project change. As identified in the attached figure, a further evaluation of the wetlands located adjacent to the Magnetewan River revised the Project location to reduce the size of the wetlands.

A memo detailing the evaluation of the wetlands and revised confirmation letter received from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is available online at: http://burksfallswest.northlandpower.ca/

A revised submission detailing any changes to the REA supporting documents to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment is to occur and will also be made available on the website.







Sean Male, Environmental Coordinator

Hatch Ltd.

4342 Queen St., Suite 500 Niagara Falls, ON, L2E 7J7

Phone: 905-374-0701, Ext 5280

Fax: 905-374-1157 Email: <u>smale@hatch.ca</u>

Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Rob Arnold PO Box 704 Burk's Falls, ON POA 1C0

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4342 Queen St., Suite 500 Niagara Falls, ON, L2E 7J7

Phone: 905-374-0701, Ext 5280

Fax: 905-374-1157 Email: <u>smale@hatch.ca</u>

Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Specialty Renovator Ltd. c/o Rhys Mannen 49 Lyfytt Cres. Barrie, ON L4N 7X5

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Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Tyler Armstrong PO Box 867 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Ontario Ministry of Transportation 447 McKeown Ave., Suite 301 North Bay, ON P1B 9S9

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Matthew Gall & Terri Lee Leclair c/o Myway Investments Ltd. 4140 Fairview Street, Burlington, ON L7L 4Y8

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William and Muriel Blackmore P.O. Box 28, Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Gary Cullingham 264 Highway 520, R. R. # 3, Burk's Falls, ON POA 1C0

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Sean Male SM:mg



Doris Dumais, Director Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch Ministry of the Environment 2 St. Clair Ave., W., 12A Floor Toronto, ON M4V 1L5

Dear Ms. Dumais:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

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Wendy Whitwell Clerk Township of Armour 56 Ontario Street, P.O.Box 533 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

Dear Ms. Whitwell:

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Brian Cameron, District Manager Ministry of the Environment Sudbury District Office Suite 1201, 199 Larch St. Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9

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Linda Moyer South East Parry Sound District Board 172 Ontario Street, PO Box 269 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Armour Township 56 Ontario Street, PO Box 533 Burk's Falls, ON POA 1C0

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Murison William Michael 300 Peggs Mountain Road, PO Box 644 Burk's Falls, ON POA 1C0

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Sean Male, Environmental Coordinator

Hatch Ltd.

4342 Queen St., Suite 500 Niagara Falls, ON, L2E 7J7

Phone: 905-374-0701, Ext 5280

Fax: 905-374-1157 Email: <u>smale@hatch.ca</u>

Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Pribramsky Jan 175 South Kingsway Toronto, ON M6S 3T6

To Whom It May Concern:

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Follick Donald James RR 3 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Sean Male SM:mg



Ransome Judy 149 Midlothian Road, PO Box 364 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Sean Male SM:mg



Gavine Kenneth A RR 3 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Sean Male SM:mg



Stratton George Roger 4212 Avon Drive, RR 1 Springfield, ON N0L 2J0

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Sean Male SM:mg



J&P Leveque Bros Haulage L 30876 Highway 62 N, RR 5 Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0

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The Roman Catholic Episcopal 350 Hunter St W PO Box 175 Stn Main Peterborough, ON K9J 6Y8

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Jaques Gordon William RR 3 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Ontario Ministry of Transportation Northeastern Region c/o Property Section 447 McKeown Avenue, Suite 301 North Bay, ON P1B 9S9

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Judd Ruth RR 1 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Trustees of Church of Christ c/o Pastor Hubert Lawrence RR 2 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

Dear Trustees:

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Heast Leonard 1747 Central St Claremont, ON L1Y 1B4

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Vista Investments Muskoka In 17 Dairy Lane Huntsville, ON P1H 1L4

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Magno Anna Liisa 90 Athabaska Road Barrie, ON L4N 8E8

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Masek Anna 49 Bruce Street E Goderich, ON N7A 1S7

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Village of Burk's Falls 172 Ontario Street, Box 160 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Township of Ryerson RR 1 Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

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Glenn Miller 261 Hwy 520W RR3 Burk's Falls, ON P0A IC0

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Robert Weaver Box 51 242 Jeffery Rd. Burk's Falls, ON POA ICO

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Michael Grima 311 Ontario St. Burk's Falls, ON POA ICO

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Bob Macphail (Armour) 778 Bay Lake Emsdale ON Burk's Falls, ON P0A IC0

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A memo detailing the evaluation of the wetlands and revised confirmation letter received from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is available online at: http://burksfallswest.northlandpower.ca/

A revised submission detailing any changes to the REA supporting documents to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment is to occur and will also be made available on the website.







Sean Male, Environmental Coordinator

Hatch Ltd.

4342 Queen St., Suite 500 Niagara Falls, ON, L2E 7J7

Phone: 905-374-0701, Ext 5280

Fax: 905-374-1157 Email: <u>smale@hatch.ca</u>

Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Sonia Dolar 1046 Logan Ave. Toronto, ON M4K 3G3

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

Notice of Project Change

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Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Judy Ransome Midlothian Rd. Burk's Falls, ON POA ICO

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

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Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Chippewas of Mnjikaning First Nation Chippewas of Rama Chief and Council 5884 Rama Road, Suite 200 Rama, ON L0K 1T0

Dear Chief and Council:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

Notice of Project Change

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Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Virginia Beach Marina Gas Bar Chief and Council 7751 Black River Road Sutton West, ON L0E 1R0

Dear Chief and Council:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

Notice of Project Change

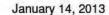
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Phone: 905-374-0701, Ext 5280

Fax: 905-374-1157 Email: smale@hatch.ca

Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Beausoleil First Nation Chief and Council 1 Ogema Street Christian Island, ON L0K 1C0

Dear Chief and Council:

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Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Shawanaga First Nation Chief and Council 2 Village Road, RR#1 Nobel, ON P0G 1G0

Dear Chief and Council:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

Notice of Project Change

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Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation Chief and Council PO Box 1432 Lakefield, ON K0L 2H0

Dear Chief and Council:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

Notice of Project Change

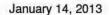
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Fax: 905-374-1157 Email: smale@hatch.ca

Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Dokis First Nation Chief and Council 940-A Main Street, P.O. Box 62 Via Monetville, ON P0M 2K0

Dear Chief and Council:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

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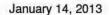
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Phone: 905-374-0701, Ext 5280

Fax: 905-374-1157 Email: smale@hatch.ca

Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg



Magnetewan First Nation
Chief and Council
10 Regional Road 529, PO Box 15, RR 1
Britt, ON POG 1A0

Dear Chief and Council:

Subject: Burk's Falls West Solar Project -

Notice of Project Change

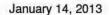
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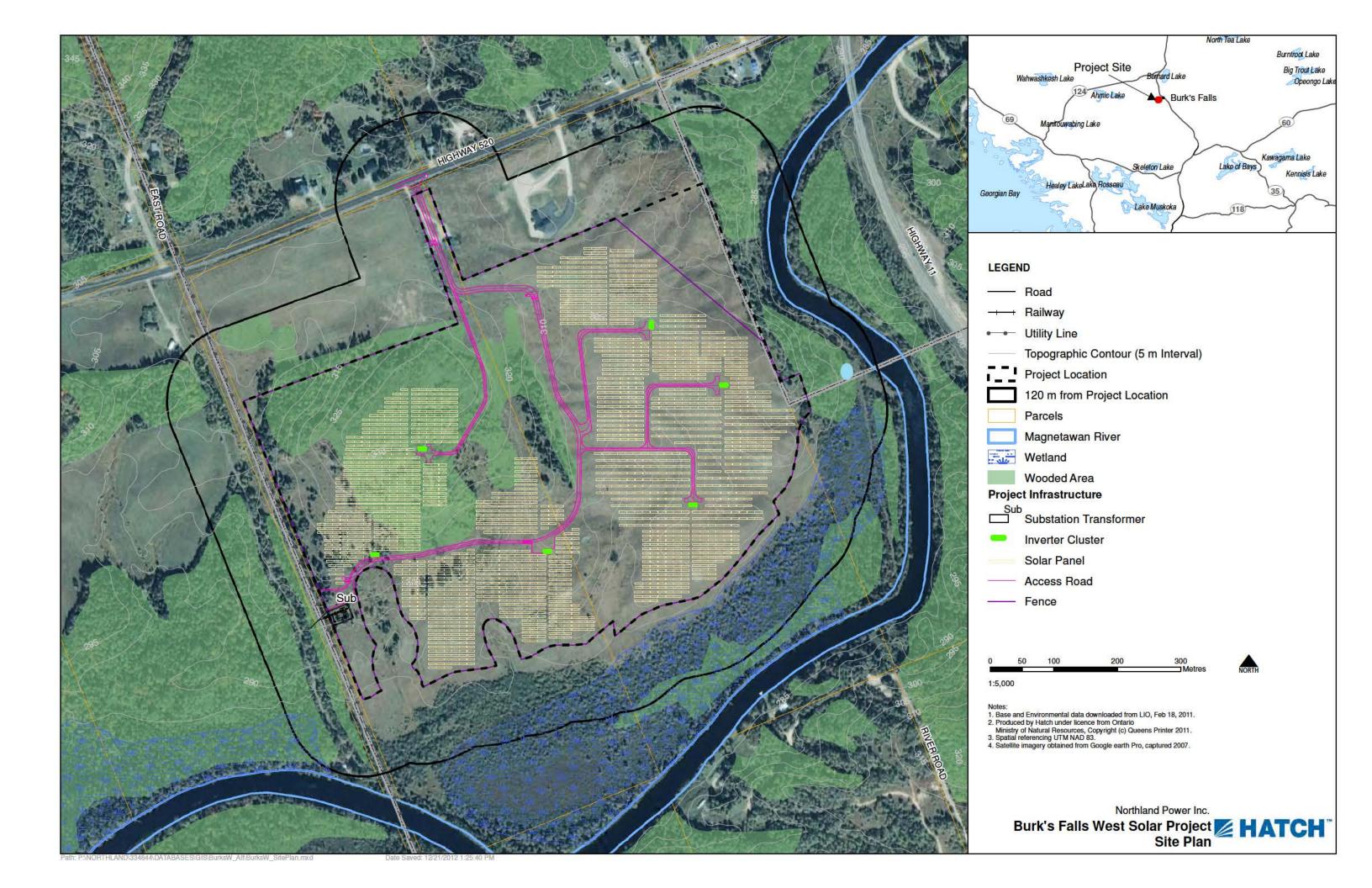
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Yours faithfully,

Sean Male SM:mg





## Attachment F Letter to Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Reconfirmation Letter





Project Memo

H334844

November 1, 2012

To: Martine Esraelian Amy Cameron, MNR From:

Rob Miller, Northland Power CC:

## Northland Power **Burks Falls West Solar Project**

## Field Study Report

#### 1. Introduction

The Natural Heritage Assessment (NHA) Site Investigation Report (Hatch, 2012) identified three narrow wetlands along the southern boundary of the Project Location. Further clarification on the extent and classification of these wetlands was requested by Northland Power on October 2, 2012. As a result, Hatch conducted a site visit on October 11, 2012 to verify the wetland boundaries. The methodology and findings from the site visit is provided in the subsequent sections.

#### 2. Methods

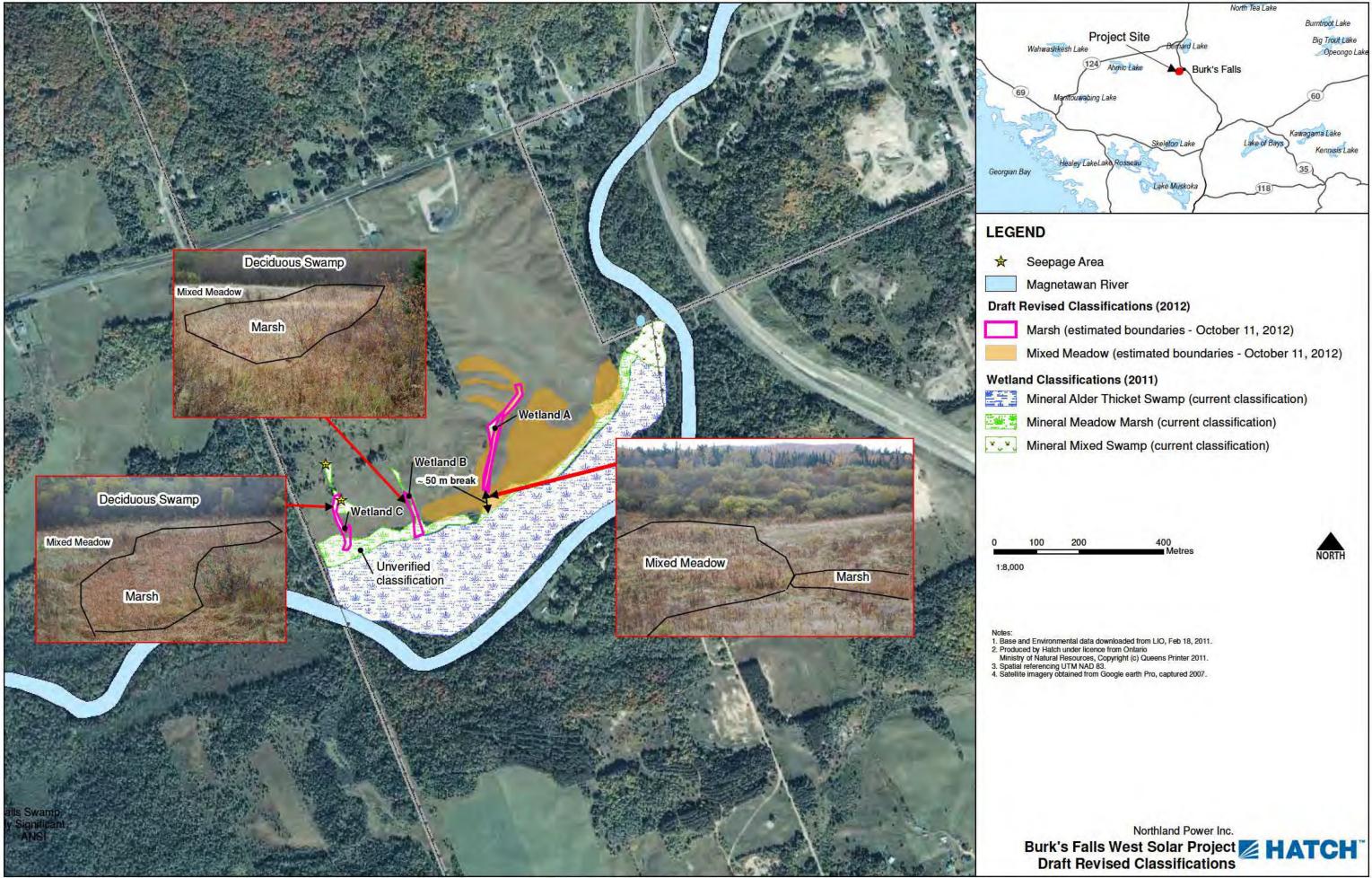
A site visit was completed on October 11, 2012 to verify the extent of the three narrow wetlands identified in the NHA Site Investigation Report (Hatch, 2012). The following criteria were used to verify the extent and classification of each wetland:

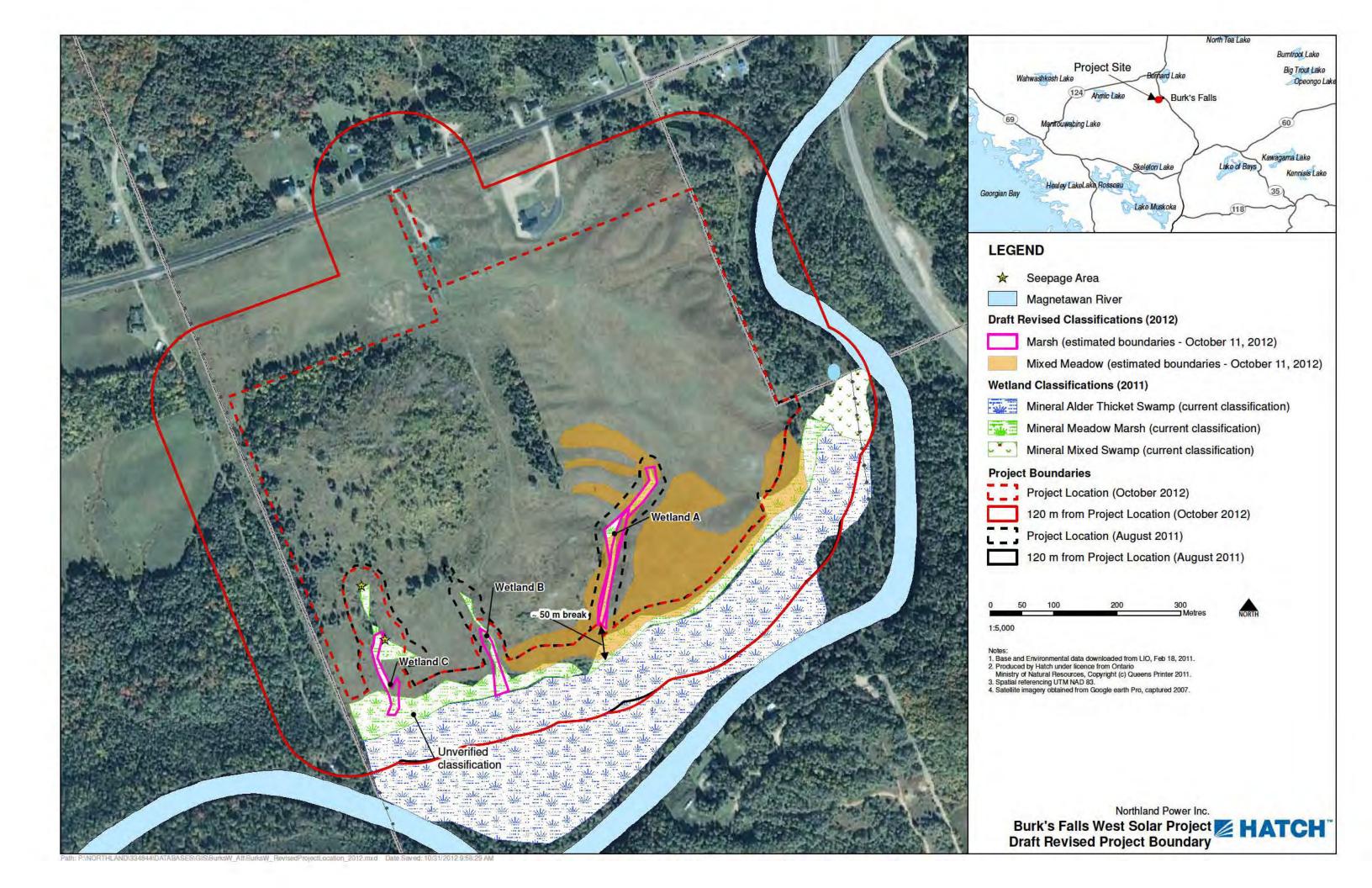
- Vegetation: The "50% wetland vegetation rule," where possible, was used to establish the relative cover of wetland species and determine the extent of each wetland.
- Substrate: Soil samples were taken within each of the wetlands, where possible, using a hand-held auger. The composition and moisture regimes of the soils were used to determine if the wetland communities are comprised of hydric substrates.

#### 3. Results

The Burks Falls West Project Location is situated on agricultural lands, formerly used as pasture. The topography is described as rolling with steep slopes and narrow valleys that naturally convey water south toward the Magnetawan River. The drastic variations in elevation and direction of surface water flows have resulted in the formation of wetlands in some of the low relief areas. Details on each of the wetlands observed during this field study are provided in the subsequent sections. A map showing the locations of the wetlands assessed during the site investigation is provided in Figure 3.1. Figure 3.2 provides a comparison between the original Project location and the proposed revised Project location boundaries.

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## 3.1 Wetland A

The NHA Site Investigation Report (Hatch, 2012) identifies Wetland A as a Narrow-leaved Sedge Mineral Meadow Marsh (MAM3-5). This wetland is shown as connected to the Alder Mineral Thicket Swamp Type (SWT3-1) located south of the Project Location, within the 120-m setback (Appendix A).

Wetland A is found between two rolling hills in a narrow valley that naturally conveys surface water runoff from the adjacent lands (Figure 3.1). This wetland community is dominated by small-fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*) with lakebank sedge (*Carex lacustre*), beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*). The substrate was found to be a silty clay loam over sandy loam with imperfect drainage and a moisture regime (MR) of 5. These soils showed distinct mottling, indicating periodic saturation and aeration. No gleying was observed within the soil profile. Substrates with a MR of 5 are considered "nearly hydric" soils and therefore, to consider these areas as wetlands, the "50% wetland vegetation rule" must be met. The vegetation community within the 50-m gap is characterized as a Mixed Meadow (MEM) as it was dominated by upland species. This included, cow vetch (Vicia cracca), wild strawberry (Fragaria virginiana), goldenrod species (Solidago sp.) and aster species (Aster sp.).

Based on findings from the site visit completed on October 11, 2012, the extent of Wetland A has been determined to be smaller than what was originally delineated. It was also found that there is a 50-m gap between Wetland A and the SWT3-1 community. Overall, Wetland A was found to be approximately 0.2 ha. This narrow wetland is approximately 268 m in length and ranged between 15 to 30 m in width. This suggests an increase in developable area within the Project Location. Development of these additional lands must ensure that post-development volume, rate and delivery points of surface flow are similar to pre-development conditions. Setbacks and mitigation measures previously established for wetlands in the Environmental Impact Study (Hatch, 2012) would remain accurate for the remaining wetland communities as per the revised boundaries shown in Figure 3.2 are followed. The following photograph (Figure 3.3) shows the southern-most extent of Wetland A (MAM3-5), MEM and SWT3-1 communities.



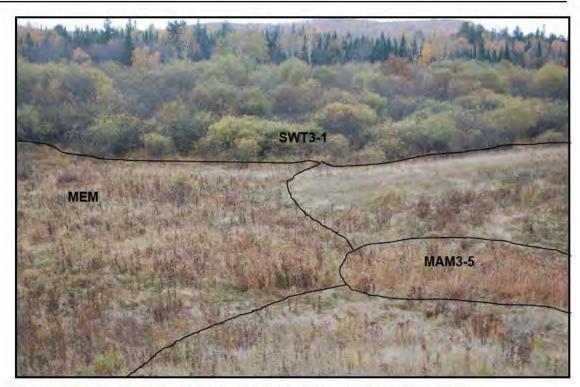


Figure 3.3 View From the Top of a Knoll Along the Southern Boundary, Facing South Toward the 120-m Setback

## 3.2 Wetland B

Wetland B is identified as a *Narrow-leaved Sedge Mineral Meadow Marsh* (MAM3-5) in the *NHA Site Investigation Report* (Hatch, 2012). This wetland is shown as connected to the *Alder Mineral Thicket Swamp Type* (SWT3-1) located south of the Project Location, within the 120-m setback (Appendix A).

Wetland B is found in a narrow valley between two rolling hills that naturally convey surface water runoff from the adjacent lands (Figure 3.1). The site visit completed on October 11, 2012, determined that Wetland B does not extend as far north as previously delineated. It was also confirmed that this wetland is directly connected to the SWT3-1 community that extends beyond the 120-m setback. Overall, Wetland B was found to be approximately 0.08 ha. This narrow wetland is approximately 110 m in length and ranged between 10 to 25 m in width. This wetland community is dominated by small-fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*) and narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) with lakebank sedge (*Carex lacustre*). The substrate was found to be a silty clay loam with very poor drainage and a moisture regime (MR) of 9. Substrates with a MR >5 are "hydric" soils and considered a wetland. These soils showed a distinctive grey gley layer throughout the profile, indicating prolonged water saturation. The following photograph (Figure 3.4) shows the northern-most extent of Wetland B, facing south toward the 120 m setback.



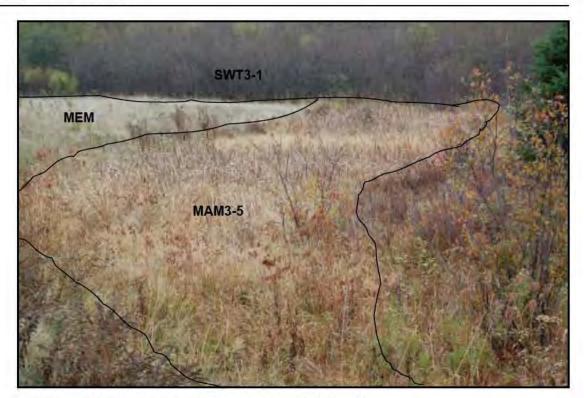


Figure 3.4 View of the Northern Boundary of Wetland B, Facing South Toward the 120-m Setback

The vegetation north of this wetland community (previously associated with Wetland B) is characterized as a *Mixed Meadow* (MEM) as it is dominated by upland species. This community is situated on shallow soils. As a result, a soil sample was not obtained. Therefore, the "50% wetland vegetation rule" was used to determine community type. The dominant vegetation included, cow vetch (*Vicia cracca*), common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), goldenrod species (*Solidago sp.*) and aster species (*Aster sp.*). It is recommended that the setbacks previously established for Wetland B, follow the revised boundaries shown in Figure 3.1. The following photograph (Figure 3.5) shows the *Mixed Meadow* (MEM) community no longer associated with Wetland B.



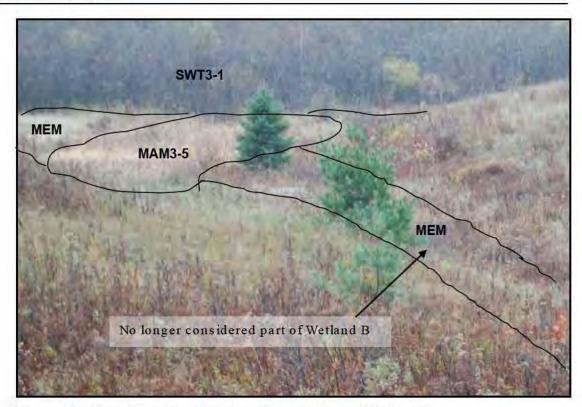


Figure 3.5 View of the Mixed Meadow Community and Wetland B, Facing South Toward the 120-m Setback

## 3.3 Wetland C

Wetland C is identified as a *Narrow-leaved Sedge Mineral Meadow Marsh* (MAM3-5) in the NHA Site Investigation Report (Hatch, 2012). This wetland is shown as connected to the *Alder Mineral Thicket Swamp Type* (SWT3-1) located south of the Project Location, within the 120-m setback (Appendix A).

Wetland C is found along a grassed ridge that slopes downhill and naturally conveys surface water runoff from the adjacent lands (Figure 3.1). The site visit completed on October 11, 2012, determined that Wetland C does not extend as far north as previously delineated. The southern boundary of this wetland was not assessed. Therefore, the previous delineated boundary for the southern portion remains unchanged. Overall, Wetland C was found to be approximately 0.16 ha. This narrow wetland is approximately 134 m in length and ranged between 10 to 20 m in width. The substrate for this wetland was not determined, although it is presumed to be similar to Wetland A as it has similar characteristics and species composition (i.e., dominated by small-fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*)). The "50% wetland vegetation rule" was used to determine community type. The following photograph (Figure 3.5) shows the northern boundary of Wetland C and the *Dry-Moist Old Field Meadow Type* (CUM1-1) community no longer associated with Wetland C. The area along the southern boundary not verified during the site investigation is also indicated in Figure 3.6.





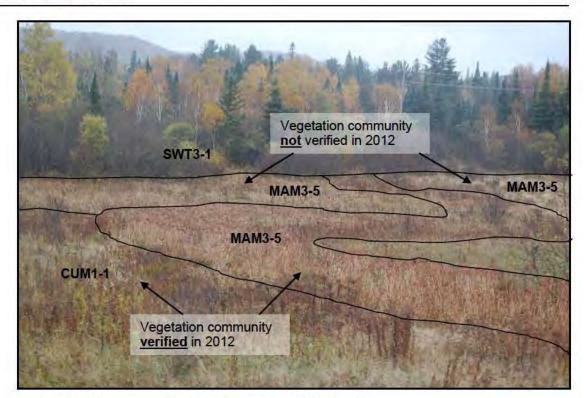


Figure 3.6 View of the Northern Boundary of Wetland C, Facing South Toward the 120-m Setback

The vegetation north of this wetland community (previously associated with Wetland C) is characterized as a *Mineral Cultural Thicket Ecosite* (CUT1), dominated by a mix of early successional tree species and upland meadow species. A soil sample was not obtained as this community type is situated on shallow soils. The *Water Body Site Investigation Report* (Hatch, 2012) identified a stream and two seepage areas within the CUT1 and MAM3-5 communities (Appendix A). A 30-m setback will be maintained from the watercourse and two seepage areas. It is recommended that the setbacks previously established for Wetland C, follow the revised boundaries shown in Figure 3.1. The following photograph (Figure 3.7) shows the CUT1 community, facing south toward Wetland C.



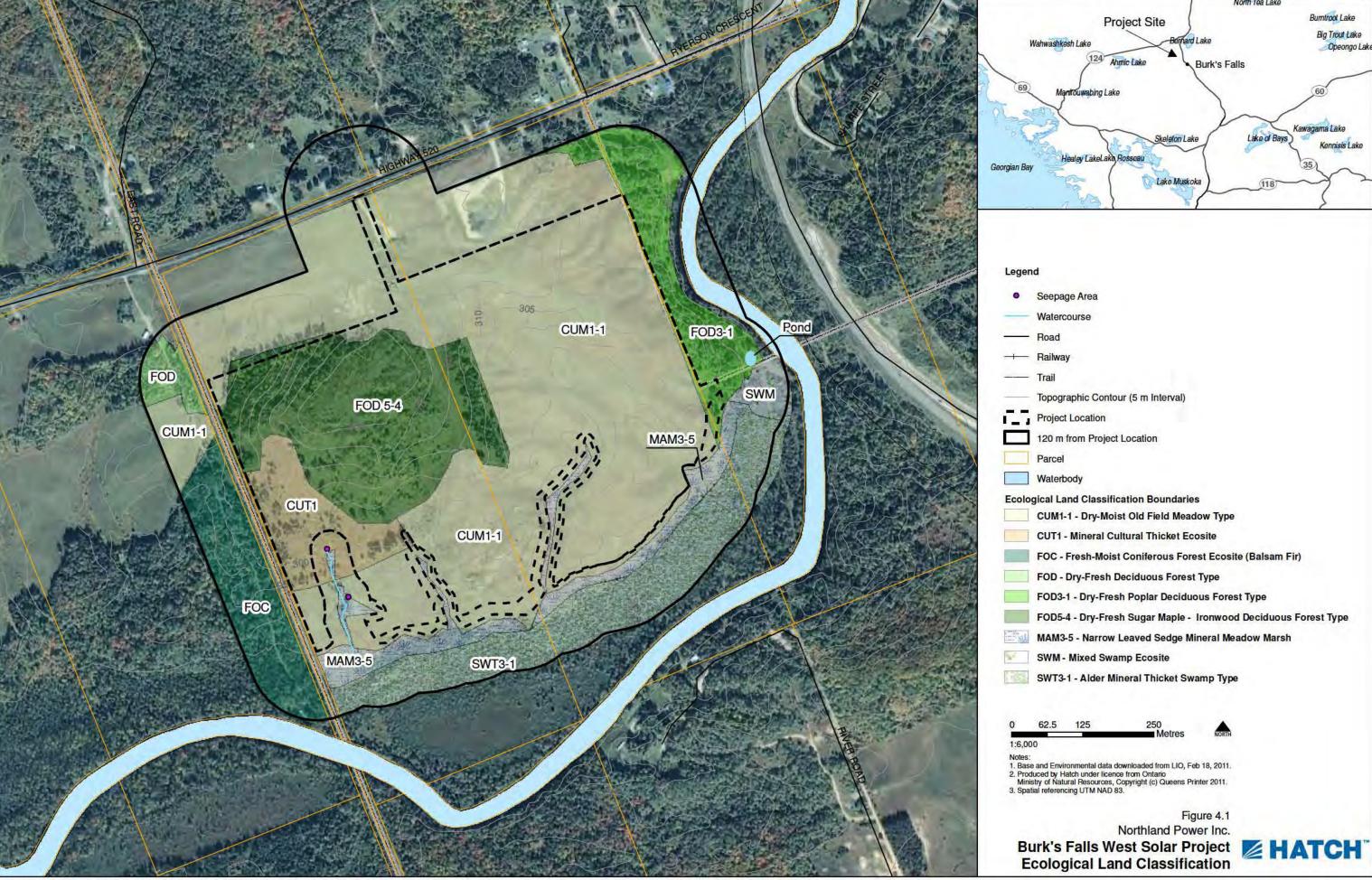


Figure 3.7 View of the Cultural Thicket Community, Facing South Toward Wetland C

Martine Esraelian ME:srg Attachment



# Appendix A Ecological Land Classification November 2011



Ministry of Natural Resources Renewable Energy Operations Team 300 Water Street

Ministère des Richesses naturelles Ontario

Renewable Energy Operations To 300 Water Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, South Tower Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5

November 8, 2012

Sean Male, Terrestrial Ecologist, Environmental Assessment & Management HATCH 4342 Queen Street, Suite 500 Niagara Falls, Ont. L2E 7J7

RE: Modifications to Burk's Falls West Solar Project Wetland Boundaries

Dear Mr. Sean Male,

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has received the document dated November 1, 2012 which describes modifications to the Burk's Falls West Solar Project wetland boundaries made subsequent to MNR's letter confirming the Natural Heritage Assessment in respect of the project.

Upon review of the modifications, MNR is satisfied that the Natural Heritage Assessment requirements of Ontario Regulation 359/09 have been met. Please add this letter as an addendum to the confirmation letter issued September 2, 2011 for the Burk's Falls West Solar Project.

If you wish to discuss, please contact me at <a href="mailto:amy.cameron@ontario.ca">amy.cameron@ontario.ca</a> or 705-875-7481.

Sincerely,

Amy Cameron Coordinator

Renewable Energy Operations Team

Southern Region MNR

cc Emily Gryck, Renewable Energy Operations Team, Project Manager, MNR
Erin Cotnam, Renewable Energy Operations Team, Project Manager, MNR
Jason Webb, Renewable Energy Operations Team, Planning Ecologist, MNR
Kathy Woeller, A/Parry Sound District Manager, MNR
Narren Santos, Environmental Approvals Access & Service Integration Branch, MOE
Zeljko Romic, Environmental Approvals Access & Service Integration Branch, MOE