



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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The Dufferin Wind Power Project is currently being developed by Dufferin Wind Power Inc. (DWP). The proposed wind farm (the “project”) will consist of 18 General Electric (GE) 2.75 MW and 31 GE 1.6 MW wind turbines for a total of 49 wind turbines and a 99.1 MW nameplate capacity. The wind farm project components will be situated entirely on privately owned land that is currently under agricultural production, pastureland or land that has been left fallow.

The project will require approval under *Ontario Regulation 359/09 – Renewable Energy Approval (REA)* under Section V.0.1 of the *Ontario Environmental Protection Act*. The REA process replaces previous requirements for several separate approvals under (among others) the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Planning Act* and *Environmental Protection Act*. Based on the REA Regulations, this project is a “Class 4” wind facility.

*Ontario Regulation 359/09* requires that renewable energy projects conduct a Natural Heritage Assessment (NHA), which includes an evaluation of significance for natural heritage features that fall within the project location or the prescribed setback area (*REA* Section 27). This Evaluation of Significance Report was completed in partial fulfilment of the regulatory requirements for the *REA* process. Additional details regarding the potential impacts and mitigation measures required to protect significant natural features will be provided in a separate Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Report. These reports will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for review and comment, as required in *Ontario Regulation 359/09* and will provide for the protection of natural features within and adjacent to the project location. Discussion of species at risk, fish habitat and other information needs, as outlined in the MNR’s Approval and Permitting Requirements Document for Renewable Energy (MNR 2009a), are discussed in a separate report, under direction from the MNR and in compliance with the *REA*.

*Additional* information about the Project can be found in the *Construction Plan Report*, *Design and Operations Report* and the *Project Description Report*. Technical studies associated with the REA requirements have been completed. In addition to this report the draft REA submission package includes:

- Project Description Report;
- Construction Plan Report;
  - Archaeological Assessments;
  - Cultural Heritage Self-Assessments;
  - Cultural Heritage Assessment;



- Design and Operations Report;
  - Noise Assessment Report;
  - Environmental Management Plan;
  - Emergency Response and Communications Plan;
  - Post Construction Monitoring Plan;
- Wind Turbine Specification Report;
- Decommissioning Plan Report;
- Property Line Setback Assessment Report;
- Water Body and Surface Water Assessment Report;
- Natural Heritage Assessment Reports;
  - Records Review;
  - Site Investigation;
  - Environmental Impact Study;
- Supporting Documents.