

RE ORILLIA 2 SOLAR PROJECT

Water Body Records Review Report

March 11, 2011

RECURRENT
ENERGY





RE Orillia 2 ULC

Water Body
Records Review Report

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Project Report

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RE Orillia 2 ULC
RE Orillia 2 Solar Project

Water Body Records Review Report

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Description

RE Orillia 2 ULC is proposing to develop and operate a 10-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (Solar PV) facility, on an approximately 30-hectare (ha) parcel of land, located about 7 km west-southwest of Orillia in the Township of Oro-Medonte in Simcoe County; herein referred to as “RE Orillia 2” or the “Project”.

1.2 Legislative Requirements

Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 359/09 – *Renewable Energy Approvals Under Part V.0.1 of the Act*, made under the Environmental Protection Act (herein referred to as the REA Regulation) identifies the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) requirements for green energy projects in Ontario. As per Section 4 of the REA Regulation, ground mounted solar facilities with a name plate capacity greater than 10 kilowatts (kW) are classified as a Class 3 solar facility, and therefore, require an REA.

Section 30 of the REA Regulation requires proponents of Class 3 solar projects to undertake a Water Records Review to identify “whether the project is

- i. in a waterbody
- ii. within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a lake, other than a lake trout lake that is at or above development capacity
- iii. within 300 m of the average annual high water mark of a lake trout lake that is at or above development capacity
- iv. within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a permanent or intermittent stream, or
- v. within 120 m of a seepage area.” (O. Reg. 359/09, s. 30, Table).

Subsection 30(2) of the REA Regulation requires the proponent to prepare a report “setting out a summary of the records searched and the results of the analysis” (O. Reg. 359/09). This Water Body Records Review Report has been prepared to meet these requirements. It has also been prepared in accordance with the MOE’s Draft Technical Bulletin – Guidance for Preparing the Water Assessment and Water Body Reports (dated January 28, 2011).

2. Methodology and Results

The following sections document the records that were reviewed and analyzed and the results from this analysis. The focus of the assessment was identifying whether or not the Project was located within or adjacent to any of the water features listed above in Section 1.2. The sections are organized by the governing bodies identified in Column 1 of the Table in Section 30 of the REA Regulation.

The results of the Records Review are discussed below in relation to the distances specified between the Project and water features as defined in Section 30 of the REA Regulation (see Section 1.2).

There are no Planning Boards, Municipal Planning Authorities, Local Roads Boards, Local Services Boards with jurisdiction in the Project study area. Also, the Project study area is not located within the Niagara Escarpment Commission Plan Area. Therefore, records reviews for these governing bodies were not conducted.

2.1 Ministry of Natural Resources Records

2.1.1 Methodology

The following Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on-line records were reviewed:

- Ontario Base Maps and natural feature layers from Land Information Ontario (LIO) (www.geographynetwork.com)
- Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) on-line mapping (<http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/queries/nhic.mwf>).

The Midhurst District MNR office was also asked to provide any information they had available regarding water features on or adjacent to the project area.

2.1.2 Results

Mapping obtained from LIO does not indicate any waterbodies on or within 120 m of the Project site.

No additional water features were identified on the mapping available on the NHIC website. The Midhurst District MNR office did not have any information on water features on or adjacent to the Project site.

2.2 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Records

2.2.1 Methodology

The following Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) on-line records were reviewed:

- rural drainage mapping (http://www.lio.ontario.ca/imf-ows/imf.jsp?site=ads_en).

2.2.2 Results

Rural drainage mapping did not show any watercourses on or within 120 m of the Project site.

2.3 Federal Government Records

2.3.1 Methodology

The following federal government websites were reviewed to determine if any records regarding water features on or adjacent to the property were available:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) website (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/regions/central/habitat/os-oo/index-eng.htm)
- DFO Aquatic Species at Risk Mapping (<http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/projects/DFO.html>)

- Natural Resource Canada (NRCan) (http://ess.nrcan.gc.ca/mapcar/index_e.php).

2.3.2 Results

No reference to waterbodies on or adjacent to the Project site was found on the DFO website.

No Species At Risk (SAR) are known to be located in the Project area, based on the DFO SAR Distribution Map.

The NRCan mapping review resulted in a general environment map showing features in the general area, but no site specific information regarding waterbodies was available for the Project site.

2.4 Conservation Authority Records

2.4.1 Methodology

The proposed Project is situated within the jurisdiction of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). NVCA maintains an on-line mapping database showing its regulated area under O. Reg. 172/06 (Regulation for Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses). Information on Regulated Areas was downloaded from the NVCA website. The NVCA was also asked to provide any information they had regarding water features on or in proximity to the Project site.

2.4.2 Results

NVCA mapping indicates that there are no Regulated Areas within 120 m of the Project site, indicating that there are no known waterbodies or wetlands greater than 2 ha in size.

2.5 Municipal Records

2.5.1 Methodology

Simcoe County

The Project is located within the upper tier municipality of Simcoe County. The County maintains an on-line mapping database (<http://maps.simcoe.ca>) showing the general environmental and infrastructure features of the area, as well as high resolution satellite imagery.

The Simcoe County Official Plan (County of Simcoe, 2007) was also examined to find any records that may identify water features in the Project site.

Township of Oro-Medonte

The Project is located within the lower tier municipality of the Township of Oro-Medonte. The Township website (<http://www.oro-medonte.ca/index.htm>) was reviewed for any records that may pertain to waterbodies on or adjacent to the Project site. The Official Plan for the Township (Township of Oro-Medonte, 2007) was also examined.

2.5.2 Results

Simcoe County

The satellite imagery viewed on the Simcoe county website did not show any water features within 120 m of the Project site.

The Official Plan – Land Use Designation Map (County of Simcoe, 2007) did not identify any water features on or within 120 m of the Project site.

Township of Oro-Medonte

The Township of Oro-Medonte website provided a link to the above mentioned County of Simcoe Interactive map as well as provided a general map for the Township. No water body features were found in relation to the Project site.

The Official Plan Natural Features map (Schedule B) did not show any waterbodies on or within 120 m of the Project.

3. Summary of Results and Next Steps

3.1 Summary of Results

Table 3.1 summarizes the results of the Record Review according to the features identified in Section 1.2. A map depicting the identified water features on and in proximity to the site is provided in Figure 3.1.

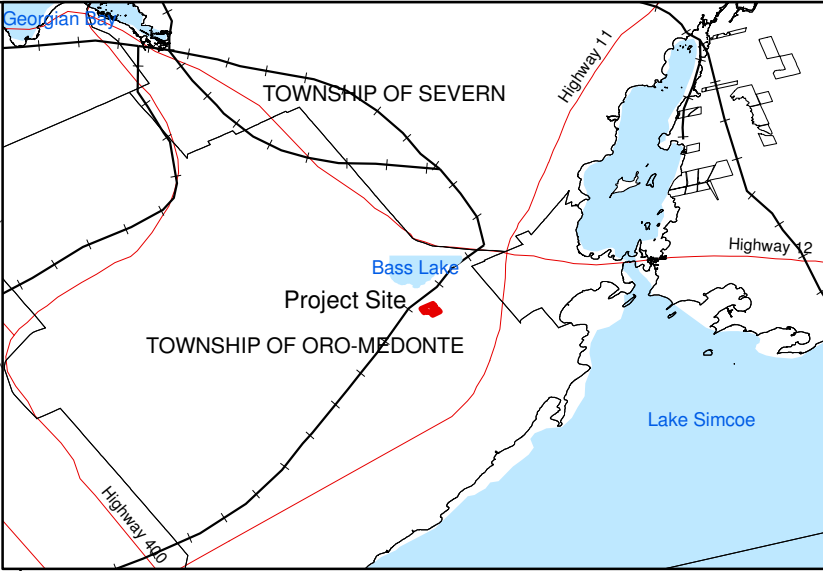
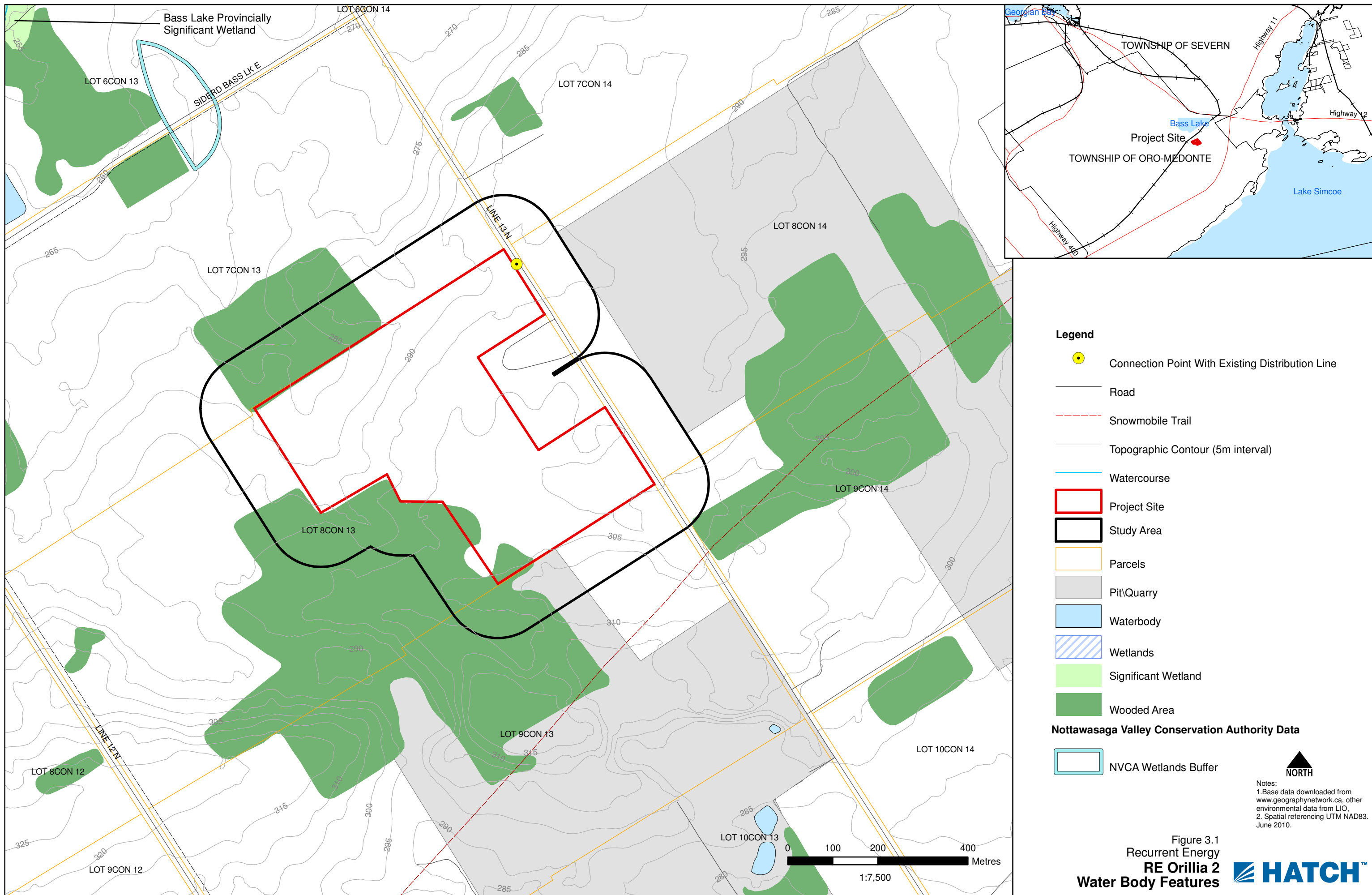
Table 3.1 Summary of Records Review Determinations

Determination to be Made	Yes/No	Description
Is the Project in a waterbody?	No	No part of the Project will be constructed within a waterbody
Is the Project within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a lake, other than a lake trout lake that is at or above development capacity?	No	No lakes are present on or within 120 m of the Project site.
Is the Project within 300 m of the average annual high water mark of a lake trout lake that is at or above development capacity?	No	No lake trout lakes are present on or within 300 m of the Project site.
Is the Project within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a permanent or intermittent stream?	No	No water courses were identified on or within 120 m of the Project site.
Is the Project within 120 m of a seepage area?	No	No seepage areas were identified on or within 120 m of the Project site.

Based on the results of the Records Review, there are no waterbodies within 120 m of the Project site.

3.2 Next Steps

A site investigation, as required in Section 31 of the REA Regulation will be completed to i) confirm the features identified during this records review, ii) identify if any corrections to the information presented herein are required, iii) determine whether any additional waterbodies exist in the Project area, iv) confirm the boundaries of any water feature within 120 m of the Project and v) determine the distance from the Project to the water boundary.



- Legend**
- Connection Point With Existing Distribution Line
 - Road
 - Snowmobile Trail
 - Topographic Contour (5m interval)
 - Watercourse
 - Project Site
 - Study Area
 - Parcels
 - Pit/Quarry
 - Waterbody
 - Wetlands
 - Significant Wetland
 - Wooded Area
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Data**
- NVCA Wetlands Buffer

Notes:
 1. Base data downloaded from www.geographynetwork.ca, other environmental data from LIO.
 2. Spatial referencing UTM NAD83. June 2010.

Figure 3.1
 Recurrent Energy
RE Orillia 2
 Water Body Features

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4. References

County of Simcoe. 2007. The County of Simcoe Official Plan. On-line at http://www.simcoe.ca/ws_cos/media/media/planning%20files/CtyOP_Sch_All.pdf. Accessed March 19, 2010.

Township of Oro-Medonte. 2007. Township of Oro-Medonte Official Plan. Printed March 16, 2007.