

**Board Staff Interrogatories**

**Interrogatory 1:**

At Exhibit B/Tab 1/Schedule 1, Varna Wind Inc. (the “Applicant”) states:

“Varna Wind, Inc. (the "Applicant") is a special purpose vehicle established for the development, construction and operation of the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre ("BWEC"). The Applicant is a corporation constituted under the laws of New Brunswick. The Applicant is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Canada, LLC, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources Inc. NextEra Energy Canada, ULC was incorporated as an Alberta corporation in 2006, with its head office in the City of Toronto, Ontario. NextEra Energy Canada, ULC and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC through their respective wholly-owned subsidiaries, both carry on the business of developing, owning, and operating energy generation facilities”.

- (a) What experience does the Applicant have in the construction and operation of a similar type of facility as that proposed in this application?
- (b) Please indicate what corporate organization capabilities exist to complete the applied for project.
- (c) Please indicate whether the Applicant intends to make use of contractors and provide a summary of their experience in regards to the construction of such projects.

**Interrogatory 2:**

At Exhibit C/Tab 1/Schedule 1, the Applicant has provided a table of milestone dates. Please update this table if the dates for the noted events have changed.

**Interrogatory 3:**

Preamble: At Exhibit D/Tab 1/Schedule 1, the Applicant states:

“Sections of the Transmission Line will be constructed within Municipal rights-of-way, and the remaining sections will be built on easements acquired from private land owners. Please see Exhibit D, Tab 1, Schedule 2 for a map illustrating the route of the line, the lot number and concession number through or adjacent to which the line runs and the location of private easements and the Municipal rights-of-way”.

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At Exhibit F/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Paragraph 33, the Applicant states:

“Approximately twelve (12) kilometres of the Transmission Line is planned to be located in the Municipal rights-of-way. Please refer to Exhibit D, Tab 1, Schedule 2 for a map illustrating the location of these Municipal rights-of-way.

The Pin, Lot and Concession numbers, the location of the easements and the location of the Municipal rights-of-way are not discernible from the map that is provided at Exhibit D/Tab 1/Schedule 2. Please provide an updated map using an appropriate scale that better identifies the above noted information.

**Interrogatory 4:**

Preamble: At Exhibit F/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Paragraph 29, the Applicant states:

“The Applicant has acquired land rights to private lands needed for the Transmission Line.”

At Exhibit F/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Paragraph 29, the applicant states:

“The Applicant has had extensive discussions regarding the Transmission Line and the Transmission Easement with all of the landowners along the Corridor, including Adjacent Landowners”.

Further at Exhibit F/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Table A, the Applicant has provided a list of “Privately-Owned Land Parcels with Transmission Line Infrastructure”.

- (a) Please clarify whether Table A includes all directly affected landowners (i.e. Transmission Line infrastructure will be located on their property)? Please update the table if necessary.
- (b) Please expand the table at the above reference and identify landowners who have executed easement agreements and those landowners with whom negotiations are still on-going. In your response, please include both directly affected landowners and Adjacent Landowners. Please also identify the type of easement that is required (temporary or permanent) and the size of the easement. Please ensure the Pin, Lot and Concession numbers are consistent with the information provided in response to interrogatory 3.

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**Interrogatory 5:**

Preamble: At Exhibit F/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Paragraph 33, the Applicant states:

“Approximately twelve (12) kilometres of the Transmission Line is planned to be located in the Municipal rights-of-way.... A road use agreement will be entered into between the Applicant and the affected Municipalities, which will address the Applicant's access to the Municipal rights-of-way”.

- (a) What is the status of the road use agreement this is referenced above?
- (b) What is the status of the agreement for the land required for the Circuit Breaker and the Substation?

**Interrogatory 6:**

Preamble: At Exhibit F/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Paragraph 43, the Applicant states:

“A number of routes along back-country corridors were considered in various places along the route, but were disqualified....”

Please identify the alternate routes that were considered and provide reasons why these routes were disqualified.

**Interrogatory 7:**

Preamble: At Exhibit F/Tab 1/Schedule 1/page 8, the Applicant states:

“Based on these efforts, the Applicant proposes to construct approximately 11.5 km or 50% of the Transmission Line within private easements, of which approximately 5.9 km are on private lands on the opposite side of the road from where HONI's distribution facilities are situated. Of the 11.7 km of the Transmission Line within the Municipal rights-of-way, approximately 8.6 km or 74% are on the opposite side of the road from HONI's distribution facilities”.

- (a) Given the proposed Transmission Line will be sharing the right of way or will be in close proximity to Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (Hydro One) distribution lines, please provide a summary of the discussions that the Applicant has had with Hydro One in relation to this matter. Please identify any concerns that may have been noted by Hydro One in regards to this matter and what measures have been taken by the Applicant to alleviate Hydro One's concerns.

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- (b) Please indicate the design and construction standards and procedures, relating to proximity and effects such as induction, which will protect pre-existing facilities and personnel from direct and induced currents and voltages. Include in your discussion corrosion protection, cable location identification, and grounding for safety and “tingle” or “stray” voltage.
- (c) In a number of letters of comment that the Board has received in relation to this application, parties have raised concerns regarding the potential effects of stray voltage on livestock. What measures has the Applicant taken to alleviate these concerns.

**Interrogatory 8:**

The proposed facilities are to be located in the Municipality of Bluewater and the Municipality of Huron East. In the maps that are provided the municipality boundaries are not easily discernible. With respect to the facilities that are the subject of this application please identify the municipality in which the Transmission Line, Circuit Breaker and Substation are to be located.

**Interrogatory 9:**

Preamble: In a letter of comment dated January 28, 2013, the Municipality of Huron East stated:

“Staff from NextEra Energy, in consultation with Huron East staff, have identified areas whereby the relocation and/or burying of Hydro One distribution lines (at the expense of NextEra) would allow a less intrusive installation by NextEra. The Municipality is working closely with NextEra Energy to mitigate damages to existing trees and to improve setbacks from several residences”.

Please confirm if the above referenced negotiations are on-going. If they are, please provide an update on the status of the negotiations and how these negotiations will impact the proposed route and construction schedule.

**Interrogatory 10:**

Preamble: In a number of letters of comment that the Board has received in relation to this application, parties have raised concerns regarding the close proximity of the

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Transmission Line to homes and barns. For example, one letter of comment noted that “the Transmission Line is 6 meters from a barn and 10 meters from two homes”.

What is the minimum setback from residential property lines, residential buildings and barns along the route of the Transmission Line?

**Interrogatory 11:**

Preamble: In a number of letters of comment that the Board has received in relation to this application, some landowners have raised concerns with respect to the easement/option agreements that have been presented to them.

- (a) Please summarize the types of concerns that were noted with respect to the option/easement agreements?
- (b) What steps has the Applicant taken to alleviate these concerns?
- (c) Has the Applicant offered and/or provided any legal compensation to landowners to cover legal costs for those who wished to have their form of land agreement reviewed by a legal consultant, or counsel? If not, would it be prepared to do so for the acquisition of any outstanding land rights?

**Interrogatory 12:**

- (a) In the pre-filed evidence, the Applicant states that a decision from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in relation to the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) application is expected in the first quarter of 2013. Has the Applicant received a decision from the MOE in relation to its REA application? And is a decision still expected in the first quarter of 2013?
- (b) Have there been any objections to the granting of the REA and if so by which parties?
- (c) Upon completion of the environmental assessment, please file a copy of the REA approval.

**Interrogatory 13:**

Preamble: Page 2 of System Impact Assessment Report sets out the requirements that are applicable to Hydro One (the transmitter) for the incorporation of the proposed project.

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- (a) Please provide cost estimates and cost responsibility for the noted upgrades. If necessary, please consult Hydro One for the purposes of completing this interrogatory.
- (b) Please submit the Connection Cost Recovery Agreement, when finalized.
- (c) Please confirm that the Applicant is responsible for the total cost of the facilities proposed in this application and that it will have no impact on transmission rates in Ontario.

**Interrogatory 14:**

Preamble: The Transmission Line is privately owned and located in areas where other renewable generation facilities could be sited and may wish to connect to the line.

- (a) Does the Applicant intend to apply for a Transmission Licence?
- (b) As a privately owned line, does the Applicant see the possibility of accommodating additional connections?

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