

**Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change**

Environmental Approvals
Branch

2 St. Clair Avenue West
Floor 12A
Toronto ON M4V 1L5
Tel.: 416 314-8001
Fax: 416 314-8452

**Ministère de l'Environnement et
de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique**

Direction des autorisations
environnementales

2, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Étage 12A
Toronto ON M4V 1L5
Tél : 416 314-8001
Téléc. : 416 314-8452



July 7, 2014

Mr. Eric Gillespie
10 King Street East, Suite 600
Toronto ON
M5C 1C3

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

Thank you for your June 27, 2014 follow up letter to Sarah Paul on behalf of the Alliance to Protect Prince Edward County regarding the White Pines Wind Project proposed by wpd Canada Incorporated in Prince Edward County. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the ministry.

In our May 14, 2014 letter we stated that the definition of "renewable energy generation facility" in the *Electricity Act, 1998* is further expanded in subsection 1(4) of O. Reg. 160/99 (Definitions and Exemptions) made under that Act, and includes transmission or distribution lines of less than 50 km in length that are associated with or ancillary to a renewable energy generation facility.

Subsection 1(5) of O. Reg. 160/99 also clarifies that:

1. A distribution line is associated with or ancillary to a renewable energy generation facility if the line is used to distribute electricity within the facility or from the facility to the distribution system of the distributor in whose distribution service area the renewable energy generation facility is located.
2. A transmission line is associated with or ancillary to a renewable energy generation facility if the line is used to transmit electricity within the facility or from the facility to the IESO-controlled grid.

Subsection 2(1) of the *Electricity Act, 1998* defines "distribute" and "transmit" as follows:

"distribute", with respect to electricity, means to convey electricity at voltages of 50 kilovolts or less

"transmit", with respect to electricity, means to convey electricity at voltages of more than 50 kilovolts

As such, the ministry considers transmission lines as separate and distinct from distribution lines. From the ministry's review of the renewable energy approval application for the White Pines Wind Project and as subsequently confirmed by wpd Canada, the total length of distribution lines (34.5 kilovolts or kV) is 43km and the total length of transmission lines (69 kilovolts or kV) is 28km.

The ministry understands that the distribution lines for the wind facility will be used to distribute electricity within the facility. In other words, a step-up transformer, located adjacent to each turbine, will be connected to the collection system via 34.5 kV 'collector lines' which will then transport the electricity generated from each turbine to a substation located near Turbine 7.

The ministry also understands that a transmission line will be used to transmit electricity from the facility to the IESO-controlled grid. In other words, a 69 kV 'interconnection line' will connect the substation near Turbine 7 to a substation to be built near the Picton Transformer Station on County Road 5.

Based on the above, the ministry would consider these distribution and transmission lines to be part of the White Pines Wind Project.

We trust that this clarifies matters.

Yours sincerely,



Agatha Garcia-Wright
Director
Environmental Approvals Branch

C: Mirrun Zaveri, Director, Renewables and Energy Facilitation Branch, Ministry of Energy
Kristen Walli, Board Secretary, Ontario Energy Board
I. Minott, Stikeman Elliott LLP