

# BLUEWATER WIND ENERGY CENTRE

## Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Reports Summary

MARCH 2012

Varna Wind Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Canada, ULC (NextEra) is proposing to construct a wind energy project in the Municipalities of Bluewater and Huron East in Huron County, Ontario (see map on back page). The project will be referred to as the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre (the "Project") and will be located on private lands in the vicinity of the shoreline of Lake Huron. While NextEra is seeking a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) for 41 wind turbines, only 37 are proposed to be constructed for the Project.

The purpose of a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment is to find out whether there are any known archaeological sites on or near the Project area. If the Stage 1 Assessment determines there is archaeological potential, a Stage 2 Assessment is completed to identify any archaeological resources and confirm if further archaeological studies are required.



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### STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

A Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, a desktop background study was completed in 2010 and involved reviewing background research, such as land use history and historic maps of the area, a property inspection and a review of the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database.

### CONCLUSIONS

The potential for Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian Archaeological resources within the study area was determined to be moderate to high. For pre-contact Aboriginal Sites, this is based on nearby drinking water sources, a relatively flat landscape, soils that can be used for agriculture, and known archaeological sites. For post-contact Aboriginal Sites, this is based on nearby drinking water sources, a relatively flat landscape, and Euro-Canadian historic documents. For Euro-Canadian Sites, this is based on historic documents and historic transportation routes.

A “pre-contact Aboriginal site” was identified where any artifact had been left behind by one of the original First Nations inhabitants of the area, dating before about 500 years ago. A “post-contact Aboriginal site” was identified where any artifact had been left behind by a First Nations inhabitant of the area who would have had the opportunity to interact with the European immigrants to North America in the last 500 years. A “historic Euro-Canadian site” was identified where 19th century European immigrants to the area had left behind remains from their homesteads or other structures.





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### STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

#### FIELD METHODS

The Stage 2 assessment was completed in January 2012. The study involved “pedestrian surveys” (i.e. archaeologists either walking ploughed fields) or “test pitting” (i.e. digging holes by hand that are 30 centimeters (cm) wide and an average of 25 to 30 cm deep) to look for archaeological resources. Pedestrian surveys were completed for the majority of the study area whereas test pitting was only conducted for portions of the proposed transmission line route because those areas could not be ploughed.

#### CONCLUSIONS

A total of 25 archaeological sites were identified through pedestrian surveys; these included:

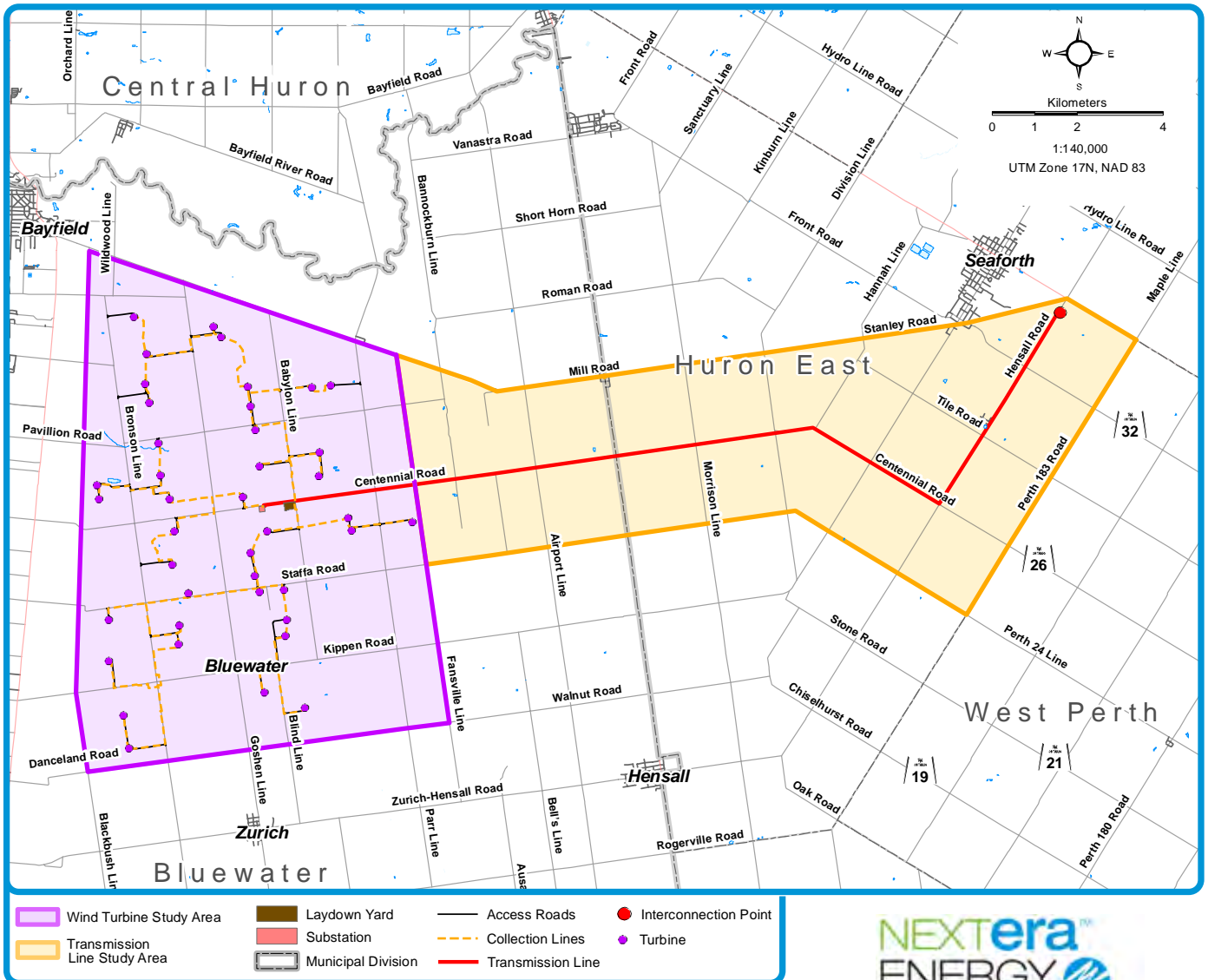
- ✦ 18 pre-contact Aboriginal sites; and,
- ✦ historic Euro-Canadian sites.

Four of the historic Euro-Canadian sites were recommended for further archaeological assessments (called a Stage 3 Assessment) because at those locations, more than 20 artifacts from before the year 1900 were found. This meant that the locations have cultural heritage value or interest that needs further study or additional mitigation measures to protect the resource. These recommendations are being factored into the construction plans for the Project. At the remaining sites, no archaeological evidence was found to suggest a Stage 3 was necessary because no cultural resources would be disturbed.



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### Have A Question?

We hope you find this Plain Language Summary helpful. In case you would like additional information or have any questions, please contact us directly:

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