

Innisfil 400 Wind Farm Project: Environmental Screening Process

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Introduction

Schneider Power Inc. ("SPI") is a privately owned, Ontario-based wind power development company focused on establishing wind power generation facilities. Wind power is the fastest growing sector of the global power generation industry. To date, Canada has trailed other industrial nations (in particular European countries) in wind power production despite a strong wind resource.

SPI is proposing to construct a small-scale, low-impact wind farm in the Town of Innisfil, Ontario. SPI will be completing the Environmental Assessment.

The project will involve:

- Wind Farm to be located between 5th and 6th Line, Concession 5 along Highway 400
- Total area of wind farm is approximately 200 acres
- Construction of 5 wind turbines with a unit generating capacity of 2 MW each, total generation capacity in the range of 10 MW
- Electrical connection will require feeder underground cable from the turbines, pad mount transformers and a connection to 44 kV grid on 5th Side Road

Assessment of Wind Turbine Sites

In order to minimize potential environmental impacts from the wind turbines, the following issues were taken into consideration during the turbine siting process:

- Avoid designated heritage areas, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs), Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), migratory birds habitat and staging areas, significant vegetation areas and watercourses.
- Avoid designated hazard lands.
- Setbacks: approximately 50 m from property line, minimum 250 m from dwellings. (Discussions are ongoing with the municipality to develop zoning by-laws that will identify specific set-backs for turbines).

- Sound set-back: in accordance with latest Ministry of the Environment Guidelines for Wind Turbine Generators: a limit of 40 dBA or higher (dependent on wind speed) for receptors was used.

Assessment of Electrical Line Routes

An assessment was undertaken on the electrical line route. To minimize impacts on the environment the route selected utilized existing road right-of-ways, where possible. The electrical lines from the turbine properties to the grid tie-in point will be situated on private property or in the existing road or utility right-of-ways. To minimize costs, the preferred location of the electrical lines is the shortest route between the wind farm and the existing hydro lines (44 kV line on 5th Side Road).

Recommended Solution (Turbines & Electrical Line)

(Map not to scale)



Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Environmental impacts will generally be limited to temporary impacts associated with construction activities. These impacts are not anticipated to be significant or adverse and they can be mitigated.

Based on the bird studies completed in the area, it was determined that construction activities are not likely to have any significant impact on birds (or any other wildlife).

The operation phase of the project will require some maintenance and inspection of the turbines



on a regular basis but minimal environmental impacts are expected from these activities

Turbine and Electrical Line Design

The turbines proposed for the project are ENERCON machines, model E82. The state-of-the-art technology is rated at 2MW capacity with hub height of 80 meters with a gearless turbine. The blades, horizontal axis, are constructed of fiberglass and epoxy resin. The tower is tubular steel, with a diameter of approximately 82 meters at the base for the model.

Some of the wind turbines will have external lighting in accordance with the requirements of Navigation Canada. Direct buried cables are proposed to connect the wind turbines to the overhead lines running along the side of the roads (within the road right-of-ways). These cables will connect one to three or more wind turbines on a common cable.

The preferred electrical line route is along 6th Line and will tie in with the Hydro One grid on 5th Side Road. The old poles will be replaced with new poles approximately 30 feet high.

Next Steps

The public will have the opportunity to review the evaluation of the electrical line route and to provide input on the recommended wind turbine sites and electrical line route as well as mitigation measures. Comments received at PIC #2 (held April 2nd) and at PIC #3 (held May 17th) will be considered in finalizing the recommended wind turbine sites and the electrical line route.

The Environmental Impact Statement Report/Screening Report will be completed in summer 2007. It is anticipated that the Notice of Completion will be filed in the local newspaper in July or August 2007 for a minimum 30-day public review period.

During the detailed design and construction phases, SPI will consult and obtain the necessary approvals from the appropriate ministries and/or agencies.

It is anticipated that the project will be constructed and commissioned in early 2008.

For further information or if you wish to provide your comments please contact:

Beatrice Ashby

Head of Environmental Planning & Permitting

Schneider Power Inc.

49 Bathurst Street, Suite 101

Toronto, Ontario M5V 2P2

Phone: 416.847.3724 x 229

Fax: 416. 847.3729

Email: beatrice@schneiderpower.com

Your participation in this study would be appreciated

