



Memo

Project No. 1865-I

To: Julie Breton

From: Andrew Ryckman

Date: February 19, 2025

Re: Niagara Region Wind Farm
Operational Mitigation Plan for Birds Annual Report (2024)

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI) was retained to address certain requirements of Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 242/08 of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) for the Niagara Region Wind Farm (Project), which includes monitoring and reporting associated with the *Niagara Region Wind Farm: Operational Mitigation Plan for Birds* (NRSI 2018) and the associated *Niagara Region Wind Farm: Operational Mitigation Plan (Birds) Update* (NRSI 2023). The following *Operational Mitigation Plan Annual Report* has been prepared in accordance with Section 23.20 of the ESA for the 2024 monitoring year, which represents the eighth full year of operation at the Project. This report outlines any effects of the operational wind facility on the species listed in the Operational Mitigation Plan, analysis of results, encounters with the species, and steps taken to minimize adverse impacts to the species.

The Niagara Region Wind Farm is owned and operated by 1021702 B.C. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Boralex Inc., and consists of 77 wind turbines with a total generating capacity of 230MW. The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln, within Niagara Region and Haldimand County, Ontario (Map 1).

Although the Notice of Activity filed for the Niagara Region Wind Farm (confirmation number: M-102-3171068444) did not include the following bird species, a separate Operational Mitigation Plan has been prepared and is being implemented for the following three species following general industry standards:

- Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*),
- Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), and
- Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*).

In accordance with Section 23.20, subsection (13a), an annual report must be prepared for the first three years and every five years thereafter. This report documents the relevant results of the eighth full year of operation of this facility and has been prepared to satisfy the reporting requirements of Section 23.20.

Operational Mitigation Plan Report Requirements

In accordance with Section 23.20, this report has been prepared to meet the following requirements:

- A report must be prepared annually for the first three years and subsequently every five years for the duration identified in the Notice of Activity (Subsection (13a));
- The report must be completed by March 31 that follows the end of the period in respect of which the report is prepared (Subsection (14));
- The report will include the following components, as per Subsection (15):
 - Information relating to the effects of the operation of the facility on each species, as listed in the Notice of Activity, and its habitat,
 - Analysis of the above information,
 - Description of any encounters with the species, and
 - Documentation of the steps taken to minimize adverse effects of the facility on each species identified in the Notice of Activity, including discussion of the effectiveness.

In accordance with Section 23.20, subsection (4), paragraph 8, this report must be retained for at least five years and must be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) within 14 days of a request for submission.

Effects on Species at Risk

The *Operational Mitigation Plan (Birds) Update* for the Niagara Region Wind Farm considers three species. Table 1 provides a list of these species, including the documented effects of the operation of the wind facility on each species and its habitat during the reporting year associated with this report.

Table 1. Effects of the Operation of the Niagara Region Wind Farm on Species Included in the Operational Mitigation Plan for Birds (2024)

Species Name	Effects of Operation on the Species	Documented Level of Impact Reached ¹	Effects of Operation on its Habitat
Bobolink	None	None	None
Bank Swallow	None	None	None
Eastern Meadowlark	None	None	None

¹ As defined in the *Niagara Region Wind Farm: Operational Mitigation Plan for Birds* (NRSI 2018)

Encounters with the Species

During the operation of the Niagara Region Wind Farm in 2024, there was the potential to encounter the species listed in the *Operational Mitigation Plan (Birds) Update*. Two different types of encounters could occur, including observed mortalities and live encounters. Table 2 outlines the number and details of each encounter for all species listed in the *Operational Mitigation Plan (Birds) Update*. Species not specifically listed in the table below (Bank Swallow and Eastern Meadowlark) were not encountered during the 2024 calendar year.

Table 2. Encounters with Listed Bird Species During the Operation of the Niagara Region Wind Farm (2024)

Date (2024)	Location	Number of Individuals	Encounter Type	Details
Bobolink				
May 14	T81	9	Live	Five male and four female individuals were observed while conducting mortality monitoring.
May 14	T85	2	Live	Two male individuals were observed while conducting mortality monitoring.
May 20	T18	1	Live	One male individual was observed while conducting mortality monitoring.
July 3	T78	1	Live	One male individual was observed while conducting mortality monitoring.

Steps Taken to Minimize Impact to the Species

The *Niagara Region Wind Farm: Operational Mitigation Plan for Birds* (NRSI 2018) outlines the comprehensive steps taken to minimize impact to the species listed in the Plan, should an impact be observed. As no impact on any species listed in the *Operational Mitigation Plan (Birds) Update* was documented during on-site monitoring conducted in 2024, the implementation of specific steps to minimize adverse effects on the species was not required.

Summary

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with the ESA and O. Reg. 242/08, Section 23.20 for the purpose of analyzing potential impacts to Species at Risk as a result of the operation of the Niagara Region Wind Farm during the 2024 monitoring year, which was the eighth full year of operation.

As outlined above, potential effects of the operation of the facility on the species listed in the *Operational Mitigation Plan (Birds) Update* have been effectively mitigated and/or minimized, as confirmed by the absence of documented impacts to any species listed in the *Operational Mitigation Plan (Birds) Update*.

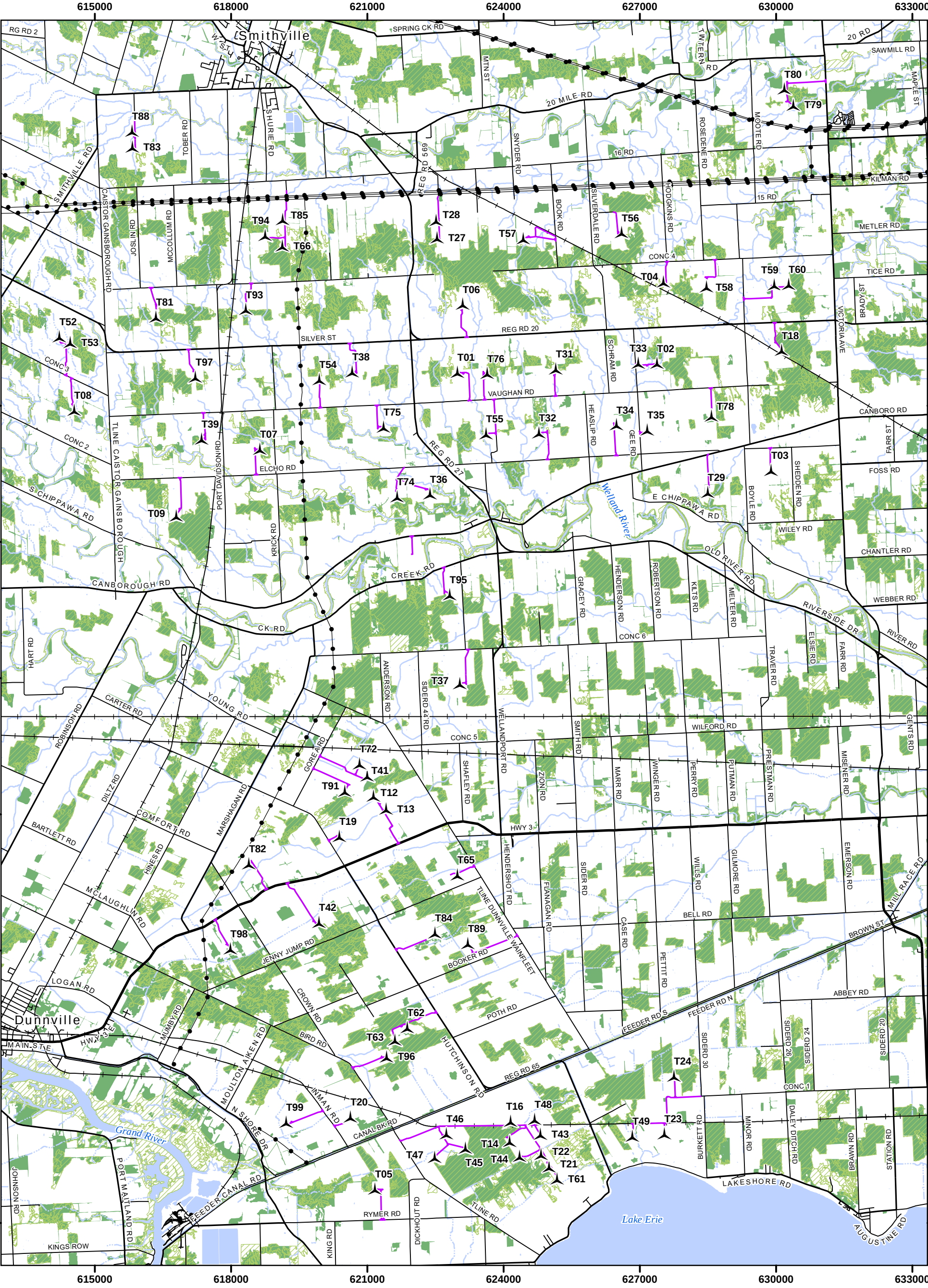
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Best Regards,

Andrew Ryckman

Andrew Ryckman
Senior Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist
Natural Resource Solutions Inc.

Map 1
Project Area and Natural Features



Legend

Turbine

Access Road

Utility Line

Railway

Highway

Primary Road

Secondary Road

Permanent Watercourse

Intermittent Watercourse

Water Body

Wetland

Wooded Area

Map 1

Niagara Region Wind Farm

Project Area and Natural Features

NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.
Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

0123 Kilometers

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Project: 18651
Date: April 23, 2024
NAD83 - UTM Zone 17
Scale 1:80,000 (11x17")

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