

B PRELIMINARY INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE STUDY



December 8th 2017

WSP

90 Woodside Lane, Unit 104
Fredericton, NB E3C 2R9 Canada
(506) 247-4003

Attention: Christina Laflamme

Preliminary IK Study – Albert County Wind Farm

Introduction

On November 17 2017, a preliminary traditional Indigenous Knowledge study was conducted for the proposed Albert County Wind Farm. The proposed site is located off the New Ireland Road, North East of Fundy National Park and adjacent to the Kent Hills Wind Farm. The study was carried out under the direction of Elder Gilbert Sewell of Pabineau First Nation, with assistance of Laura Buck (Fort Folly First Nation), Christina LaFlamme (WSP), and Grant Aylesworth (Stratis Consulting). In addition to this study, other preliminary assessments have been carried out by Ms. LaFlamme and Mr. Aylesworth pertaining to archeological settlements and surrounding flora and fauna. The study focused on 5 proposed wind turbine locations within the Albert County Wind Farm corridor, with an additional 7 sites examined along the New Ireland Road leading up to the proposed turbine locations.

Methods

The crew used a handheld GPS (Global Positioning System) and map provided by Ms. LaFlamme to locate the already marked out proposed locations. Mr. Sewell and Ms. Buck recorded these locations on a personal GPS (Garmin Etrex 10), took photos of site locations and surrounding vegetation, and recorded notes in their field books. The areas were examined visually for evidence of any past Indigenous and/or European settlements, and rare or culturally significant vegetation.

The crew visited each of the 5 proposed turbine sites with trucks, which were accessible via logging roads that branched off the New Ireland Road from NB Route 104. Other sites examined on the New Ireland Road consisted of: a potential substation, tributary of Crank Brook and Crank Brook itself, North River, wetlands, a historic church area no longer discernible, a Catholic church cemetery, and the roadside vegetation where power lines will be installed. In total, 12 sites were visited and examined.



Results and Discussion

Turbines Locations and Additional Examined Sites

The turbine locations and other areas of interest had previously been examined by Mr. Aylesworth for the purpose of archeological inspections, at which time no evidence of previous Indigenous or European settlement was observed. Mr. Sewell and Ms. Buck also found no evidence of any type of settlement relating to either Indigenous or European settlers. Evidence of historic settlements would include culturally significant remnants of structures such as dwellings, sweat lodges, fire pits, grave yards, as well as artifacts such as items made from stones, basketry, spear heads, pottery, etc. The study area of the proposed turbine locations is heavily disturbed, which made it difficult to find remnants of settlements. The proposed turbine sites consisted predominately of a mixture of old and young secondary growth forests, made up of deciduous trees with some conifers, and on-going clear cutting, the product of years of logging and harvesting.

During the survey, Mr. Sewell and Ms. Buck looked for any culturally significant flora which would include vegetation such as black ash, sweet grass, cedar, etc., as well as other significant plants that may be tied to a medicinal or cultural use. While an abundance of flora and fauna were identified at all sites, they are common to the area and Mr. Sewell concluded they were not of threat to the proposed project.

The power lines to be installed will have minimal effect on roadside vegetation, as little disturbance will be required to install poles. However, there will be some impact on roadside vegetation when the roads are widened to transport the turbines. Mr. Sewell did not find any threatened plants or trees that he considered culturally significant that will be affected by the roadside clearing.

Conclusions

The results of the field survey conducted by Mr. Sewell and Ms. Buck, determine that no cultural heritage resources and no concerns regarding plant/vegetation that are culturally significant were identified within the proposed Albert County Wind Farm area or the other examined sites leading up to the proposed turbine locations. Based on previous historical knowledge there is a good likelihood that no settlements would be in the area. However, there is still the possibility of discovery in regards to settlement or land use but during the preliminary assessment nothing was found.