



**NORTHLAND  
POWER**

**Empire Solar Project**  
**Draft Natural Heritage Records Review Report**  
April 27, 2012



Northland Power Inc.  
on behalf of  
Northland Power Solar  
Empire L.P.  
Toronto, Ontario

DRAFT Natural Heritage  
Records Review Report

Empire Solar Project

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Rev. 0

April 27, 2012

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Project Report

April 27, 2012

**Northland Power Inc.  
Empire Solar Project**

**DRAFT Natural Heritage Records Review Report**

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Project Description

Northland Power Solar Empire L.P. (hereinafter referred to as “Northland”) is proposing to develop a Class 3 10-megawatt (MW) ground mounted solar photovoltaic (Solar PV) facility in the Town of Cochrane. This Project, known as the Empire Solar Project, is hereafter referred to as “Empire” or the “Project.”

The Project location is comprised of two primary components. The first part of the Project is the location of the solar panels, including access roads, inverters, transformers, fencing, etc, and is hereafter referred to as the “solar panel Project location” The solar panel Project location approximately 122 hectares (ha) in size and located on Lots 17 and 18, Concession 7 of the Town of Cochrane. The solar panel Project location is situated on Glackmeyer Concession Road 7 (shown in Figure 1.1).

The second part of the Project is the approximately 20 km distribution line from the solar panel Project location to the connection point west of the Project location near Hunta, ON. This portion of the project is referred to as the distribution line Project location, with locations shown in Figures 1.2 and 1.3.

### 1.2 REA Legislative Requirements

Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 359/09 – Renewable Energy Approvals Under Part V.0.1 of the Act, (herein referred to as the REA Regulation) made under the Environmental Protection Act identifies the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) requirements for renewable energy projects in Ontario. Per Section 4 of the REA Regulation, ground mounted solar facilities with a name plate capacity greater than 10 kilowatts (kW) are classified as Class 3 solar facilities and require a REA.

Section 25 of the REA Regulation requires proponents of Class 3 solar projects to undertake a natural heritage records review to identify whether the Project is

- i. in a provincial park or conservation reserve or within 120 m of a provincial park or conservation reserve
- ii. in a natural feature
- iii. within 50 m of an area of natural and scientific interest (earth science), or
- iv. within 120 m of a natural feature that is not an area of natural and scientific interest (earth science).

Natural Features are defined in Section 1.1 of the REA Regulation to be all or part of

- a) an area of natural and scientific interest (ANSI) (earth science)
- b) an ANSI (life science)
- c) a coastal wetland
- d) a northern wetland

- e) a southern wetland
- f) a valleyland
- g) a wildlife habitat, or
- h) a woodland.

In respect of valleylands and woodlands, Section 1.1 of the REA Regulation identifies that these features are only found south and east of the Canadian Shield. As the Project location is north of the Canadian Shield, it is not possible for valleylands or woodlands to be located on or within 120 m of the Project location.

Subsection 3 of Section 25 of the REA Regulation requires the proponent to prepare a report “setting out a summary of the records searched and the results of the analysis” (O. Reg. 359/09). This Natural Heritage Records Review Report has been prepared to meet these requirements.

## 2. Methodology

This Records Review Report is based on a review of published and non-published information on natural heritage features and provincial parks/conservation reserves identified on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).

Records were searched within a minimum distance of 1 km from the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line). Results are discussed below in relation to the distances specified between the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) and natural features and provincial parks/conservation reserves as defined in Section 25 of the REA Regulation (see Section 1.2).

The following sections document the records that were searched for, and what was obtained, with the focus on identifying whether or not the Project was located on or within 120 m of any of the features listed in Section 1.2. The sections are organized as identified in Column 1 of the table in Section 25 of the REA Regulation.

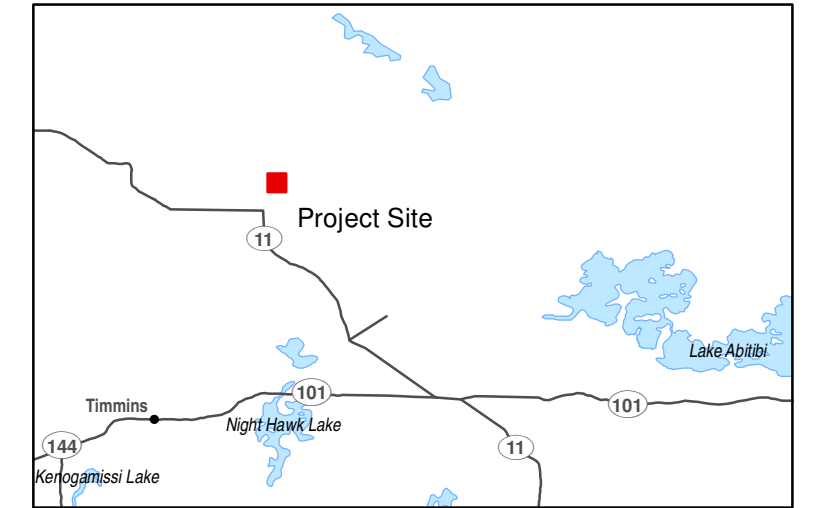
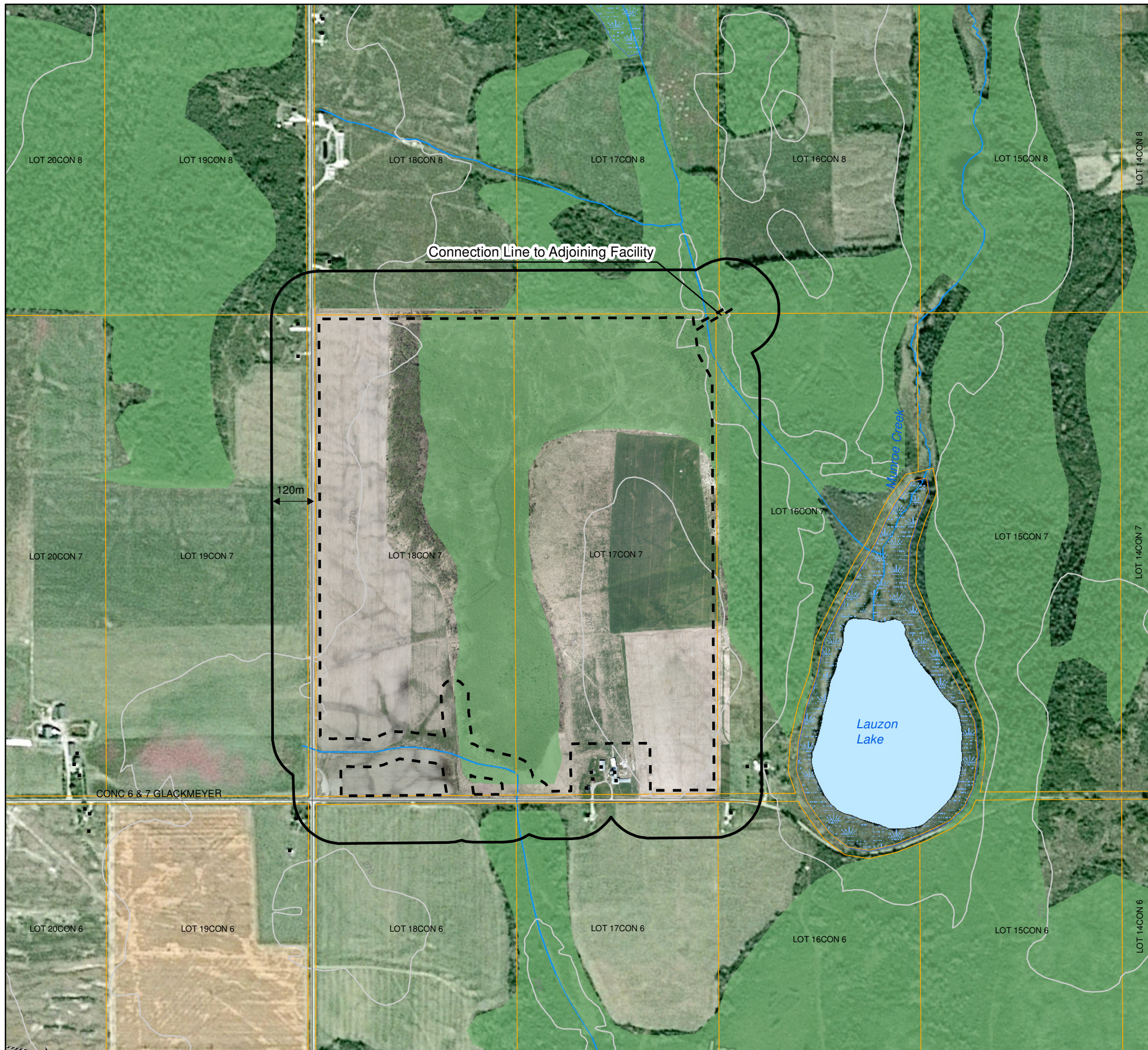
There are no conservation authorities within the jurisdiction of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line). Also, the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) is not located within the Niagara Escarpment Commission Plan Area, the Greenbelt Plan area or the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area. Similarly there are no local roads boards and local service boards present with jurisdiction over these areas. Therefore, records review for these bodies was not conducted.

### 2.1 Ministry of Natural Resources Records

The following Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on-line records were reviewed:

- Ontario Base Maps and natural feature layers from Land Information Ontario (LIO) (<http://www.geographynetwork.ca/website/obm/viewer.htm>). Data layers were requested on March 11 and 12, 2010, with results received on March 12, 2010. Layers requested from the Natural Resources Values Information System are described below:





**Legend**

- Building
- Road
- Topographic Contour (5m interval)
- Watercourse
- ▭ Parcel
- ▭ Project Location
- ▭ 120 m from Project Location
- ▭ Waterbody
- ▭ Wetland Area
- ▭ Wooded Area

Notes:  
 1. Produced by Hatch under licence from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Copyright (c) Queens Printer 2011.  
 2. Spatial referencing UTM NAD 83.



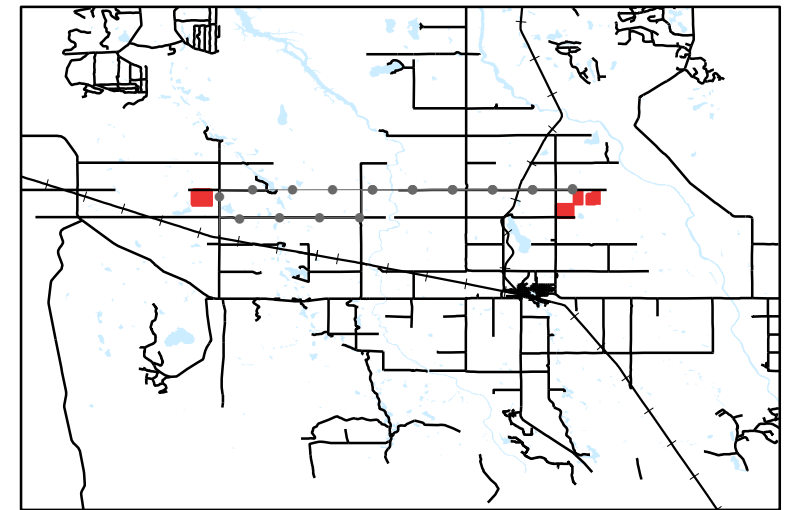
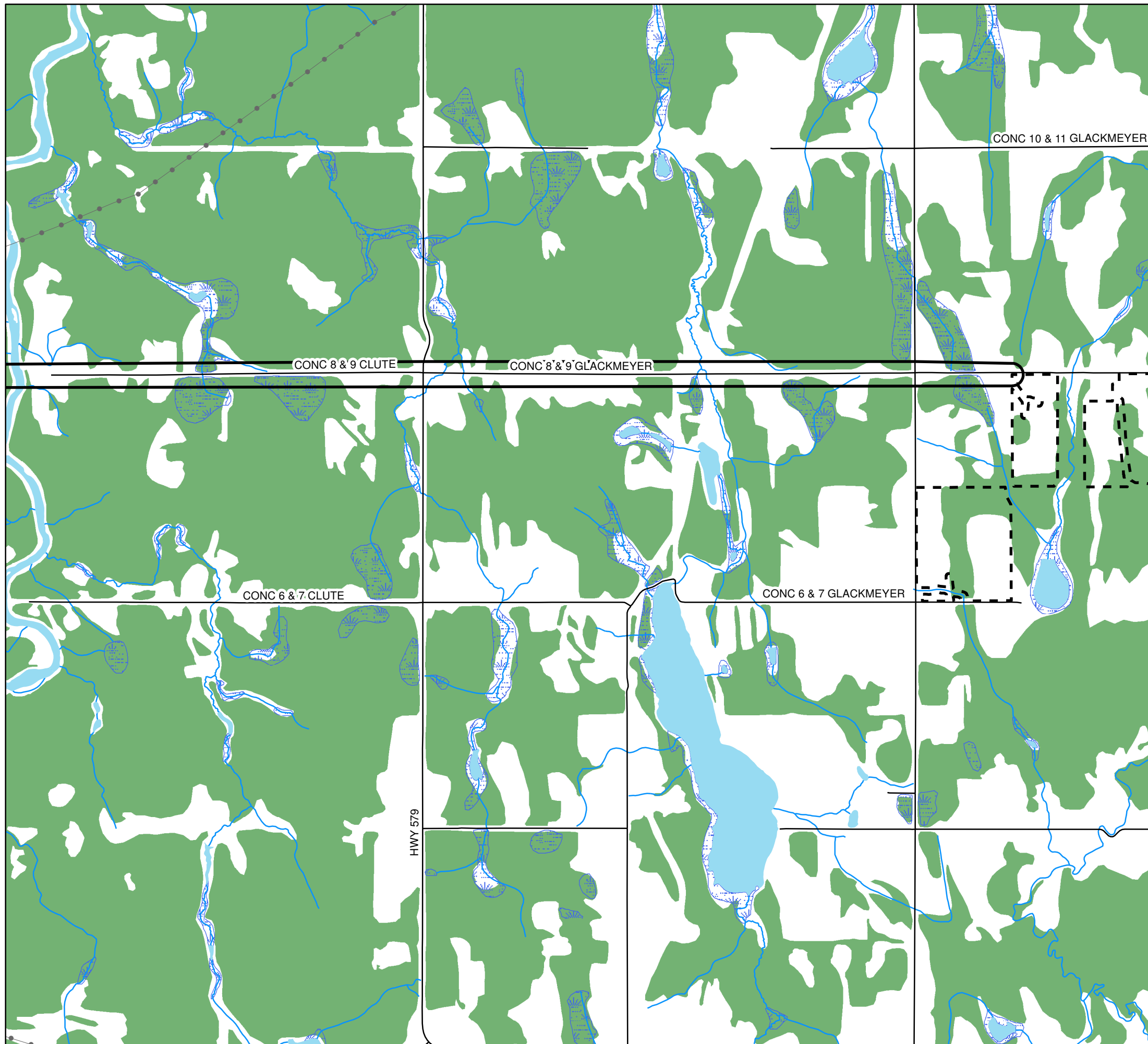
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Figure 1.1  
 Northland Power Inc.  
 Empire Solar Project  
**Natural Heritage Features  
 Solar Panel Project Location**



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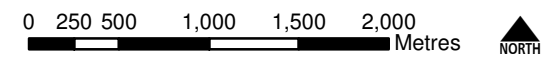




**Legend**

- Connection Point
- Road
- Utility Line
- Watercourse
- - - Northland Power Project Location
- ▭ 120 m from Distribution Line
- ▭ Waterbody
- ▨ Wetland Area
- ▭ Wooded Area

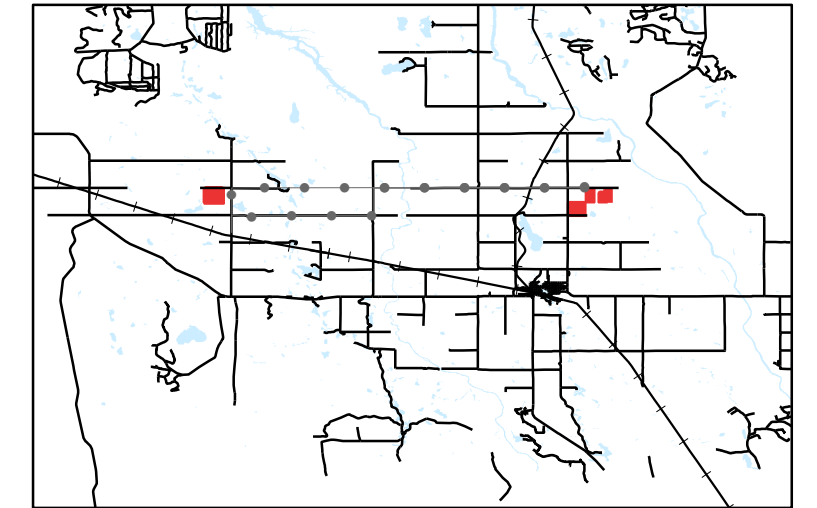
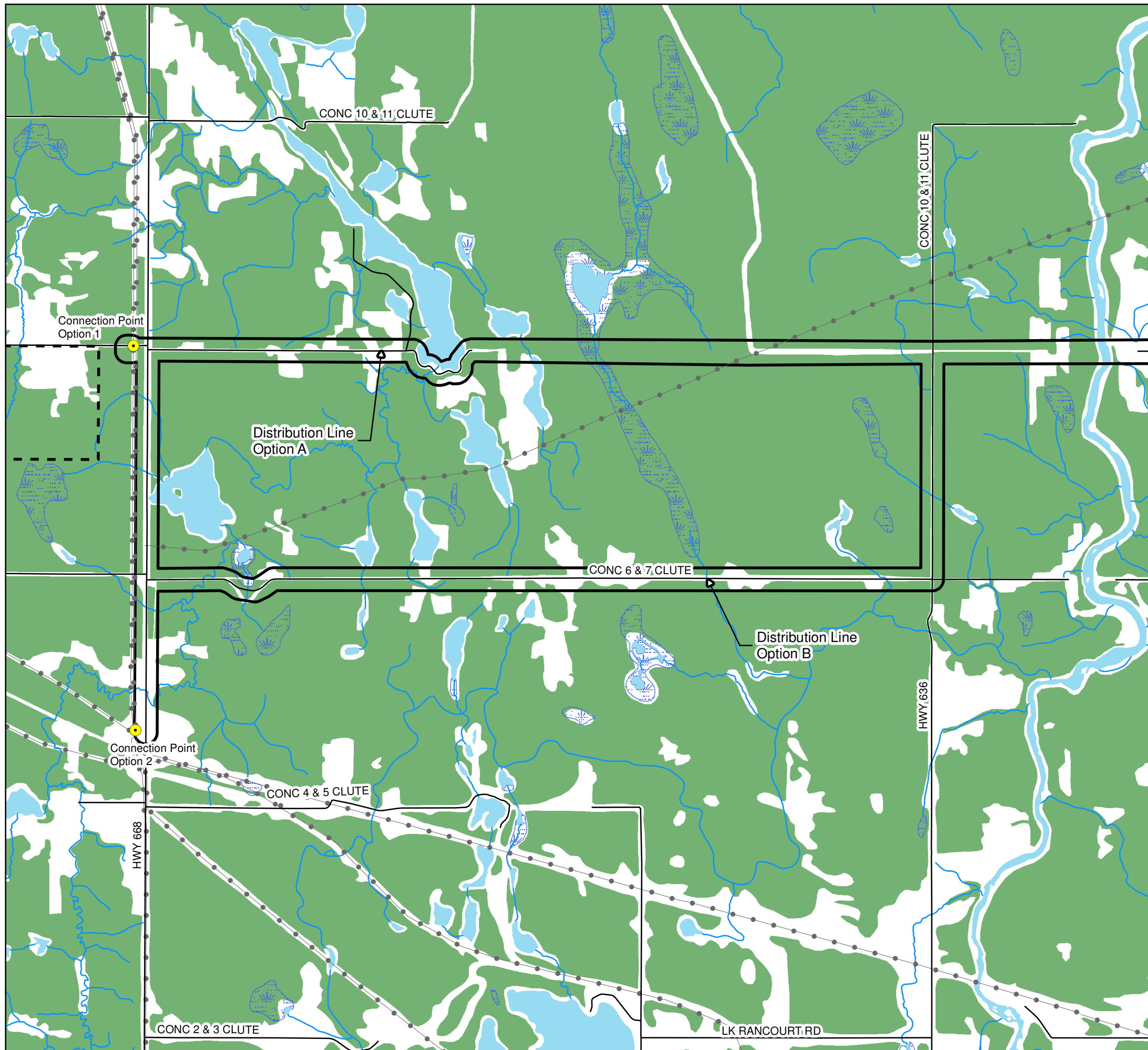
Notes:  
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 2. Spatial referencing UTM NAD 83.  
 3. Satellite Imagery from google Earth Pro, captured 2003 through 2004.



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Figure 1.2  
 Northland Power Inc.  
**Distribution Line Project Location (Eastern Half) - Natural Heritage Features**

[back](#)



**Legend**

- Connection Point
- Road
- Utility Line
- Watercourse
- ⌈⌋ Northland Power Project Location
- ⌈⌋ 120 m from Distribution Line
- Waterbody
- Wetland Area
- Wooded Area

Notes:  
 1. Produced by Hatch under licence from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Copyright (c) Queens Printer 2011.  
 2. Spatial referencing UTM NAD 83.  
 3. Satellite Imagery from google Earth Pro, captured 2003 through 2004.

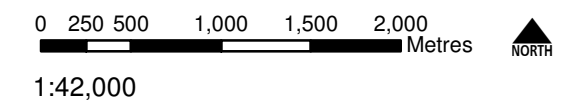


Figure 1.3  
 Northland Power Inc.  
**Distribution Line Project Location (Western Half) - Natural Heritage Features**



[Back](#)

- ◆ Layers with data:
  - Provincial Park Regulated
  - Conservation Reserve, Regulated
  - Significant Ecological Area
  - Wooded Area
  - Beaver Dam
  - Wild Rice Stand
  - Wintering Area
  - Aquatic Feeding Area
  - Nesting Site
  - Staging Area, Wildlife
- ◆ Layers without data:
  - National Park
  - National Wildlife Area
  - NGO Nature Reserve
  - Conservation Area
  - ANSI
  - Environmentally Sensitive Area
  - Natural Heritage Values Area
  - Wetland Unit
  - Mast Producing Area
  - Breeding Area
  - Calving Fawning Site
  - Breeding Zone
  - Den Site
  - Nursery Area, Wildlife
  - Feeding Area, Wildlife
- Travel Corridor, Wildlife.

- Ontario Wind Resource Atlas (<http://www.ontariowindatlas.ca/>). Mapping of Important Bird Areas was reviewed to determine whether any such features are identified on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
- NHIC Biodiversity Explorer (<http://www.biodiversityexplorer.mnr.gov.on.ca/nhicWEB/main.jsp>). Element occurrences of species of conservation concern (species listed as S1-S3 species, species listed as threatened or endangered by COSEWIC) were reviewed to determine those that may be found on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line). An area of approximately 6 km<sup>2</sup> was queried using the 1 x 1 km query tool.
- NHIC Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary Atlas (<http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/herps/ohs.html>). Range maps of herpetofaunal species were reviewed to determine those species that may occur on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).

In addition to on-line records, the MNR, Cochrane District, was contacted on May 18, 2011 to obtain records relating to natural features. Specific records that were requested from MNR Cochrane District included records relating to

- Forest Resource Inventory mapping of the forests on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
- records of ANSIs on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
- wetland mapping or evaluations for wetland communities on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
- wildlife habitats on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line), with a specific focus on
  - ◆ season concentration areas, including
    - winter deer yards
    - moose late winter habitat
    - waterfowl stopover, staging, or nesting areas
    - Turkey Vulture summer roosting areas
    - reptile hibernacula
    - bat hibernacula
    - bullfrog concentration areas
  - ◆ rare vegetation communities or specialized habitats for wildlife
    - rare forest types
    - habitat for area-sensitive species, including open country bird breeding habitat
    - old-growth or mature forest stands



- foraging areas with abundant mast
- amphibian woodland breeding ponds
- turtle nesting habitat
- raptor nesting habitat
- moose calving areas
- moose aquatic feeding areas
- mineral licks
- mink, otter, marten and fisher denning sites
- seeps and springs
- ◆ habitat for species of conservation concern
- ◆ animal movement corridors.

In addition to the above records, additional guidance with respect to identification of natural features was provided through:

- Ontario Wetland Evaluation System – Northern Manual (MNR, 1993)
- Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (MNR, 2000a)
- A Field Guide to Forest Ecosystems of Northeastern Ontario (MNR, 2000b)

## 2.2 Federal Government Records

Natural Resources Canada's Amphibians and Reptiles of Ontario Climate Domain Maps were reviewed in order to identify herpetofaunal species that may be found on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).

The websites of the Canadian Wildlife Service ([www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca)) and Environment Canada ([www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)) were also reviewed to determine if any studies of natural heritage features have been undertaken by the bodies on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).

## 2.3 Town of Cochrane

The Project location is located within Town of Cochrane, a single tier municipality. The Town of Cochrane Official Plan (TOC, 2008) and Zoning By-Law (TOC, 2010) do not identify any specific natural features on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).

Information on natural heritage features was also requested from Town of Cochrane by e-mail on July 7, 2011.

## 2.4 Cochrane Suburban Planning Board

The Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) is within the jurisdiction of the Cochrane Suburban Planning Board. Information on natural heritage features was requested from Cochrane Suburban Planning Board by e-mail on July 7, 2011.

## 2.5 Other Records

In addition to the information sources previously discussed, the following documents were also reviewed:

- Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (Bird Studies Canada et al., 2006). The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas was reviewed in order to determine what bird species have been or are likely to be found on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
- Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario (Dobbyn, 1994). Range maps of mammal species were reviewed to determine those species that may occur on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
- Important Bird Areas of Canada website (<http://www.ibacanada.ca/mapviewer.jsp?lang=en>). The website was reviewed to determine if there are any important bird areas present on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).

**Table 2.1 Summary of Records Review Methodology**

Feature	Records Requested	Contact Information	Records Received
Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve	Boundaries of Provincial Park or Conservation Reserves within 1 km of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).	Land Information Ontario	Datalayer of provincial parks and conservation reserves. No provincial parks or conservation reserves were identified on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
ANSIs	Boundaries of ANSIs within 1 km of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).	Land Information Ontario	Datalayer of ANSIs.
	Records relating to ANSIs on or within 1 km of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).	Jennifer Telford, District Planner, MNR Cochrane	Cochrane District MNR Records relating to ANSIs
Wetlands	Boundaries of wetlands within 1 km of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).	Land Information Ontario	Datalayer of wetlands.
	Records relating to wetlands on or within 1 km of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).	Jennifer Telford, District Planner, MNR Cochrane	Natural Resource Values Information System (NRVIS) data
Wildlife Habitat	Wildlife habitat features on or within 1 km of the Project location (both solar panel	Land Information Ontario	Datalayers that were requested are outlined in Section 2.1. Those for which

Feature	Records Requested	Contact Information	Records Received
	and distribution line) (see Section 2.1 for complete list).		data was received included: Provincial Park Regulated Conservation Reserve, Regulated Significant Ecological Area, Wooded Area, Beaver Dam, Wild Rice Stand, Wintering Area, Aquatic Feeding Area, Nesting Site, Staging Area, Wildlife.
	Records relating to wildlife habitats on or within 1 km of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) (see Section 2.1 for complete list).	Jennifer Telford, District Planner, MNR Cochrane	Natural Resource Values Information System (NRVIS) data
	Records relating to Important Bird Areas of Canada on or within 1 km of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).	Ontario Wind Resource Atlas Important Bird Area of Canada website	On-line mapping through both sources was reviewed on January 5, 2011. No Important Bird Areas were identified on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
	Records relating to presence of species of conservation concern on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).	NHIC Biodiversity Explorer	The NHIC Biodiversity Explorer, Species Search was reviewed on January 5, 2011. No records of species of conservation concern were identified.
	Range maps of herpetofauna.	NHIC Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary Atlas NRCan Amphibian and Reptile Climate Domain Maps	Range maps of herpetofaunal species were reviewed from both sources on January 6, 2011.
	Range maps of mammals.	Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario	Range maps of mammal species were reviewed. The Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario was published in 1994.
	Breeding bird occurrences.	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas survey website.	Results of Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas surveys for square 17NQ04, 17MQ94 and 17MQ84 (i.e., in Region 42) were obtained from the website on January 6, 2011 and July 11, 2011.
General Natural Features	Records relating to any natural features.	Richard Vallee, Building and Planning, Town of	Town of Cochrane and Cochrane Suburban Planning Boards Records



Feature	Records Requested	Contact Information	Records Received
		Cochrane and Secretary Treasure, Cochrane Suburban Planning Board	

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves

No provincial parks or conservation reserves were identified on or within 120 m of the Project location.

#### 3.2 ANSIs

No ANSIs were identified on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel location and distribution line).

#### 3.3 Wetlands

A single wetland community was identified within 120 m west of the solar panel Project location. It is possible that additional wetland communities may be found on or within 120 m of the solar panel Project location; this will be confirmed during the site investigation. There are no wetland evaluations available for these wetland communities.

There are several wetland communities both on and within 120 m of the distribution line Project location. There are no wetland evaluations available for these communities.

#### 3.4 Wildlife Habitat

The majority of data layers for which data was received from Land Information Ontario did not contain information relevant to the area on or within 120 m of the solar panel or distribution line Project location (see Figure 1.1). No known specific wildlife habitat features have been identified within the records on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) as a result of the records review.

Several species of reptiles and amphibians were identified whose ranges may overlap with the solar panel or distribution line Project location (Table 3.1). None of these species are considered to be species of conservation concern. The Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario (Dobbyn, 1994) identified several species of mammals whose ranges may overlap with the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line). The list of these species is provided in Table 3.2. None of these species are identified as species of conservation concern.

Records of breeding birds within map squares 17NQ04, 17MQ94 and 17MQ84,, which overlap or are near to the Project location (solar panel and/or distribution line), were obtained. Of the species that were recorded, eight species of conservation concern were identified: Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus*

*carolinus*), Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*). These species are discussed further in Section 3.4.1.

In addition to those species identified through existing survey information within the area, Appendix G of the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide was referenced to identify species of conservation concern that may occur in the area. Several species were identified and are addressed within Section 3.4.1.

### **3.4.1 Species of Conservation Concern**

If habitat for any of these species discussed below are present, this would represent candidate significant habitat for species of conservation concern.

#### **3.4.1.1 Reptiles and Amphibians**

No species of conservation concern identified.

#### **3.4.1.2 Mammals**

Northern Long-eared Bat are described as an S3 species within the province. They hibernate during winter in mines or caves. Maternity roosts are found in hollow trees or under loose bark. These features may be found on or within 120 m of the Project location.

Rock Vole are identified as an S3 species within the province. They are associated with rocky areas such as moss-covered rock outcrops or talus slopes near streams in cool damp coniferous or mixed forests. Such habitat may be found on or within 120 m of the Project location.

#### **3.4.1.3 Birds**

- Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), which are identified as an S3 breeding species within the province. Red-necked Grebe are found in permanent freshwater lakes with a fringe of aquatic emergent vegetation, protected marshy areas or bays in larger lakes, or marshes impoundments or sewage lagoons with more than 4 ha of open water (MNR, 2000). Pairs of Red-necked Grebes were recorded within suitable breeding habitat during the 1981 to 1985 Breeding Bird Atlas, but not during the 2001 to 2005 atlas (MapSquare 17MQ94). Such habitat may be found within some of the wetlands on or within 120 m of the distribution line Project location.
- Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), which are identified as being of Special Concern on the SARO list. Black Tern are found in wetlands, typically large cattail marshes, marshy edges of waterbodies, wet open fens or meadows. Requires marshes greater than 20 ha in size and must have shallow water 0.5 to 1 m deep (MNR, 2000). Such habitat may be found within some of the wetlands on or within 120 m of the distribution line Project location.
- Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), which are identified as being of Special Concern on the SARO list. Short-eared Owls are typically found in grassy areas, marshes, or bogs. Requires 75-100 ha of contiguous open habitat (MNR, 2000). A permanent territory and a pair of Short-eared Owl were recorded within suitable breeding habitat during the 1981 to 1985 Breeding Bird Atlas, but not during the 2001 to 2005 atlas (MapSquare 17MQ94). Suitable habitat may be found within the open areas on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line)

- Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), which are identified as being of Special Concern on the SARO list. Common Nighthawk nest on open ground, such as ploughed fields, gravel beaches, clearings in dense forests or open woodlands (MNR, 2000). Such habitat may be found on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
- Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), which are identified as being of Special Concern on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) list. Canada Warbler are described as an interior forest species which nests in dense, wet mixedwood forests, and can be found in areas with shrubby undergrowth or within riparian habitat. Forest communities usually must be at least 30 ha in size (MNR, 2000). A Canada Warbler was observed carrying food for young during the 1981 to 1985 atlas (MapSquare 17MQ83), while singing males were present in suitable breeding habitat in the breeding season during the 2001 to 2005 atlas (MapSquare 17NQ04). Such habitat may be found within the woodlands on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
- Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalu*) require large continuous areas of deciduous or mixed woods surrounding large lakes or rivers and prefer open woodland with 30 to 50% canopy cover (MNR, 200). Suitable habitat may be found around Lauzon Lake. Though these areas are more than 120 m from the Project location, habitat supporting the nesting location should one be present around the lakes may extend onto or within 120 m of the Project location.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) occur along semi-open woodland and forest edges with dead trees and snags for perching. They tend to prefer coniferous forests especially near ponds, rivers and treed wetlands (MNR, 2000). Such habitat may be found within the woodlands on or within 120 m of the Project location and will need to be confirmed during the site investigation.

#### 3.4.1.4 Vegetation

Vegetation species of conservation concern are identified within Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1 Vegetation Species of Conservation Concern**

Scientific Name	Common Name	SRank	Habitat	Potential for suitable habitat on Project location
<i>Moehringia macrophylla</i>	Large-leaved Sandwort	S2	rocky ledges, open rocky woodlands and talus slopes	Yes
<i>Carex haydenii</i>	Long-scaled Tussock Sedge	S2	open and shaded wet habitats	Yes
<i>Carex loliacea</i>	Sedge	S2	bogs, muskegs and black spruce forests	Yes
<i>Carex tetanica</i>	Common Stiff Sedge	S3	moist grassland, sandy shores and ditches, prairies, seepages	Yes
<i>Carex wiegandii</i>	Wiegand's Sedge	S1	black spruce bogs and alder swamps	Yes
<i>Scirpus clintonii</i>	Clinton's Bulrush	S2	prairie and open woods in south; shorelines, rock	Yes

Scientific Name	Common Name	SRank	Habitat	Potential for suitable habitat on Project location
			crevices in north	
<i>Scirpus heterochaetus</i>	Slender Bulrush	S3	marshes and shores	Yes
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	Limestone Oak Fern	S2	ledges and slopes in calcareous rock; occasionally in sphagnum mats in cedar swamps	Yes
<i>Woodsia alpina</i>	Northern Woodsia	S2	moist, cool, often shaded crevices in calcareous cliffs	Yes
<i>Woodsia glabella</i>	Smooth Woodsia	S1?	shaded, calcareous rock crevices	Yes
<i>Vaccinium membranaceum</i>	Mountain Bilberry	S1	moist, mature white birch, balsam fir, white cedar forests on shallow, acid soils	Yes
<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>	Blue Bilberry	S3	mixed woods	Yes
<i>Oxytropis viscida</i> var. <i>hudsonica</i>	Locoweed	S3	beach ridges and floodplains	Yes
<i>Diphysastrum sabinifolium</i>	Ground-fir	S3	sandy woods and meadows	Yes
<i>Listera auriculata</i>	Auricled Twayblade	S3	moist, shaded sandy soil	Yes
<i>Malaxis paludosa</i>	Bog Adder's-mouth	S1	sphagnum bogs and muskegs	Yes
<i>Panicum leibergii</i> var. <i>baldwinii</i>	Baldwin's Panic Grass	S1S2	dry to mesic prairies, sandy fields and sandy or rocky openings in oak forest; open, rocky riverbanks in northern Ontario	Yes



**Table 3.2 Reptiles and Amphibians Potentially Occurring on or within 120 m of the Project Location (both Solar Panel and Distribution Line) and their Conservation Status<sup>1</sup>**

Species		Conservation Rank <sup>2</sup>			At Risk Status		
		Global GRANK	Canada NRANK <sup>3</sup>	Ontario SRANK <sup>4</sup>	COSEWIC	SARO/ESA	SARA
Common Name	Scientific Name						
<b>Frogs and Toads</b>							
American Toad	<i>Bufo americanus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
American Bullfrog	<i>Rana castebiana</i>	G5	N5	S4	-	-	-
Green Frog	<i>Rana clamitans</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Mink Frog	<i>Rana septentrionalis</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	G5	N5	S5	NAR	NAR	-
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
<b>Snakes</b>							
Eastern Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i>	G5T5	N5	S5	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> As determined from potential climatic domain maps in McKenney et al (2007) and range maps provided in Oldham and Weller (2000).

<sup>2</sup> Accessed from NHIC, 2008b.

<sup>3</sup> NRANK = National Status (NatureServe ([www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)), in conjunction with Conservation Data Centres, such as NHIC); N = National Rank (Canada), 2 = Imperilled, 3 = Vulnerable, 4 = Apparently Secure, 5 = Secure, E = Exotic.

<sup>4</sup> SRANK = Provincial Status (NHIC 2008b); S = Sub-national Rank (Ontario), 2 = Imperilled, 3 = Vulnerable, 4 = Apparently Secure, 5 = Secure, E = Exotic, U = Unknown.

**Table 3.3 Mammals Potentially Occurring on or within 120 m of the Project Location (both Solar Panel and Distribution Line) and their Conservation Status<sup>1</sup>**

Species		Conservation Rank <sup>2</sup>			At Risk Status		
		Global GRANK	Canada NRANK <sup>3</sup>	Ontario SRANK <sup>4</sup>	COSEWIC	SARO	SARA
Common Name	Scientific Name						
<b>Shrews and Moles</b>							
Common Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Smoky Shrew	<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Star-nosed Mole	<i>Condylura cristata</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	G5	N5	S4	-	-	-
<b>Rabbits and Hares</b>							
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
<b>Rodents</b>							
Least Chipmunk	<i>Neotamias minimus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Southern Red-backed Vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Woodland Jumping Mouse	<i>Napaeozapus insignis</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	G5	NE	SE	-	-	-
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
<b>Bats</b>							
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Eastern Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	G5	N5	S4	-	-	-
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	G5	N5	S4	-	-	-
<b>Carnivores</b>							
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus occidentalis</i>	G4TNR	N4	S4	-	-	-
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-

Species		Conservation Rank <sup>2</sup>			At Risk Status		
		Global GRANK	Canada NRANK <sup>3</sup>	Ontario SRANK <sup>4</sup>	COSEWIC	SARO	SARA
Common Name	Scientific Name						
Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
River Otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	G5	N5	S4	-	-	-
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
<b>Ungulates</b>							
Moose	<i>Alces americanus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	G5	N5	S5	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> As determined from potential climatic domain maps in McKenney et al (2007) and range maps provided in Oldham and Weller (2000).

<sup>2</sup> Accessed from NHIC, 2008b.

<sup>3</sup> NRANK = National Status (NatureServe (www.natureserve.org), in conjunction with Conservation Data Centres, such as NHIC); N = National Rank (Canada), 2 = Imperilled, 3 = Vulnerable, 4 = Apparently Secure, 5 = Secure, E = Exotic.

<sup>4</sup> SRANK = Provincial Status (NHIC 2008b); S = Sub-national Rank (Ontario), 2 = Imperilled, 3 = Vulnerable, 4 = Apparently Secure, 5 = Secure, E = Exotic, U = Unknown.

## 4. Summary of Results

Table 4.1 summarizes the results of the records review according to the features identified in Section 1.2.

**Table 4.1 Summary of Records Review Determinations**

Determination to be Made	Yes/No	Description
Is the Project in or within 120 m of a provincial park or conservation reserve?	No	The nearest such features are located more than 120 m away from the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
Is the Project in a natural feature?	Yes	There are wetland communities identified along the distribution line Project location. Though no confirmed wildlife habitats exist on the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) within the records, there exists potential for habitat of species of conservation concern on the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).

Determination to be Made	Yes/No	Description
Is the Project within 50 m of an ANSI (earth science)?	No	The nearest earth science ANSI is located several kilometres from the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).
Is the Project within 120 m of a natural feature that is not an ANSI (earth science)?	Yes	There are wetlands located within 120 m of the distribution line Project location. Though no confirmed wildlife habitats exist within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) within the records, there exists potential for habitat of species of conservation concern on the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line).

As per Section 26 of the REA Regulation, a site investigation will be required to confirm the features identified during this records review. The site investigation will (i) identify if any corrections to the information presented herein are required, (ii) determine whether any additional natural features exist on or adjacent to the Project location, (iii) confirm the boundaries of the natural features within 120 m of the Project, and (iv) determine the distance from the Project to the natural feature boundary.

## 5. References

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