



NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.

Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

February 18, 2020

Project No. 2185Z

Ariane Côté
EDF Renewables
1010 Rue de la Gauchetière Ouest
Montréal, Québec
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Dear: Ms.Côté

**Re: Romney Wind Energy Centre
Bald Eagle Nest Status and Requirements (BAL-001)**

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI) was retained by Romney Energy Centre Limited Partnership to conduct construction monitoring at the Romney Wind Energy Centre (the Project). This involves acting as the owner's representative environmental construction monitor during the construction phase of the Project.

While completing construction monitoring, NRSI noted on January 28, 2020 the tree that held a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest, located south of 4th Concession Line and west of Zion Road, was no longer visible on the landscape. During pre-construction surveys, this nest and associated habitat was comprehensively surveyed, and was confirmed to provide Significant Bald Eagle Habitat (BAL-001) as a result of confirmed and successful nesting activity in 2016 (NRSI 2017a).

Following this initial observation made during construction monitoring indicating that the tree may no longer be standing, site access was gained and further investigation of the area near the tree was conducted on February 4, 2020. Photos taken during this inspection have been included in Appendix I. During the inspection, it was noted that the tree which had previously contained the Bald Eagle nest had fallen to the ground, along with the nest (Photo 1). No Bald Eagles had been observed in 2020 within the vicinity of the nest.

The tree was thoroughly examined to determine if the tree fell over naturally. During this examination, it was noted the area where the stem had broken off from the stump was uneven and jagged (Photos 2 to 4), as would occur when a tree naturally falls over. The tree appears to be an Ash (*Fraxinus*) species, which showed extensive signs of insect infestation, likely Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) (Photos 2 to 3). Loss of bark was also apparent along the stem (Photos 5 to 6). It was determined that the loss of bark and apparent insect infestation had contributed to degradation of the tree's health over time, which likely contributed to the tree falling over during a storm event. There were no signs of human interference noted during the inspection.

As the Bald Eagle nest (BAL-001), is no longer active, all commitments outlined in the *Romney Wind Energy Centre: Natural Heritage Assessment* (NRSI 2017a), *Romney Wind Energy Centre: Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan* (NRSI 2017b), and *Romney Wind Energy*

Centre: Renewable Energy Approval (Number 3397-AV3MVX; MOECC 2018) that are specific to this feature and the associated habitat (BAL-001), are no longer applicable. This includes any commitments outlined in the above reports or approvals, including mitigation measures, timing window restrictions, and monitoring commitments that are specific to this habitat (BAL-001).

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

Best Regards,



Charlotte Teat
Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist

References

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI). 2017a. Romney Wind Energy Centre: Natural Heritage Assessment. June 2017.

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI). 2017b. Romney Wind Energy Centre: Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan. July 2017.

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). Romney Wind Energy Centre: Renewable Energy Approval (3397-AV3MVX). April 2018.

Appendix I – Photos of Tree and Bald Eagle Nest (BAL-001) Collapse
All photos were taken on February 4, 2020



Photo 1

Description: The surrounding area where the tree and Bald Eagle nest fell to the ground.



Photo 2

Description: The stump of the tree where the stem broke off. Note the uneven surface where the stem broke off, indicating the tree fell over naturally.

This photo also shows signs of insect infestation.



Photo 3

Description:

Close-up photo of the uneven surface where the stem broke off from the stump (lower portion).

This photo also shows signs of insect infestation.



Photo 4

Description:

Close-up photo of the uneven surface where the stem broke off from the stump (upper portion).



Photo 5

Description: Photo of the trunk showing bark loss along the stem.



Photo 6

Description: Photo of the trunk showing bark loss along the stem.