



**NORTHLAND
POWER**

Cochrane Solar Project

Volume 1

Consultation Report

February 19, 2013



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

Volume 1

Consultation Report

Cochrane Solar Project

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Project Report

February 19, 2012

**Northland Power Inc.
Cochrane Solar Project**

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Consultation Report
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1. Overview

1.1 Project Description

Northland Power Solar Abitibi L.P., Northland Power Solar Empire L.P., and Northland Power Solar Martin's Meadows L.P. (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Northland") are proposing to develop a 30-megawatt (MW) AC solar photovoltaic project titled the "Cochrane Solar Project" (hereinafter referred to as the "Project"). The Project will be developed on three separate properties (Abitibi, Empire and Martin's Meadows), each with a maximum nameplate capacity of 10-MW AC. In addition, a 21-km long 115-kV transmission line and associated infrastructure which will connect the Project to the existing 115-kV Hydro One transmission line.

The Project was formerly three, individual 10-MW projects known as the Abitibi Solar Project, the Empire Solar Project and the Martin's Meadows Solar Project.

The Abitibi and the Martin's Meadows properties are located on Glackmeyer Concession Road 9, in the Town of Cochrane. The Empire property is located on Glackmeyer Concession Road 7, in the Town of Cochrane. The 115-kV transmission line will be located primarily along opened and unopened road allowances associated with Concession 8/9 from the locations of the solar panels in the Town of Cochrane, through the Unorganized Township of Clute, to the connection point located north of Hunta, ON in the Unorganized Township of Calder. Some private land outside of the road allowances will be used for the transmission line, primarily associated with the movement of the line around the southern end of Lower Deception Lake, as well as for the associated infrastructure (such as transition structures and switching station).

The Project will use solar photovoltaic technology to generate electricity. The solar modules will be mounted on fixed steel supports and arranged in 7 "power or inverter blocks" on each property. Each inverter block will have two inverters rated at 0.714 MW AC and one transformer. Northland will continue to consider mounting solar modules onto a solar tracking support system, however this report has been prepared assuming the use of a fixed steel support structure with modules at a fixed tilt. Electricity generated by the solar photovoltaic modules from the solar arrays will be converted from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) by an inverter, and subsequently stepped up from a medium voltage to 115 kV, in order to connect to the Hydro One transmission system via the previously described transmission line.

1.2 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 nameplate capacity greater than 10 kilowatts (kW) are classified as Class 3 solar facilities and do require a REA.

Consultation is a requirement of the REA process as stipulated by Sections 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of REA Regulation. In addition, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has prepared draft guidelines called "*Technical Bulletin Five - Guidance for Preparing the Consultation Report*" (MOE, 2010) outlining the Ministry's expectations and guidelines for appropriate consultation, including the development of a Consultation Report as part of the REA application package. This Consultation

Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the REA Regulation and the MOE Technical Bulletin.

The “*Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approval*” (MOE, 2011a) outlines further recommendations regarding consultation. The information outlined in this technical guide was incorporated into this report. Further, an additional guidance document titled “*Draft Aboriginal Consultation Guide for preparing a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Application*” (MOE, 2011b) provided additional information and guidance on Aboriginal consultation. Where possible, the information outlined in these guides is incorporated into this report.

Table 1 in the REA Regulation requires the Consultation Report to include the following:

- a summary of communications with any members of the public, aboriginal communities, municipalities, local road boards and local services boards regarding the Project
- evidence that the information required to be distributed to aboriginal communities under Subsection 17(1) was distributed
- any information provided by an aboriginal community in response to a request made under paragraph 4 of Subsection 17(1)
- evidence that a consultation form was distributed in accordance with Subsection 18(1)
- the consultation form distributed under Subsection 18(1), if any part of it has been completed by a municipality, local roads board or local services board
- a description of whether and how:
 - ◆ comments from the members of the public, aboriginal communities, municipalities, local roads boards and local service boards were considered by the person who is engaging in the Project
 - ◆ the documents that were made available under Subsection 16(5) were amended after the final public meeting was held
 - ◆ the proposal to engage in the project was altered in response to comments made from members of the public, aboriginal communities, municipalities, local roads boards and local service boards.

The legislative requirements have been documented within this Consultation Report. The information as it relates to legislative requirements is in a concordance table, Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Legislative Requirements – Concordance Table

Requirements	Location Within the Consultation Report
A summary of communications with public, aboriginal communities, and municipalities.	Communications with the public are summarized in Table 2.1 and provided in Appendix F.
	Communications with Aboriginal communities are summarized in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 and provided in Appendixes I and J.
	Communications with municipalities, road

Requirements	Location Within the Consultation Report
	boards and other public agencies are summarized in Table 3.1 and found in Appendixes G and Appendix H.
Evidence that the information required to be distributed to aboriginal communities under Subsection 17(1) was distributed.	Section 4.
Any information provided by an aboriginal community in response to a request made under paragraph 4 of Subsection 17(1).	Section 4 and in Appendix K.
Evidence that a consultation form was distributed in accordance with Subsection 18(1).	Section 3.
The consultation form distributed under Subsection 18(1), if any part of it has been completed by a municipality, location roads board or local service board.	Appendix H.
<p>A description of whether and how</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments from the members of the public, aboriginal communities, municipalities, local roads boards and local service boards were considered by the person who is engaging in the Project • the documents that were made available under Subsection 16(5) were amended after the final public meeting was held, and • the proposal to engage in the Project was altered in response to comments made from members of the public, aboriginal communities, municipalities, local roads boards and local service boards. 	Table 2.1, Table 3.1, Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

1.3 The Consultation Process

Pursuant to O. Reg. 359/09, consultation conducted for the Project has included adjacent landowners, government agencies (e.g., (e.g., Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS), MOE) etc), local municipalities, planning board, local road boards, aboriginal communities and the public. The objectives of the consultation process have been to obtain information about the Project Location, identify issues and potential concerns, and to identify potential impacts associated with the Project and potential means of mitigating those impacts. As well, the consultation process has been used to identify specific stakeholders as a means to awareness of the Project and establish open and meaningful dialogue between the Project proponent and the stakeholders.

The following report provides:

- an outline and description of all consultation activities held for this Project for the public, government agencies, including municipalities and Aboriginal communities
- a summary of comments from public, government agencies and Aboriginal communities
- a summary of how these comments were incorporated into the REA process.

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2. Consultation with the Public

2.1 Methods of Consultation

The methods of consultation for the Project include the requirements identified in the REA Regulation, as well as additional measures deemed necessary to ensure adequate consultation with the public. A wide variety of consultation methods increases the amount of public awareness and participation. The methods of consultation for this Project included the following:

- Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project/Notice of Public Meeting
 - ◆ NOTE: Advertised as the Abitibi Solar Project, Empire Solar Project and Martin's Meadows Solar Project
 - ◆ Direct mail to all identified landowners within 120 m of the Project location (a full list of landowners is provided in Appendix A). A total of 656 notices and covering letters were issued on June 2, 2011 for the first public meeting.
 - ◆ Posting on two separate occasions on Thursday, June 2, 2011, and Thursday, June 9, 2011, in *Cochrane Times Post*, which has general circulation in the Project area. These notices are included in Appendix B.
 - ◆ Direct mail to all identified landowners within 120 m of the Project Location (a full list of landowners is provided in Appendix A). A total of 892 notices and covering letters were issued on June 21, 2011, for the re-scheduling of the first public meeting.
 - ◆ Posting on two separate occasions on Thursday, June 23, 2011, in *Cochrane Times Post*, which has general circulation in the Project area. Though it was requested, the paper did not run the revised Notice of Proposal and Notice of Public Meeting an additional time on Thursday, June 30, 2011. This notice is included in Appendix B.
- Notice of Final (Second) Public Meeting
 - ◆ NOTE: Advertised as the Abitibi Solar Project, Empire Solar Project and Martin's Meadows Solar Project
 - ◆ Direct mail to all identified landowners within 120 m of the Project location (a full list of landowners is provided in Appendix A), as well as any individuals who provided their contact information during the first public meeting or at any point during the process. A total of 731 notices were issued on May 24, 2012 for the public meeting.
 - ◆ Posting on two separate occasions Thursday, May 24, 2012 and Thursday, July 26, 2012. The notice which was published is included in Appendix B.
- Notice of (Third) Public Meeting
 - ◆ NOTE: Advertised as the Abitibi Solar Project, Empire Solar Project and Martin's Meadows Solar Project
 - ◆ Direct mail to all identified landowners within 120 m of the Project Location (a full list of landowners is provided in Appendix A), as well as any individuals who provided their

contact information during the first public meeting or at any point during the process. A total of 711 notices were issued on September 18, 2012, for the public meeting.

- ◆ Posting on two separate occasions Thursday, September 20, 2012, and Thursday, September 27, 2012. The notice which was published is included in Appendix B.
- Notice of Project Change
 - Direct mail to all identified landowners within 120 m of the Project Location (a sample letter is found in Appendix B), as well as any individuals who provided their contact information at any point during the consultation process. A total of 697 notices were issued on Friday February 15, 2013.
 - Posting on Thursday, February 21, 2013 in a local newspaper. The notice which was published is included in Appendix B.
- Project website (www.northlandpower.ca/abitibi, www.northlandpower.ca/empire, www.northlandpower.ca/martinsmeadows) with Project and Northland information, Notices and Project documents posted and updated when available, throughout the consultation process
- Project website (<http://cochrane.northlandpower.ca>) with all revised Cochrane Solar Project reports and links to past Project information from the Abitibi, Empire and Martin's Meadows Solar Project, went live on Friday February 15, 2013.
- hard copies of the Project Description Reports and supporting Project documents (for the Abitibi, Martin's Meadows and Empire Solar Projects, now collectively known as the Cochrane Solar Project) available for review at the Town of Cochrane municipal office and at the Hunta Mennonite Church
- three public meetings
- additional meetings with community groups and concerned and/or interested local residents
- means to obtain comments on the Project by having comment sheets available at all public meetings and advertisement of phone numbers, fax and emails for the public to make comments
- one hard copy of Draft Project Description Reports (for the Abitibi, Martin's Meadows and Empire Solar Projects, now collectively known as the Cochrane Solar Project) available at the first public meeting and all the Draft REA project documents ((for the Abitibi, Martin's Meadows and Empire Solar Projects, now collectively known as the Cochrane Solar Project) available for review at both the second and third public meetings
- a hard copy of the executive summary provided to the local roads boards that occur in the area of the transmission line
- handouts (printed copies of boards) available at the public meetings.

Through these methods, information, questions, comments, feedback and concerns regarding the Project were obtained and then utilized and addressed, as discussed in the following sections.

2.2 List of Stakeholders

A list of property owners within 120 m of the Project Location was obtained from the Town of Cochrane. This list was added to as the proposed Project Location changed.

As correspondence was received from members of the public and other organizations regarding the Project, newly identified names and contact details were added to the public mailing list. For example, if any attendees of the first public meeting provided their mailing address, this address was added to the mailing list. Appendix A contains a copy of the public stakeholder list that was used for distribution of the Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project/Notice of Public Meeting and the expanded public stakeholder list that was used for distribution of the Notice of Final Public Meeting. Additionally, a review of the stakeholder list prior to the distribution of covering letters and Notice of Public Meetings removed any duplicates present on the list, reducing the total number.

2.3 Details and Results of Consultation

The following sections provide information on the details of the consultation completed and the results.

It should be noted that between the formalized consultation activities, all stakeholders were encouraged to provide comments or questions via comment sheet, telephone, fax, email or mail at any time during the consultation process. Stakeholders were also encouraged to provide any concerns early in the process. Where appropriate, a response was provided for each question or comment received, either directly (i.e., at the public consultation sessions) or through the same medium through which the submission was made. All comments and concerns, responses, and the impact to the Project are provided in this report.

2.3.1 First Public Meeting and Notice

The Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting was published 30 days prior to the event in the *Cochrane Times Post* on Thursday, June 2, 2011, and Thursday, June 9, 2011. The *Cochrane Times Post* is a local paper with weekly publication, circulating in the area around Cochrane and surrounding rural communities, including Hunta and Genier. Notices and covering letter were sent by regular mail to all identified landowners within 120 m of the Project Location. A total of 656 stakeholders were mailed a notification on June 2, 2011. The letters are contained in Appendix B along with the Notices published in the *Cochrane Times Post*.

Due to changes in the proposed transmission line at the time, the first public meeting was re-scheduled to take into consideration this new route and to provide notification to the landowners within the revised 120 m surrounding the Project Location. On June 21, 2011, a total of 892 notices and covering letters were provided to the identified landowners within 120 m of the proposed Project. A revised Notice of Proposal and Public Meeting were posted in the *Cochrane Times Post* on Thursday, June 23, 2011. Though it was requested, the paper did not run the revised Notice of Proposal and Notice of Public Meeting an additional time on Thursday, June 30, 2011.

The Notice and Draft Project Description Reports (PDR) were available on the Project websites, www.northlandpower.ca/abitibi, www.northlandpower.ca/empire, www.northlandpower.ca/martinsmeadows, at the same time the Notice was published. The PDRs

were also made available for public review at the Town of Cochrane municipal office 30 days prior to the first public meeting.

The first public meeting was held on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the Tim Horton's Event Centre (7 Tim Horton Drive, Cochrane, Ontario). The goals of the meeting were to:

- introduce Northland and the Project to the community
- identify the Project contacts and avenues for comment or question submission
- solicit feedback on the Draft PDR.

A total of 22 people signed in at the first public meeting.

Project information was provided on display boards set up at the public meeting and handouts of the display boards were made available to the public. Appendix C contains a copy of the display boards. Paper copies of the PDRs were also made available for review at the first public meeting.

During the public meeting, questions were answered by Northland (e.g., typically Project specific questions) or by Hatch (e.g., typically REA process or environmental impact questions) either to the group, or in individual conversations.

Feedback obtained from the first public meeting was used to provide direction for the scope of the assessment and ensure that local issues would be addressed as appropriate. Comment sheets were offered at the public meeting to all attendees as means to obtain and record comments and concerns as well as pertinent background information about the Project Location.

Two (2) comment sheets and a written letter were received during or following the first public meeting (see Section 2.4 for comments and responses). A copy of the comment sheets and letter are found in Appendix C.

2.3.2 Final (Second) Public Meeting and Notice

The Notice of Final (Second) Public Meeting was published greater than 60 days prior to the event in the *Cochrane Times Post* on Thursday, May 24, 2012, and Thursday, July 26, 2012. Prior to this meeting, the route of the transmission line was revised such that a portion of the Project transmission line now occurs within the unorganized townships of Calder and Clute. Through consultation with the MOE, it was determined that two public meetings would be held, one in the Town of Cochrane and another in Hunta, at the Hunta Mennonite Church, located on the border between the two unorganized townships.

An updated mailing list, including any newly identified names and contact details, was used for the mail out. This list was also reviewed to remove any duplicates, to reduce multiple letters being provided to landowners (see Appendix A). A total of 731 stakeholders were issued covering letters and the Notice of Public Meeting on May 24, 2012. A copy of this Notice as it appeared in the *Cochrane Times Post* and a copy of the letter that accompanied the Notice are provided in Appendix B. Additionally, a map showing the proposed transmission line as it compared to the original proposed transmission line was also provided to the stakeholders.

The purpose of the final (second) public meeting was to solicit feedback on the content and the findings of the reports prepared for the Project. Draft copies of the Project documents required to be prepared under the REA process were identified in the Notice to be available no later than June 21, 2012. The draft copies of the reports were provided on June 8, 2012, to the Town of Cochrane municipal office as well as to Mr. Robert Landis in Hunta, to be made available for public review at the Hunta Mennonite Church by June 21, 2012. Electronic copies were posted on the Project websites on June 20, 2012. These Project documents included the following (with a set of documents prepared for each of the former Abitibi Solar Project, Empire Solar Project and Martin's Meadows Solar Project):

- Executive Summary (including summaries of the following documents and Letters of Confirmation)
- Project Description Report
- Construction Plan Report
- Design and Operations Report
- Decommissioning Plan Report
- Noise Assessment Study Report
- Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Reports
- Water Body Assessment Reports
- Natural Heritage Assessment Reports.

The final (second) public meetings were both held on Tuesday, August 21, 2012. One public meeting was held at the Hunta Mennonite Church (Lot 28, Concession 6, Hunta, On) from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and an additional public meeting was held at the Tim Horton Event Centre (7 Tim Horton Drive, Cochrane, ON) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., with a purpose to achieve the following:

- provide the community with detailed information about the Project
- solicit feedback on the content and the findings of the REA reports
- answer any questions about the Project
- obtain any comments or concerns with respect to the Project.

A total of 22 people signed in for the public meeting located in Hunta, while a total of 15 people signed in at the public meeting in Cochrane.

The public meeting in Cochrane followed an open house format with project details presented on display boards and printed copies available to visitors. This approach allowed for one-on-one discussions between representatives of Northland, Hatch and the public.

At the request of the Hunta Local Roads Board, the public meeting in Hunta consisted of a PowerPoint presentation by Northland, followed by a question and answer session. A copy of the presentation is provided in Appendix D. Display boards were also presented at the Hunta Mennonite Church throughout the meeting.

Notes on comments from the Public were taken by the representatives of Northland and Hatch present at the meeting.

Both display boards and the presentation provided general information on Northland and the Project, with an overview of the information found in the Project documents. A copy of the Project documents were available for review and discussion at the public meetings. Copies of the display boards can be found in Appendix D.

Comment sheets were available at the meeting to be filled in by the participants if they chose to do so. Northland and Hatch staff encouraged attendees to fill out comment sheets.

During the public meeting in Hunta, a total of 14 comment sheets were obtained. As well, a written letter summarizing concerns regarding the 115-kV transmission line and a petition regarding the location of the 115-kV transmission line was provided. Five comment sheets were completed at the Public Meeting, located in Cochrane; Appendix D contains a copy of the completed comment sheets and sign in sheets.

Direct responses were mailed on September 13, 2012, to those stakeholders that provided suitable contact information on the comment sheets. These response letters are provided in Appendix F.

Table 2.1 provides information on how these comments were addressed and incorporated into the finalization for these reports, as appropriate.

2.3.3 (Third) Public Meeting - October 4, 2012

An additional (third) public meeting was held on Thursday, October 4, 2012, to provide greater information on the proposed 115-kV transmission line.

A Notice of Public Meeting was published in *Cochrane Times Post* on Thursday, September 20, 2012, and Thursday, September 27, 2012. As with the previous meeting, two meetings were held; one in the Town of Cochrane and another in the community of Hunta.

An updated mailing list, including any newly identified names and contact details, was used for the mail out. This list was also reviewed to remove any duplicates, to reduce multiple letters being provided to landowners (see Appendix A). A total of 711 stakeholders were issued covering letters and the Notice of Public Meeting on September 18, 2012. A copy of this Notice as it appeared in the *Cochrane Times Post* and a copy of the letter that accompanied the Notice are provided in Appendix B.

The purpose of this meeting was to address any and all concerns regarding the 115-kV transmission line, as was requested by members of the public. In addition, the opportunity was provided to discuss any aspects for any of the proposed Projects. Draft copies of the Project documents remained available at the Hunta Mennonite Church, the Town of Cochrane and online (www.northlandpower.ca/abitibi, www.northlandpower.ca/empire, www.northlandpower.ca/martinsmeadows).

The public meetings were both held on Thursday, October 4, 2012. One public meeting was held at the Tim Horton Event Centre (7 Tim Horton Drive, Cochrane, On) from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and another at the Hunta Mennonite Church (Lot 28, Concession 6, Hunta, ON) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., with a purpose to achieve the following:

- provide the community with detailed information regarding the proposed 115-kV transmission line
- solicit feedback on the proposal for the 115-kV transmission line
- answer any questions about the Project
- obtain any comments or concerns with respect to the Project.

A total of 24 people signed in for the public meeting located in Hunta, while a total of 7 people signed in at the public meeting in Cochrane.

Each of the public meetings commenced with a PowerPoint presentation, followed by a question and answer period. Notes on comments from the Public were taken by the representatives of Northland, Hatch and Intrinsic present at the meeting. Intrinsic was available to provide responses to public health and safety related comments or concerns. Display boards were also available that provided general information on Northland and the Project, with an overview of the information found in the Project documents. A copy of the Project documents were available for review and discussion at the public meeting. Copies of the display boards can be found in Appendix E.

Comment sheets were available at the meeting to be filled in by the participants if they chose to do so. Northland and Hatch staff encouraged attendees to fill out comment sheets. No comment sheets were completed at the Public Meeting in Hunta while a total of one comment sheet was completed at the Public Meeting in Cochrane; Appendix E contains a copy of the completed comment sheets.

Table 2.1 provides information on how these comments were addressed and incorporated into the finalization for these reports, as appropriate.

2.3.4 Notice of Project Change

On Friday February 15, 2013 a Notice of Project Change and covering letter was provided to the stakeholder list. This letter provided notification that the name of the Project has changed to the Cochrane Solar Project and revised Project reports are available on line at <http://cochrane.northlandpower.ca/>. Further the letter indicated that no change has occurred to the proposed Project layout.

The Notice of Project Change was posted in the *Cochrane Times Post* and *Wawatay News* on Thursday February 21, 2013.

2.3.5 Other Public Consultation

The public was encouraged to communicate with the representatives from Northland and Hatch outside of the public meetings via any of the following forms of communication:

- email correspondence
- phone calls
- mail
- fax
- one-on-one meetings.

Full details on all correspondence received from the Public are provided in Appendix F, and summarized below:

- A letter was received, dated September 10, 2012, from the Hunta Area Landowner Association regarding a number of concerns from the proposed 115-kV transmission line. A response to a letter was provided on October 1, 2012, and sent by express post to ensure the response was received prior to the October 4, 2012, public meeting. Copies of both letters and attachments are provided in Appendix F.
- An email was received from an adjacent landowner on March 19, 2012, regarding potential concerns with respect to stray voltage. A response was provided on May 14, 2012 offering to provide baseline testing as requested by the landowner. No further correspondence from these individuals has been received. Copies of the e-mails are provided in Appendix F.
- An email was received from an adjacent landowner on October 5, 2012, regarding potential concerns with respect to the adjacent Project. A response was provided on October 10, 2012. No further correspondence from these individuals has been received. Copies of the e-mails are provided in Appendix F.
- An email was received from an adjacent landowner on July 19, 2012, regarding potential concerns with respect to the adjacent Projects. A response was provided on July 30, 2012. A response was received back indicating that they would discuss their concerns further at the Final Public Meeting. Copies of the e-mails are provided in Appendix F.
- In addition, between the final public meeting, and the additional public meeting in October 2012, Northland met/attempted to meet with several landowners that had expressed concerns at the Final public meeting. This included visiting the south shore of Lower Deception Lake with some of the local residents to view the area of interest.

The purpose of these meetings was to gain a better understanding of, and address, where possible, the various concerns of the individuals. Part of these consultations helped to inform the design of the project.

2.4 Public Comments and Concerns

The comments and/or concerns that were obtained from the public (e.g., comment sheets, verbal discussions, etc.) during the Project consultation process along with the response and/or resulting actions taken to address each concern are provided in Table 2.1. Where applicable, the response also provides reference to where more detail can be found in the Project documents prepared under the REA Process. Additionally, any changes to the Project documents and/or to the Project made in response to public comments/concerns are identified in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Comments/Concerns from Public and Responses

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Comments/Question Received at the Public Meeting on July 21, 2011		
Location of Transmission Line	Comment from Comment Sheet: Power line is on my property line, how far from a house can a line be installed? Concerned about the location of the power line location.	Unless permitted by the landowner, no aspect of the transmission line will be located on private property.
	Comment from Letter: The Cochrane Cross Country Ski Club strongly recommended alternate routes be explored, as the location of the transmission line would impact the use of the trails.	The location of the proposed transmission line has changed. Accordingly, no impacts the Cochrane Cross Country Ski Club are anticipated.
Location of Solar Panels	Comment from Comment Sheet: How far from the road will the panels be installed?	Currently, panels will be located no closer than 325 m from the road, as proposed in the Draft Site Plan (see the Construction Plan Report). However, panels may be placed up to 50 m from the road, to ensure that the required 30-MW capacity can be met.
Effect on Agricultural Land	Comment for Comment Sheet: The three Projects [the Abitibi, Empire and Martin's Meadows Solar Projects now known collectively as the Cochrane Solar Project] take valuable farmland out of production. Plus, the transmission line will have added issues and costs. Would it be feasible to consider property in Fournier Twp? Close to the main hook up on the high voltage line. A lot of input costs would be saved e.g., transmission line very short, cheaper land.	The Project has met all of the eligibility or other requirements of the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) program with respect to agricultural land classification. Given project schedules, OPA FIT Contract requirements, and permitting timelines, there is no time to consider alternative sites. Sites are suitable, viable, and the project economics are acceptable.
Comments/Question Received at the Public Meeting on August 21, 2012		
Location of Transmission Line	Comment from Comment Sheets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was the Algonquin Transmission Line not considered even if right of way needed to be extended? • Why was there a change in the location of the transmission line after the first public meeting? • This Project was not researched with the landowners of this area in mind. We at this meeting have given other options to this line. • Other options need to be considered – this will effect wildlife, our way of life 	An additional public meeting was held on October 4, 2012, to provide greater information on the proposed 115-kV transmission line route. Details are provided in Section 2.3.3. Comments regarding suggested alternative locations for the Projects are noted. Following this public meeting, Northland investigated the possibility of following and/or connecting with the Algonquin Power transmission line. This option was determined to be neither technically nor commercially feasible.

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	<p>and definitely affect the ecosystem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A petition was presented to Rob Miller of Northland indicating the displeasures of the residences of the location of the transmission line. • A high voltage power line should not be through a cottage lot development area where it would affect many people, consider alternate routes (Algonquin Line or other proposal of going down Concession 6 and 7) • I disagree with the proposal to bring the transmission line along Concession 8 and 9. I urge that an alternative route (paralleling the Algonquin Power Line) be explored and • No power line through south end of Lake. Sensitive area – wetlands. Creek of Shier Lake meets Deception. Do not want the change in landscape (view). erosion into lake. Should follow Algonquin Power line less impact to wildlife etc. This is an area that I have “played,” enjoyed, hunted, fished for almost 40 years. I want to keep it the way it is, it is my lifestyle. • Feels like railroaded into this power line. Decision already made. • This Project should definitely consider twinning with the existing easement now utilized by Algonquin Power rather than running the line along the lower end of Deception Lake or the west end of Concession 8 and 9 Clute. 	<p>During the meeting on October 4, 2012, Northland outlined the rationale behind the identified preferred route for the transmission line. In general, the preferred option is of shorter distance, will allow a single connection point, will require fewer landowners, and can be located primarily within existing road right or ways.</p>
Impacts on Wildlife	Comment from Comment Sheet: Wild life concerns – despite R. Martin’s sarcastic comments about this - conflict of interest???	Potential impacts to wildlife of the Project within the Construction Plan Report and the Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study for the Project.

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Health Concern	<p>Comments from Comment Sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health concerns from high voltage both in power lines and increased power at substation in Hunta Station with people living in close proximity. • As a landowner under the power line, I have 3 children that I do not want standing under the power line to wait for the bus as well as grow up under. It is a proven fact that power lines with high voltage cause cancer. Why should my children be exposed to this? 	<p>Northland Power was not involved in the design or construction of the Hunta Transformer Substation. Northland Power is working with Hydro One to ensure that the transformer substation is capable of appropriately managing the power that will be provided by the Projects. If you have further concerns about the transformer substations, toll-free electric and magnetic field (EMF) inquiries can be made of Hydro One at 1-800-728-9533. Hydro One also has information on EMF online at http://www.hydroone.com/OurCommitment/Environment/Pages/ElectricandMagneticFields.aspx.</p> <p>As is noted by Health Canada (2011); “There is no conclusive evidence of any harm caused by exposures at levels found in Canadian homes and schools, including those located just outside the boundaries of power line corridors.”</p>
Property Values	<p>Comments from Comment Sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our properties are going to be devalued. • Concerns that for the profit of a few, property devaluation for all others affected. • It seems only a couple of people are benefiting from the Project at the detriment of many others. Glackmeyer is the most populated rural area in the vicinity, with better agricultural lands. <p>Comments from Written Letter: We did not buy a cottage lot on a lake to look at transmission line. It was bought to look at trees, lakes and wildlife. We feel it would be difficult to sell a cottage with a view of a transmission line.</p>	<p>The transmission line will be located primarily within the municipal road right of way where transmission lines are a permitted use. This line will be comparable to other distribution lines present in the area. Northland will work with the community to mitigate potential effects to adjacent landowners to the greatest extent possible.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Transmission Line Survey	<p>Comment from Comment Sheet: Would like to see topo survey as it relates to trans line immediately east of Frederick House River. Also, how is transmission line going to affect my present service from transformer to my home, it is presently overhead?</p>	<p>Northland will not affect present electricity service.</p> <p>Northland will consider the landowners request for the results of the topographic survey.</p>
Notification	<p>Comments from Comment Sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My first notification is not (final). • Only given one letter in the mail as a landowner and we are at the final public meeting. • What final meeting, this was the first to my knowledge 	<p>The current proposed transmission line route was identified following completion of the initial public meetings. Following discussion with MOE, it was decided that the change in the transmission line route should be identified in subsequent correspondence with the public and no additional meeting, beyond the planned public meeting in August 2012, would be required.</p> <p>However, in response to public interest, an additional public meeting took place on October 4, 2012, to provide additional information regarding the proposed 115-kV transmission line.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Request for Additional Public Meeting	<p>Comments from Comment Sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I demand a second meeting with options. • We don't want this Project to go through. We need another meeting, tell us when that will be. • Would like to see another meeting held with to be made aware of the results of looking into other options routes. • Need one more meeting • I would like another meeting to further explore other options. Northland has not done their homework. • Another meeting is demanded. • It would be <u>very</u> good if you had another meeting after the August 21, 2012, meeting to explain the outcome of checking in with Algonquin Power and other issues. • Other meetings on these plans should be done. • There should at the very least be an additional meeting to discuss Algonquin Power line option. • We would like another meeting with regards to the transmission line to explore other options – mainly Algonquin Power line sharing. You assured us that our comments will be taken into consideration. • [I] request that another public meeting be held with the residences of the Hunta/Lower Deception area. • We require another public meeting to address all of the concerns surrounding the location of the transmission line. We demand a 2nd meeting of explanation. • Considering that the first location of the transmission line was discussed and subsequently squashed at the first public meeting, this should not be considered the second meeting. • Need more info. 	<p>An additional public meeting was held on October 4, 2012, to provide additional information on the proposed 115-kV transmission line and on the proposed Project. To provide greater expertise at the public meeting, a health expert from Intrinsic Environmental was present to answer public health and safety questions, and a Northland Electrical Engineer was present to answer technical questions related to the 115-kV transmission line.</p> <p>Northland values the opinion of all members of the public and considers public consultation to be an integral part of the REA process.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
In-effectual Public Meeting	<p>Comment in Comment Sheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It appears this meeting was an information session only – our comments and suggestions were effectively brushed off and 0 answers were provided to our questions – skirting many issues. • Being misinformed. Poor presentation about the Project • The questions asked were not answered or at least answered vaguely. • 2nd meeting was in Cochrane with no meeting or presentation about the Project I was told by one of your vested landowners and employees to talk to my husband (as if I don't have an opinion). 	<p>The public meetings complied with all requirements of the REA process. Northland listened to and responded to all comments to the best of their ability at the time. Where responses could not be provided at that time, Northland committed to providing an answer at a later date.</p> <p>An additional public meeting occurred on October 4, 2012, to provide additional information on the proposed Project and associated transmission line. The format of the October 4, 2012, meetings was a presentation followed by question and answer period.</p> <p>Northland values the opinion of all members of the public and considers public consultation to be an integral part of the REA process.</p>
Herbicide spraying on right of way	<p>Comment from Written Letter: Spraying around the lake and homes where children and adult live, fish and boat is not environmental friendly.</p>	<p>Herbicides will not be used on the properties containing the solar panels. However, it is possible and where permissible, that herbicides could be used along sections of the transmission line, where it is not easily accessible. This would be consistent with standard practice and only approved herbicides would be used. Northland will avoid the use of herbicides or pesticides whenever/ wherever possible.</p>
Integrity of Business Practice	<p>Comment from Comment Sheet: I question the motives of who made this proposal...friends helping friends make a buck.</p>	<p>Northland conforms to its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics in regards to all of its business dealings.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Generation Hours	Comment from Written Letter: Considering that there are 8760 hours in a year, that solar power has an Achilles heel in that it can only generate when the sun shines and the transmission line is in view 100% of the time. How many generation hours will there be?	Generation hours are anticipated to be the sunlight hours of each year. This amount will vary due to weather patterns. Expected generation is on the order 1250 kWh/m ² , or 1230 kWh/kWp. A 30-MW AC solar development in Cochrane is expected to generate on the order of 42,000 MWh (in the first year), which is enough power for over 3600 homes. The capacity factor for a fixed racking solar development is typically about 14% to 15%.
Height of Transmission Line Poles	Comment from Written Letter: How high will the poles be?	Poles will typically be approximately 23 m (75 ft) tall, of which, there will be approximately 3 m (9 ft) embedded in the ground. Therefore, typical height above ground surface will be 20 m (66 ft).
Width of Right of Way for Transmission Line	Comment from Written Letter: How wide is the right of way?	The road allowance proposed to be used for the majority of the transmission line is 21 m wide, and the transmission line must be placed at least 2.5 m from existing utilities.
Conductor Size for Transmission Line	Comment from Written Letter: What is the conductor size?	This information will be determined through detailed engineering. Northland has committed to sharing design details, for example pole locations, conductor size, cable sway, etc., with HALA and other effected or interested residents.
Energy Prices	Comment from Written Letter: Will there be subsidies provided by the Federal and Provincial governments for these installations. If so, will those subsidies be reflected in the bill generation cost?	Northland has entered into a 20-yr FIT Contract with the Province of Ontario to provide 10 MW of renewable energy at a fixed price.
Project locations	Comment from Comment Sheet: The sites are too far from the existing junction in Hunta – There are many abandoned farmsteads that would have been better suited to the Project (less transmission required) \$\$\$.	Comment noted. Northland has assessed the Project from an economic standpoint and it is viable as proposed.

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Panel Origin	Comment from Written Letter: Who will be manufacturing the panels and what is the country of origin?	<p>Recognizing the opportunities provided by the OPA's FIT Program and the Ontario government's <i>Green Energy and Economy Act</i>, module manufacturers built their factories in Ontario some time ago. Northland is purchasing modules from MEMC, and the modules are being built domestically, at the Flextronics factory in Newmarket and at the Celestica facility in Toronto.</p> <p>Also, the inverters for the projects, which convert the DC power generated by the modules into grid-compatible AC power, are being manufactured by SMA Canada at the Celestica facility in Toronto.</p>
Carbon Footprint	Comment from Written Letter: What is the carbon footprint?	The carbon footprint of this Project has not been determined.
Comments/Question Received at the Public Meeting on October 4, 2012		
Impacts to Wetland	Comment from Comment Sheet: Sensitive area (wetland) at south end of lake	<p>Potential impacts to wetlands from the transmission line associated with the Project Location have been assessed within the Construction Plan Report and the Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study for the Project. No significant impact on the wetland is anticipated.</p> <p>The Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study has been reviewed and approved by the MNR, based on the Letter of Confirmation (LoC) that was received for the Project. These LoC's are found in the Executive Summary associated with the Project, available on the Project website.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Visual Impact	Comment from Comment Sheet: Visual – site of power line at south end of lake.	<p>While the exact location of the transmission line has yet to be determined, the intent is to place the transmission line beyond the line of sight from the cottage development area around Lower Deception Lake. A conceptual layout was presented at the public meeting on October 4, 2012.</p> <p>Northland will work with the community to mitigate potential effects to adjacent landowners to the greatest extent possible. To this end, Northland has indicated that they may place a restricted covenant on title, after the t-line easement is in place around the trees present at the south end of Lower Deception Lake between the lines and lake to prevent tree removal. Northland has an option to purchase this property.</p>
Location of Transmission Line	Comment from Comment Sheet: Follow Algonquin Power	Comment noted. As was described at the meeting, due to the additional distance required, extra land clearing, to follow the Algonquin Power line, the existing route is preferred.
Potential Impact on Telephone Services	Comment from Comment Sheet: Power influence of telephone lines will affect my service (internet speeds). Require fibre optic connection which is not affected.	Although Northland does not anticipate any impact to telephone service, the company is committed to addressing any impacts potentially caused by the Project. A sign will be erected during all phases of the Project at the gates of the facility which will include a Project phone number and website should the public have any questions, inquiries or complaints. All inquiries will be directed to the Northland Project Representative who will respond to the inquiry accordingly. All questions, inquiries and complaints will be logged electronically with the following information: date of question, inquiry or complaint, name, phone number, email address of the individual, response, date of response, and any follow-up issues.

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Health	Comment from attendee at public meeting: Concerns with respect to EMF	<p>In regards to health concerns, information is available on line from Health Canada (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/radiation/fpt-radprotect/emf-cem-eng.php) and the World Health Organization (https://apps.who.int/inf/fs/en/fact205.html) that provides greater information on the potential health concerns with power lines. Presently, the potential impacts of power lines and an impact on human health has not been confirmed.</p> <p>A precautionary principle, or limit on EMF has been set at 2000 mG. The EMF level directly underneath 115-kV transmission lines is typically 29.7 mG, or less. The IEE figure depicting EMF levels in a typical home was presented and it is possible/probable that people are exposed to more EMF from inside a home, than one would be from a 115-kV transmission line.</p> <p>To address health concerns, Northland retained a health expert from Intrinsic Environmental to attend the October 4 public meeting.</p>
	Comment from attendee at public meeting: Will the transmission line impact pacemakers?	A precautionary principle, or limit on EMF for those with pace makers has been set at 1000 mG. As noted above, this is far higher than anticipated levels from the 115-kV transmission line.
Transmission Line Design	Comment from attendee at public meeting: Why was this route chosen? Where will the poles be? Will you need to cut the trees in my front yard? Is there a benefit to connecting at the same junction point?	<p>Exact locations of all poles and requirements for clearing of trees remains to be determined.</p> <p>This route was chosen as it is the most direct, involves fewer landowners, and can be located primarily within municipal road right of ways There is a benefit to connecting a single junction point as only one connection point is required.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	<p>Comment from attendee at public meeting: Who gives permission to construct within municipal road right of ways?</p>	<p>Within the Town of Cochrane, permission is obtained from the Town, while in the Unorganized Township; permission is obtained from the MNR. Transmission line construction, and routes, is governed by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and what is called the "Leave to Construct", under Section 92 of the <i>Electricity Act</i>.</p> <p>Northland is pursuing Municipal, MNR, and OEB approval.</p>
	<p>Comment from attendee at public meeting: What is the safe minimum working distance? What is the minimum sag above the ground?</p>	<p>Northland is currently investigating this distance.</p> <p>The 115-kV transmission line will be constructed in accordance with prescribed electrical safety codes in order to ensure the safety of workers and the public. Poles will be appropriately signed to make individuals aware of the electrical hazard associated with climbing the poles.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of any future contractors to follow appropriate work place safety guidelines and ensure that their staff are trained appropriately.</p> <p>Power lines are commonly situated along roadsides, and heavy equipment operators (dump trucks and excavators) are trained to avoid power lines.</p> <p>With respect to EMF, information was provided from external sources that shows that there is no conclusive evidence of any harm caused by exposure, and that EMF fields would be equivalent to those found in the standard home.</p>
	<p>Comment from attendee at public meeting: Who does the final inspection of the transmission line?</p>	<p>The Electrical Safety Authority and Hydro One Networks Inc inspect various parts of the transmission line.</p>
	<p>Comment from attendee at public meeting: What would the cost difference be between the transmission line being above ground vs. below ground?</p>	<p>Estimated 10 – 15 times more expensive.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	Comment from attendee at public meeting: What is the induction effect on the buried phone line?	Northland is currently investigating this comment further.
	Comment from attendee at public meeting: Will the local roads board be responsible for maintaining any new roads beneath the transmission line?	No, any new access roads required will be the responsibility of Northland.
Road Access	Comment from attendee at public meeting: Will there be restricted road access during construction of the transmission line?	The Contractor will be responsible for traffic management.
Decommissioning	Comment from attendee at public meeting: How do you dispose of the solar panels?	Many of the components of the panels will be recycled.
Economy	Comment from attendee at public meeting: How many new jobs will be created? Will you use local contractors?	<p>Northland will request that the construction contractors source materials and supplies, and use local subcontractors (labour) where feasible. Typically, 1.5 to 2 jobs are created after construction per 10-MW solar farm. Northland may hire some additional employees and base them out of its Cochrane Co-generation facility to operate and maintain the solar developments. In addition, recognizing the opportunities provided by the OPA's FIT Program and the Ontario government's <i>Green Energy and Economy Act</i>, module manufacturers built their factories in Ontario some time ago, providing another source of jobs in the province.</p> <p>During construction there will be 100s of workers on site. Construction is expected to last approximately 6 months.</p>
Other	Comment from attendee at public meeting: Is Algonquin Power a shareholder of Northland Power?	The Project representatives cannot comment on whether Algonquin Power is a shareholder or not in Northland as this information is not readily available, nor is it common knowledge.
Other	Comment from Comment Sheet: Thank you for second meeting in Hunta @ 7:30 p.m.	Comment noted.

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Comments/Question Received Outside of Public Meetings		
Natural Heritage	<p>Comment from E-mail of July 19, 2012: I am gravely concerned about how this project will affect my quality of life not to mention the fact this area and Lauzon Lake should be sanctioned as a sanctuary for birds. My sole purpose in acquiring this property was for the serenity, wildlife and views. The surrounding fields are a bird sanctuary for migrating birds. I have witnessed a number of rare bird sightings on Lauzon Lake such as many types of cranes, herons, ducks, red wing black birds, cranes, and mud hens.</p>	<p>E-mailed response: As part of the REA for the Project, we are required to assess natural heritage features both on and within 120 m of our proposed Project site. Significant natural features were identified and mitigation measures have been proposed within the Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study. As Lauzon Lake is located more than 120 m from these Projects, it has not been assessed within these reports, however the distance between the Projects and Lauzon Lake, as well as the small environmental impacts of these Projects, will ensure that there is no impact on this feature, or its potential use by wildlife species.</p>
	<p>Comment from Submission through Website: Are there Natural Heritage Assessment and Water Body reports that target the revised power line direction from Martin's Meadows (and the other two nearby sites) to Hunta, in particular where the proposed line would go around Lower Deception Lake? If so, I am not aware of their having been made available to residents and cottagers of this area within your stated time frame of 60 days.</p>	<p>E-mailed Response: Assessments of the power line are covered in the Natural Heritage and Water Body Assessment reports for each of the solar projects [the former Abitibi, Empire and Martin's Meadows Solar Projects, now known collectively as the Cochrane Solar Project], which were provided for public review more than 60 days before the final public meeting.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter (see Appendix F for full text): Concerned about proposed impact to migratory birds and wetlands.</p>	<p>Letter Response: Potential impacts to wildlife of the transmission line have already been assessed in great detail within the Construction Plan Report and the Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The transmission line is addressed within each of the reports associated with the Abitibi, Martin's Meadows and Empire Solar Projects [now known collectively as the Cochrane Solar Project]. Mitigation measures to address environmental impacts of the transmission line are provided within these reports. Overall, no significant impact to wildlife is anticipated. The Natural Heritage Environmental Impact Study has been reviewed and approved by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, based on the Letter of Confirmation (LoC) that was received for each project. These LoC's are found in the Executive Summary associated with each Project, available on the Project web sites and at the Hunta Mennonite Church and the Town of Cochrane municipal office.</p> <p>Further, Northland Power is committed to conforming to all applicable legislation, including the Ontario <i>Endangered Species Act</i>, <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> and the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter (see Appendix F for full text): Concerned about potential impacts to local trappers as a result of clearing for transmission line.</p>	<p>Letter Response: We do not anticipate any impacts to local trappers. Northland has requested that the MNR notify registered trapline holders in the area of the upcoming public meeting. As the names of these individuals are confidential and not available to Northland to contact through any other means, should any of them come forward, Northland will work with them to resolve any concerns that they may have.</p> <p>The construction of the majority of the 115-kV transmission line will be primarily completed along existing access roads, which will, therefore, not result in additional open areas or clearing, as was incorrectly indicated in your correspondence. There are already existing open areas in the area between the Algonquin transmission line and Lower Deception Lake. Though these areas may be widened somewhat to accommodate the transmission line, a significant increase in predation pressure is not anticipated. Furthermore, though periodic vegetation management will be required to make sure that vegetation does not interfere with the line, shrubs and tall meadow vegetation will be allowed to develop. This vegetation will provide cover for wildlife as they move beneath the transmission line.</p>
Road Condition	<p>Comment from E-mail of October 9, 2012: The road condition (it's already a bumpy ride to our place).</p>	<p>E-mailed Response: Northland will assess the roadways prior to construction and will ensure that roadways are left in the same or better condition following the completion of construction. The Town of Cochrane Road Superintendent will also be consulted and the road condition prior to construction will be documented as a pre-existing baseline. After construction is complete the Road Superintendent will be consulted to sign off or approve that the road condition is acceptable.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Safety	Comment from E-mail of July 19, 2012: I have no idea what studies have been done concerning the safety aspects of your proposed solar project.	E-mailed Response: With respect to public safety, the Project will be constructed and operated in accordance with provincial guidelines and regulations with respect to electrical equipment and noise.
	Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter(see Appendix F for full text): Concerned about water bomber access to Lower Deception Lake in event of forest fire.	Letter Response: Northland contacted the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) with respect to the concern or question raised with respect to the potential impedance of water bomber planes landing on Deception Lake. The MNR responded and stated that the placement of an 115-kV transmission line near the south end of Lower Deception Lake would not hinder any firefighting efforts, and they did not identify any potential concerns with respect to the transmission line in this area.
Property Value	Comment from E-mail of October 9, 2012: The value of our property.	E-mailed Response: As property values are determined as a result of several factors beyond Northland's control, Northland cannot speculate on any potential impact on property values. There is no known literature indicating a reduction in property values near a solar Project. Further, as shown in the attached layouts of the Abitibi and Martin's Meadows Solar Projects [along with the Empire Solar Project now known collectively as the Cochrane Solar Project], it is anticipated that the Project components will be more than 300 m from the roadway in front of your property. In addition, Northland has completed detailed acoustic modeling of the proposed Project, and all requirements of the Ministry of the Environment will be met.

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter (see Appendix F for full text): Concerned about impacts to property values</p>	<p>Letter Response: The transmission line will be located primarily within the municipal road right of way. Transmission lines are permitted uses of municipal road right of ways, and this line will be consistent with other distribution lines present in the area. Unless you provide your permission, no aspect of the transmission line will be located on your property, and the operation of the line will not prevent you from accessing or using any portion of your property. Further, while the exact location of the transmission line has yet to be determined, the intent is to place the transmission line beyond the line of sight from the cottage development area around Lower Deception Lake.</p> <p>Northland will work with the community to mitigate potential effects to adjacent landowners to the greatest extent possible.</p>
Visual Impact	<p>Comment from E-mail of October 9, 2012: The sights (big solar panels is what we will see) and sounds (when panels lift, descend, rotate).</p>	<p>E-mailed Response: As noted above, the Project will be located more than 300 m from the roadway in front of your property, and acoustic modeling of the proposed Project has shown that all MOE requirements will be met for your property. Further, the panels will sit on racking that is permanently fixed and tilted. Northland is not putting in a single or dual axis tracking system, therefore, there will be no sound or visual distraction associated with moving panels.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Health	<p>Comment from E-mail of October 9, 2012: Possible health effects (from the electromagnetic radiation).</p>	<p>E-mailed Response: There are no known potential health effects from solar projects. As noted above, the Project is located more than 300 m from your property, and any potential electromagnetic radiation from the Project would be less than that found in your own home. For your consideration, additional information on electromagnetic radiation can be found at http://www.hydroone.com/OurCommitment/Environment/Pages/ElectricandMagneticFields.aspx</p>
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter (see Appendix F for full text): Concerned about the safety of people living and working along the proposed transmission line. Concerned about negative health effects.</p>	<p>Letter Response (see Appendix F for full text): The 115-kV transmission line will be constructed in accordance with prescribed electrical safety codes in order to ensure the safety of workers and the public. Poles will be appropriately signed to make individuals aware of the electrical hazard associated with climbing the poles. With respect to EMF, information was provided from external sources that shows that there is no conclusive evidence of any harm caused by exposure, and that EMF fields would be equivalent to those found in the standard home.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Stray Voltage	<p>Comment from E-mail of March 19, 2012: We own a dairy farm next door to the proposed site. It has been brought to our attention that there is an increase in stray voltage associated with these sites. As stray voltage is very detrimental to the health of the animals, we are asking if Northland Power would do testing prior to installation. With the testing we would have a baseline for future reference. Could you get back to us on this matter?</p>	<p>E-mailed Response: With respect to your concerns around stray voltage, I have consulted with both Hydro One and our internal electrical engineers and there are no known expectations for increases in stray voltage as a result of installation of solar projects. Hydro One has not seen any instances of stray voltage from solar projects installed to date.</p> <p>However, Northland will agree to cover the expenses of baseline stray voltage testing should you desire. In our discussions with Hydro One, they indicated that standard practice is for the landowner to retain an electrician to conduct preliminary testing, and then if a problem is detected, Hydro One would complete additional testing and reimburse the cost of the electrician. Northland is proposing at this time that you go ahead and retain an electrician of your choosing, and then Northland will cover the electrician's costs to perform the baseline test. If possible, we would request that you provide the cost estimate for approval prior to completing the work. I have attached the Hydro One requirements for completing the baseline test. More information is also available at http://www.hydroone.com/MyBusiness/MyFarm/Pages/StrayVoltage.aspx.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Other	<p>Comment from E-mail of July 19, 2012: I have not been contacted in person about this project. The proposed solar project may directly impede my western views. I would appreciate being notified through email about whom I can contact with my concerns.</p>	<p>E-mailed Response: You likely did not receive notification since you recently purchased the property and our list of adjacent landowners would have been obtained prior to that time. For your information, these proposed Projects [the former Abitibi, Empire and Martin's Meadows Solar Projects, now known collectively as the Cochrane Solar Project] have been a matter of public record since early 2011, and a public meeting was held in July of last year. As Rob Miller of Northland mentioned in his last e-mail, he would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss your concerns further. If this is not possible, we would certainly welcome further e-mail correspondence, or you can call me directly to discuss your concerns. Alternately, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at the upcoming public meeting at the end of August. As well, information regarding the Projects are available on line at www.northlandpower.ca</p>
	<p>Comment from Submission through Website: The revised project, i.e., building a power line from Martin's Meadows to Hunta, is not "located close to main power distribution system lines". A line from there to Cochrane, yes. A line from there to Hunta, no.</p>	<p>E-mailed Response: Northland is required to connect to the Hydro One circuit C2H in Hunta, and has a Hydro One CIA and IESO SIA supporting this connection point. It was important to only have one grid connection, as opposed to the two that were originally proposed. In addition, after Hydro One examined the proposed connection points, it was determined that Northland could not connect to the Cochrane West TS, or the line serving this TS because it was a tap line and it did not have enough capacity (conductor size was not big enough) to accept 30 MW of generation.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter: Local farmers have livestock in the fields near the proposed transmission line and are concerned about negative effects on their livestock, through lightning strikes or other electrical hazards.</p>	<p>Letter Response (see Appendix F for full text): Stray voltage will not be a potential impact as the transmission line would have to be connected to your barn or out buildings. Though, if a stray voltage problem is suspected Northland is committed to working to resolve any potential issue.</p> <p>Further, research has shown that EMF associated with transmission lines does not negatively impact cows (Hydro Quebec, 1999).</p> <p>With respect to lightning strikes, no poles will be installed within a farmer's fields without that individual's permission. Poles are in 1) public road ROW, so no livestock or cows should be in this space, or 2) privately owned land.</p> <p>It is not expected that the poles would serve to attract lightning. Further the system will be grounded, reducing any potential impacts of a lightning strike.</p>
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter (see Appendix F for full text): Concerned that the purchase of properties violates Northland's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics as properties originally belonged to an employee of Northland Power.</p>	<p>Letter Response: Northland conforms to its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics in regards to all of its business dealings. All of the land secured for the various projects was condoned through Northland Power to allow for the development of solar facilities.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter: Should the public road allowance be allowed to be used as part of the right of way for a private utility transmission line of this size?</p>	<p>Letter Response: The use of public right of way for utilities, including transmission lines is standard practise. It is generally the least disruptive, most economical, and environmentally friendly way to install utilities, given the lands have typically been previously disturbed, and are linear in nature, which is well suited for utilities. The proposed transmission line within the Concession 8 and 9 corridor remains in compliance with the applicable and allowable use for this land. As well, this right of way will continue to remain open for other utilities, as only a portion of the land will be used for the proposed transmission line.</p>
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter: Is the current road allowance wide enough for 115-KW lines?</p>	<p>Letter Response: Yes. The current road allowance is approximately 21 m, of which the transmission line will need to be placed 2.5 m away from one of the existing boundaries. The edges of road right of ways (ROW's) are commonly used for utilities.</p>
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter: Would this be a precedents setting installation i.e., would other private businesses elsewhere be allowed to construct transmission lines of this size on public road allowances?</p>	<p>Letter Response: The use of public road allowances for the construction of transmission lines is not precedent setting and it remains consistent with potential land uses. Similar uses are permitted in other jurisdictions on a regular basis.</p>
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter: Shouldn't the road allowance be set aside for use of utilities that provide distribution services to local residents?</p>	<p>Letter Response: The use of the road allowance for the proposed transmission corridor will not conflict with any future use of this road allowance, as land will remain available for future development of other utilities, be it gas, phone, cable, electricity, etc.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter: What would be the induction effect on existing utilities? Could there be voltage surges during storms caused by an 115-kV line close to a distribution line?</p>	<p>Letter Response: The proposed 115-kV transmission line will be located on the opposite side of the road allowance from an existing distribution line and on a private easement around the south shore of Deception Lake. If the proposed 115-kV transmission line is required to parallel the line, for example a Hydro One distribution line, there is a code regulated separation distance, which is 15 m or more. The 115-kV transmission line will have little induction effect on the local distribution line. An induction study will be carried out to ensure no adverse effects on the local distribution line.</p> <p>The proposed 115-kV transmission line along the route is not integrated with the existing local distribution line, and therefore there is no anticipated effect to the existing line during storms as a result of the proposed 115-kV transmission line.</p>
	<p>Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter: What if the 115 kV line comes in contact with the distribution line? Would there be damages to private property and should damages occur, who will pay for those damages?</p>	<p>Letter Response: The proposed 115-kV transmission line will be designed and constructed to meet and exceed all relevant codes and regulations for public safety. The proposed line will be designed to withstand 1 in 50-yr period combined wind and icing weather conditions, and 1 in 100-yr gust wind conditions, to ensure public and adjacent property safety. If Northland's (proposed) privately owned transmission line was to somehow cause property damage to another party, then Northland's insurance would be used.</p> <p>Where there are crossings between the proposed 115-kV transmission line and the existing local distribution line, the clearance between the two lines will be sufficient to ensure no contact will occur under the most severe conditions.</p>

Category of Comment or Concern	Comment or Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
		Further, Northland will work with the community to mitigate potential effects to adjacent landowners to the greatest extent possible.
	Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter: Identified concerns with respect to site selection.	Letter Response (see Appendix F for full text): Several options for transmission line routing were considered; however, the identified option represents the most direct route that will involve the fewest landowners and can be located within municipal road right of ways.
	Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter of January 28, 2013: The Hunta Area Landowners Association respectfully request from you an up-to-date account of your transmission line project	Response from letter (full text in Appendix F): An outline as to the progress of the REA Application, including the withdrawal of the existing applications and submittal of a single application for the Cochrane Solar Project was provided.
	Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter of January 28, 2013: We wish to express our continued objection to the proposed route of transmission lines through the [Lower Deception] lake area and along the Concession 8&9 road.	Response from letter: Northland Power notes your continued objection to the proposed route of transmission lines through the south end of Lower Deception Lake and along Concession Road 8 and 9.
	Comment from Hunta Area Landowner's Association Letter of January 28, 2013: Furthermore, if the scope of your project has broadened in ways that affect the landowners in our Association, we would also request further public information meetings, in order to keep local residents fully aware of the impact of proposed transmission lines.	Response from letter: There has been no change to the scope of the Project from that presented at the public meeting for the Project in October of 2012.

3. Consultation with Agencies

3.1 Agencies

Consultation with relevant government agencies including provincial ministries, local municipalities and others was completed as per the REA Regulation and MOE's "Guidance for Preparing the Consultation Report". The following agencies were consulted:

- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- Town of Cochrane
- Cochrane and Suburban Planning Board
- Hunta Local Road Board
- Fredrickhouse Local Road Board.

The following section provides the details of the consultation completed with each agency.

3.1.1 *Ontario Ministry of Environment*

- Draft Project Description Reports (for the Abitibi, Martin's Meadows and Empire Solar Projects, now collectively known as the Cochrane Solar Project) were sent to the MOE in November 10, 2010, in order to commence the REA process. This step kicks off the REA process by requesting from the MOE the list of Aboriginal communities with whom Northland will be required to consult.
- On March 10, 2011, the MOE provided a list of Aboriginal communities for consultation purposes.
- On June 2, 2011, the Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting was sent to MOE. A further Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting was sent on June 21, 2011. The Notice of Final Public Meeting was sent on May 24, 2012.
- On May 4, 2012, Hatch discussed with MOE the change in the transmission line, and the requirements for public consultation as a result of that change.
- On September 18, 2012, a Notice of Public Meeting and covering letter regarding the public meeting on October 4, 2012, was provided.
- On October 29, 2012, an application for REA was submitted to the MOE for the Abitibi Solar Project.
- On October 31, 2012, applications for REA were submitted to the MOE for the Empire and Martin's Meadows Solar Projects
- On January 16, 2013, a meeting was held between representatives of the MOE, Northland, and Hatch Ltd to discuss the three REA applications. At the meeting, a discussion was held around

aggregating the Projects into a single REA application. Following the meeting the decision was made to withdraw the existing applications and to apply for a single REA for the Cochrane Solar Project, which would consist of the previous Abitibi, Empire and Martin's Meadows Solar Projects.

- On February 15, 2013 a Notice of Project Change and covering letter was provided.

Appendix G contains copies of correspondence between Hatch and the MOE.

3.1.2 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

- On July 27, 2011, Hatch met with representatives of MNR Cochrane District to discuss the proposed Projects. A follow-up call was held on August 30, 2011, to discuss the proposed transmission line for the Project.
- On March 18, 2012, the natural heritage assessment and environmental impact study reports were provided to MNR for review.
- On May 4, 2012, comments were received on the draft natural heritage assessment reports from MNR.
- MNR provided their confirmation letter of the Natural Heritage Reports on May 25, 2012.
- On September 20, 2012, Hatch provided the MNR a letter regarding the public meeting on October 4, 2012, to deliver to any potential resource users along the transmission route.
- On February 8, 2013, Hatch provided the MNR notification that the Abitibi, Empire and Martin's Meadows Solar Projects were going to be subject to a single REA application known as the Cochrane Solar Project. A copy of this correspondence is provided in Appendix G.

Appendix G contains copies of correspondence between Hatch and the MNR.

3.1.3 Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

- Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) submitted Archaeological Assessment Report entitled 'Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Abitibi Solar Project', 'Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Empire Solar Project', and 'Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Martin's Meadows Solar Project' to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) on November 25, 2010. The Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment Report recommended that the Project be allowed to continue without any further archaeological concerns.
- On December 8 and 9, 2010, the MTCS responded that the archaeological assessment undertaken for the Abitibi, Empire, and Martin's Meadows properties complies with the *Ontario Heritage Act's* licensing requirements, including the license terms and conditions and the Ministry's 1993 Archaeological Assessment Technical Guidelines for the Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Abitibi Solar Project, the Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Empire Solar Project, and Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment Martin's Meadows Solar Project. This letter is included in Appendix G.
- On December 6, 2011, Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) submitted an Archaeological Assessment Report entitled 'Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessments 115-kV

Transmission Line Geo. Township of Glackmeyer, Clute and Calder, District of Cochrane, Ontario' to the MTCS.

- On June 15, 2012, the MTCS responded that the archaeological assessment undertaken for the Project complies with the *Ontario Heritage Act's* licensing requirements, including the license terms and conditions and the Ministry's 1993 Archaeological Assessment Technical Guidelines for the Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment 115-kV Transmission Line. This letter is included in Appendix G.
- On August 8, 2012, the Archaeologists Inc. submitted an Archaeological Assessment Report entitled 'Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment for Northland Power – Empire Solar Project, Part of Lots 17 and 18, Concession 7, Township of Glackmeyer, District of Cochrane' to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) for additional lands not previously surveyed. The Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment Report recommended that the Project be allowed to continue without any further archaeological concerns.
- On September 6, 2012, the MTCS responded that the archaeological assessment undertaken for the Project complies with the Ontario Heritage Act's licensing requirements, including the license terms and conditions and the Ministry's 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. Written comments were provided as per Section 22(3)(a) of O. Reg. 359/09. This letter is included in Appendix G.
- On January 23, 2013, the Archaeologists Inc. submitted an Archaeological Assessment Report entitled 'Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment for Northland Power – Additional Lands (Martin's Meadows & Abitibi Solar Projects) Part of Lot 15, Concession 8, Township of Glackmeyer, District of Cochrane' to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) for additional lands not previously surveyed. The Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment Report recommended that the Project be allowed to continue without any further archaeological concerns.
- On February 8, 2013, Hatch provided the MTCS notification that the Abitibi, Empire and Martin's Meadows Solar Projects were going to be subject to a single REA application known as the Cochrane Solar Project. A copy of this correspondence is provided in Appendix G.
- On February 15, 2013, the MTCS indicated that the archaeological assessment for the additional lands (Martin's Meadows & Abitibi Solar Projects) undertaken for the Project complies with the Ontario Heritage Act's licensing requirements, including the license terms and conditions and the Ministry's 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. Written comments were provided as per Section 22(3)(a) of O. Reg. 359/09. This letter is included in Appendix G.

3.1.4 Town of Cochrane

- On June 2, 2011, the Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting was sent to the Town of Cochrane. A further Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting was sent on June 21, 2011. The Notice of Final (Second) Public Meeting was sent on May 24, 2012.
- REA supporting documents, excluding the summary reports and confirmation letters, and the Municipal Consultation Form were provided on May 16, 2012, for the Town's review.

- A second copy of the REA supporting documents on June 8, 2012, to be made available for public review. Within this package, a copy of the executive summary was also provided, including the summaries of each of the REA supporting documents and the available confirmation letters.
- On September 18, 2012, a Notice of Public Meeting and covering letter regarding the public meeting on October 4, 2012, was provided.
- On September 28, 2012, a copy of the municipal consultation forms for the Project was provided, as upon discussion with the planning department, these forms had yet to be provided for completion.
- Northland is currently negotiating a road user agreement with the Town of Cochrane.
- At the time of this report a completed Municipal Consultation Form has not been provided. An e-mail was sent to the Town of Cochrane requesting the Municipal Consultation Form on January 24, 2013.
- On Friday February 15, 2013 a Notice of Project Change and covering letter was provided.

Appendix H contains copies of correspondence from the Town of Cochrane.

3.1.5 Cochrane and Suburban Planning Board

- On June 2, 2011, the Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting was provided. A further Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting was sent on June 21, 2011. The Notice of Final (Second) Public Meeting was sent on May 24, 2012.
- The available REA supporting documents and the Municipal Consultation Form were provided on May 16, 2012, for the Board's review.
- On June 8, 2012, copies of the executive summaries, which includes the summary reports of each of the REA supporting documents and the available confirmation letters was provide for review.
- On September 18, 2012, a Notice of Public Meeting and covering letter regarding the public meeting on October 4, 2012, was provided.
- At the time of this report a completed Municipal Consultation Form has not been provided. An e-mail was sent to the Cochrane and Suburban Planning Board requesting the Municipal Consultation Form on January 23, 2013. A response was received indicating that they would discuss at their board meeting on January 28, and a response would be provided shortly thereafter.
- A letter dated February 11, 2013, was provided indicating the planning board has no problems or objections with the proposed Project(Appendix H).
- On Friday February 15, 2013 a Notice of Project Change and covering letter was provided.

Appendix H contains any correspondence with the Cochrane and Suburban Planning Board.

3.1.6 Hunta Local Roads Board

- The Notice of Final (Second) Public Meeting was sent on May 24, 2012.
- The available REA supporting documents and the Municipal Consultation Form were provided on May 16, 2012, for the Board's review.
- On June 3, 2012, an e-mail was received requesting that the Final Public Meeting involve a presentation and question/answer session. Northland agreed to this request in a response on June 5, 2012.
- On June 8, 2012, copies of the executive summaries, which includes the summary reports of each of the REA supporting documents and the available confirmation letters was provide for review.
- On September 18, 2012, a Notice of Public Meeting and covering letter regarding the public meeting on October 4, 2012, was provided.
- On September 28, 2012, a copy of the municipal consultation form for the Project was provided to the secretary treasurer for the Hunta Local Roads Board.
- On December 31, 2012, an e-mail was received from the secretary treasurer of the Hunta Local Roads Board which indicated that the Municipal Consultation Form would hopefully be provided by the end of January.
- On February 4, 2013 the Municipal Consultation Form was received in the mail. The responses are detailed in Table 3.2.
- On Friday February 15, 2013 a Notice of Project Change and covering letter was provided.

Appendix H contains any correspondence with Hunta Local Road Board.

3.1.7 Fredrickhouse Local Road Board

- The Notice of Final Public Meeting was sent on May 24, 2012.
- The available REA supporting documents and the Municipal Consultation Form were provided on May 16, 2012, for the Board's review.
- On June 8, 2012, copies of the executive summaries, which includes the summary reports of each of the REA supporting documents and the available confirmation letters was provide for review.
- On September 18, 2012, a Notice of Public Meeting and covering letter regarding the public meeting on October 4, 2012, was provided.
- On January 23, 2013, Hatch spoke with the secretary treasurer of the Fredrickhouse Local Roads Board, who indicated that the Board would not be responding to the municipal consultation form or any of the Project documentation.
- On Friday February 15, 2013 a Notice of Project Change and covering letter was provided.

Appendix H contains any correspondence with Fredrickhouse Local Roads Board.

3.2 Agency Comments and Concerns

Agency comments and concerns are included in Table 3.1, which also indicates how the Project and/or document were modified to meet the agency comments/concerns.

Table 3.1 Comments/Concerns from Agencies and Responses

Agency	Comment/Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Ontario Ministry of the Environment	None to date.	None required.
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	Various comments were provided regarding the Natural Heritage reports.	All comments were addressed by revising the Natural Heritage Reports.
Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	In consultation with the MTCS, it was recommended that the project proceed without further archaeological concerns.	None required.
Town of Cochrane	None to date.	None required.
Cochrane and Suburban Planning Board	None to date.	None required.
Hunta Local Road Board	Requested Final (Second) Public Meeting involve a presentation and question/answer session. Municipal Consultation Form comments are provided in Table 3.2.	Final (Second) Public Meeting in Hunta involved a presentation followed by a question and answer session.
Fredrickhouse Local Road Board	None identified.	None required.

The Hunta Local Roads Board provided completed Municipal Consultation Forms for the previously named Abitibi, Empire and Martin’s Meadows solar Projects. As has been previously mentioned, these Projects are now considered the Cochrane Solar Project, and as such the comments provided remain applicable to the Cochrane Solar Project. Further, the same comments were provided for each of the Projects. A scanned copy of the Municipal Consultations Forms are found in Appendix H, Table 3.2 details the comments and Projects responses.

Municipal Consultation Form Question	Hunta Local Roads Board Response	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Section 5.2 – Project Roads		
Provide comment on the proposed project’s plans respecting proposed access roads	High voltage Transmission lines in a Local Roads Board Road allowance – Road allowances are for hydro distribution, sewer, water, gas and telephone, not high voltage lines.	The transmission line associated with the Project is considered to be a compatible use for road allowances.

<p>Identify any issues and provide recommendations with respect to road access</p>	<p>High voltage Transmission lines in road allowance will hinder any future maintenance and upgrades to existing roads. It could cause safety issues with contractors and general public as maintenance and update are carried out on the roadways. All easements for Transmission line should be outside of Road right of way.</p>	<p>The transmission line is not expected to impact maintenance or upgrading of the existing road way. Further, the transmission line will be clearly visible to any contractors of general public using the roadway and are not expected to pose any greater risk than existing power lines along the roadway in this area.</p>
<p>Section 5.5 Project Construction</p>		
<p>Identify any issues and recommendations with respect to the proposed rehabilitation of any temporary disturbance areas and any municipal or local authority infrastructure that could be damaged during construction.</p>	<p>Local road boards roads are maintained to medium weight traffic standards and are not designed for heavy loads. Heavy loads are restricted to frozen conditions. All damage to road surfaces and infrastructure will be billed to the proponent.</p>	<p>Northland will be responsible for any repairs to the road network as a result of their use during construction. A pre-construction and post-construction survey will be completed to assess the road conditions and any repairs required. Northland will provide the results of these assessments to the Local Roads Board, and will coordinate any necessary repairs with the Local Roads Board.</p>

4. Consultation with Aboriginal Communities

It is the Crown's fiduciary obligation to conduct meaningful consultation in good faith with First Nation and Aboriginal communities. The Crown has delegated some of the consultation to the Proponent of renewable energy projects as per the REA Regulation. Pursuant to the REA Regulation, Proponents are required to engage meaningfully with Aboriginal groups regarding traditional ecological knowledge, traditional land use, land claims and other interests and issues with respect to the development of the Project.

The technical bulletin titled "*Draft Aboriginal Consultation Guide for preparing a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Application*" (MOE, 2011) provided further information and guidance on First Nation consultation process. Where possible, the information presented in this guide is incorporated into this report.

The following provides information related to the Aboriginal consultation completed for the Project.

4.1 Aboriginal Community Consultation List

In November 2010, Northland Power provided the MOE with the Draft Project Description Reports (for the Abitibi, Martin's Meadows and Empire Solar Projects, now collectively known as the Cochrane Solar Project). As per the REA Regulation, the submission of the Project Description Report is required in order for the MOE to provide a list of the Aboriginal communities that Northland is to consult with.

On March 10, 2011, MOE provided the list of Aboriginal communities, which is included in Appendix I.

4.2 Consultation Activities

4.2.1 First Public Meeting and Notice

The combined Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Project and Notice of a Public Meeting was sent to the Aboriginal communities on the MOE list on May 31, 2011.

With the Notice, a letter was included which, as per the REA Regulation, requested written information regarding any potential impact on treaty or constitutional protected lands and possible mitigating measures. Appendix J contains a copy of the letters.

Due to changes in the Project Location, a revised Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Project and Notice of Public Meeting was sent to Aboriginal communities on June 21, 2011.

Section 2.3.1 provides further details on the first public meeting. No aboriginal community representatives identified themselves during the first public meeting.

The Notice and Draft Project Description Reports (for the Abitibi, Martin's Meadows and Empire Solar Projects, now collectively known as the Cochrane Solar Project) were posted on the Project website (www.northlandpower.ca) at the same time the Notice was published. The revised PDR was made available for public review at the Town of Cochrane municipal office 30 days prior to the first public meeting.

4.2.2 Final (Second) Public Meeting and Notice

On May 24, 2012, a letter and Notice of Public Meeting was provided. The letter advised that the REA supporting documents were to follow. On August 2, 2012, a copy of the Notice of Public Meeting was placed in the *Wawatay* newspaper. On June 8, 2012, copies of the draft REA supporting documents were provide for each communities review. Appendix J contains copies of the Notice and the letters.

Section 2.3.2 provides the details of the final public meeting. No attendees at the final public meeting identified themselves as members of any Aboriginal community.

4.2.3 (Third) Public Meeting

On September 18, 2012, a letter and Notice of (third) Public Meeting was provided. On September 27, 2012, a copy of the Notice of Public Meeting was placed in the *Wawatay* newspaper. Appendix J contains copies of the Notice and the letters.

Section 2.3.2 provides the details of the final public meeting. No attendees at the public meeting identified themselves as members of any Aboriginal community.

4.2.4 Notice of Project Change

On Friday February 15, 2013, a Notice of Project Change and covering letter was provided to all of the Aboriginal communities (Appendix J). Further the Notice of Project Change was placed in the *Wawatay News* on Thursday February 21, 2013 to provide greater notification of the name change.

4.3 Other Aboriginal Consultation Activities

The details of the communications and activities for each Aboriginal community are contained in Table 4.1. Appendix K contains any correspondence with the Aboriginal communities.

Table 4.1 Details of Additional Consultation Activities

Community/Group	Details of Additional Consultation Activities
Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On October 29, 2010, Northland spoke with a representative of TTN to introduce Northland Power and describe the project locations. An invitation to participate in the archaeology assessments was offered. Following the call, Northland e-mailed maps of the project location, as well as the invitation to participate in, or observe, the archaeology assessments. • On July 19, 2011, Northland spoke with a representative on to inquire as to whether any archaeological monitors would be interested in participating in the upcoming surveys for the transmission line. A representative was identified and they participated in the archaeological site investigations later that month. • On July 25, 2012, Hatch received a call and follow-up e-mail from a representative of TTN, providing their consultation protocol. • On September 18, 2012, Northland attended a meeting with representatives of TTN. At that time, it was requested that a public meeting be held in the community. Follow-up e-mails have been issued on September 24 and October 10, 2012. Northland agreed to the meeting in a follow-up e-mail and the meeting was tentatively planned for late November 2012. • On November 21, 2012, at the request of TTN, Northland made a presentation to Chief and Council alone. • Follow-up meetings with Chief and Council were held on November 30, 2012 and February 6, 2013.
Wahgoshig First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 12, 2011, Hatch left a message with a representative to inquire as to whether any archaeological monitors would be interested in participating in the upcoming surveys for the transmission line. No response was received. • On August 1, 2012, Hatch left a message requesting any information or comments they may have on the proposed Project. • On January 24, 2013, Hatch left a message requesting any information or comments they may have on the proposed Project.
Flying Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 12, 2011, Hatch spoke with Chief Murray to inquire as to whether any archaeological monitors would be interested in participating in the upcoming surveys for the transmission line. He requested that they just be kept informed. • On August 1, 2012, Hatch spoke with a representative of the Flying Post First Nation. They indicated that the reports had been received and that they expected they would not be providing any comments.
Matachewan First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 12, 2011, Hatch left a message with a representative to inquire as to whether any archaeological monitors would be interested in participating in the upcoming surveys for the transmission line. No response was received. • On August 1, 2012, Hatch left a message requesting any information or comments they may have on the proposed Project. • On January 24, 2013, Hatch left a message requesting any information or comments they may have on the proposed Project.

Community/Group	Details of Additional Consultation Activities
Northern Lights Métis Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 12, 2011, Hatch spoke with a representative to inquire as to whether any archaeological monitors would be interested in participating in the upcoming surveys for the transmission line. A representative was identified and they participated in the archaeological site investigations later that month. • On August 1, 2012, Hatch left a message requesting any information or comments they may have on the proposed Project. • On January 24, 2013, Hatch left a message requesting any information or comments they may have on the proposed Project.
Métis Nation of Ontario – Timmons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 12, 2011, Hatch left a message with a representative to inquire as to whether any archaeological monitors would be interested in participating in the upcoming surveys for the transmission line. No response was received. • On August 1, 2012, Hatch left a message requesting any information or comments they may have on the proposed Project. • On October 2, 2012, it was determined the incorrect mailing address had been used to notify of the upcoming Public Meeting on October 4, 2012. On October 3, 2012, contact information for the appropriate individual was determined and an email providing the letter and Notice of Public Meeting was provided. • On January 24, 2013, Hatch spoke with a representative of the Métis Nation of Ontario – Timmons to request any information or comments they may have on the proposed Project. The representative indicated that he would look into it further and provide a response.

4.4 Aboriginal Comments and Concerns

Northland supports the use of traditional Aboriginal knowledge and through this consultation process aims to provide a method to incorporate this knowledge and to address any comments or concerns about the Project from the Aboriginal perspective. Comments and concerns are contained below for each community or organization, along with any responses that were required to effectively address the concern and/or incorporate this knowledge into the Project design.

The comments and concerns received, along with the responses, are provided in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Comments/Concerns from Aboriginal Communities and Responses

Aboriginal Community/Group	Comment/Concern	Response: Mitigation, Resolution and/or Amendment to Project
Taykwa Tagamou Nation	Taykwa Tagamou Nation requested further consultation as per their consultation protocol.	<p>Representatives of Northland attended meetings with representatives of the First Nation. At TTN's request, Northland is providing additional copies of the Project reports for TTN's consultant to review.</p> <p>It is Northland's understanding that the TTN does not have any significant environmental concerns with the proposed developments, though they have an interest in the portions of the transmission line that are located on Crown Land. Northland is continuing to discuss this interest with the TTN.</p>
Wahgoshig First Nation	None to date.	None required.
Flying Post	None to date.	None required.
Matachewan First Nation Northern Lights Métis Council	None to date.	None required.
Métis Nation of Ontario – Timmons	None to date.	None required.
Métis Nation of Ontario - Ottawa	None to date.	None required.

5. Conclusions

Since November 2010, the consultation program for the Cochrane Solar Project has been active. There has been open dialogue with immediate neighbours of the project, public, agencies, Aboriginal groups and the local municipalities and road boards regarding the Project. In addition to communications via email, letters, in person meetings and phone calls, there have been three public meetings for the Project. The purpose of this Consultation Report is to ensure a transparent and meaningful consultation process for all participants with an interest in the Project, where all comments and questions received are documented, reviewed and addressed.

As a result of these opportunities for comment, several issues were raised that have been considered as part of the Project assessment, and provided additional guidance toward the scope of the studies. These issues were considered and incorporated into the REA application documents and the Project design, as appropriate.

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6. References

Ministry of the Environment (MOE). 2010. Technical Bulletin Five – Guidance for Preparing the Consultation Report. March 1, 2010.

MOE. 2011a. Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals.

MOE. 2011b. Draft Aboriginal Consultation Guide for preparing a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Application.