

September 19, 2013

Marie Lummiss
Executive Assistant
Ontario Waterpower Association
Sent via e-mail to mlummiss@owa.ca

Dear Ms. Lummiss:

**Re: Request for Qualifications for Species Expertise, Regulation 242/08,
*Endangered Species Act, Turtles Species Group***

I am writing in response to the Request for Qualifications for species expertise in relation to Regulation 242/08 of the Ontario *Endangered Species Act*. I am pleased to provide the following description of my expertise and experience with the Species at Risk Turtles group.

Turtles

From 2007-2011, Tara worked as a Species at Risk (SAR) Technician, Area Biologist (Acting) and SAR Biologist (Acting) with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). During her time with the MNR, she conducted a number of SAR turtle surveys and prepared an internal SAR turtle survey protocol. Her survey experience included conducting area searches, radiotelemetry, nest searches, collecting and incubating turtle eggs, temporarily raising hatchlings, and releasing juvenile turtles back into the wild. Her experience with a variety of survey techniques allowed her to evaluate various approaches and to assist in determining the appropriate scientific approach to surveying SAR turtles.

Mitigation, Effects Monitoring and Effectiveness Monitoring Plans

Tara has successfully prepared a number of mitigation and environmental effects monitoring plans for renewable energy projects throughout Ontario. She has also been involved in the implementation of construction and post-construction surveys and monitoring, to determine the negative environmental effects that can result from engaging in a renewable energy project. Tara has also provided guidance for the development of mitigation measures and plans for renewable energy projects that involve SAR turtles.

Hydroelectric Sector

Tara does not have specific experience in working in the hydroelectric field. However, the skills noted above are directly transferrable to a hydroelectric project as the required skill set is specific to turtles on the landscape and not restricted to hydroelectric projects alone. Tara has worked on renewable energy projects in the same parts of Ontario (i.e. central and northern) and is therefore quite familiar with the landscapes and regional habitats in which these SAR turtles exist.

I trust the above information provides an appropriate description of my qualifications to provide Ontario Waterpower Association's members with expertise within the turtle species group. I thank you for this opportunity and look forward to providing my services to the members.

Yours truly,
Natural Resource Solutions Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tara Lessard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tara Livingstone (formerly Lessard), BSc.



NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.

Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

TARA A. LIVINGSTONE, B.Sc. TERRESTRIAL AND WETLAND BIOLOGIST

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science, Honours, Biology (2006), University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tara is a terrestrial and wetland biologist with experience working on a variety of renewable energy projects. She has managed projects across Ontario and New Brunswick, and routinely oversees and completes natural area inventories, vegetation community mapping, and surveys of wildlife, including bats, reptiles, amphibians, plants, breeding and migrating birds, and terrestrial mammals. She has also worked closely with a variety of reptile Species at Risk, and has managed construction and post-construction monitoring at a number of operational facilities. She routinely deals with federal and provincial agency staff during the monitoring process, and works closely with these agencies to develop monitoring programs based on specific site characteristics.

Tara provides expertise in the following areas:

- visual identification skills for surveying herpetofauna, particularly turtle species
- development and implementation of full biological work programs
- identification of significant or preferred habitat for sensitive or significant species
- analysis of environmental impacts on wildlife species, including turtles and Species at Risk
- preparation and implementation of mitigation plans for significant species and habitats
- preparation of impact assessments, follow-up recommendations, and mitigation measures
- implementation of construction and post-construction monitoring

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist

Natural Resource Solutions Inc., Waterloo, Ontario

2011 to present

Acting Management Biologist

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Clinton, Ontario

2009 to 2011

Species at Risk Technician

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Clinton, Ontario

2007 to 2009

Wildlife and Forest Ecology Field Assistant

University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

2007

Boreal Bird Research Assistant

Bird Studies Canada, Port Rowan, Ontario

2006