

## Ministry of Natural Resources Info Sheet

### Approval and Permitting Requirements

*Ontario has placed a priority on expanding the amount of energy produced from renewable energy sources. Renewable energy development is a cornerstone of the province's future prosperity and its commitment to protecting the environment.*

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is responsible for the management of Ontario's forests, fisheries, wildlife, petroleum and mineral aggregate resources, provincial parks, and Crown lands and waters.

In 2009, Ontario established a new integrated provincial approval process for renewable energy projects involving wind power, solar power and bio-energy. This process outlines requirements that need to be completed, in order for provincial regulatory ministries to make decisions.



#### Approval and Permitting Requirements Document

To provide clear direction on MNR requirements, the ministry developed the Approval and Permitting Requirements Document (APRD) which includes detailed information on how MNR may issue permits and approvals.

The APRD applies to wind, solar and bio-energy renewable energy generation facilities (including expansions and/or modifications) and renewable energy testing facilities. The requirements apply to projects on both Crown and private land, where MNR permits or approvals are required. The APRD does not apply to waterpower facilities, as these facilities are subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower Projects.

#### Renewable Energy Approval Regulation and APRD

The Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) Renewable Energy Approval (REA) regulation outlines requirements for the review and approval of renewable energy projects. Some approval or submission requirements are common between MNR and MOE and these are outlined in the REA. The APRD identifies where information requested in the REA is also required for MNR decision making on approvals or permits.

# Renewable Energy



## MNR Specific Requirements

In addition to the REA requirements, MNR has specific requirements within the APRD that applicants must meet. These include instances where:

- the project will have a negative impact on protected species and/or habitat;
- the project will destroy the nests or eggs of birds, a beaver dam, the den of a black bear or some furbearing mammals, or where the project will interfere with a black bear in its den;
- a water crossing, bridge, culvert and/or causeway is part of the project and there is no local Conservation Authority;
- the project involves the harvesting of Crown timber resources; or
- development is within 75 metres of a petroleum resources operation, such as a gas well.

## Other Considerations

MNR's issuance of approvals under these requirements does not relieve the applicant from meeting the requirements of other agencies and provincial or federal legislation.

Any decisions made by the ministry are guided by the information provided by applicants, as required and outlined in the APRD. Comments received through the applicant's consultation process, as required in the REA, are also considered by MNR.



For more information, please visit the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO):  
[http://www.mei.gov.on.ca/en/energy/renewable/index.php?page=refo\\_office](http://www.mei.gov.on.ca/en/energy/renewable/index.php?page=refo_office)

REFO can be reached via email at: [REFO@ontario.ca](mailto:REFO@ontario.ca) or toll-free at 1-877-440-REFO (7336)

For more information about MNR's role in renewable energy, visit  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Renewable/index.html>