

May 12, 2025  
160402099

**Francis Marquez**  
Francis.Marquez@evolugen.com

Dear Francis,

**Reference: Trail Road BESS Wetland Evaluation**

Please find enclosed a copy of the wetland evaluation scoring record completed for the Trail Road Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Ottawa, Ontario. The wetland evaluation was completed to determine if it meets the criteria for provincial significance and to support the Trail Road Environmental Impact Study. The evaluation followed the standardized protocols outlined in the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) for southern Ontario (MNR 2022) and was completed by a certified wetland evaluator.

The significance of a wetland is determined through the evaluation of ecological functions and characteristics using various criteria related to Biological, Social, Hydrological and Special Features (e.g., wildlife and fish habitat) components. Each component is given a score and the overall total is used to determine if the wetland is provincially significant. To be considered a provincially significant wetland (PSW), the wetland must score a total of 600 or more points, or 200 or more points in either the Biological or Special Features components.

The final score of the wetland evaluation is 517, with the Biological and Special Features components each scoring below 200 points. As a result, the wetland evaluation is considered to be **not provincially significant**. It is further noted, that while not provincially significant, impacts to wetlands, including wildlife habitat and recommendations for mitigation will be addressed in the Trail Road Environmental Impact Study.

A summary of results for each of the scoring components is provided in Table 1, with an overall assessment provided below:

- **Biological:** The overall biological score is approximately half of the maximum possible. Factors such as productivity, biodiversity and size are influenced by site conditions. The wetland along Trail Road is common in the area and dominated by swamp communities, which limits biodiversity potential. Larger wetlands with a mix of vegetation communities (e.g., swamp, marsh, open water), generally support greater species richness and overall wildlife abundance.
- **Social:** The scoring for the social component is low as the wetland has limited economic and recreational value, with no public access. Further, for Indigenous value, the scoring considers the significance of resources derived from the area, such as fishing, trapping, and plant harvesting. Since the wetland is predominantly privately owned and not accessible to the public, Indigenous resource use or spiritual activities are not occurring. However, as all wetlands hold value for Indigenous communities, the score is listed as unknown. Even if assigned the maximum 30 points, the score for this component would still be less than 200 and the overall wetland would still not be considered provincially significant.

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- **Hydrological:** The hydrological score indicates the wetland plays a role in flood reduction by reducing flooding by providing storage capacity, slowing water flow, filtering contaminants and sediment runoff, mitigating flood risks and supporting groundwater recharge.
- **Special Features:** The high score for special features is attributed to species at risk (SAR), specifically five bat species that share similar habitat—three of which were recently up-listed and presence of black ash. While these species remain relatively common and expected to occur in swamp communities, disease has significantly contributed to the decline of most of these species. Habitat for wildlife, including SAR is discussed in the EIS. Further, an information gathering form (IGF) has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to determine permitting requirements, with agency consultation underway. Permitting is a separate process from the wetland evaluation.

**Table 1 Summary of Wetland Evaluation Score**

Component	Score	Summary of Points
Biological	90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Productivity (26 pts)</li> <li>• Biodiversity (47 pts)</li> <li>• Size (17 pts)</li> </ul>
Social	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape Aesthetics (2 pts)</li> <li>• Proximity to Areas of Settlement (16 pts)</li> <li>• Ownership (5 pts)</li> <li>• Size (9 pts)</li> </ul>
Hydrological	207	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Attenuation (100 pts)</li> <li>• Water Quality Improvement (50 pts)</li> <li>• Groundwater Recharge (50 pts) – S</li> </ul>
Special Features	188	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species Rarity (185 pts)</li> <li>• Ecosystem Age (3 pts)</li> </ul>
TOTAL	517	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not provincially significant</li> </ul>

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Sincerely,

**Stantec Consulting Ltd.**

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**Martine Esraelian** B.Sc., OWES Wetland Evaluator  
Terrestrial Biologist  
Phone: 905-964-6721  
martine.esraelian@stantec.com

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**Andrew Taylor** B.Sc.  
Senior Ecologist  
Phone: 519-820-6149  
andrew.taylor@stantec.com

Attachments:

Appendix A Wetland Evaluation Scoring Record (provided under separate cover)  
Appendix B Wetland Evaluation Maps (provided under separate cover)

cc. Stephen Willis, Stantec  
Serene Shahzadeh, Stantec  
Trion Clarke, Stantec

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## **Appendix A    Wetland Evaluation Scoring Record (provided under separate cover)**

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## **Appendix B    Wetland Evaluation Maps (provided under separate cover)**