



Environmental Studies

Bird and Bat Studies:

- EchoTrack conducted a radar-acoustic based assessment of the proposed wind farm starting in the summer of 2005
- The purpose of the study was to assess the presence of bats at the Gosfield site and to evaluate the risk that the proposed wind farm might pose
- There is little commonly accepted knowledge about bats and very little regulatory practice established by which to evaluate the presence and behaviour of bats. In this regard, the Gosfield project was breaking new ground
- Another year of data (2007) has since been added with full coverage of the proposed area with microphones designed specifically for bats

Preliminary results of this study to date, indicate that:

- Sampling took place at the peak of fall migration and the migration of 2005 was typical and a good indication of the future presence and behaviour of the migratory population. The same time period was sampled in 2007 to confirm seasonal activity
- Flight densities at Gosfield are lower than at known migratory concentration points
- A small number of species are present in relatively normal abundance at the Gosfield site and are currently exhibiting a lower than average level of flight activity; particularly low compared to permitted sites with forest cover
- Comparison with other sites suggests that Gosfield does not have a high concentration of night migrant birds or bats
- Based on the results, we confirmed our mitigation of a setback from the Erie shoreline. We found that activity was reduced further away from shore
- An average of 91.8% of flights through the proposed development area were above or below the sweep volume of the blades, leaving an average of 8.2% of airborne animals potentially exposed to a collision