

**June 10, 2025**

**Addendum No. 03**

**File Reference Number: RFP 2025 049**

**Title: Environmental Natural Heritage and Species at Risk Study, NB RRC**

**RE: Clarifications/Questions**

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Please refer to the following information/clarification:

**Item 1:** To help prepare our scope of work, I would like to confirm that several spring surveys windows have passed, and given the timeline for report finalization in March 2026 they may not be included in the study. This would include, for example, amphibian call surveys and potentially breeding bird surveys.

I wanted to make sure ONTC understood that, by virtue of the project timing, there may be some gaps in data collection. As such, in the proposal I wanted to confirm that without having data collected during standard survey times, ONTC will be okay with us determine potential species occurrence and wildlife habitat based on background records, incidental records, and professional judgement.

**Answer:** Please note, ONTC acknowledges these tight, species-specific timelines, and will ask Respondents to budget their proposals accordingly as if all study items are to be carried out, striving to complete as much field study work as possible during 2025 work season. Respondents are encouraged to clearly identify any/all proposed scope and/or schedule deviations which they may recommend (for example, should spring 2026 work be required to ensure thorough study/substantial project completion). Overall, ONTC would like to communicate its openness to further considering and discussing potential study deviations and scheduling changes with the Successful Respondent, as needed, to reasonably ensure a thorough, quality study for the site.

**Item 2:** Schedule 3-A-2 (Map/Drawing No. 1) - we note that the image appears to be cut off, and that the ONTC RRC Shop Complex and Rail Yard Ownership - Natural Heritage and SAR Study Area may extend beyond the area shown on the Map (both to the north and the south). Please confirm if the area shown on the Map is the full extent of the study area that is to be considered in the proposal

**Answer:** ONTC can confirm that Schedule 3-A-2 (Map/Drawing No. 1) outlines the intended ONTC project location / study area. Note, ONTC acknowledges that the desktop/records review component may reasonably consider a broader area than what is shown (i.e., as is typical during background research). However, Respondent field work is intended to be restricted to the yellow ONTC property shown in the figure at this time.

**Item 3:** We have reviewed the Addenda issued to date and understand that proposals should include the full suite of surveys required to ensure comprehensive assessment. Can you please clarify whether surveys that would require deviation from the project schedule should be included in the lump sum, or whether these surveys should be included as a provisional item (separate costing provided) to be authorized in consultation with the Client after award?

**Answer:** ONTC requests that Respondents include the total costing of the project in their proposal to ensure that comprehensive studies are completed.

**Item 4:** Determining presence/absence of SAR wildlife requires significant effort within established timing windows. Habitat suitability for SAR can be determined with considerably less effort outside of the established timing windows and assumptions made about habitat use by locally occurring species. Please confirm whether the proponent intends for the successful firm to determine presence/absence of SAR (high degree of effort), or whether an assessment of habitat suitability for locally occurring species and assumptions about habitat use (lower degree of effort) is sufficient at this stage of development planning.

**Answer:** ONTC will request that Respondents complete the applicable, more intensive species presence/absence study in addition to general habitat suitability assessment. ONTC acknowledges that potential schedule and deliverable timing deviation may be required to achieve this, and encourages (and will appreciate) Respondents to review and proposal a suitable plan/timeline to achieve this as soon as feasible, within the most reasonable/realistic timeframe.

**Item 5:** Please specify the approval process being followed for the overall project.

**Answer:** Please note that ONTC is requesting Natural Heritage and Species at Risk study and preliminary evaluation of significance, next step recommendations at this time, for pre-planning purposes.

**Item 6:** Can ONTC please clarify the need to submit experience relating to “waste disposal site closure/remediation”? Typically, the ecological field work required for this assignment would not be required for waste disposal site closures/remediation. As the RFP discusses conceptual planning for expansion/development, can this waste disposal site/remediation experience be removed or revised to include expansion?

**Answer:** Please note, this is an oversight and ONTC retracts any mention of waste disposal site closure/remediation from this RFP. This type of experience is not relevant to the proposed Natural Heritage and Species at Risk Study.

This Addendum hereby forms part of the RFP.

Regards,

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