

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA – UPDATE

January 2024

During January, the Committee hosted three open houses as a wrap-up to the fall engagement program. The Committee and Secretariat continue to gather information and meet with various stakeholders including industry and federal and provincial authorities, as well as working on report writing and follow-up documents related to the fall engagement program.

On October 25, 2023, the Committee sent a [letter](#) to the federal and provincial ministers outlining their understanding of their Terms of Reference and description of how they will be addressing the upcoming deliverables associated with the Regional Assessment reporting. The Committee received a [response](#) from Minister Guilbeault on January 25, 2024. The Committee will deliver an “interim” report on March 23, 2024, and a final report on January 23, 2025.

The Fall Engagement Program wrapped up in January with three final in-person open house sessions in River Bourgeois, Chéticamp and New Glasgow. The objectives of the fall engagement program were to provide information about offshore wind and the Regional Assessment process and to gather input with a focus on thoughts of potential locations for future offshore wind locations in the Study Area. The Committee also met with the Chief and Council of Wagmatcook First Nation.

As a follow-up to the engagement program, the Committee will be posting a *What We Heard Summary* and *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* documents summarizing the findings of the engagement program. These documents will be posted to the Registry in February. The FAQ document will remain evergreen and will continue to be added to throughout the Regional Assessment process with the intent to provide information and clarification to various questions on technical, environmental, economic, and other aspects of offshore wind development.

If you were unable to attend an open house event or would like to provide further feedback to the Committee, you can submit it through the online [Feedback Form](#). The link will be live until **March 31, 2024**. The feedback received from this survey will be used to help inform the Committee's reports and future engagement events. Your input is appreciated and important to the Committee's work.

The Committee has continued to meet regularly with the Secretariat to discuss outcomes of engagement sessions and plan next steps. A Summary of Regional Assessment Committee Meetings is updated and posted to the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#).

The Committee continued to meet with federal and provincial government departments and industry in January. A summary of participant meetings will be added to the tracking tables within the relevant Participation Plans. These Plans include the Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan, Fisheries Participation Plan, and Indigenous Participation Plan. Updated versions of these Plans will be posted to the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#) in February.

All information about the Regional Assessment is available on the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#). The Committee invites all Indigenous peoples, organizations, and any other person or group with information and interests related to the Regional Assessment, and who wishes to participate in it, to reach out via the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) and/or the [public commenting tool](#) with any questions or comments. If you would like your name and

contact added to the distribution list, please sent your contact information to the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).