

April 24, 2024

**ELECTRONIC MAIL**

To: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada – Regional and Strategic Assessment

**Subject: Request for Advice from the Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia – Cumulative Effects Assessment**

Dear Stewart Lindale,

The Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia is submitting this request to the Impact Assessment Agency to ask for expert advice related to cumulative effects assessment.

In accordance with section 5 of the Committee's Agreement, and with section 23 of the *Impact Assessment Act (IAA)*, the Committee can request specialist or expert information or knowledge, from any department or agency, which must then be made available to the Committee. This may include providing information, knowledge or advice related to any matter relevant to the Regional Assessment.

Within the Regional Assessment Agreement, there are multiple references to the Committee identifying, considering, and/or analysing cumulative effects. The Committee understands that the Agency views cumulative effects assessment as a key component of regional assessments under the *IAA*. We have also heard throughout our engagement process that participants have high expectations for analysis of cumulative effects in this Regional Assessment. With this in mind, the Committee requests the Agency's advice on how to assess cumulative effects for this Regional Assessment, in order to meet the terms of the Agreement. If a guidance document is forthcoming, the Committee welcomes the Agency's description of that guidance to the extent the Agency is willing to share the information publicly. The Committee also understands that Brent Parker, Director General of Review Panels and Regional and Strategic Assessment for the Agency, presented on cumulative effects in regional assessments at the Cumulative Effects Assessment and Environmental Management Conference, in November, and is interested in receiving a copy of his presentation.

As per the Committee's Operational Procedure, the information submitted to the Committee in response to this Request for Advice will be made public on the Regional Assessment Registry Site. It is also important to note that the Committee's Confidentiality Procedure outlines the procedures in place regarding confidentiality of information provided by participants as part the of the Regional Assessment process.

Given the timeline for the Regional Assessment, the Committee would like to meet with the Agency to discuss cumulative effects in May 2024. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia