

June 16, 2024

ELECTRONIC MAIL

To: Carol-Lee Giffin,

Subject: Request for Information - Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia

Dear Ms. Giffin,

The federal Ministers of *Environment and Climate Change* and of *Energy and Natural Resources* and the provincial Minister of *Natural Resources and Renewables* entered into an Agreement to Conduct a Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia (the Agreement) pursuant to subsection 93(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). The Agreement enabled the appointment of a committee to conduct the regional assessment in accordance with Appendix A, the Terms of Reference (TOR). The latter were posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry site: [Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

In accordance with section 5 of the Agreement and pursuant to section 23 of the IAA, the Committee may request specialist or expert information or knowledge from any department or agency¹, which must then be made available to the Committee. This includes providing information, knowledge or advice related to any matter relevant to the Regional Assessment.

The Committee seeks the Department's advice and feedback on the potential positive and adverse effects, including cumulative effects, of offshore wind (OSW) development during the preconstruction, construction, operation and decommissioning phases of a project.

To support this request Impact Producing Factors (IPFs) associated with an OSW development are described in Table 1. The identified IPFs may cause impacts to physical, biological, economic or socially valued components. This is not an exhaustive list of IPFs, and the Committee seeks your observations and feedback on any identified gaps.

¹ All subsequent references to department mean department or agency.

Advice Request

The Committee would appreciate advice/input on the following as it relates to the Department's mandate and areas of expertise:

1. Potential positive and adverse effects (including cumulative effects) of offshore wind energy development during all phases.
2. Mitigation and/or monitoring that should be considered to address potential adverse effects.
3. Can you please identify areas within the Study Area, with particular reference to the PFDA, where unexploded ordinance (UXO), military exercises, or other aspects of DND operations present issues for OSW development, and where possible the steps that should be taken to prevent or mitigate conflicts?
4. During public engagement, the Committee was apprised of UXO in and in the vicinity of Sydney Harbour. Can this be verified, and the sites identified
5. Please provide information on current or planned studies relevant to this information request, including reference to pertinent research planned at the recently established Facility for Intelligent Marine Systems (FIMS).

In responding to any of the above matters, the Committee would appreciate reference to any applicable legislation, regulation or policy directive pertaining to the topic.

The Committee would like feedback on this request no later than **July 31, 2024**. Please contact the Committee to discuss the due date if needed. If the Department of National Defence have questions or require clarification regarding this request, the Committee would be happy to meet and provide guidance on what feedback is most crucial to support the RA Final Report.

As per the Committee's protocols, the information submitted to this Request for Advice will be made public on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, unless otherwise requested. The Committee's [Confidentiality Procedure \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#) outlines the procedures in place regarding confidential information.

If you have any questions regarding the Regional Assessment process or this request, or you would like to meet with the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee at OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

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

Attachments:

- Advice Record
- Table 1

ATTACHMENT: June 16, 2024

Advice Record

Response due by: July 31, 2024

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia

Department/Agency	Department of National Defence
Lead Contact	Carol-Lee Giffin
Email	CarolLee.Giffin@forces.gc.ca

Name of Departmental /
Agency Responder

Title of Responder

Date