June 17, 2024

ELECTRONIC MAIL

To: Christina Clarke

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

Dear Ms. Clarke,

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: <u>Regional Assessment</u> of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia (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, 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 within your area of expertise.
- 2. Mitigation and/or monitoring that should be considered to address potential adverse effects.
- 3. In the Interim Report, the Committee recommended 6 Potential Future Development Areas (PFDAs). Please provide (or direct us to) relevant substrate characterizations for these areas with comment on suitability for fixed or floating OSW turbine installation.
- 4. Please provide information on current or planned survey work or studies relevant to the development within the Regional Assessment Study Area with particular reference to the PFDAs.

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 is working to a timeline that requires this information as soon as reasonably possible, ideally by **July 31, 2024**. In the interest of trying to meet this target date the Committee is available to meet with the Department to clarify and possibly prioritize the information requested.

As per the Committee's standard practice, the information submitted to this Request for Advice will be made public on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, unless otherwise requested to remain confidential. The Committee's <u>Confidentiality Procedure (iaac-aeic.gc.ca)</u> outlines the procedures in place regarding confidential information.

Thank-you for your assistance and support as we work toward the submission of our draft final report. The Committee can be reached at <u>OffshoreWindNS-</u> <u>EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.</u>

Sincerely,

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

Attachments:

- Advice Record
- Table 1

ATTACHMENT: June 17, 2024 Advice Record Response due by: July 31, 2024 Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia

Department/Agency	Natural Resources Canada
Lead Contact	Christina Clarke
Email	christina.clarke@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Name of Departmental / Agency Responder

Title of Responder

Date