

June 16, 2024

**ELECTRONIC MAIL**

**To:** Jason Flanagan

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

Dear Mr. Flanagan,

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 agency<sup>1</sup>, 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 thereby seeks your 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 (described in Table 1) and on specific questions that are relevant to your area of expertise.

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 gaps you may identify.

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<sup>1</sup> All subsequent references to department mean department or agency.

## Advice Request

The Committee would like your advice/input on the following:

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. Does Transport Canada operate a vessel traffic system to monitor traffic in the ports of Nova Scotia?
4. What lighting requirements will Transport Canada require for offshore wind turbines and will international guidelines for lighting wind farms be followed?
5. Is there potential for offshore wind turbines to interfere with radar systems operating in the offshore area and what are the concerns for Transport Canada?
6. The Marine Atlantic transit route traverses the Committee's "Sydney Bight" potential future development area (PFDA). Does Transport Canada have any comments related to this potential area and how would Transport Canada determine the appropriate design of navigation lanes for the ferry in an offshore wind farm?
7. In winter, sea ice may be present in the Sydney Bight PFDA. Would this pose an operational limitation on the feasibility of developing wind turbines in this area? What guidance and specifications would your department offer to facilitate the design and operation of wind turbines in this area and what responsibilities would TC assume to ensure that turbines could be accessed for maintenance in such conditions?
8. Does Transport Canada have any concerns about the potential for a substantial increase in vessel traffic in ports, including the potential for large vessels?
9. Does Transport Canada have any views on potential safety exclusion zones during the different phases of offshore wind development?
10. Who else is involved in the authority of ports in Nova Scotia that the Committee should contact for advice?

**Commented [B(1)]:** We have reached out to the Port Authority but have not had any response

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 Transport Canada 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 in response 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](mailto: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	Transport Canada
Lead Contact	Jason Flanagan
Email	<a href="mailto:jason.flanagan@tc.gc.ca">jason.flanagan@tc.gc.ca</a>

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Name of Departmental /  
Agency Responder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Responder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date