

June 19, 2024

ELECTRONIC MAIL

To: Beth Lewis

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

Dear Ms. Lewis,

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).

Pursuant to the Agreement, the Committee submitted an Interim Report to Ministers on March 22, 2024 (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/156046?culture=en-CA>) that identified six PFDAs. The PFDAs were based on the Committee's assessment of the data reviewed and information obtained from the engagement process to that point in time, are considered preliminary and may be refined as work on the final draft report for the Regional Assessment proceeds.

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.

With reference to the Department's (hereafter CCTH) mandate and expertise, the Committee seeks 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 listed below.

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

¹ All subsequent references to department mean department or agency.

physical, biological, economic or socially valued components. This is not an exhaustive list of IPFs, and the Committee welcomes any feedback on identified gaps.

Advice Request

Please comment on the following:

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. In the Interim Report, the Committee recommended 6 Potential Future Development Areas (PFDA's). Is CCTH aware of any shipwrecks or other cultural heritage sites of significance in or in close proximity to the PFDA's?
4. The Committee has recommended that for the time being, no development should take place within 25km of the coastline.
 - a. Has CCTH considered the experience in other jurisdictions where a similar approach has been taken?
 - b. Does CCTH feel that the proposed buffer adequately protects views and cultural heritage along the coastline?
5. To the extent not already covered under 5 above, the potential positive and negative effects of OSW development on tourism including but not limited to:
 - a. potential exclusion zones within the wind farm footprint and any associated displacement of recreational activities such as whale watching;
 - b. increased vessel traffic during the construction and operating phases;
 - c. lights/visual effects of turbines; and construction activities including the placement of high voltage cable from the wind farm area to landfall.

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 can be available to meet with the department and attempt 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 Confidentiality Procedure (iaac-aeic.gc.ca) 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 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 19, 2024
Advice Record
Response due by: July 31, 2024
Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia

Department/Agency	NS Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Lead Contact	Beth Lewis
Email	beth.lewis@novascotia.ca

Name of Departmental /
Agency Responder

Title of Responder

Date