

June 19, 2024

ELECTRONIC MAIL

To: Bridget Tutty

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

Dear Ms. Tutty,

The federal Ministers of *Environment and Climate Change* and of *Energy and Natural Resources* and the provincial Minister of *Natural Resources and Renewables* established a Committee, pursuant to subsection 93(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), to conduct the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia.

On March 23, 2023, Canada and Nova Scotia entered into an Agreement to Conduct a Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia (the Agreement) including an Appendix A Terms of Reference (TOR) which was 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/050/evaluations/document/156046?culture=en-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 PFDA's. The PFDA's 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 Committee's Agreement and with section 23 of the IAA, the Committee can request specialist or expert information or knowledge from any department or agency¹, 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.

With reference to the Department's (hereafter ECC) 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.

¹ All subsequent references to department mean department or agency.

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 welcomes feedback on any 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) Proposed Provincially Protected and Special Areas that could impact the development of OSW in Nova Scotia, with particular reference to the PFDAs identified in the Interim Report?
- 4) The positive or negative effects of OSW on Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)?
- 5) The negative impacts from extreme weather events (including wind, waves and precipitation) to be reasonably anticipated over the expected 25-to-30-year life cycle of an operating wind farm.
- 6) The extent to which OSW development activities in the Study Area and their potential effects would hinder or contribute to the provincial governments' ability to meet their environmental obligations and commitments in respect of climate change.
- 7) The potential impacts to coastal habitats from landfall(s) of subsea transmission cable(s) from OSW farms, including the construction of potential onshore substation(s) and necessary transmission connections to the grid.
- 8) Details of current, anticipated or required research projects that would help to address data gaps and facilitate the accommodation of OSW development.

Please include in your response to any of the above matters 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 ECC 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 Environment and Climate Change
Lead Contact	Bridget Tutty
Email	Bridget.Tutty@novascotia.ca

Name of Departmental /
Agency Responder

Title of Responder

Date

