



March 12, 2024

Shayne McDonald  
Committee Chair  
Committee for Regional Assessment of  
Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador  
smcdonald@mfn.gov.ca

Shayne McDonald:

Thank you for your letter of October 18, 2023, requesting amendments to the *Agreement to conduct the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador* and clarification that the Agreement allows the Committee for Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador (the Committee) to focus the assessment in the areas the Committee identifies as most suitable for offshore wind.

The Committee's recommendations, information, and analysis will support the sustainable development of this promising sector and Canada's energy transition and climate change objectives. As such, the timely completion of the Regional Assessment remains a high priority for the governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The mandate of the Committee is complex. Both governments acknowledge the importance of having adequate time to effectively engage fish harvesters, Indigenous communities, the public, and experts in a variety of disciplines to the quality and credibility of the Regional Assessment process and, ultimately, to the Committee's recommendations.

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As co-signatories to the Agreement, both governments have agreed to the Committee's request for a four-month time extension. Further, we agree to the Committee's request to provide one interim report and one final report.

The Committee's decision to reduce the Study Area and focus analysis and recommendations to areas that the Committee identifies as most suitable for offshore wind development is not consistent with the original Terms of Reference for the Agreement. However, recognizing the challenges raised by the Committee as it relates to the size of the Study Area, and required timelines, both governments accept the Committee's decision.

Moving forward, our expectation is that the Committee and signatory Departments will discuss and resolve mandate-related issues independently from the conduct of the Regional Assessment process; in a manner that preserves the independence of the Committee to conduct its work but recognizes government's role in establishing the Committee's mandate. We also ask that the Committee provide any information and analysis already undertaken for areas outside the Focus Area that may be useful in informing future planning processes in recognition that there are broader opportunities than those assessed by the Committee.

We have provided amendments in the attached memorandum and expect that the revised timeframe will be sufficient to complete the Regional Assessment as proposed by the Committee. In addition, this letter serves to confirm the extension of the appointment of the Committee's members until the completion of the Regional Assessment.

Please note that the federal *Official Languages Act* provides that members of the public have the right to receive services from or communicate with the Government of Canada in the official language of their choice. As such, information posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry must be posted in both English and French. Impact Assessment Agency of Canada officials will work with the Committee Secretariat to meet this requirement for both the interim and final reports.

Both governments remain committed to enabling the advancement of the Committee's work. Officials representing our respective organizations will continue to provide support to the Committee in addressing any issues going forward.

Thank you for the Committee's work on the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)

Enclosure

c.c.: The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources  
Government of Canada  
The Honourable Andrew Parsons, K.C., M.H.A.  
Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology,  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
The Honourable Bernard Davis, M.H.A.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change,  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
The Honourable Andrew Furey, M.H.A.  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs,  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador