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Our File number: 10700-40-51617 40100-30-264

FEB 0 2 2017

Shelley Rector
Treasurer
Alternative Resource Energy Authority
274 Main Street
Antigonish NS B2G 2C4

Dear Ms. Rector:

Re: Environmental Assessment Ellershouse Wind Farm Expansion

The environmental assessment of the proposed Ellershouse Wind Farm Expansion, in Hants County has been completed.

This is to advise that I have approved the above project in accordance with Section 40 of the Environment Act, S.N.S., 1994-95 and subsection 13(1)(b) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, N.S. Reg. 348/2008, made under the Act. Following a review of the information provided by Minas Energy, acting on behalf of Alternative Resource Energy Authority and the information provided during the government and public consultation of the environmental assessment, I am satisfied that any adverse effects or significant environmental effects of the undertaking can be adequately mitigated through compliance with the attached terms and conditions.

This approval is subject to any other approvals required by statute or regulation, including but not limited to, approval under Part V of the Nova Scotia *Environment Act* (Approvals and Certificates section).

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact the Supervisor, Environmental Assessment Branch, Ms. Helen MacPhail, at (902) 424-3960 or via e-mail at macphafh@gov.ns.ca

Sincerely,

Margaret Miller, MLA Minister of Environment

Encl.

c: Peter Geddes

Chris Peters, Minas Energy