

APPENDIX C
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLAN



PUBLIC AND REGULATORY CONSULTATION PLAN

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Overview

Consultation with the public and other stakeholders for the Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project (the Project) began in 2011 and continued in 2021 when Rotor Mechanical Services partnered with Natural Forces (the Proponents). Throughout Project development, the Proponents have carried out extensive community engagement and consultation activities to provide a breadth of opportunities for community stakeholders, local businesses, and members of municipal, provincial, and federal government agencies to ask questions, share concerns, and provide feedback throughout. To maintain these relationships, the Proponents have assembled a stakeholder list to which regular updates on Project status are sent out in the form of newsletters. These communications have been important to build relationships with stakeholders early in Project development and to ensure alignment with regulations and community needs. Methods of engagement the Proponents have used have been adaptive based on the needs of the community and have consisted of:

- Meeting with elected officials prior to broad public outreach;
- Creating a Project website that is frequently updated;
- Meeting with community groups, land users, and local businesses, among others, individually to ensure their questions are addressed;
- Hosting public information meetings and open houses with prior invitations sent out via email, mail, social media, and in the regional/local newspapers; and,
- Continually communicating Project updates to the surrounding communities via email, social media, electronic and mail-out newsletters, media interviews, and individual meetings and phone calls

The sections below and the attached records provide additional detail and proof of these activities.

Community and Public Consultation

Public Information Meetings

The Proponents have hosted several public information sessions for the Project. These meetings provide an opportunity for community members and stakeholders to meet the Proponents, learn about the Project, ask questions directly to Proponent staff, and provide feedback on the Project proposal. The Proponents structure the public information sessions in an open house style of meeting with lots of display boards, maps, and handout materials to allow attendees to digest the information at their own pace. Multiple staff knowledgeable about the Project are present at each session to ensure attendees can ask their questions and provide their feedback directly to the people with the information and influence over Project planning.

To date, eight public information sessions have been hosted in the nearby communities on the following dates:

- December 15, 2011: 1383 Mount Thom Rd
- December 2, 2021: Kemptown Community Hall
- December 9, 2021: Dalhousie Mountain Snowmobile Club Hall

- December 15, 2021: Kemptown Community Hall
- December 20, 2021: West River Fire Hall
- January 7, 2022: Dalhousie Mountain Snowmobile Club Hall
- January 12, 2022: Kemptown Community Hall
- March 21, 2024: Kemptown Community Hall

The first public information session was hosted on December 15, 2011 at the existing RMS operations building near the substation for the Project. The meeting was advertised in the Truro Daily News and in the New Glasgow News on three different days prior to the event. Notices of the meeting were emailed to the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. Notices were displayed at the band office in Pictou Landing First Nation and at the two closest stores to the Project: Scott's Bakery in Earltown, and Johnny's Country Canteen in Salt Springs. Over 150 flyers were distributed by hand to all residents within 3 km of the Project.

Staff from Rotor Mechanical Services and from Stantec, the consultant completing the initial Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project, were present at the information session to speak with attendees, answer questions, and receive feedback. Project information was presented as large posters, pamphlets, and handout sheets for attendees, who were encouraged to sign in and leave comments. The large posters included general project information, Proponent information, maps of the proposed Project infrastructure, and maps of the visual and noise level assessments. In total, 14 guests attended the four hour information session. Attendees included members of the local community, neighbours of the proposed Project, landowners, and local businesses. All comments received were positive, with support in the form of verbal and written comments.

In December 2021 and January 2022, six open houses were hosted for the Project at various locations in the area surrounding the Project. Each of these information sessions were advertised in the local Nova Scotia Advocate for two weeks prior to the event. These meetings were drop-in style, with COVID protocols in place at that time. Project information handouts were provided to attendees along with one-on-one discussions with Proponent staff.

In March 2024, the most recent information session was hosted at the Kemptown Community Centre. The meeting was advertised in the Casket Newspaper one and two weeks before the event. Newsletter invitations were mailed out to over 7,400 homes near the project area, and invitations were emailed to the stakeholder mailing list.

The Project Partners were present at the information session to speak with attendees, answer questions, and receive feedback. Materials were displayed as large poster boards and included project overview and benefits, timeline, project layout map, environmental studies being conducted, and a sound level map. All display materials were offered as a printed package that attendees could take home, and this package was emailed as a PDF to the mailing list after

the information session. Over 25 people attended the information session and the feedback received was supportive of the project.

Over these eight open houses, feedback has been received from attendees and addressed by the Proponents. The following table details the feedback received and how it was addressed:

Feedback Received	How it was Addressed
Would like to see updates about wildlife and habitat studies in the update emails	Updates will be sent out to the mailing list when the provincial Environmental Assessment is submitted.
Signs about construction should be posted on snowmobile trails so users have advanced notice of the plans in the area	The Proponents are engaging with the snowmobile club to explore how to deploy signage.
Understand species of birds in the area and minimize impacts to them.	Explanation of significant study effort (radar, acoustic, point counts, etc) that will be available in the EA.
Can local companies take part in the Project?	For construction contracts, Natural Forces makes every effort to hire local contractors using our inhouse construction management company Natural Forces Construction to ensure smaller companies can participate as subcontractors of the overall construction contract.
Are you going to have a community liaison committee?	Typically, we respond to each question individually, via phone, email or in person meetings, whichever meets a person or groups request the best. We share frequently asked questions on our website and update our website and mailing list with project developments as they occur. These methods of open communications have worked very well for communities near existing projects throughout Nova Scotia and across Canada. We understand that a community liaison committee may be the best solution for some communities and have seen interest from the surrounding community. Through our March 2024 public meeting and newsletter, we have requested that parties interested in joining a CLC for the Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project in a voluntary capacity, reach out to the Proponent.
Will we be able to see the Project from our communities nearby?	Due to the topography of the area, it is actually less likely that the nearest residences will be able to see the Project since we have proposed the Project in an elevated area that has forested lands around it. On the other hand, because the Project is proposed on elevated land, the Project (or parts of it) will be visible from surrounding areas that are slightly further from the Project. The shadow

	flicker maps were also presented to the individuals and discussed in detail.
Concerns about clearcutting and the amount of area being used	Selecting an area that has undergone several generations of forestry and human use minimizes project footprint to reduce vegetation impact. Existing roads/trails will be used to minimize impacts.

Public information sessions for the Project will continue to be hosted in the community as the Project progresses, with the next planned for August 2024 when the updated Environmental Assessment is submitted to the province for review.

Website

The Rotor Mechanical Services Project website has been live since 2012 and has been kept up-to-date with detailed Project information. In 2021, when Natural Forces joined the Project, a Project website was created on their website and kept updated as well. To ensure clarity, both websites are linked to one another. On both websites, a lead contact has been consistently available to community members. The websites are updated regularly to ensure the information is current and accurate. The Project website content includes:

- Description and purpose of the Project;
- Project details and progress;
- Contact information for the respective Proponent on either website;
- Link to join the mailing list
- Proponent information
- Notices for public information sessions
- FAQ section that addresses concerns identified during consultation activities
- PDF versions of all newsletters; and
- Environmental Assessment materials.

The Project webpage can be viewed at www.clydesdaleridgewindproject.ca where there is also a link to the Rotor Mechanical Services website.

Individuals and Community Groups

The Proponents have encouraged individual dialogue with stakeholders throughout Project development. Individual dialogue has occurred through many forms such as email correspondence, phone calls, and in-person discussions. The Proponents have been engaging in these conversations with community members and stakeholders and will continue to do so throughout the lifetime of the Project.

The Proponents have had meetings with multiple individuals and stakeholder groups, including:

- The Dalhousie Mountain Snowmobile Club
- The ATV riders' club

- The local Motocross MX track
- Victoria Park walking trails association
- The wildlife rehab center
- The local SPCA branches
- Gully Lake Wilderness Society

These meetings served to inform the groups about Project information, establish an open line of communication, answer any questions they had, and address any concerns. These meetings allowed for direct and efficient communication between the Proponent and the groups, and are effective at resolving concerns addressed by the stakeholder as they facilitate mutual learning and an exchange of varying perspectives.

Newsletters

The Proponents have circulated numerous Project newsletters through various channels to distribute updates and information about the Project. These newsletters have identified lead contact information with the most up to date project information. The newsletters have been distributed to the mailing lists via email and/or post, and are uploaded to the Project website. The first newsletter was sent out in November 2023, and the second newsletter was distributed in February 2024.

These newsletters have been used to relay any new project information, advertise public information sessions, and inform the public on the Proponent's participation in any procurement opportunities.

Newspaper Advertisements

The Proponents have advertised information about the Project many times in local and provincial newspapers. These advertisements have been used to inform the local community of opportunities to participate both formally and informally in the Project. In particular, newspapers have and will be used to advertise public information sessions and the review period of the Environmental Assessment. The following newspaper advertisements have been run to inform the public about the Project:

- Three in December 2011
- One in December 2021
- Two in March 2024

Media and News Outlets

The Proponents engage openly with media and news outlets to ensure accurate and current Project information is available to a wide audience. This wide distribution of Project information ensures that the public is informed and allows for more feedback to be received. The Proponents participate in interviews for radio and news articles, and directly provide public information session information to reporters. There have been a number of articles written by news outlets about the Project to date, including:

- Province approves wind farm in Pictou county | CBC News, 2012
- Wind energy company plans second county turbine project | The Pictou Advocate

Community Liaison Committee

A Community Liaison Committee (CLC) acts as an advisory body to a project proponent by providing input on existing or potential concerns the community may have regarding the Project. The Proponent has offered the opportunity to create a CLC through various channels, including:

- March 2024 Newsletter
- Two Newspaper advertisements in March 2024
- Stakeholder mailout in March and April 2024
- In person at the March 2024 information session

The Proponent has hosted an abundance of public engagement opportunities, and this extensive and ongoing engagement has adequately addressed community concerns and questions surrounding the project and produced little interest in the creation of a CLC by the local community. In the event that ample interest arises in the Project, the formation of a CLC will be considered to facilitate communication between the community and the Proponent.

Issues Resolution

The Proponent has drafted a Complaint Resolution Plan for the Project. This plan will cover what community members should do and whom to contact should there be negative impacts affecting the community members or the environment caused by the Project. The Complaint Resolution Plan is provided with the Environmental Assessment.

Regulatory Consultation

Municipal Consultation

The Proponents have and will continue to engage elected officials to provide Project information. The Proponents have an excellent working relationship with both the Pictou County and Colchester County Council and staff. This relationship has been developed over many years with a mixture of formal presentations, one-on-one meetings, and email and phone correspondence. Discussions about the Project with Municipal staff have taken place via email, phone, and in-person meetings with the development officers from Pictou County and Colchester County. Topics include Project lands, layout, distance from residences, development permit requirements, building permit requirements in Pictou, and public meeting requirements. These conversations with both municipalities are ongoing.

This work with the Counties ensures both staff and councilors are aware of the Project details so they can communicate the information to their constituents and/or members and are confident in who to refer people to if they do not have the answers. The County councilors and staff have also provided valuable feedback and posed helpful questions to the Proponents to

highlight potential community concerns, allowing the Proponents to address these potential issues. This feedback and how it was addressed by the Proponents is listed in the Table below:

Feedback Received	How it was Addressed
Suggest meeting with local snowmobile association	The Proponent has engaged with the Dalhousie Mountain Snowmobile Club to keep them informed on the project and respond to their questions

The Proponents have also met with the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and provided Project information to the Member of Parliament to ensure they have up-to-date Project information and are able to address or direct constituent concerns and questions.

Provincial Consultation

The Proponent has met and discussed with various provincial organizations about the development of the Project. The scoping of this EA document was designed in consultation with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (EA Branch and Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch) and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Consultation topics included:

- Introduction to the Project;
- Scope and methodology of surveys;
- Submission process and timelines;
- Pre-registration consultation efforts;
- Wilderness Areas;
- Species at Risk; and
- Scoping and guidance of wildlife surveys and studies to conduct as part of the EA

The Proponent will maintain dialogue with provincial authorities when necessary throughout the duration of the Project.

Federal Consultation

The Proponent has consulted Federal government entities, or consulted guidance documents and databases, regarding the development and construction of the Project. The following Federal government entities were contacted and consulted: Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Services (ECCC-CWS), Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), Navigation Canada, Transport Canada, the Department of National Defense, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the Royal Mounted Canadian Police. Similar to their provincial counterparts, federal regulators have provided guidance in the preparation of this document, Project planning, and design. DFO and ECCC-CWS were consulted specifically with respect to survey scope and methodology.

The Proponent will continue to engage Federal regulators when required throughout the development, construction, and operation of the Project.

Consultation Materials and Consultation Log

**PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET
CLYDESDALE RIDGE WIND FARM
Near Mount Thom, NS**

The Proponent and Project Overview

RMSenergy Dalhousie Mountain Lp currently owns and operates the 51 MW Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm in Mount Thom, Nova Scotia. A new company, Dalhousie Mountain Wind Inc. has been created to expand the operation by adding up to 30 new turbines (approximately 50 MW) on lands west of the existing wind farm. This project will be known as Clydesdale Ridge Wind Farm. Dalhousie Mountain Wind Inc. has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) for environmental management services to support regulatory approval for the project, as well as some local support (e.g., bird surveys).

Work Conducted to Date

Studies conducted to date in 2011 include a preliminary site layout, ACCDC data search, bird surveys, early vegetation surveys, and high level wetland reconnaissance. Additional studies include the following:

- Aquatic surveys;
- Additional vegetation (late season) and wetland delineation/evaluation (as required);
- Bat study (review of existing studies, hibernaculæ study);
- Mainland moose study (desktop evaluation of existing studies, with field work as required);
- Groundwater resources (desktop evaluation);
- Archaeological and heritage resources (desktop evaluation of existing studies, with field work if required);
- Noise and visual assessment;
- Community and land use studies; and
- Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study

Public, Stakeholder Consultation/Aboriginal Engagement Approach

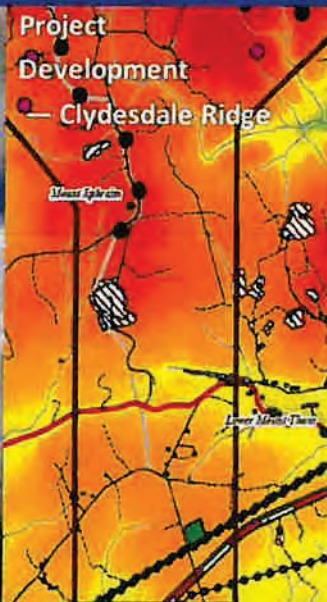
The Proponent has been conducting ongoing meetings with community landowners. The Proponent will also undertake a public consultation program that will include at least one open house, letters and/or meetings with aboriginal and other stakeholder groups and ongoing community relations.

RMS WIND

Clean, renewable electricity

HOME WIND ISSUES WHAT WE DO GALLERIES

Dalhousie Mountain
Wind Farm, Operating
Limited Partnership
— RMSenergy



Community
Partnerships
— Affinity Renewables

**PARTNERS
IN
ANIMAL
WELFARE**

Maintenance
& Operations
— Rotor Mechanical



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1383 Mt. Thom Rd., Salt Springs, NS B0K 1P0 Ph: 902-925-9463 (wind) info@rmsenergy.ca

**Maintenance
& Operations**

Rotor Mechanical

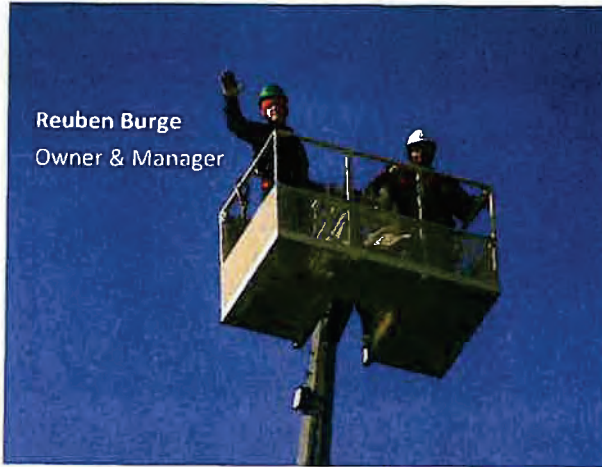
**Meeting & exceeding
industry standards**

Rotor Mechanical Services (RMS) is a maintenance, construction and operations company that ensures projects are built to meet and exceed industry standards.

Rotor Mechanical has an extensive aircraft engineering background and applies technical methods to wind turbine maintenance and operations.

The company employs a team of local workers who have received training from a wind turbine manufacturer, community college or technical school in the following trades: machinist, millwright, electro-mechanical technician and heavy-duty mechanic. Other employees have environmental health and safety training.

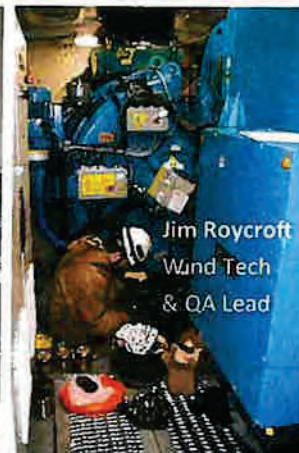
Our team monitors, maintains and improves the wind park 24/7 to keep the turbines operating safely and reliably year after year.



Reuben Burge
Owner & Manager



Kevin MacNeil
Wind Tech
& Maintenance Manager



Jim Roycroft
Wind Tech
& QA Lead



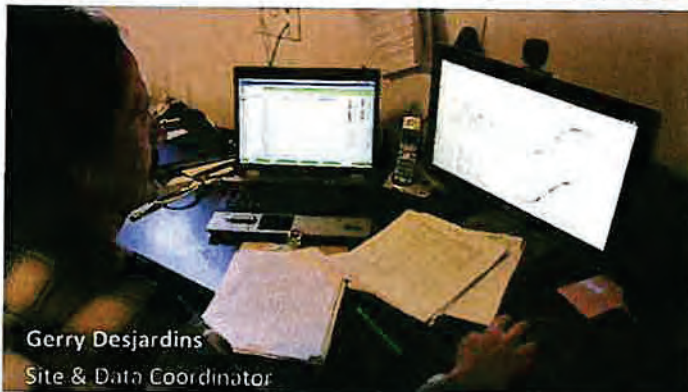
Owen Mackinnon
Wind Tech



Virginia Shaw
Office Manager
& EHS



Al Stevens
Wind Tech
& Site Supervisor



Gerry Desjardins
Site & Data Coordinator



Dan Kennedy
Wind Tech & EHS Coordinator



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**Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm,
Operating Limited Partnership**

RMSenergy

Built on time, under budget and exceeding contract commitments

December 31, 2009 was a historic day for wind energy in Nova Scotia. On that date, the 51-megawatt Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm achieved commercial operation and became the largest wind farm in the province.

Its 34 turbines generate over 175,000 gigawatt hours of clean, renewable energy, enough to power 20,000 residences. That's more electricity than is needed to provide light, heat and hot water to all the homes in Pictou County, where the wind farm is located.

RMS completed the \$130-million project on time and under budget to become the only company in the 2007 Request for Proposals to meet the 2009 target completion date.

On the Dalhousie project, RMS partnered with Firelight Infrastructure Partners L.P., a Canadian company that invests in North American renewable energy projects. Firelight provided a significant amount of capital after RMS won a power purchase agreement that included a 25-year contract to provide electricity to the Nova Scotia power grid.

The RMSenergy Dalhousie Mountain Limited Partnership wind farm has been operating for two years, exceeding the energy commitment of its contract.

RMSenergy Ltd. is a Nova Scotia company that handled all the pre-development work and currently oversees the project.

The wind farm provides local employment and also contributes to improved local air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases. The annual reductions in carbon dioxide from wind energy, compared with coal-generated electricity, would be the equivalent of removing the emissions from an estimated 150,000 car tank fillings of gas.

Among the benefits of wind energy are that it is clean, local, and renewable.



**Community
Partnerships**



Affinity Renewables

Dear Reuben:

This letter is to confirm the Nova Scotia SPCA's support for your representation on behalf of the Society as a Director of the Society's committee tasked to the pursuit of sustainable fund development solutions for the Society.

The Nova Scotia SPCA supports your proposal to make applications to the COMFIT program, which would develop 25 mw/s of wind projects in Pictou, Colchester and East and West Hants municipalities. We look forward to working together and assisting in expanding this project's benefit to these communities.

Best regards,

Kristin Williams
Executive Director
Nova Scotia SPCA



We are landowners who agreed to commit, a few years ago, to turbine site leases for a proposed wind farm on Dalhousie Mountain, spearheaded by Reuben Burge.

During the development process we were both impressed with Reuben's vision, his approach and follow through with all of the many aspects of the project.

The Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm is now a reality and he deserves high praise for a job well done.

We have recently signed site leases for a proposed new wind farm and would have no hesitation in recommending Reuben Burge to develop and implement projects of this scope and magnitude.

Sincerely,
Ardith MacKay
Watson Inglis

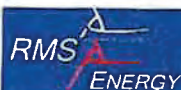
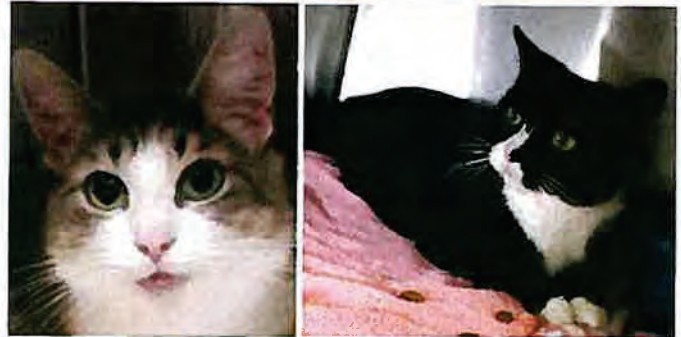
**Partnering on wind projects
to help community groups
(and some animals in need)**

The Nova Scotia Department of Energy has identified a unique ownership opportunity for a "community" entity to own qualified renewable energy projects.

The Community Feed-in Tariff (COMFIT) program is based on a set price per kilowatt hour, defined financing structure and company ownership rules for entities to provide renewable power to the local electrical system.

Affinity Renewables Inc. is a limited liability company formed by the Nova Scotia Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (SPCA). Reuben Burge's role is to work with the SPCA to develop a sustainable wind energy business to provide a reliable annual income to the charity.

The SPCA currently donates a percentage of its earnings to other charities. The intention is that this practice will continue under *Affinity* and that other local charities in need may qualify for a share of the annual income generated.





**Project
Development**

Clydesdale Ridge

Clydesdale Ridge

Work undertaken on the Clydesdale Ridge wind resource includes the installation and monitoring of a meteorological tower (see photo) and the hiring of biologists, botanists and birders to study the area.

Mapping and planning are also being carried out in the early stages of developing a project that could be the same size as the Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm. Dalhousie annually generates 175 gigawatt hours of clean, renewable electricity, enough to supply power to over 20,000 Nova Scotia homes.

Work on Clydesdale is in response to an upcoming Request for Proposals for over 300 GWh annually to satisfy Nova Scotia's 2015 renewable energy targets.

The purpose of a meteorological tower is to gather information on wind speed, direction and other key data needed to help determine the viability of a new wind development

Wind Issues

RMS WIND

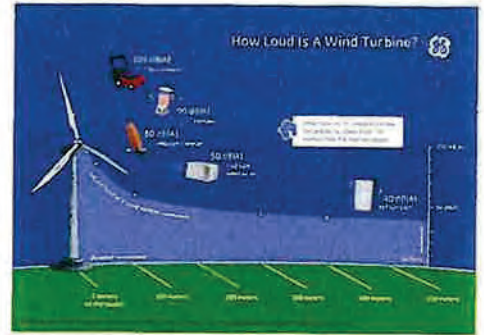
Responding to people's concerns with 'what we believe in'

The wind issues section is based on our experiences over the last two or three years about people's concerns and what we have found. These issues information articles are our opinion, supported by our experiences, those of other wind farms and independent research and studies. The information in these handouts is what we believe in. Making the articles available to the public gives us a way to start a conversation and exchange views on these important issues.

— Reuben Burge of RMS WIND

Study: Turbine noise not health risk

As for health concerns, "an international panel of doctors, scientists and acoustics experts have concluded that the noise and vibrations from wind farms do not pose a risk to human health." [Learn more](#) about **Noise & Health** issues.



No significant negative net effects to wildlife anticipated

"Overall, no significant negative net effects are anticipated to Species at Risk, wildlife, and their habitats given that the Project is generally sited in areas already cleared for forestry use and away from any sensitive environmental areas such as wetlands." [Learn more](#) about **Species of Concern** issues.



Wind power, horse power and rural communities

Wind power represents a return to the type of energy used in Europe before fossil fuels. "So to me what it really means is going back to clean, local energy. Maybe the need for logging with horses will come back too." And strengthen rural communities. [Learn more](#) about **Land & Community** issues.



Balancing public access and safety

"Our concept of land use is that we don't necessarily want to restrict community use. But we do have an operating facility. We want to make it safe for our own people and safe for other people to visit."

People who have traditionally used the lands on Dalhousie Mountain . . . need to abide by certain conditions (see sign at right). [Learn more](#) about **Public Access & Safety** issues.

Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm
51,000 KILOWATT
Renewable Power Generation
Providing Electricity for
Over 37,000 Nova Scotia Homes

NOTICE
You Are Entering Privately Owned Lands
Use of Trails Requires
RMS ENERGY SITE PASS
OR
Valid Membership in
• SAMS • ATVARS • PCTR

24 Hour Site Monitoring and
Video Surveillance

Maximum
Vehicle Speed **50**
km/h

CAUTION
Danger of Ice Throw or Falling Objects
Do Not Stop Within 150M from Towers

SAFETY HELMETS, FOOTWEAR & EYE PROTECTION
REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES

Wind Issues

Noise & Health

Though some people are more sensitive to certain sounds than others, in general the noise impact from wind turbines is lessened the farther away they are from residences (see graphic below and excerpts on right).

Study: Turbine noise not health risk

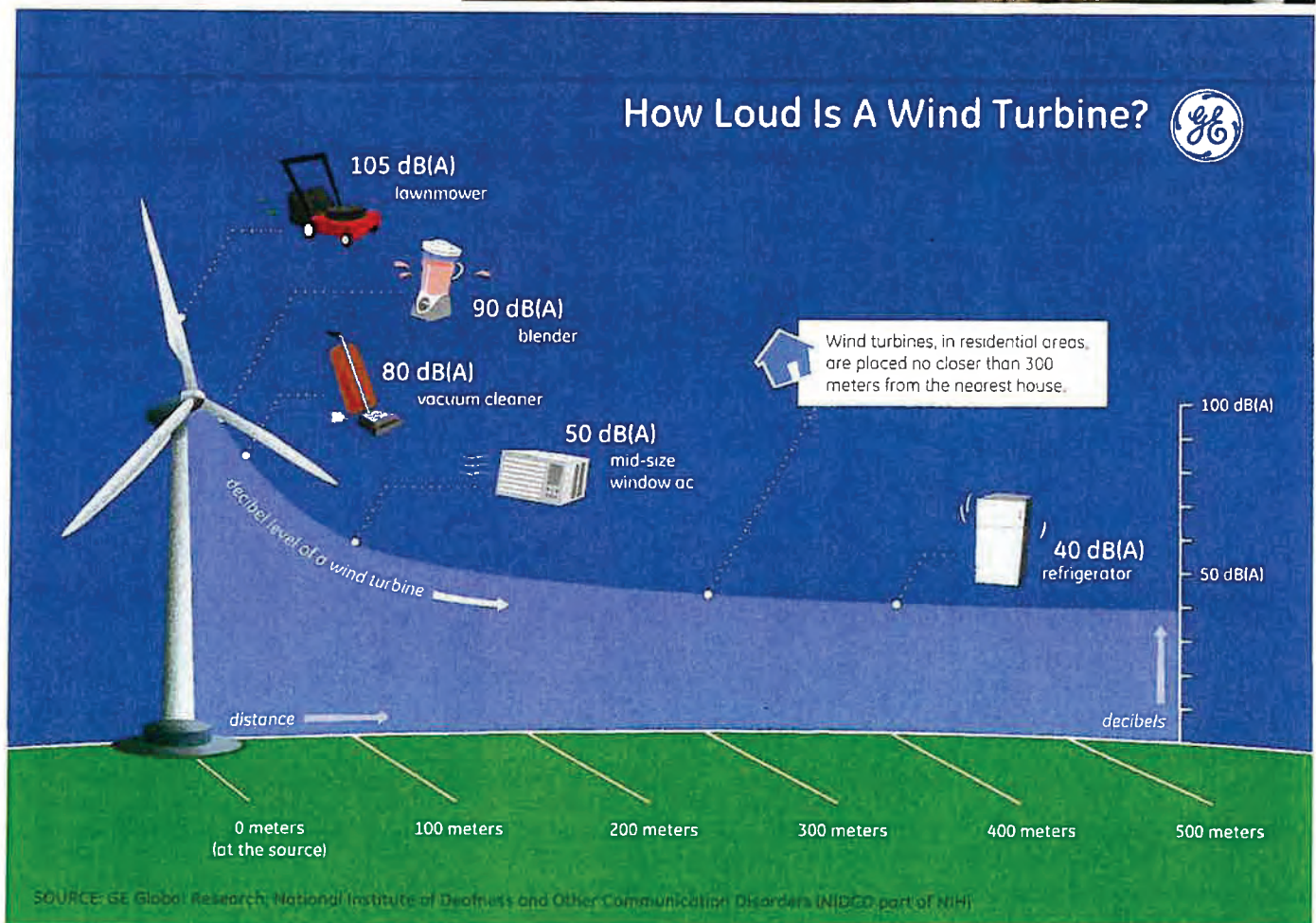
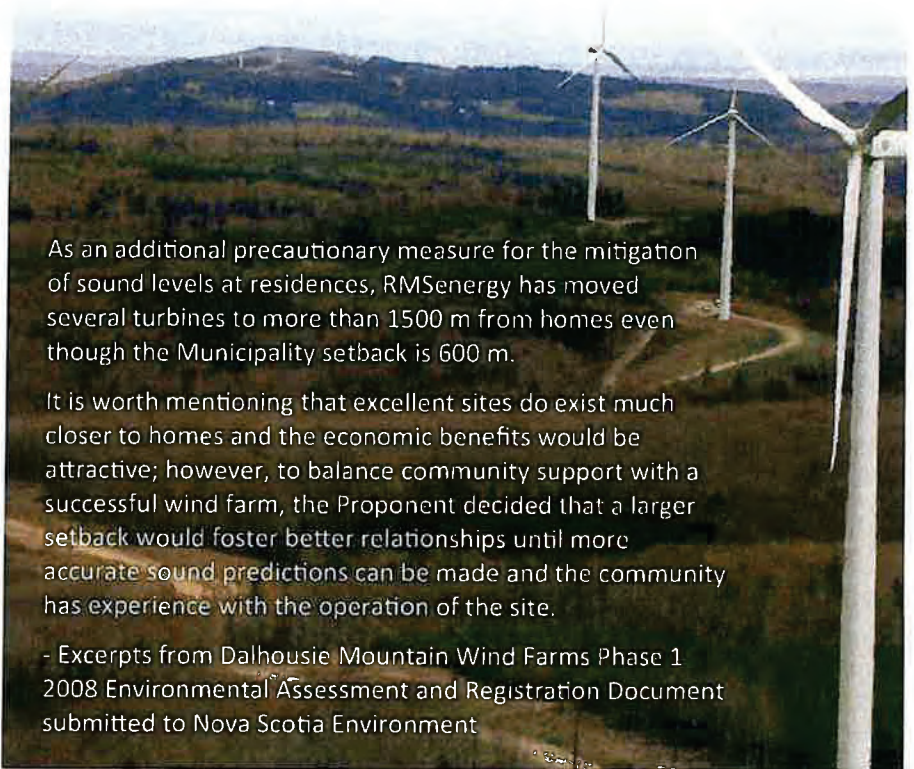
As for health concerns, "an international panel of doctors, scientists and acoustics experts have concluded that the noise and vibrations from wind farms do not pose a risk to human health."

SOURCE: A Dec. 16, 2009 article published on the Pembina Institute website (www.pembina.org)

As an additional precautionary measure for the mitigation of sound levels at residences, RMSenergy has moved several turbines to more than 1500 m from homes even though the Municipality setback is 600 m.

It is worth mentioning that excellent sites do exist much closer to homes and the economic benefits would be attractive; however, to balance community support with a successful wind farm, the Proponent decided that a larger setback would foster better relationships until more accurate sound predictions can be made and the community has experience with the operation of the site.

- Excerpts from Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farms Phase 1 2008 Environmental Assessment and Registration Document submitted to Nova Scotia Environment



If you have any questions or comments about wind energy in general or any of the projects of RMSenergy, please contact us by phone at 902-925-9463 (wind) or by email at info@rmsenergy.ca

Wind Issues

Species of Concern

To meet the requirements of a provincial environmental assessment for species of concern on the Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farms project, RMSenergy hired a number of wildlife biologists and botanists.

These wildlife and plant professionals surveyed the construction area to determine if any rare or threatened species were present on the site. If any were found, they'd propose actions that would avoid their habitat or take measures to mitigate any possible disruptions. The wind farm developer, in turn, acted on the recommendations.

The shared goal of the developer, government officials and wildlife specialists was to have as little harm done as possible to any species of concern.

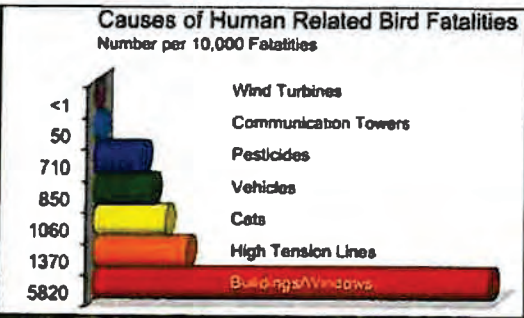
'No significant negative net effects are anticipated'

"Overall, no significant negative net effects are anticipated to Species at Risk, wildlife, and their habitats given that the Project is generally sited in areas already cleared for forestry use and away from any sensitive environmental areas such as wetlands."

Birds

Breeding Birds Survey Results

A total of 58 bird species were detected . . . No species listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Species in Canada (COSEWIC) as species of conservation concern were found.



Source of graphic: A Summary and Comparison of Bird Mortality from Anthropogenic Causes With an Emphasis on Collisions, Ericson, et al. — From Penobscot Institute fact sheet



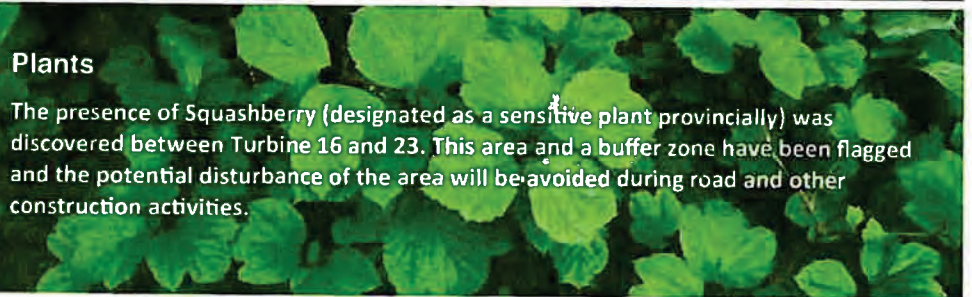
Mammals

Fishers generally avoid contact with humans. After construction, this fisher was sighted during weekly bird monitoring.

Bats

The concern: Bat populations are vulnerable to human disturbance and changes in forest vegetation. If wind turbines are erected along traditional bat migration routes, the rotating blades can kill bats during spring and fall and night-time flights to and from overwintering sites.

The findings: There were no unexpected species recorded, nor was there an indication that the Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm lies along a migration route.



Mainland Moose

The Mainland moose is protected as an endangered species in Nova Scotia. No moose were found in an initial wildlife survey. A recommendation of the biologist was to "watch for and keep records of any moose activity close to the towers or on Dalhousie Mountain." The moose above was sighted on a video security camera on Oct. 13, 2011 at 4:41 am.

Plants

The presence of Squashberry (designated as a sensitive plant provincially) was discovered between Turbine 16 and 23. This area and a buffer zone have been flagged and the potential disturbance of the area will be avoided during road and other construction activities.

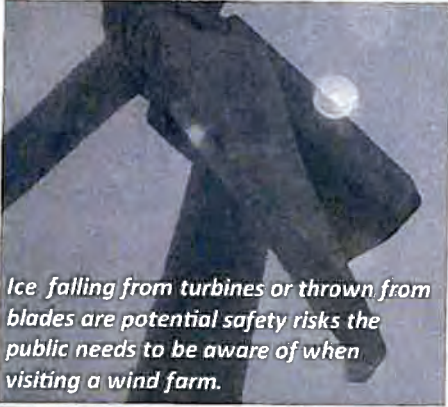
Sources: Most of the above information is, unless otherwise stated, from the Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farms Phase 1 2008 Environmental Assessment and Registration Document and Appendices submitted to Nova Scotia Environment



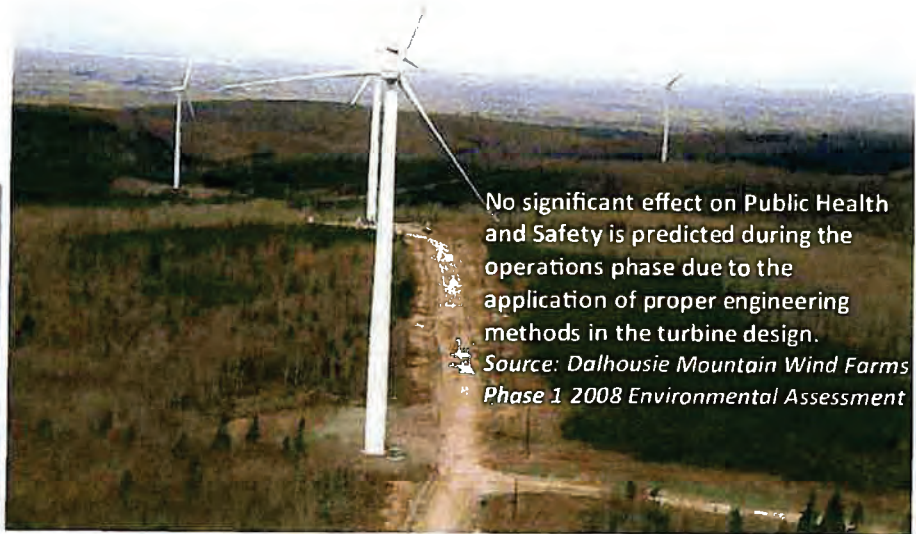
If you have any questions or comments about wind energy in general or any of the projects of RMSenergy, please contact us by phone at 902-925-9463 (wind) or by email at info@rmsenergy.ca

Wind Issues

Public Access & Safety



Ice falling from turbines or thrown from blades are potential safety risks the public needs to be aware of when visiting a wind farm.



No significant effect on Public Health and Safety is predicted during the operations phase due to the application of proper engineering methods in the turbine design.

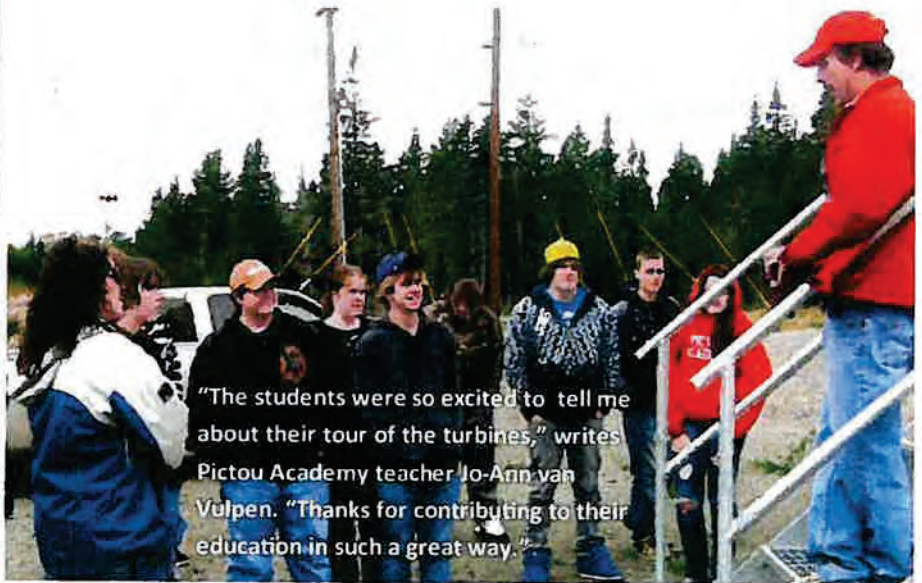
Source: Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farms Phase 1 2008 Environmental Assessment

Balancing public access and safety

"Our concept of land use is that we don't necessarily want to restrict community use," says Reuben Burge, president of RMSenergy.

"But we do have an operating facility. We want to make it safe for our own people and safe for other people to visit."

Visitors are welcome at the wind farm (see photo below), but they must participate in an orientation process and schedule a visit. People who have traditionally used the lands on Dalhousie Mountain — such as snowmobilers, ATVers and hikers — need to abide by certain conditions (see sign at left).



"The students were so excited to tell me about their tour of the turbines," writes Pictou Academy teacher Jo-Ann van Vulpen. "Thanks for contributing to their education in such a great way."

Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm

51,000 KILOWATT

Renewable Power Generation
Providing Electricity For
Over 17,000 Nova Scotia Homes

NOTICE

You Are Entering Privately Owned Lands
Use of Trails Requires

RMS ENERGY SITE PASS

OR

Valid Membership in

• SANS • ATVANS • PCTA

24 Hour Site Monitoring and
Video Surveillance

Maximum
Vehicle Speed **50**
KM/H

CAUTION

Danger of Ice Throw or Falling Objects
Do Not Stop Within 150M from Towers

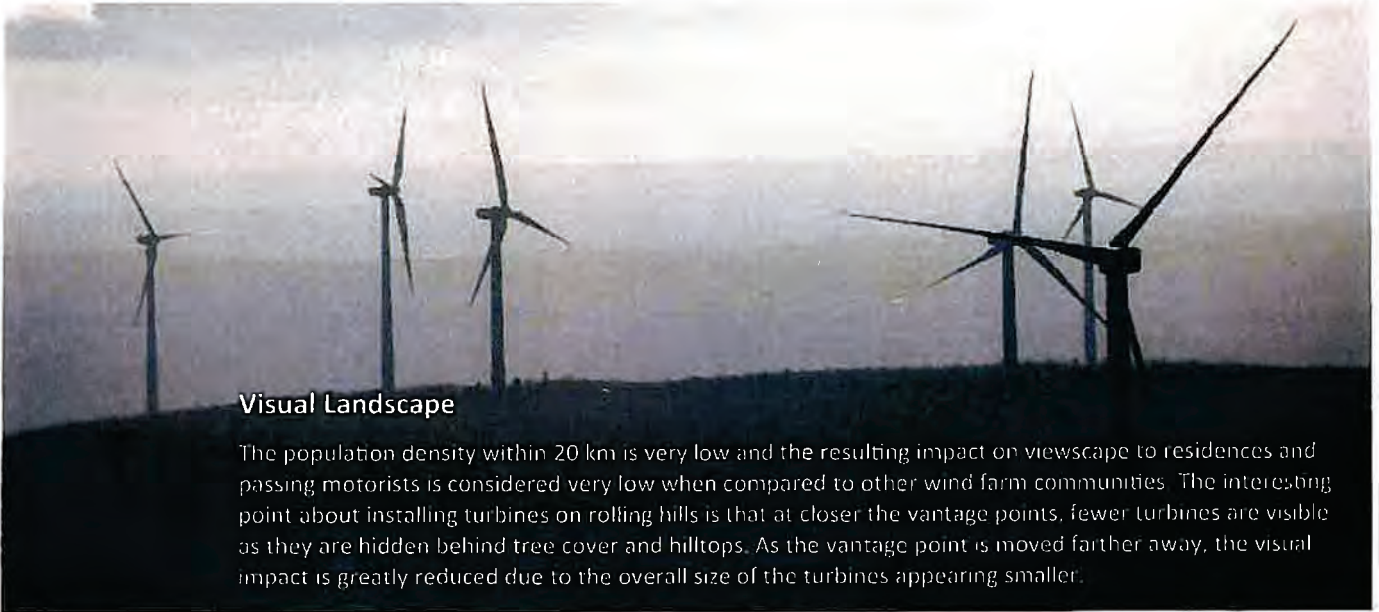
**SAFETY HELMETS, FOOTWEAR & EYE PROTECTION
REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES**

Community Benefits of Wind Project Include:

- ◆ Clean, renewable, local source of electrical energy
- ◆ Five to eight new permanent technical jobs for the life of project (30 - 40 years)
- ◆ Annual landowner royalties, providing a steady income for families
- ◆ Substantially improved municipal tax base
- ◆ Support for non-profit community groups



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Visual Landscape

The population density within 20 km is very low and the resulting impact on viewscape to residences and passing motorists is considered very low when compared to other wind farm communities. The interesting point about installing turbines on rolling hills is that at closer the vantage points, fewer turbines are visible as they are hidden behind tree cover and hilltops. As the vantage point is moved farther away, the visual impact is greatly reduced due to the overall size of the turbines appearing smaller.

Wind Issues
Land & Community

From land farming to wind farming

The land on Dalhousie Mountain has returned to farming, though not the traditional kind. Instead of fields being tilled for crops, as they were in the 1800s and early 1900s, the land is prepared for the harvesting of wind.

"I could count 20 or 30 foundations up there abandoned because of the harsh environment and poor farming quality of the land," says Reuben Burge, president of RMSenergy. Yet, "it certainly is good wind farming quality land."

Wind power represents a return to the type of energy used in Europe before fossil fuels. "So to me what it really means is going back to clean, local energy. Maybe the need for logging with horses will come back too." And strengthen rural communities.

"We had two groups of horses and men up here logging while we were building the wind farm so that reminded me of horse logging (see photo below). That's what used to happen up here, the land was cleared with horses." And at the Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farms, it sometimes still is.



Trenching runoff water for turbines has replaced ditching for agriculture.



Heritage & Archaeological Sites

No significant effect on Heritage Sites, Archaeological Sites and Other Cultural Resources is predicted due to proper mitigation methods based on avoidance and work controls.



Horse logger Jimmy Wood with Jenna and Justin Burge

Sources: Information on the Visual Landscape and Heritage & Archaeological Sites is from the Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farms Phase 1 2008 Environmental Assessment and Registration Document and Appendices submitted to Nova Scotia Environment



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PROPOSED CLYDESDALE RIDGE WIND PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION – MARCH 21, 2024



Contact

Meg Morris, Project Manager
Email: community@naturalforces.ca
Phone: 902-483-9592
Website: www.clydesdaleridgewindproject.ca

Project Overview

The proposed Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project is being developed and will be constructed, owned, and operated by a partnership between RMS Energy and Natural Forces. The proposed Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project is located on the border between Colchester County and Pictou County in the Berichan area, approximately 7 km northwest of the operational Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm. The initial plans are for the Project to consist of up to 18 wind turbines and have a total installed capacity of approximately 70 MW.

Project Owners

The proposed Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project is being developed and will be owned by the partnership between RMS Energy and Natural Forces.

RMS Energy

RMS Energy is a full-service wind turbine maintenance company based in Nova Scotia with experience developing, constructing, owning, operating, and maintaining large-scale and community-based wind projects. These activities are represented by Rotor Mechanical Services, which built and now maintains the Dalhousie Mountain Wind Farm and the community-based Affinity Wind projects.

Natural Forces

Natural Forces is a private independent power producer that delivers renewable energy projects in partnership with local communities across Canada, Ireland, and France. Established in 2001 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Natural Forces remains a small company with big values and big ambitions.

Natural Forces develops, constructs, owns, and operates wind, solar, hydro and storage projects with Indigenous communities, universities, municipalities, and local community funds. Partnering with local communities for these projects not only generates clean and renewable electricity but delivers local economic prosperity and raises awareness of the challenges of climate change.

Project Benefits

- Generate enough electricity to power approximately 26,000 Nova Scotia homes annually.
- Provide annual tax revenue to the municipal governments over the life of the Project.
- Create local employment and contracting opportunities during the development, construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Project.
- Increase revenue to local businesses due to economic spinoff from Project activities.
- Produce emission-free electricity that will both increase energy security and displace generation from fossil fuels, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Assist the province of Nova Scotia in meeting their renewable energy target to achieve 80% renewable energy on the electricity grid by 2030.
- Stabilize energy costs for Nova Scotia Power customers by increasing electricity generation sources with fixed cost contracts.

Sound Levels

The most significant factor when limiting sound impacts to nearby residences is where wind turbines are sited. As such, the wind turbine locations are no closer than 1 km from non-participating residences, and 600 m from participating residences. Based on this siting, Natural Forces assessed the impact of sound levels from the Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project on nearby homes. This assessment uses industry best practices to model how the sound created by the wind turbines will travel over the landscape.

The Project partners engaged a third-party consultant to review the methodology used to carry out this modelling and to validate the results. The consultants, Aercoustics Engineering, concluded that the methodology used by the Project partners is appropriate and provides conservative results, likely overestimating the expected sound levels.

Results of the modelling show that turbine sound levels experienced at nearby receptors during the Project operation will be below 40 decibels, which is comparable to a soft whisper. The attached sound map visually shows the results of the sound modelling.

Sound Comparisons - 40 decibels: quiet library sounds, 50 decibels: refrigerator, 60 decibels: electric toothbrush

March 21, 2024

Proposed Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project

Modelled Sound Level Assessment
(Turbine Sound Only)



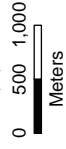
Legend

- Residences and Buildings
- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Gully Lake Wilderness Area
- Modeled Turbine Sound Level
 - 35 dB(A)
 - 40 dB(A) (Provincial Max.)
 - 45 dB(A)

Notes

1. Turbine markers not to scale.
2. These lines depict only the turbine sound levels and do not take into account the existing ambient noise.

Sources:
Basemap: ESRI World Topo Map



Meters

Scale: 1:70,000

Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 20N

Page Size: 11" x 17"

Production Date: Mar 4, 2024 Prepared by: KD



Environmental Studies

The proposed Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project requires approval through the provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) review process. Desktop and field studies are being conducted as part of the EA. These studies help shape the Project to ensure it is developed responsibly and to mitigate environmental and sociocultural impacts.

The Environmental Assessment Registration Document for the project will be submitted to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change in Q3, 2024.

Topics of Study

- Wetlands and watercourses
- Vegetation
- Terrestrial wildlife and habitat
- Bats
- Breeding and migratory birds
- Archaeology
- Sound levels
- Shadow flicker
- Visual Impact Studies
- Wind Resource Assessment
- Geology
- Local economy and land use
- Radiocommunication Impact Assessment



Project Timeline

Work Completed to Date:

- Environmental Assessment desktop studies
- Radar and Acoustic Monitoring for birds and bats (2 years)
- Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment
- Installation of wind measurement instrumentation

Ongoing Work:

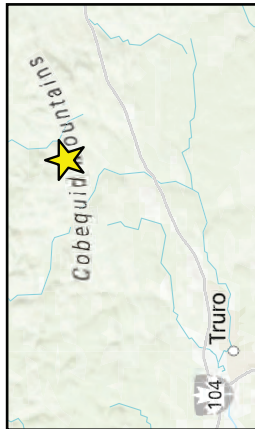
- Public and stakeholder consultation
- Engagement with Mi'kmaq communities
- Municipal development permitting
- Environmental Assessment Surveys
- Interconnection studies with NS Power

Future Work:

- Bid the Project into the provincial Green Choice Program
- Environmental Assessment registration and approval
- Pre-construction site activities
- Turbine procurement
- Civil work
- Electrical works and interconnection
- Turbine erection
- Project commissioning
- Site reclamation from construction activities
- Operation of turbines
- Post-construction environmental studies
- Site maintenance and upkeep
- Decommissioning and site reclamation

Proposed Clydesdale Ridge Wind Project

Proposed Project Layout



Legend

- Proposed Turbine Locations
- 1km Turbine Buffer
- Meteorological Masts Location
- Houses
- Substation Location
- Existing NSPI Transmission Line
- Gully Lake Wilderness Area
- Dalhousie Wind Farm Location

Notes

- Turbine markers not to scale.

Sources

- Base data provided by Province of Nova Scotia
- Basemap: ESRI World Hybrid Imagery



Kilometers

Scale: 1:75,000

Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 20N

Page Size: 8.5" x 11"

Production Date: Mar 4, 2024

