

APPENDIX C: ENGAGEMENT

MI'KMAQ ENGAGEMENT

Chiefs and Band Councils

<p>Chief Deborah Robinson Acadia First Nation 10526 Highway #3 (Lighthouse Route) Yarmouth, Nova Scotia B5A 5J7 Phone: (902) 742-0257 Email: deborahrobinson@acadiaband.ca</p>	<p>Chief Gerald (Jerry) Toney Annapolis Valley First Nation 29 Toney Blvd Cambridge Station, Nova Scotia B0P 1G0 Phone: (902) 538-7149 Email: gtoney@avfn.ca</p>
<p>Chief Leroy D.C. Denny Eskasoni First Nation P.O. Box 7040 63 Mini Mall Drive Eskasoni, Nova Scotia B1W 1A1 Phone: (902) 379-2800 Email: leroy@eskasoni.ca</p>	<p>Chief Sidney Peters Glooscap First Nation 159 Smith Road Hantsport, Nova Scotia B0P 1P0 Phone: (902) 684-9788 Email: speters@glooscapfirstnation.com cc: rcrowe@glooscapfirstnation.com</p>
<p>Chief Carol Dee Potter L'sitkuk (Bear River) 130 Reservation Road Bear River, Nova Scotia B0S 1B0 Phone: (902) 467-3802 Email: carolbrfn@eastlink.ca</p>	<p>Chief Terrance J. Paul Membertou First Nation 111 Membertou Street Membertou, Nova Scotia B1S 2M9 Phone: (902) 564-6466 Email: terrypaul@membertou.ca</p>
<p>Chief Robert Gloade Millbrook First Nation P.O. Box 634, 820 Willow Street Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E5 Phone: (902) 897-9199 Email: bgloade@msn.com</p>	<p>Acting Chief Corey Julian Paqtnkek (Afton) First Nation 7 Dillon Street Afton Station, Nova Scotia B0A 1A0 Phone: (902) 386-2781 Email: cory.julian@paqtnkek.ca</p>
<p>Chief Andrea Paul Pictou Landing First Nation 43 Maple Street RR# 2 Box 55 Site 6 Trenton, Nova Scotia B0K 1X0 Phone: (902) 752-4912 Email: andrea.p@plfn.ca</p>	<p>Chief Wilbert Marshall Potlotek (Chapel Island) First Nation 12004 Nova Scotia Hwy 4 PO Box 538 St. Peter's, Nova Scotia B0E 3B0 Phone: (902) 535-3317 Email: chiefmarshall39@gmail.com</p>
<p>Chief Michelle Glasgow Sipekne'katik First Nation 522 Church Street Indian Brook, Nova Scotia B0N 1W0 Phone: (902) 758-2049 Email: michelleglasgow@sipeknekatik.ca cc: consultation@sipeknekatik.ca</p>	<p>Chief Norman Bernard Wagmatcook First Nation P.O. Box 30001 75 Humes Rear Road Wagmatcook, Nova Scotia B0E 3N0 Phone: (902) 295-2598 Email: normanbernard321@gmail.com</p>

Chief Annie Bernard Daisley

We'koqma'q First Nation

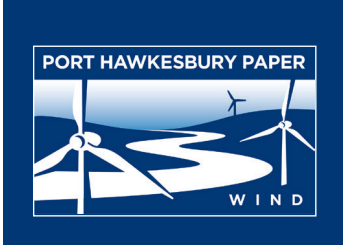
P.O. Box 149

150 Reservation Road

Waycobah, Nova Scotia B0E 3M0

Phone: (902) 756-2337

Email: anniedaisley@waycobah.ca



October 25th, 2022

Dear Chief Robinson,

Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP), through its sister organization Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind (PHP Wind), is proposing to build a 130-megawatt (MW) wind farm, which will be located in Guysborough County.

Developing PHP Wind is a critical step towards securing the long-term viability of one of the largest industrial employers in Eastern Nova Scotia. The project represents an environmentally sustainable optimization of the paper making facility in Port Hawkesbury which is one of the longest-term employers in the region's history.

In its 60th year of operation, the mill holds an unprecedented commitment to the province, the surrounding communities and its employees who have come to know and trust PHP.

The proposed development represents another significant investment by the mill's ownership Stern Partners. Having secured financing for the proposed development PHP aims to stabilize the impact of escalating energy costs on the mill's operations. Once complete, the project will help ensure that PHP will be viable to operate long into the future securing the employment, direct and induced economic impacts for generations to come.

We have provided regular updates to local community leadership and hosted public information open houses to ensure communities are aware of each phase of the development. We are currently preparing the submission of our environmental assessment to the Provincial regulator and will be submitting our registration document in the coming weeks.

At your convenience we are prepared to provide a project briefing either in person or via teleconference to further elaborate on the detail and benefits of our project.

Warm regards and again Wela'lin on behalf PHP Wind.

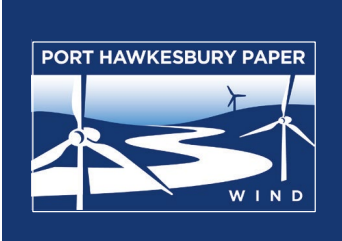
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Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke

Andrea Doucette



Chief Gerald Toney
Annapolis Valley First Nation
29 Toney Blvd,
Cambridge, NS
B0P 1G0

Nov. 1st, 2022

Dear Chief Toney,

Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP), through its sister organization Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind (PHP Wind), is proposing to build a 130-megawatt (MW) wind farm, which will be located Guysborough County.

As you know with AVFN's recent partnership announcement, renewable energy is a growing and critical aspect of our energy mix in the short term. For PHP developing wind is a critical step towards securing the long-term viability of one of the largest industrial employers in Eastern Nova Scotia. The project represents an environmentally sustainable optimization of the paper making facility in Port Hawkesbury which is one of the longest-term employers in the region's history.

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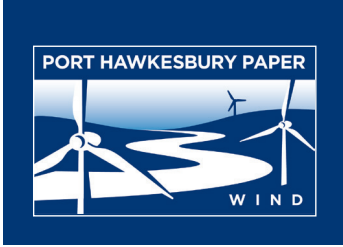
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At your convenience we are prepared to provide a project briefing either in person or via teleconference to further elaborate on the detail and benefits of our project.

Warm regards and again Wela'lin on behalf PHP Wind.

Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler, Bevan Locke, Andrea Doucette



October 25th, 2022

Dear Chief Denny,

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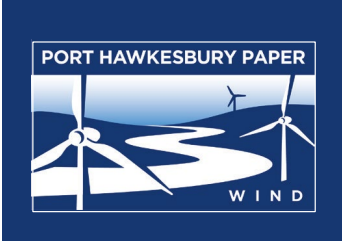
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Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke

Andrea Doucette



Chief Sidney Peters
Glooscap First Nation
159 Smith Road,
Hantsport, Nova Scotia
Canada B0P 1P0

October 26th, 2022

Dear Chief Peters,

Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP), through its sister organization Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind (PHP Wind), is proposing to build a 130-megawatt (MW) wind farm, which will be located Guysborough County.

As you know with your recent partnership announcement renewable energy is a growing and critical aspect of our energy mix in the short term. For PHP developing wind is a critical step towards securing the long-term viability of one of the largest industrial employers in Eastern Nova Scotia. The project represents an environmentally sustainable optimization of the paper making facility in Port Hawkesbury which is one of the longest-term employers in the region's history.

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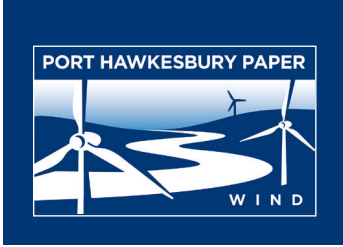
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Warm regards and again Wela'lin on behalf PHP Wind.

Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler, Bevan Locke, Andrea Doucette, Michael Peters



October 25th, 2022

Dear Chief Potter,

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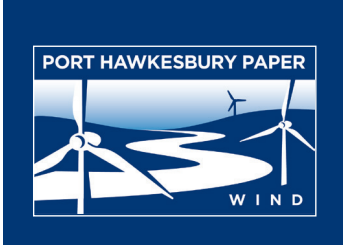
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Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke

Andrea Doucette



October 25th, 2022

Dear Chief Paul,

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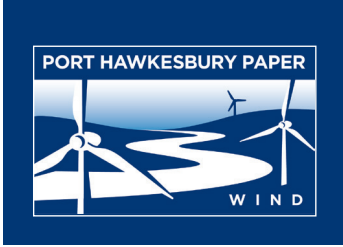
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Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke

Andrea Doucette



October 25th, 2022

Dear Chief Gloade,

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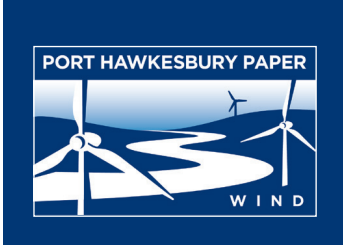
Warm regards and again Wela'lin on behalf PHP Wind.

Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke

Andrea Doucette



October 25th, 2022

Dear Chief Julian,

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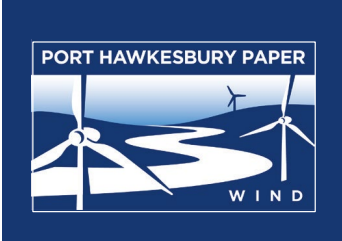
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Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke

Andrea Doucette



Att: Chief Andrea Paul
Pictou Landing First Nation
6533 Pictou Landing Road
Site 6 Box 55, RR#2
Trenton, NS B0K 1X0

Nov. 1st, 2022

Dear Chief Paul,

Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP), through its sister organization Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind (PHP Wind), is proposing to build a 130-megawatt (MW) wind farm, which will be located in Guysborough County.

As co-lead Chief for energy with the Assembly you are well versed on the impact of embracing renewable energy sources as a critical aspect of our regional energy mix. For PHP developing wind is a critical step towards securing the long-term viability of one of the largest industrial employers in Eastern Nova Scotia. The project represents an environmentally sustainable optimization of the paper making facility in Port Hawkesbury which is one of the longest-term employers in the region's history.

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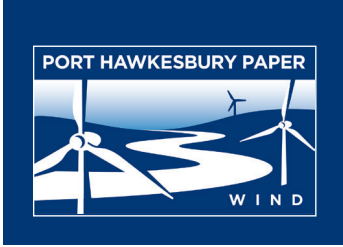
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Warm regards and again Wela'lin on behalf PHP Wind.

Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler, Bevan Lock, Andrea Doucette



October 25th, 2022

Dear Chief Marshall,

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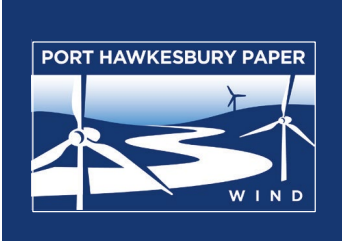
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Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke

Andrea Doucette



January 17, 2023

Dear Chief Glasgow

Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP), through its sister organization Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind (PHP Wind), is proposing to build a 130-megawatt (MW) wind farm, which will be located Guysborough County.

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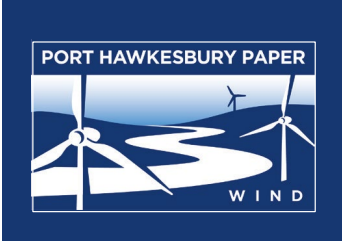
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Warm regards and again Wela'lin on behalf PHP Wind.

Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke



**Chief Norman Bernard
Wagmatcook First Nation
75 Humes Rear Rd
Baddeck, NS B0E 1B0**

October 26th, 2022

Dear Chief Bernard,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further details and background on PHP Wind to yourself and the Wagmatcook Council and executive last month we appreciated everyone's insightful questions.

Since then, the entire region has been grappling with the impacts of Hurricane Fiona and we sincerely hope your community is faring well.

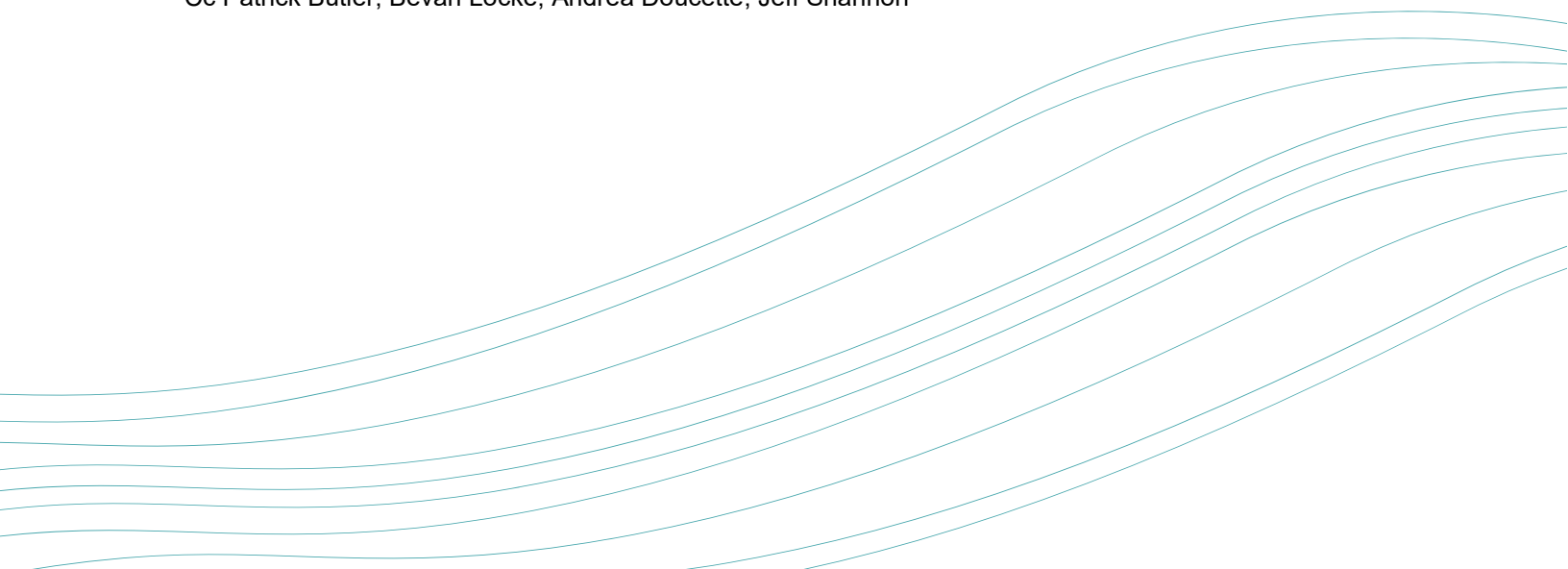
As mentioned in our recent meeting, we continue to provide regular updates to local community leadership and hosted public information open houses to ensure stakeholders are aware of each phase of the project development. We are currently preparing the submission of our environmental assessment to the Provincial regulator which we will be submitting in the coming weeks.

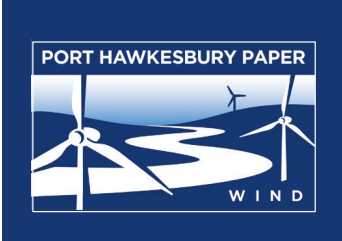
As we enter into the duty to consult phase, we wanted to extend an offer to return and expand on our discussions with respect to potential partnership and / or contracting vendor services that will be required as the development progresses. A short list of these general services will follow shortly. Following our EA submission to the Province of NS you will likely also hear from the Dept. of Environment and Climate Change with updates on our progress. As stated in the meeting we wanted to ensure we were making ourselves available in advance during this engagement phase and with this letter extend an open offer to come to Wagmatcook for any briefings you may require or need.

Warm regards and again Wela'lin on behalf PHP Wind.

Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler, Bevan Locke, Andrea Doucette, Jeff Shannon





We'koqma'q Band Office
P.O. Box 149
150 Reservation Road
We'koqma'q, NS, B0E 3M0

Nov. 1st, 2022

Dear Chief Bernard-Daisley,

Thank you for your guidance and feedback in the early stages of the proposed Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind (PHP Wind) development, a 130-megawatt (MW) wind farm, which will be located Guysborough County. As a valued vendor and partner we appreciate your community's engagement on all levels.

Our efforts to ensure recent partnership announcement, renewable energy is a growing and critical aspect of our energy mix in the short term. For PHP developing wind is a critical step towards securing the long-term viability of one of the largest industrial employers in Eastern Nova Scotia. The project represents an environmentally sustainable optimization of the paper making facility in Port Hawkesbury which is one of the longest-term employers in the region's history.

We know you are well familiar that the mill is in its 60th year of operation and holds an unprecedented commitment to the province, the surrounding communities and its employees who have come to know and trust PHP.

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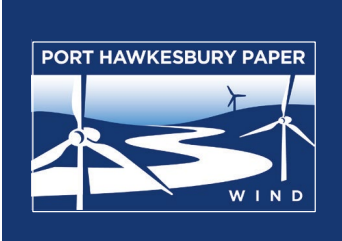
We have made a priority of providing regular updates to local community leadership, specifically the Unama'ki Chiefs and in some cases participated in and hosted public information sessions to ensure communities are aware of each phase of the development. We are currently preparing the submission of our environmental assessment to the Provincial regulator and will be submitting our registration document in the coming weeks.

We are looking forward to our meeting / update on Nov 21st to provide an in-person project briefing and to answer any questions you have and further elaborate on the detail and benefits of our project.

Warm regards and again Wela'lin on behalf PHP Wind.

Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler, Bevan Locke, Andrea Doucette



July 12th, 2022

Kwe' Ms. Maloney, (janicemaloney@mikmaqrights.com)

On behalf of Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind (PHPW) we are reaching out today to hopefully schedule a background presentation to KMKNO and the NS Assembly of Mi'kmaw Chiefs at an upcoming meeting. On the recommendation of Assembly Co-chair, Chief Bernard-Daisley and with the encouragement of Chief T'ma Francis our hope is to give a comprehensive overview of the renewable wind energy project that we are planning for Guysborough County. The project will help reduce our operational power consumption by up to 30% and in doing so address a proportion of the emission targets that have been identified and slated across in Mi'kma'ki.

Recently we participated in and supported the Paq'tnkek Industry Days June 27 and 28th and had some productive conversations with community members and leadership with respect to the project which we aim to expand on. This followed a series of advance meetings with Una'maki Chiefs who counselled our team to work closely with Paq'tnkek to ensure any exploratory or initial stage opportunities are not missed at the forefront of our planning. Currently some general public community meetings are being held closer to the proposed site in Guysborough. While we are only in the development stage of the project, we want to reassure key KMKNO staff and leadership that we are mobilizing materials to initiate and prepare for the duty to consult process.

We have a long and productive history working with the Community ranging from our relationship with vendors like First Alliance and many years of active recruitment of L'nu employees. We know our relationship with Mi'kmaq communities is central to our success and development as a company as we calibrate and respond to growing global market pressures and challenges. We are one of the largest employers and power consumers in the province, managing and mitigating the sweeping changes that lay ahead means we will remain economically viable, culturally conscious, and environmentally sustainable.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or if you require any further information, please let us know. Our hope is to present to the Assembly at the earliest convenience. We understand the Assembly agendas can be extremely concentrated however, we would welcome the opportunity to present more details on the project firsthand and take any questions that might arise.

Wela'lin,

Mark Savory, Project Director

Cc Patrick Butler

Bevan Locke

Andrea Doucette



20 22

TRADES FAIR

FIND A WAY FOR A
RIGHTER FUTURE

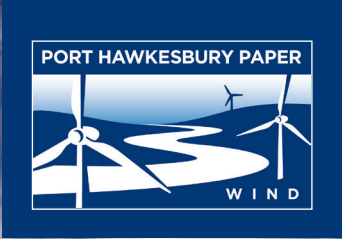
Dexter construction
 Nova construction
 Maritime Launch
 Signal Gold
 Nova Scotia Community
 College
 Liuna
 Clear water
 Nova Scotia Works
 Canadian coast guard
 Canadian Armed Forces
 solar photovoltaic panel
 and installation
 International painters
 trade and allies



**27TH &
28TH OF
JUNE**

10 AM - 3 PM

136 Afton loop,
Afton Station,
BOH 1A0



POWERING LOCAL SUCCESS

The Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind Project

About the Project

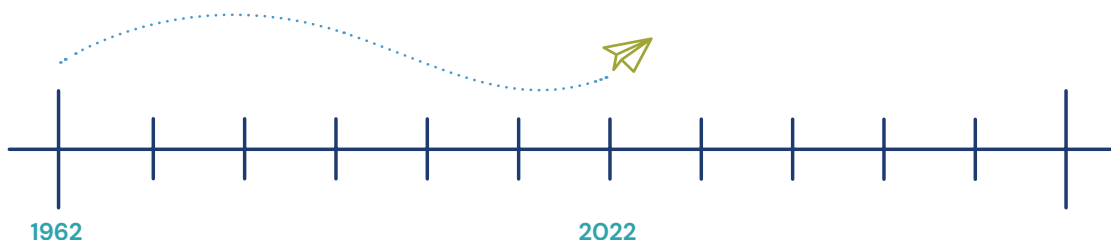
Port Hawkesbury Paper, through its sister organization Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind (PHP Wind), is proposing to build a 130-megawatt (MW) wind farm, which will be located in Guysborough County.

Developing PHP Wind is a critical step towards securing the long-term viability of one of the largest and industrial employers in Nova Scotia. The project represents an environmentally sustainable optimization of

the Port Hawkesbury Paper facility's operations that reduces the facility's carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions.

In its 60th year of operation the mill, which has had only a few owners since 1962, is one of the longest-term employers in the region's history with an unprecedented commitment to the region, its employees, and community members who have come to know and trust PHP.

The paper making facility in Port Hawkesbury is one of the longest-term employers in the region's history.



ENSURING PHP'S VIABILITY and Local Economic Impact for Surrounding Communities

When complete, this green energy project will supply up to 30% of the facility's required electrical power. The plan envisions directing the renewable energy generated to the facility, thereby improving the containment of the facility's costs. These measures will contribute to the facility's long term global competitiveness and sustainability.

By diversifying the Port Hawkesbury Paper facility's energy mix, we will be operating in a more environmentally conscious manner, clearing the way for a healthy business that can continue to benefit the region's economy and provide well-paying jobs in rural Nova Scotia.

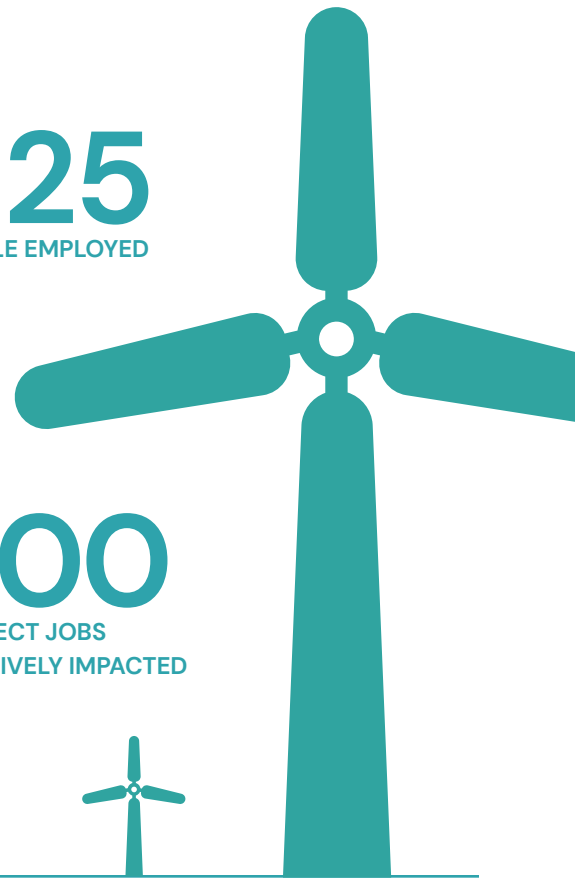
The Port Hawkesbury Paper facility, which is celebrating ten years of successful operations in Nova Scotia this year, directly employs approximately 325 people, and positively impacts another 700 indirect jobs, employing hundreds of forestry contractors and suppliers (source: 2018 Economic Impact Study).



325
PEOPLE EMPLOYED



700
INDIRECT JOBS
POSITIVELY IMPACTED



PHP Wind Mi'kmaq Engagement

Mi'kmaq engagement and inclusion in PHP operations has long been an integral aspect of the company's business operations—a principle that is also central in the development of PHP Wind.

PHP is working to provide Mi'kmaq community leadership with the full project scope and the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way—either as a capacity building exercise and/or a project partner.

A series of meetings with key Mi'kmaq stakeholders are underway currently in advance of the general public project meetings. PHP has been engaged with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs in their duty to consult, and will fulfill all requirements on the wind development.

PHP Mi'kmaq Engagement

PHP values its history and relationship with the Mi'kmaq Community and views this as integral to their operations, seeking to expand on this foundation with wind and renewable energy in the region:

- Working directly with CMM—assisting forestry initiative and other programs
- Working with KMKNO on varied programs
- Supporting Mi'kmaq fish and wildlife mapping identifying protected areas
- Mi'kmaq vendor/contractor services for successive years—ie First Alliance
- Working directly with UINR
- Community scholarship support
- Support for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Summer Games
- FPIC process
- Direct engagement with Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative
- Indigenous cultural landscapes



For more information, please contact info@phpwind.ca



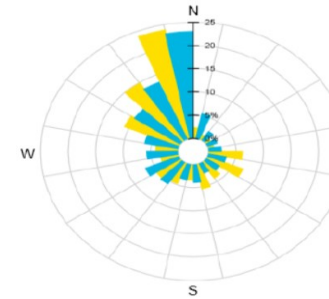
Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind



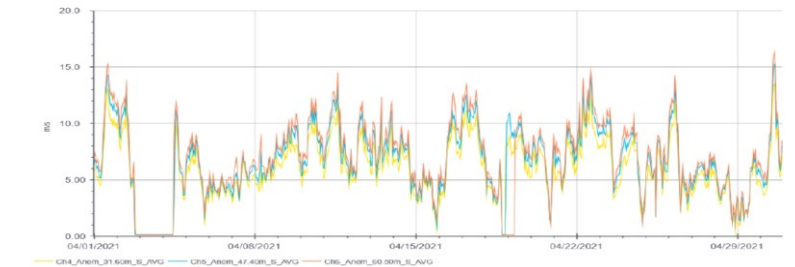
Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind - Tangible Progress in 2021

- “Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind” has been established as a separate Limited Partnership. PHPW has engaged an experienced energy executive with extensive experience in wind projects development as its Project Director to work closely with Stern Partners and Local Port Hawkesbury Paper officials to drive this project.
- As part of the due diligence phase, PHPW will have spent or is contracted to spend close to \$1,000,000 this year.
 - Wind resource assessment and environmental assessment studies to support project financing and project consenting/approvals have been underway since January 2021.
 - Mi'kmaq knowledge studies underway since July 2021
 - Transmission system interconnection request applications have been made to Nova Scotia Power and the required Feasibility Study Agreement was executed on August 18, 2021.
 - The high-level project schedule based on 24-30 months of construction activities commencing in May 2023 with anticipated project commercial operation date of late 2025.

Wind Rose
Start Date: 1/4/2021
End Date: 4/30/2021



Time Series
Start Date: 4/1/2021
End Date: 4/30/2021



000001 (Tower 1)
Project: Port Hawkesbury
Location:
Elevation (m): 56.7



Port Hawkesbury Paper and PHP Wind

- We recognize that the project, if it moves forward, would be on the traditional ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
- Port Hawkesbury Paper is well on the way towards the establishment of a 130-megawatt wind farm to be located in Guysborough County.
- When complete, this project would be the largest wind farm in Nova Scotia and would supply approximately 30% of the paper mill's required electrical power (as green renewable energy).
- Since first announced in 2019 significant due diligence work has been undertaken and we continue to work closely with the Canada Infrastructure Bank.
- Full development will generate investment in the \$200,000,000 range and construction of the farm will generate local employment and significant ongoing tax revenues in the province.



Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind - Current status

- A leading international wind development firm has recently been selected via an extensive RFP process, and we are now finalizing the development agreements/contracts.
- Energy storage opportunities are actively being discussed with a prominent local/national firm.
- PHPW will ensure that the Mi'kmaq, local community, and other key stakeholders are engaged in the Project going forward.





Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind



PHP Facility and Green Energy

- PHP's paper making facility and woodlands operations have been operating in eastern Nova Scotia for 6 decades.
- PHP mill uses on average 10% of the Provincial electrical load – can be 25% on some occasions.
- PHP's flexible electrical power use and pulp (energy) storage is key to balancing a more renewable provincial electrical grid.
- Biomass generation with steam Co-Generation provides high efficiency dispatchable green electricity.

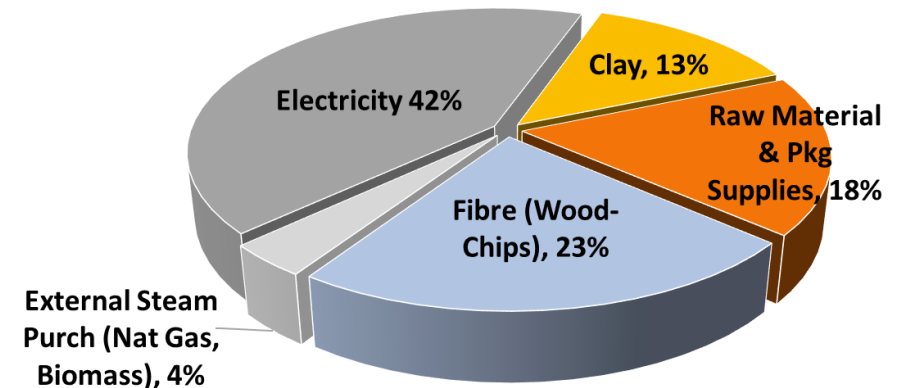


Why PHP is looking to Invest in Green Energy

- Stern Partners' ownership and strategic guidance has strengthened the business.
- In addition to our strong production facility and sustainably managed forests we are proactively pursuing green energy sources.
- We have 2 key objectives – a sound energy project and sustainable mill operation. Together contributing to the province as a whole.
- A closely associated renewable energy supply and potential storage project would significant help secure a long-term future for the facility.



Paper Cost Components



PHP Wind overview

- Port Hawkesbury Paper is on the way towards the establishment of a 130-megawatt wind farm to be located in Guysborough County.
- We recognize that the project, if it moves forward, would be on the traditional ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
- When complete, this project would be the largest wind farm in Nova Scotia and would supply approximately 30% of the paper mill's required electrical power (as green renewable energy).
- PHP's proposed wind project fully supports provincial 80% renewables by 2030 goals



PHP Wind - Status

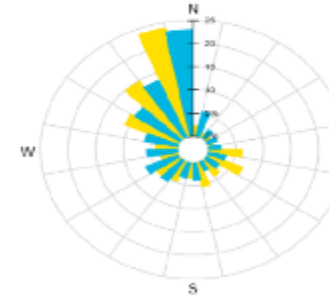
- Since first announced in 2019 significant due diligence work has been undertaken and we continue to work closely with the Canada Infrastructure Bank.
- The high-level project schedule has construction activities commencing in May 2023 with anticipated project commercial operation date 2025.
- Full development will generate investment in the \$250 to \$275,000,000 range and construction of the farm will generate local employment and significant ongoing tax revenues in the province.



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 - Met towers and lidar wind measurements are encouraging
 - The various Strum Consulting EA projects have been progressing well
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Wind Rose
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- Energy storage opportunities are actively being discussed with a prominent local/national firm.
- PHPW will ensure that the Mi'kmaq, local community, and other key parties are engaged in the Project going forward.
- In advance of formal consultations and engagement that will be led and managed by the developer RES, PHP and Stern Partners wanted to directly inform your community and other Mi'kmaq nations of this important project possibility.



Questions?

Learn more about PHP at:
www.porthawkesburypaper.com





Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind



Mi'kmaq Peoples and PHP Woodlands Initiatives

Joint Forest Management Agreements

- Port Hawkesbury Paper has maintained forest management agreements with Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) and Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) for several years.
- These agreements include forest planning, silviculture, harvesting, and reporting services.



Mi'kmaq Peoples and PHP Mill Initiatives

Mill Security

- Since 2013 Port Hawkesbury Paper has appreciated our relationship and service from First Alliance Security.
- Our “Partners in Protection”
- A Proud We'koqma'q Business

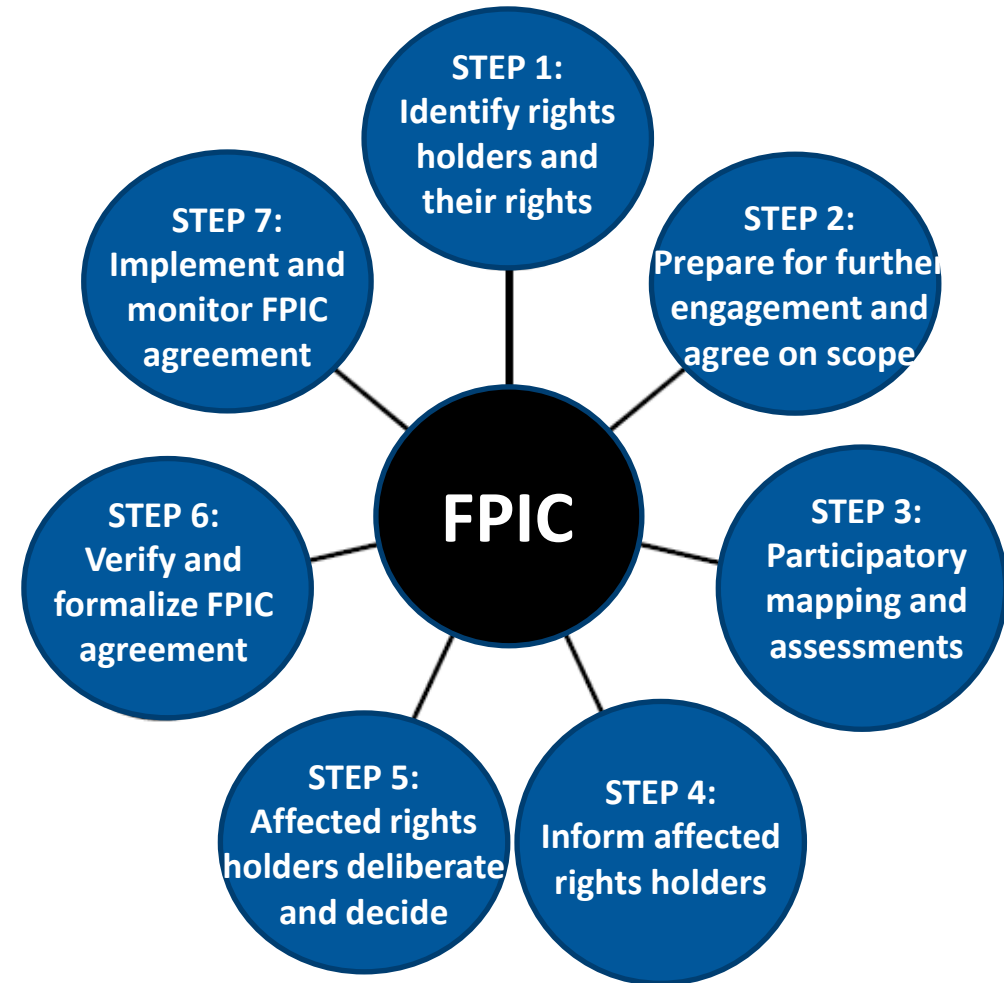


Working with for Mi'kmaq Communities

- Annual bursaries and scholarships provided for attendance to a natural resources program or technical/university program.
- Annual contribution to KMKNO to help fund administration costs
- Employment and training opportunities for Mi'kmaq organizations and individuals

Free Prior and Informed Consent

- Collaborative FPIC process to ensure traditional legal and/or customary rights of Mi'kmaq communities are understood and protected.
- FPIC Process Committee and FPIC Technical Committee
- Strategic long-term forest management plan and annual operating plans (5-year plan) key to consultation with communities



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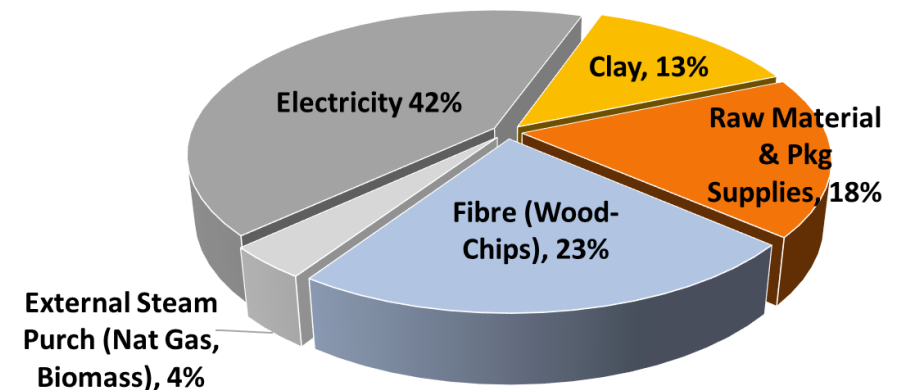


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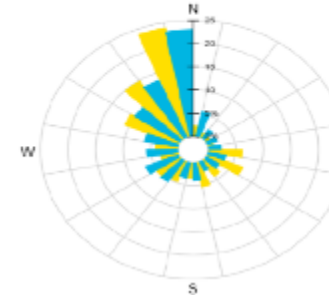
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www.porthawkesburypaper.com



GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind Project

Prepared by:

Strum Consulting

November 3, 2022



Strum

Taking Charge™

Objectives

To provide information on:

- Environmental Assessment Field Programs
- Preliminary Results



Desktop and Field Studies Status

- Vascular Flora and Lichens (2021-2022)
- Terrestrial Fauna (2021-2022)
- Wetland Delineation and Functional Assessment (2021-2022)
- Watercourse Surveys (2021-2022)
- Fish and Fish Habitat Assessments (2022)
- Herpetofauna Assessments (2022)
- Avian Studies (2021-2022)
- Bat Monitoring (2021)

Vascular Flora and Lichen Studies

- Priority species list generated using desktop tools (ACCDC, habitat modelling, forestry mapping)
- Vascular plants and lichens surveyed during peak growing season (early-mid July) by a botanist:
 - Atlantic Sedge (S1)
 - Virginia St John's Wort (S1)
 - Small Round-leaved Orchid (S3)
- Incidental observations recorded throughout field studies
- Lichen surveys were conducted largely in tandem with targeted flora surveys by an expert lichenologist
- PHP provided internal database of Lichen occurrences (alongside forestry classifications)
- Boreal Felt Lichen Habitats overlapping with Project Boundaries were surveyed for at-risk species
- Several occurrences of rare species listed in NSNRR's SMP for at-risk lichen species (NSNRR 2018) are present
 - *Pectenium plumbeum* (S3)
 - *Peltigera collina* (S3)
 - *Sclerophora peronella* (S1S2)
- Avoidance through project design has been targeted for all listed plant and lichen species

Terrestrial Fauna Studies

- Desktop studies conducted to classify habitats, identify potential moose concentration areas, and plan surveys
- Winter tracking surveys were conducted in early 2022
 - Two rounds of surveys completed (early-mid, and late winter)
 - 24 hours to 5 days after fresh snowfall (>10cm) and in favourable weather conditions (low wind, temperature near or below freezing)
 - Minimum 10 km of snowshoe transects through representative habitats
 - All existing roads surveyed by ATV
- Spring pellet surveys were conducted in April 2022, after the majority of snow had melted
 - Single round of surveys
 - Different transects than for snow tracking, but similar effort and also covering representative habitats

Terrestrial Fauna Studies

- Game cameras deployed along suspected corridors of animal movement, including deer, coyote, bobcat, and mainland moose (2021-2022)
 - Not used as a primary assessment tool, but a means to complement targeted surveys
 - Useful for testing the movement of specific species along roads
- Mainland moose targeted with winter surveys
 - Study area does not overlap with identified NSNRR Mainland Moose concentration area
 - Drone flights conducted during winter surveys to identify moose and/or areas of high impact due to animal traffic
- Mainland moose sign has been observed within Study Area – October 2021



Wetland Delineation and Functional Assessment

- Delineations conducted in August-October 2022 within the project footprint:
 - 50 m wide corridor for roads
 - 30 m wide corridor for collector lines
 - 100 m radius circle for turbine locations
 - All wetlands flagged with pink “WETLAND DELINEATION” tape
- Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol – Atlantic Canada (WESP-AC) Functional Assessments completed for a representative sample of wetlands
 - WESP-AC (August, 2021) Non-tidal form used for all wetlands on site
- Wetland delineations completed in an iterative fashion – initial survey results used to inform layout changes
 - Primary surveys completed in August/September 2021
 - Surveys continued in August/September 2022 – functional assessments included
 - Finalization of layout and final surveys completed in October 2022
- Though avoidance work is ongoing, alterations are anticipated.

Bat Monitoring and Assessments

- Desktop studies completed to identify habitats, as well as hibernacula near the site
- Relevant guidance:
 - NSNRR 2022 - Guidance for Bird and Bat Surveys Pre- and Post-Construction Surveys and Monitoring – Wind Energy
 - OME 2022 - Bats and bat habitats: guidelines for wind power projects
 - Olsen 2017 - Bat Specific Guidance for Evaluating Environmental Assessments in Canada



Bat Monitoring and Assessments

- Bat monitors deployed in appropriate habitats throughout the project site for passive monitoring of different habitats
 - Lake's edge – Long Lake – Treed Swamp/Marsh
 - Lake's edge – Five Mile Lake – Bog
 - Edge of a wetland mosaic with bog and fen habitat near a still water
 - Open clearcut with open water wetlands near avian radar
- Monitors deployed in late May – maintained every 2 weeks through late October
 - Recording passively between sunset and sunrise
- Myotis bat roosting habitats were recorded as specific points of interest
 - Areas with higher density of large trees and/or snags, steep cliffs with suitable overhang, etc.
 - Few areas identified given the significant impacts of forestry on the landscape to date.



Avian Studies

- Year-round surveys completed, including point counts, diurnal hawk watches, and owl and nightjar surveys
 - Watch counts conducted along Strait of Canso to consider passage of flocks over land vs. over water for the area
- Relevant Guidance
 - NSNRR 2022 - Guidance for Bird and Bat Surveys Pre- and Post-Construction Surveys and Monitoring – Wind Energy
 - CWS 2007 – Recommended protocols for monitoring the impact of turbines on birds
 - Canadian Nightjar Survey Protocol
- Avian radar deployed in September and setup for continuous monitoring through Mid-November (Fall Migration) – Redeployed in April for Spring Migration monitoring through Late June



Avian Studies

- Avian SAR identified during surveys were recorded individually, especially during breeding surveys. Specific habitats being used and behaviour were also noted.
 - Habitat suitability in the many treed swamps on site is excellent for Canada Warblers (*Wilsonia canadensis*) – many were identified during breeding surveys
- Acoustic monitoring conducted to complement radar studies – night flight calls, local breeding species, etc.
- Data compilation is ongoing, including modelling movements throughout the project area and surrounding landscape



Image Source: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Canada_Warbler/id

Herpetofauna Studies

- Desktop studies conducted to identify areas where turtles are known to occur
 - Wood turtle habitat is well inventoried in the NS significant habitat and species database
- Spring surveys conducted along watercourses and in other areas on the site where turtle nesting and basking habitats exist
 - Using methods adapted from Flanagan et al. 2013
 - Gravel-dominated road sides, especially near water crossings
 - Gravel pits/small quarries along roads throughout the site
 - Open water, wetland edges, and clear vernal pools
- Nest emergence surveys conducted at the same locations in September/October, as well as in incidentally through other survey efforts
- No turtles have been observed on the site

Watercourse, Fish and Fish Habitat Surveys

- Watercourse assessments completed as part of hydrology mapping alongside wetland delineations
 - Classification, measurements, preliminary substrate, and vegetation (at the crossing only)
- Fish and fish habitat surveys conducted in early July 2022, after initial watercourse identification
 - Upstream, downstream, crossing – electrofishing and detailed habitat assessments
- Select watercourse crossings were surveyed for fish-bearing potential and presence/absence of fish. Those crossings surveyed were all bridges (open-bottom), though there are also pipe culverts throughout the site for smaller crossings and drainage.
 - No priority species encountered during surveys



Other Studies

Sound and Shadow Flicker Modelling

- In progress, will be included in the EA

Visual Impact Assessment

- Photo simulations will be prepared from representative vantage points and included in the EA

MEKS

- Site visit completed – Report in progress (Membertou Geomatics)

ARIA

- In progress (Boreas Heritage Consulting)

Questions?