NOVA SCOTIA
Environment and Climate Change

Comment Index

Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County

Publication Date: November 21, 2025

Government

Number	Source	Date Received
1	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	October 6, 2025
2	Transport Canada	October 9, 2025
3	Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	October 20, 2025
4	Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change - Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement Division	October 21, 2025
5	Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture	October 21, 2025
6	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	October 21, 2025
7	Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change - Sustainability and Applied Science Division, Environmental Health & Food Safety	October 22, 2025
8	Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change - Sustainability and Applied Science Division, Air Quality Unit	October 23, 2025
9	Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change – Climate Change Division	October 23, 2025
10	Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs	October 23, 2025
11	Nova Scotia Department of Public Works	October 23, 2025
12	Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change – Protected Areas Branch	October 23, 2025
13	Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Department of Energy	October 24, 2025
14	Environment and Climate Change Canada	October 24, 2025
15	Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change - Sustainability and Applied Science Division, Water Resources Management Unit	October 24, 2025
16	Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture	October 24, 2025

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Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

Number	Source	Date Received
1	Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn (KMK)	November 12, 2025

Public

Number	Source	Date Received
1	12 Anonymous Public Comments	October 6 to November 12, 2025
2	Green Nova Scotia First	November 7, 2025
3	Municipality of the District of Guysborough	November 7, 2025
4	Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) / Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS)	November 12, 2025

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada | Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada

Atlantic Region
200–1801 Hollis Street
Halifax NS B3J 3N4

Région de l'Atlantique
200–1801, rue Hollis
Halifax (Nouvelle-Écosse) B3J 3N4

October 6, 2025

Mark McInnis
Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mark.McInnis@novascotia.ca

SUBJECT : Setapuktuk Wind Project

Dear Mark McInnis:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the registration document for the Setapuktuk Wind Project (the Project), received on October 03, 2025.

The federal environmental assessment process is set out in the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). The *Physical Activities Regulations* (the Regulations) set out a list of physical activities considered to be "designated projects" under the IAA.

While it is the responsibility of proponents to determine whether their proposed project includes physical activities described in the Regulations of the IAA, based on the information submitted to the Province of Nova Scotia on the proposed project, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) is of the opinion that, as proposed, the project does not appear to be described in the Regulations. As such, the proponent would not be expected to submit an Initial Project Description of a Designated Project. If the project changes from what has been described in its provincial registration, the proponent is advised to contact IAAC if, in their view, any proposed project activities may be described in the Regulations.

The proponent is advised that under section 9(1) of the IAA, the Minister may, on request or on the Minister's own initiative, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed by regulations made under the Regulations if, in the Minister's opinion, the carrying out of that physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct or incidental adverse effects. Should IAAC receive a request for a project to be designated, IAAC would contact the proponent with further information.

Please note that for physical activities not described in the Regulations, should the Project be carried out in whole or in part on federal lands, section 82 of the IAA would apply if any federal authority is required to exercise a power, duty or function under an Act other than IAA in order for the Project to proceed, or if a federal authority is providing financial assistance for the purpose of enabling the Project to be carried out. In that case, that federal authority must ensure that any Project assessment requirements under the applicable sections of the IAA are satisfied.

We also note that in proceeding with the Project, the proponent may still be required to obtain or seek amendment to other federal regulatory permits, authorizations and/or licences.

The proponent is encouraged to contact IAAC at (902) 426-0564 if it has additional information that may be relevant to IAAC or if it has any questions or concerns related to the above matters.

Gardenio Pimentel da Silva

Environmental Assessment Officer, Atlantic Regional Office
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada
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Date: October 9, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Melissa Ginn, Regional Environmental Advisor, Transport Canada

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:

This review focuses on the following mandate:

Transport Canada
- *Aeronautics Act*
- *Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA)*

List of Documents Reviewed:

EA Registration document.

Details of Technical Review:

Review for potential requirements under the two Acts listed above

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

Please include the following in Table 2.1:

Requirement	Regulatory Body	Status/Comments
Aeronautical Assessment Form – Aeronautics Act	Transport Canada – Civil Aviation	Aeronautical Assessment Form should be completed to assess for marking and lighting requirements
Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA) Approval	Transport Canada – Navigation Protection Program	Watercourse crossings can be assessed against the criteria in the Minor Works Order. If it does not meet all the criteria, an application for CNWA approval may be required.

Additional information regarding the above requirements:

Aeronautical Assessment Form (AAF):

The Proponent will need to complete an Aeronautical Assessment Form (AAF) regarding the wind turbines, to assess for marking and lighting requirements as per:

Standard 621 - *Obstruction Marking and Lighting - Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs)* (https://tc.canada.ca/en/corporate-services/acts-regulations/list-regulations/canadian-aviation-regulations-sor-96-433/standards/standard-621-obstruction-marking-lighting-canadian-aviation-regulations-cars).

The AAF is located in *Appendix C - Aeronautical Assessment Form for Obstruction Marking and Lighting* (Form 26-0427E).

Once the AAF information has been completed, please forward to: aviation.atl@tc.gc.ca.

***Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA):**

The following additional information from Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program can be provided to the Proponent or their consultant:

Any watercourse crossings implicated by the proposed transmission line and access road components of the project do not appear to involve Scheduled waterways under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*.

**Note, that any bridges with piers placed below the high water mark of a watercourse, always require an approval as outlined in the Major Works Order. (and an application for approval would be required)

Major Works Order

https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-320/index.html

If the bridge is not a Major Work, the proponent can assess the individual access road watercourse crossings against the criteria in the ***Minor Works Order*** (Section 34 – Watercourse Crossings) AND can assess the individual transmission line watercourse crossings against the criteria in the ***Minor Works Order*** (Section 16 – Aerial Cables -Power and Telecommunication):

Minor Works Order

https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2021-170/index.html

IF a specific transmission line or access road watercourse crossing meets ALL the criteria in the relevant section, they are considered Minor Works and do not require a *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* approval and would only be required to follow the Deposit and Publication requirements in sections 3(2), 3(3) and 4 of the Minor Works Order.

IF a specific transmission line watercourse crossing or access road crossing does NOT meet ALL the criteria, the proponent may be required to submit an application for approval.

Under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA), owners of works – (other than a minor work or a major work) - that are located on navigable waterways not listed in the schedule, which may interfere with navigation, have the option to:

1. either apply to the Minister of Transport; (approval review process and advertising and 30 day registry public review)

or

2. seek authorization through the public resolution process, and deposit specific information regarding their work on the new Common Project Search (online registry) inviting any interested party to comment. (advertising and 30 day registry public review)

Both the application process and the public resolution process on the Registry can be accessed at the following link:

External Submission Site for the Navigation Protection Program (create an account first if needed)

Additional guidance information and links for the NPP regulatory process can be found here:

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs-632.html

https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/canadian-navigable-waters-act.html

Navigation Protection Program, Transport Canada

http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs-621.html

NPP Contact coordinates:

Navigation Protection Program | Programme de protection de la navigation

Transport Canada - Atlantic Region / Heritage Court, 6th Floor, 95 Foundry Street, Moncton, N.B. E1C 5H7 |

Transports Canada - Région de l'Atlantique / Place Héritage, 6e étage - 95 rue Foundry, Moncton, N.-B. E1C 5H7

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NOVA SCOTIA
Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Special Places Protection

1747 Summer Street, 2nd Floor
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SPP@novascotia.ca E

Date: October 20, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Beth Lewis, Director of Special Places Protection

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County**

Scope of review:
This review focuses on the following mandate: ***Archaeology and Geology***

List of Documents Reviewed:
EA Document
A2023NS229 – Windfarm 1 Final Report and Report Letter
A2024NS010 – Wind Farm 1 Final Report and Report Letter
A2025NS144 – Wind Farm 1 Project Screening & Reconnaissance ARIA, Final Report and Report Letter

Details of Technical Review (Archaeology):

Section 9.0 of the EA Document aligns with the recommendations from HRPs A2023NS229, A2024NS010 & A2025NS144. The report letter for A2025NS144 should be included with the EA as it is the most recent and up to date archaeological resource impact assessment fore the Wind Farm 1 Project.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language):

EA Document aligns with the recommendations from Heritage Research Permit Reports.

Details of Technical Review (Geology):

The project document describes the bedrock geology accurately, as Devonian-Carboniferous Horton Group. These units have a potential to yield significant vertebrate fossils. If extensive bedrock excavation is being carried out, it may be desirable to have a palaeontologist examine the exposed bedrock for significant fossils.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language):

If suspected fossils are encountered during general excavation work, the museum should be contacted for advice and information.

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Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Place
1903 Barrington Street
Suite 2085
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2P8

Date: October 20, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: NSECC, Inspection Compliance & Enforcement (ICE)

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:
This review focuses on the following mandate: general overview and technical considerations

List of Documents Reviewed:

- *Setapuktuk Wind Project (Project #23-9204): Project Introduction*
- *Environmental Assessment Registration Document: Setapuktuk Wind Project*

Details of Technical Review:

The Proponent identified the following mitigations in the Registration Document:

- Construction will take approximately 36 months to complete. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be developed.
- Approved dust suppressants will be used to control dust emissions.
- To minimize disruption (noise) the majority of construction between 7 am and 9 pm, plus a Complaint Resolution Plan will be developed and implemented.
- New ground disturbance will be minimized to the extent practical. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be developed. A Blasting Plan will be developed and groundwater wells within 800 m will undergo a pre-blast survey.
- The proponent will develop and implement a Surface Water Management Plan and Contingency Plan. The proponent will obtain necessary permits prior to watercourse and wetland alterations.
- A Groundwater Management Plan may be needed if construction of structures go below the seasonal water table
- A Vegetation Management Plan will be developed. Proponent should note, an approval is required prior to herbicide use.
- A Decommissioning Plan/Site Reclamation Plan will be developed.
- Community Liaison Committee has already been established.
- If geologic hazards (ARD, etc.) are identified, a site-specific mitigation plan will be developed.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

- Plans and mitigation measures, as noted above, should be developed and implemented.

- As per ECC's Procedure for Conducting a Pre-Blast Survey, all structures within an 800-metre radius of a point of blast initiation need to be surveyed.
- It is recommended that the proponent consider the dam and infrastructure associated with England Lake in their blasting plan.
- Additional NSECC approvals may include: wetland alterations, watercourse alterations and herbicide use.

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Agriculture

60 Research Drive
Suite A
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia
B6L 2R2

Date: October 17, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Philip Sampson, Acting Executive Director, Policy and Corporate Services, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Subject: Setapuktuk Wind Project
Multiple regions, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia

Thank you for the opportunity to review the documents for the above-noted project.

Agricultural impacts are anticipated to be minimal given that:

- There are no agricultural lands located within the project area. Within a 2 km buffer outside the project area, 25% of the land is Class 7 (CLI) which has “no capability for arable culture or pasture” and 73% is Class 3 which has “moderately severe limitations for agriculture”. Other landscape features, such as high water table, tributary serpentining and general wetness further impede agricultural development on much of these Class 3 soils.

- There are 20.3 acres of inactive ag land and 42.2 acres of rotational crops within, but mostly on the periphery, of the 2 km project buffer (Ag land dataset).

- There are only 2 registered farms near the project site. One is an Xmas tree farm 6.7 km from the project site and the other is beef farm 6 km from the project site.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pêches et Océans Canada

Bedford Institute of Oceanography
1 Challenger Drive
P.O. Box 1006, Station P500
Dartmouth. Nova Scotia
Canada B2Y 4A2

Date: October 21, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Sophi Newcombe, Linear Development, Regulatory Review Biologist, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for administrating the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act* (FA), the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), and *the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

DFO's review focused on the impacts of the works outlined in the Setapuktuk Wind Project Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD) to potentially result in:

- the death of fish by means other than fishing and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat, which are prohibited under subsections 34.4(1) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- effects to listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*; and,
- The introduction of aquatic species into regions or bodies of water frequented by fish where they are not indigenous, which is prohibited under section 10 of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

List of Documents Reviewed:
(Review all documents relevant to your mandate, listing which ones have been reviewed)

- Environmental Assessment Registration Document – Setapuktuk Wind Project.pdf
- Environmental Assessment Registration Document – Setapuktuk Wind Project – Concordance Table.pdf
- Environmental Assessment Registration Document – Setapuktuk Wind Project – Appendix B-G.pdf

Details of Technical Review:

Risk Assessment: Wetland Assessment	
Identify Gap/Risk	Direct and indirect impacts to fish and fish habitat from wetland alterations are not clearly described. Section 7.3.2.3 in the

	Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD) identifies 234 wetlands partially or fully within the Study Area. Table 7.36 in Section 7.3.2.5 provides summary details for the Wetland Ecosystems Services Protocol – Atlantic Canada (WESP-AC) for each wetland. Table 7.39 in Section 7.3.2.6 identifies the potential project-wetland interactions and Table 7.40 includes the estimated area of potential impact of each wetland and the area of direct impact, but does not detail the site-specific proposed works and residual impacts to fish and fish habitat. It remains unclear which wetlands provide direct or indirect fish habitat, and how the Project may impact fish and fish habitat through direct and indirect impacts to wetlands at specific sites.
Can it be addressed in another permit/approval or with a T&C?	The identified gap can be addressed during the NSECC watercourse and/or wetland alteration approval process(es) and DFO regulatory review process. Works, Undertakings or Activities (WUAs) associated with this project in or near water that may result in potential harmful impacts on fish or fish habitat will require DFO regulatory review to avoid, mitigate or offset those impacts.
Define/provide detail	For WUAs that may result in potential harmful impacts on fish or fish habitat, additional information will be required as part of the DFO regulatory review process, including detailed information on the proposed WUAs, a detailed description of the fish and fish habitat found at the location of the proposed WUAs (including direct and indirect habitat that wetlands within the project area provide for fish), a detailed description on the likely effects of the proposed WUAs on fish and fish habitat, and a detailed description of the measures and standards that will be implemented to avoid and mitigate potential harmful impacts on fish and fish habitat.
Risk Assessment: Fish Habitat Assessment	
Identify Gap/Risk	Fish habitat assessments reported in the EARD do not provide sufficient detail to determine potential impacts on fish and fish habitat. Section 7.3.1.8, the EARD details priority fish species. The Department considers all fish species and their habitat that may be impacted by a WUA during regulatory review, and evaluates fish passage based on fish species that are likely to be migrating on a given river. Table 7.26 in Section 7.3.1.8 in the EARD identifies 69 watercourse crossings within the Study Area and summarizes the characteristics of each watercourse. However, site-specific information such as watercourse slopes are not included and it is not specified where substrate and habitat types are located relative to the structures. Table 7.29 in Section 7.3.1.9 identifies the potential project-surface water and fish and fish habitat interactions, and this section expands

	to include direct and indirect impacts expected. However, the impacts are not site-specific. This information is not sufficient to assess the site-specific impacts to fish and fish habitat.
Can it be addressed in another permit/approval or with a T&C?	The identified gap can be addressed during the NSECC watercourse and/or wetland alteration approval process(es) and DFO regulatory review process. WUAs associated with this project in or near water that may result in potential harmful impacts on fish or fish habitat will require DFO regulatory review to avoid, mitigate or offset those impacts.
Define/provide detail	For WUAs that may result in potential harmful impacts on fish or fish habitat, additional information will be required as part of the DFO regulatory review process, including detailed information on the proposed WUAs, a detailed description of the fish and fish habitat found at the location of the proposed WUAs, a detailed description on the likely effects of the proposed WUAs on fish and fish habitat, and a detailed description of the measures and standards that will be implemented to avoid and mitigate potential harmful impacts on fish and fish habitat.
Risk Assessment: Watercourse Crossing Designs	
Identify Gap/Risk	Table 7.30 in Section 7.3.1.9 identifies the potential watercourse crossings to be installed, and this section expands to include direct and indirect impacts that may occur as a result. Standard mitigation measures to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat are also included. There is no information provided on the proposed watercourse crossing designs and the mitigation measures to be used at each crossing.
Can it be addressed in another permit/approval or with a T&C?	The identified gap can be addressed during the NSECC watercourse and/or wetland alteration approval process(es) and DFO regulatory review process. WUAs associated with this project in or near water that may result in potential harmful impacts on fish or fish habitat will require DFO regulatory review to avoid, mitigate or offset those impacts.
Define/provide detail	For WUAs that may result in potential harmful impacts on fish or fish habitat, additional information will be required as part of the DFO regulatory review process, including detailed information on the proposed WUAs, a detailed description of the fish and fish habitat found at the location of the proposed WUAs, a detailed description on the likely effects of the proposed WUAs on fish and fish habitat, and a detailed description of the measures and standards that will be implemented to avoid and mitigate potential harmful impacts on fish and fish habitat.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

- Submit detailed information on the proposed watercourse crossing and wetland alteration designs, detailed descriptions of the fish and fish habitat found at the location of the proposed WUAs (including direct and indirect habitat that wetlands within the project area provide for fish), detailed descriptions on the likely effects of the proposed WUAs on fish and fish habitat (including local and cumulative impacts, potential impacts on species at risk, and direct and indirect impacts on fish habitat), and detailed descriptions of the measures and standards that will be implemented to avoid and mitigate potential harmful impacts on fish and fish habitat.

- Consider open-bottom structures, such as clear-span bridges and open-bottom arch culverts for fish bearing watercourse crossings rather than closed bottom structures, where possible; and

- Refer to DFO's website, https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html, for further information on DFO's regulatory review process and for further measures to protect fish and fish habitat.

This information can be provided through the NSECC watercourse and/or wetland alteration approval process(es) and/or through submission of a DFO Request for Review application directly to DFO. It is recommended that all works, undertakings or activities in or near water associated with the Setapuktuk Wind Project be submitted as one application and include a summary table describing all works, undertakings or activities in or near water be provided to increase regulatory efficiency of the project review and allow for a cumulative effects assessment required under section 34.1(1)(d) of the *Fisheries Act*. DFO will then conduct a regulatory review of the proposed project under the *Fisheries Act*, *Species at Risk Act*, and Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations to determine if an authorization under the *Fisheries Act* and/or a *Species at Risk* permit is required.

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Place
1903 Barrington Street
Suite 2085
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2P8

Date: October 21, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Environmental Health Consultant, Environmental Health and Food Safety Unit, Sustainability and Applied Science Division.

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:
This review focuses on the following mandate: Environmental Health

List of Documents Reviewed:

- EARD

Details of Technical Review:

The project proposal, Everwind NS Holdings Ltd. and Membertou Development Corporation, proposes to construct and operate the Setapuktuk Wind Project, an up to 432-megawatt (MW) wind development located near the communities of Pirate Harbour, Middle Melford, Sand Point, Hadleyville, and Manchester, in Manchester in the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, Nova Scotia. The Project will consist of up to 54 wind turbines along with associated infrastructure, including access roads, substation, and interconnection lines.

Based upon the review to the documents noted above, and in particular potential for health effects from shadow flicker, sound, and ice throw, there are no additional Environmental Health Concerns that lie outside of the current assessment of impact, mitigation measures, or existing legislative requirements.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

Environmental Health Concerns are either addressed within the provided documents, assessed for and deemed no negative effect, or are already covered withing existing legislative requirements. There are no additional unaddressed health related considerations based upon the information provided for this project.

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Place
1903 Barrington Street
Suite 2085
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2P8

Date: October 24, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Air Quality Unit

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:
This review focuses on the following mandate: Air Quality

List of Documents Reviewed:

- *Setapuktuk Wind Project EA Registration Document*
- *Drawings 7.2-7.10*

Details of Technical Review:

The purpose of the proposed undertaking (the Project) is to construct and operate a 432-megawatt (MW) wind power project with 54 turbines and associated infrastructure that will generate renewable electricity to produce green hydrogen and ammonia for local use and export. Each wind turbine will be approximately 221.7 metres to the tip of the blade and individually produce 8 MW. The Project intends to begin construction in 2026 and is expected to be operational for 35 years.

No baseline monitoring was undertaken, instead the baseline review relied on data from the National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) monitoring station in Port Hawkesbury, approximately 12 km north of the Project, from 2020-2024. Existing air quality conditions indicate that most of the measured contaminants are well below their respective NS Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) Schedule A limits. The maximum hourly concentration of O_3 exceeded AAQS on four occasions between 2020-2024.

Project activities will primarily interact with the atmospheric environment through fugitive dust and exhaust emissions. The Project area is vegetated, which will likely help to reduce the travel distance of fugitive dust emissions from the Project. Four residential dwellings and one church are located along Highway 344 and are within 250 m of the public portion of Middletown Road, which may require upgrades, and could result in a temporary increase in dust levels from baseline conditions. All other potential receptors are located at least 500 m from the nearest point of the Project area. Overall, the fugitive dust and exhaust emissions are considered intermittent and short-term (construction phase only).

The EARD provides a list of proposed mitigations that could be used on site. These mitigations are appropriate and would reduce impacts if they are employed.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

- It is unclear how effective dust management will be in the absence of a dust management plan with a clear chain of responsibility for actions, including timely complaint resolution.

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Place
1903 Barrington Street
Suite 2085
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2P8

Date: October 24, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Air Quality Unit

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:
This review focuses on the following mandate: Noise

List of Documents Reviewed:

- *Setapuktuk Wind Project EA Registration Document*
- *Drawings 7.2-7.10*

Details of Technical Review:

The purpose of the proposed undertaking (the Project) is to construct and operate a 432-megawatt (MW) wind power project with 54 turbines and associated infrastructure that will generate renewable electricity to produce green hydrogen and ammonia for local use and export. Each wind turbine will be approximately 221.7 metres to the tip of the blade and individually produce 8 MW. The Project intends to begin construction in 2026 and is expected to be operational for 35 years.

Noise impacts were assessed by Strum Consulting. Aerial imagery, GIS data, and field observations were used to identify nearby sources of noise and characterize the ambient noise within the Study Area. In total, 171 receptors were identified within 2 km of the proposed turbine locations.

It is not clear if this number represents the full extent of the Department's definition of 'receptors' i.e., if it includes camps. The EA Registration Document (EARD) references the use of the Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations, N.S. Reg. 51/2025 (MPRR) with respect to determining definitions for permanent and seasonal receptors, and states 'The Proponent has specifically excluded "camps" as "seasonal receptors" as this would conflict with the MPRR.' This approach does not align with the Department's existing definition of receptors, which includes legal camps as seasonal receptors and has not changed. This is consistent with the previous 14 wind projects approved since 2023.

The EARD presents expected noise levels produced by various equipment to be used during the construction phase. Construction noise was identified as having a potential impact on residents. The EARD notes that sound levels near the intersection of Middletown Road and Highway 344 could experience continuous sound levels above the permissible daytime noise limit defined by the Guidelines for Environmental Noise Measurement and

Assessment. The applicant suggested mitigations to minimise these effects, including limiting activities to the daytime (7am to 9pm), using noise suppressants on vehicles/equipment, and limiting idling.

Operational noise levels were assessed using the WindPRO noise model. The assessment included a baseline noise level of 35dBA, which is based on Health Canada guidance, and a ground attenuation factor of 0.7. The use of this ground attenuation factor is a less conservative approach than would be recommended, which may lead to an underestimation of impacts on receptors. Sixty-four of the 171 receptors modelled had a predicted impact of 39dBA and above, with the highest predicted cumulative impact reported to be 39.9dBA. When rounding to the nearest decibel (which is standard practice), 19 receptors are predicted to experience noise at the 40dBA limit. The modelling results were achieved with 16 of the turbines running on sound-reduced operating modes to reduce the noise levels at certain receptors in the Study Area.

The study included an assessment of low frequency noise, using the Finland low frequency model in WindPRO – no low frequency tonal components were identified.

The applicant commits to developing a blasting plan and a complaints resolution plan as part of their measures to mitigate potential effects.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)
The Air Quality Unit notes the following key considerations:

- The Department's definition of 'receptor' has not been used in this assessment. Consequently, noise impacts may be underestimated. It is recommended the proponent revise the noise assessment to include all receptors including camps.
- If the baseline noise level exceeds 35dBA, it is possible that noise levels could exceed the 40dBA noise limit at receptor locations once the windfarm is operational. Recording baseline noise levels prior to construction can be used as evidence by the proponent in the event that the Department requests monitoring as part of complaints investigations in the future.
- The noise assessment was completed using a less conservative ground attenuation factor than would be recommended. Consequently, the noise impact at a number of receptors may be underestimated.
- Modelling was completed with 16 of the turbines running on sound-reduced operating modes. It is possible noise levels could exceed the 40dBA noise limit at receptor locations if the selected turbines are operating in standard power mode.

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Place
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Date: October 23, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Climate Change Division, Lori Skaine, Executive Director

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:
This review focuses on the following mandate: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

List of Documents Reviewed:
Environmental Assessment Registration Document - Setapuktuk Wind Project

Details of Technical Review:

Adaptation
In Section 11 of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Registration document, the proponent identifies climate risks to the project, including temperature, sea level rise, flooding, severe weather events, turbine icing, and wildfires. The proponent demonstrates a good understanding of the climate risks relevant to the site, including specific projections of future trends using 30-year averages.

The proponent has assessed risks and impacts from climate change and proposed adaptation measures to reduce risks over the lifetime of the project. These include:

- Recognition of the impacts of heat stress on employees and how to mitigate through employee training.
- Flood mitigation informed through the development and implementation of a Surface Water Management Plan and including best practices in culvert sizing, natural revegetation and ditch design.
- Development and implementation of a Project-specific Contingency Plan that includes a fire safety plan.

Mitigation

- The proponent has quantified potential greenhouse gas emissions from the construction and maintenance of the project using acceptable emissions factors and assumptions. These include CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, and Halocarbons.

- *Table 7.12: Project GHG Emission Summary* includes detailed information and includes emissions estimates for various stages of the project (baseline, construction, operational). The total potential emissions associated with the construction are 168,072.40 tCO_2e. This estimate accounts for the manufacturing

and transportation of the wind turbines, as well as the production and transport of the concrete and steel for the tower foundation and pedestal.

- Emissions associated with maintenance of the project are 2,439.64 tCO_2e. This estimate is considered as a single event throughout the lifespan of the project (35+ years) and is therefore negligible.

- The GHG emission reduction over the Project's lifespan (35+ years) is estimated at 25,393,091.09 tCO_2e under a best-case GHG reduction scenario. Overall, the project will offset GHG over its lifetime.

- *7.1.2.8 Effects Assessment* lists mitigation measures for the reduction of potential emissions during the construction phase of the project. The measures are sufficient for the level of emissions expected.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

Adaptation:

- No additional adaptation comments.

Mitigation:

- We suggest the proponent investigate whether the cement used in their concrete is sourced from a supplier where the associated emissions have been subject to carbon pricing, and if so, we suggest the proponent declare those details. This would present an opportunity for the proponent to demonstrate additional measures taken to offset GHG emissions.

- For added GHG emissions offsetting, the proponent could explore possible technologies that allow CO_2 to be embedded into concrete, including biochar amendments or mineralization.

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Municipal Affairs

1505 Barrington St.
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4
Novascotia.ca

DATE: October 23, 2025

TO: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

FROM: Dawn Sutherland, Provincial Director of Planning

SUBJECT: **SETAPUKTUK WIND PROJECT, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY & MEMBERTOU**

Scope of Review:
This review focuses on the following Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) mandates: Statements of Provincial Interest and engagement with municipalities.

Document Reviewed: Registration Document

Details of Technical Review:
The proponents engaged with the Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG) and have listed the required permitting and applicable by-laws in the EA Document section 2.3.3.

Municipal Councillors voiced community concerns related to land use, general environmental impact, and health concerns related to noise. EverWind has negotiated and executed a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with MODG. Engagement with government officials will continue through the development, construction, and operational phases of the Project.

The proponents have also engaged with members of the public, local communities, the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, and government representatives. To date, the Project team has participated in meetings, delivered presentations, established a community liaison committee (for the EverWind Portfolio of Projects in Guysborough), and hosted 19 open house events related to the array of related projects.

Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI):
- Drinking Water: Reasonably consistent, as there is no municipal drinking water supply area near the Project.
- Agricultural Land: Reasonably consistent; no agriculture is identified in the Project area.
- Flood Risk: Reasonably consistent, as there are no flood areas identified in the Project area.
- Infrastructure: Reasonably consistent; no identified impact on municipal infrastructure as defined by the provisions of the SPI.
- Housing: Reasonably consistent; no identified or anticipated impact on housing as defined by the provisions of the SPI.

Key Considerations:
No information nor conditions are outstanding. All components considered under DMA's areas of mandate have been adequately addressed.

NOVA SCOTIA
Public Works

J.W. Johnston Building
1672 Granville Street
6th Floor
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2N2

Date: October 23, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Department of Public Works, Environmental Services – Brent MacDonald, P.Eng., Manager

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:
This review focuses on the following mandate: Traffic Engineering and Road Safety_____

List of Documents Reviewed:
Everwind NS Holdings Ltd. And Membertou Development Corporation, Setapuktuk Wind Project Environmental Assessment

Details of Technical Review:
The Proponent is developing an onshore wind farm, consisting of 54 proposed wind turbines, including new access roads, in Guysborough County near Clam Harbour.

The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works provides the following comments on this EA Registration Document:

- The Proponent has identified all necessary provincial regulatory requirements (Section 2.3.2, Pages 5 and 6), including the Special Moves Permit, Working Within the Highway Right of Way (WWHROW) Permit, Notification of Blasting and the use of the Nova Scotia Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual (NSTWTCM). It should be noted that the NSTWTCM is not a permit per se, it is approved minimum guidance for all Temporary Workplaces and Traffic Control (TC) Plans will need to be approved by the local Area Manager.
    - The main access to the site is detailed on Drawing 2.1, with Highway 344 (Marine Drive) identified as the main access. Other roads are identified on Page 17 (Middletown Road, Pirate Harbour Road, Goose Harbour Lake Road, Old Welsh Road, MacPherson Lake Road and Hayden Road), as well as additional access roads. Any modifications to provincially owned roads will require District approval from the local Area Manager through the WWHROW Permit. Work areas created on provincially owned roads must comply with the appropriate section of the NSTWTCM.

- The mitigation measures identified on Page 18 and in Section 12.4 are comprehensive and must be followed. There are several references to road modifications and removal of signage and guardrails, as well as possible upgrading of bridges. As previously noted, these modifications must be approved by the local Area Manager through the WWHROW Permit.

- References are made to blasting activity. Blasting plans and any impacts to nearby provincially owned roads must be appropriately mitigated by the Proponent and approved by the local Area Manager.

- References are made to the Transportation of Turbine Components and establishment of Traffic Control Measures on Page 18 of the registration document. The Transportation Plan as well as the Traffic Control Plan must be shared as soon as possible for proper analysis and approval by the local Area Manager.

- In Table 3.3, identifying Summary of Minimum Setbacks, the Proponent has identified a setback distance of 1.0 X Turbine Height as a Proponent Commitment, but it does not indicate how they arrived at this setback distance.

- The turbine specifications identified in Section 3.3.1 on Page 13 must be identified in the Special Moves Permit application. Darcey MacBain is the Departmental Contact for the Special Moves Permit, Darcey.MacBain@novascotia.ca.

- On Page 24, the Proponent mentions consulting with several provincial government departments. Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (NSDPW) was not referenced in this section. Communication with NSDPW will be critical moving forward with this project. “Transportation” was not identified as a “Value Component” in the tables provided in the document and should be added.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

1. The Proponent must have Traffic Control Plans approved by the local Area Manager and the Transportation Plan should be shared as soon as possible.
2. Modifications to provincially owned roads (including, but not limited to, signage, guardrail, structures, etc.) must be approved through the WWHROW Permit.
3. All work areas created on provincially owned roads must comply with the NSTWTCM.
4. The Proponent should provide clarification on how the setback distance was determined.
5. The Proponent must consult with NSDPW regarding this project as it progresses.
6. Blasting activity must be approved by the local Area Manager.

Sincerely,

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Place
1903 Barrington Street
Suite 2085
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2P8

Date: October 22, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Protected Areas Branch Sustainability and Applied Science -Janet MacKinnon Executive Director

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:
This review focuses on the following mandate: Protected Areas

List of Documents Reviewed:
WAPA
Interactive Map

Details of Technical Review:

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)
We have no comments

NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources
Energy

1701 Hollis St.
PO Box 698
Halifax, NS B3J 2T9

Date: October 24, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Department of Natural Resources and Department of Energy

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:

This review focuses on the following mandate: Geoscience health and safety, mineral exploration, mineral development, abandoned mines openings, Old Growth Forest, Provincial Silviculture program, authorities and approvals required from the Land Services Branch, wildlife conservation, species at risk, habitat conservation, Energy Sector Development Division (focused on onshore wind for hydrogen) & Clean Energy Branch (focused on onshore wind for the grid)

List of Documents Reviewed:

Geoscience and Mines Branch:

- Environmental Assessment Registration Document – Setapuktuk Wind Project
- Drawings 2.1 through 13.1
- Nova Scotia's Registry of Claims (NovaROC)
- Mineral Occurrence Database
- Open File Map ME 2017-009, Bedrock geology map of the Port Hawkesbury area, NTS 11F/11, Antigonish, Guysborough, Inverness, and Richmond Counties, Nova Scotia; NSDNR, GMB, scale 1:50,000.

Forestry and Wildlife Branch:

- EA registration Document and Appendix 7.22A-H (Old Growth Division)
- DNR Research.zip file (Silviculture Division)
- Environmental Assessment Registration Document – Setapuktuk Wind Project (Wildlife Division)
- Shapefiles showing Study Area and Assessment Area, planned location of project infrastructure (Wildlife Division)

Land Services Branch:

- Environmental Assessment Registration Document
- Appendixes A - O
- GIS Shapefiles

Details of Technical Review:

Geoscience and Mines Branch:

A preliminary review of the Setapuktuk Wind Project has been completed. The review notes that the geological characterization of the proposed site is appropriate. The Project Area is primarily underlain by Carboniferous sedimentary rocks of the Horton and Mabou Groups. Proposed mitigation measures should geohazards be encountered for ARD, karst and erosion and sedimentation are in place. Geological maps included in application display relative location to planned project footprint.

It is recommended that Proponent refer to 1:50,000 scale bedrock geology maps where available for use in site planning as provincial scale map is too coarse for project specific land-use planning.

Herein, they list the underlying geology and indicate a low potential for acid rock drainage, medium risk for karst topography. The Proponent outlines both details of erosion and sedimentation control plans and a plan to deal with sulphide bearing materials and acid drainage should they be encountered.

Mineral Occurrences

The proposed project area is ranked low for mineral potential with moderate aggregate potential. No mineral rights are held in the area as of the effective date of this review. Minor gypsum occurrences are shown to occur east and northeast of the proposed project area.

Forestry and Wildlife Branch:

Silviculture Division:

Regarding the provincial silviculture research program, we have a research trial with 17 permanent sample plots within the study area that do not appear to be in direct conflict with planned roads and turbine sites but is directly adjacent. A shapefile of the research trial and plot locations is attached. Please contact James Steenberg if/when approval is given and operational planning begins as the spatial accuracy of the plot data is variable.

Wildlife Division:

According to the EARD, 44 km of access roads will be new build, alongside 68 km of existing road within the Study Area. The proposed project would increase road density within the Study Area from 0.77 km / km^2 to 1.27 km / km^2. Some research indicates adverse effects on large mammal populations observed after 0.6 km / km^2. Additional

kilometrage from transmission line creation (another fragmenting linear disturbance feature) is not reported. Impacts of new road and transmission line construction on biodiversity, including habitat fragmentation, should be considered and decommissioning roads or removal of access roads from crown land can be sought during decommissioning phase, as offered by Proponent (3.4.3). Broader consideration of indirect effects of road creation at site and landscape scales, and mitigation strategies, should be included in a Wildlife Management Plan.

The Assessment Area is defined by a 150 m radius buffer around turbines, and 25 m buffer on either side of road centre lines. Forested terrestrial communities were assessed using Nova Scotia FEC guidelines, with old-growth assessments conducted at high scoring stands for old growth probability that overlapped or are within 100 m of the Assessment Area.

Old growth assessments were conducted at 45 forest stands identified as likely old growth within proximity of the Assessment Area. This resulted in 23 confirmations of old growth. The EARD states that the Project has been redesigned to avoid overlap with 11 old growth stands. The remaining 12 old growth stands continue to overlap the Assessment Area but overlap for most stands are in areas of pre-existing disturbance (roads, cleared forest, etc.). Under the Old Growth Policy, no new development is permitted in existing or identified old growth forest.

Activities identified by the EARD as contributing to habitat creation may actually be 'ecological traps' which attract wildlife, but provide sub-optimal habitat, resulting in lower survival and reproduction. This includes attraction of herpetofauna to roads for basking / nesting, and attraction of ungulates to roads to lick salt. Similarly, the use of roads by wildlife to facilitate travel interferes with natural predator-prey dynamics (facilitates predator travel). Roads also increase human access, and therefore human disturbance (unintended harassment of wildlife, increases local trapping/hunting pressure, increases forest fire risk). Mitigations are required to discourage turtles from basking and nesting along roadsides.

Terrestrial Flora (7.4.2):

Plants

Information on the extent, location, and objective of vegetation surveys is required to assess impact and understand whether effort was sufficient to confirm presence or absence of SAR/SOCI species.

Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*; Threatened – COSEWIC; Threatened - NS Endangered Species Act) was observed at 3 locations in the Study Area. As noted in the EARD, the Black Ash Recovery Plan requires a 200 m buffer around black ash trees to support species recovery. The Assessment Area has a "slight" (but unspecified) overlap with the recommended 200 m buffer at one black ash location. Additional information on survey location and effort is required to determine whether flora surveys were sufficient to assess risk, and whether targeted Black Ash surveys are required.

Lichens

A total of 5.6% of Study Area overlaps predicted boreal felt lichen habitat. Surveys were conducted in 86 identified polygons, representing 2% of Study Area. No boreal felt lichen

was observed during targeted surveys or via incidental observation. Under DNR policy, lichen surveys must be conducted by a DNR-approved lichenologist. It is unclear whether surveys were conducted by an approved lichenologist.

Blue felt lichen (*Pectenia plumbea;* Special Concern – *Federal Species At Risk Act*; Vulnerable – *NS Endangered Species Act*) was observed in the Study Area (86 occurrences total) with 11 observations occurring in the Assessment Area and an additional 27 occurrences within 100 m of Assessment Area (buffer prescribed by At-Risk Lichens – Special Management Practices).

Frosted Glass-whiskers lichen (*Sclerophora peronella*; Special Concern – *Federal Species At Risk Act*) was observed at 17 locations within the Study Area (2 within Assessment Area; additional 4 within 100 m of Assessment Area).

For both SAR listed lichens, most individual observations and 100 m buffer overlap with the Assessment Area occurred with respect to wind turbine footprints. The EARD notes that the detailed Project design will avoid removal of known specimens, excepting 1 blue felt lichen specimen along transmission line) and maximize buffers around lichens; for example, by conducting work on roads opposite the side of lichen occurrence. Additional detail is required to understand the intended level of buffer violation and potential impact to these species. Buffers (100 m for SAR lichen observed in Study Area, including Blue Felt lichen) are required to preserve the sensitive microclimates required by lichen and are required under the At-Risk Lichens – Special Management Practices.

Terrestrial Fauna (7.4.3):

Terrestrial Mammals

Scans of ACCDC records identified observations of moose, American marten, and lynx as occurring within 100 km of the Study Area. Lynx and American Marten records likely pertain to Cape Breton; therefore, EARD identifies mainland moose (Endangered – ESA rank S1) and fisher (S3 rank) as priority species.

The Study Area overlaps moose core habitat as defined by the '2021 Recovery Plan for the Moose in Mainland Nova Scotia'. The EARD details that survey sites were selected to be representative of the Study Area and moose presence was evidenced by browsing damage, as well as tracks during October 2024 surveys. The Proponent commits to share confirmed signs of mainland moose throughout Project operation. A moose monitoring plan (for all project phases) and communication plan for mainland moose and other wildlife sightings should be included in a Wildlife Management Plan.

The EARD details moose mitigation measures, such as using existing roads and ensuring that the Clearing Footprint avoids overlapping 'best' scoring moose habitat. Negative effects of disturbance to moose often extend far beyond the Clearing Footprint, and Clearing Footprint overlap does occur with 'better' scoring habitat. The Project will make use of 35 km of existing roads, but creation of new roads will increase road network density from 0.77 km / km^2 to 1.27 km / km^2—nearly double the threshold beyond which deleterious effects on moose populations are reported (~0.6 km / km^2). The impact of the creation of other linear features like transmission lines, which are detailed by the recovery plan to have a 'High' impact on moose, should also be considered in a Wildlife Management Plan for their impact on fragmentation and other

landscape-level impacts on moose and other wildlife. Mitigations to reduce the potential impact of new road and transmission corridor construction on moose are required.

Herpetofauna

The EARD notes limited turtle habitat availability, and no evidence of herpetofauna SAR or SOCI were observed during surveys. Surveys were targeted towards wood turtles (Threatened – COSEWIC, SARA, ESA), and nearest recorded occurrence of a wood turtle is >15 km from the Study Area mid point. The effects assessment for herpetofauna only discusses impacts to wood turtles and suggests that gravel roadsides will create new habitat that may benefit herpetofauna. Creation of artificial habitat is not considered to be a benefit as it can attract nesting turtles to roadsides, placing them and their hatchlings at elevated risk of death or injury from vehicle collisions. Mitigations are required to reduce the probability that turtles will nest along roadsides.

Invertebrates

There were no incidental observations of SAR or SOCI invertebrate species during field surveys. Targeted surveys of SAR/SOCI invertebrates would be required to assess risk. ACCDC records of monarch butterfly (Endangered – COSEWIC, SARA, ESA) exist 7.2 km from Study Area midpoint, but no milkweed was observed during botanical surveys.

Bats (7.4.4)

The EARD notes that automatic acoustic recorders deployed in bat surveys exceeded provincial minimum recommendations for a wind project of the proposed size. Monitors were deployed Aug–Nov 2023 and April–(mid-)Aug 2024, representing one full year of sampling. Acoustic monitoring identified up to 5 SAR / SOCI bat species, including migratory Silver-haired bat (Endangered – COSEWIC), eastern red bat (Endangered – COSEWIC), and hoary bat (Endangered – COSEWIC), as well as unidentified *Myotis* species which are indistinguishable by sonogram: little brown bat (Endangered – COSEWIC, SARA, ESA) and northern myotis (Endangered – COSEWIC, SARA, ESA).

The EARD acknowledges the detrimental effects that wind turbines have on bat SAR / SOCI. Proposed Proponent mitigations include decreasing the Project from 84 to 54 turbines, avoiding placement along coastlines (putative migratory routes), use of motion activated lights to avoid attracting prey insects, minimizing new disturbance and maintaining wetland / watercourse buffers, concentrate clearing activity outside of active periods (April 15 – August 31), noise mufflers on machinery, and ensuring drainage around turbines. Additional mitigation strategies to consider include turbine curtailment during high-risk periods (e.g., migration, peak nighttime activity) or acoustic deterrents which are observed to be especially effective for Hoary Bats (Romano et al., 2019, Wildlife Soc. Bull.), the most abundant species detected in the Study Area by acoustic monitoring. Because most bat mortality occurs at low wind speeds, Quebec now enforces a minimum cut-in speed for turbines of 5.5m/s, which can reduce bat mortality by up to 90%.

A second full year of bat monitoring is required by the Environmental Assessment Supplemental Checklist: Wind Energy Projects; the proponent has committed to completing this. A Post Construction Bat Mortality Monitoring Plan should be included in a Wildlife Management Plan, and if necessary, co-develop an adaptive management strategy with the NS DNR.

Avifauna (7.4.5)
Nine SAR avifauna were detected within or near the Study Area during targeted and incidental surveys, including: Barn Swallow (Threatened – SARA, Endangered - ESA), Canada warbler (Threatened – SARA, Endangered - ESA), Chimney Swift (Threatened – SARA, Endangered - ESA), Common nighthawk (Special Concern – SARA, Threatened - ESA), Eastern wood-pewee (Special Concern – SARA, Vulnerable - ESA), Grasshopper sparrow (Special Concern – SARA), Olive-sided flycatcher (Special Concern – SARA, Threatened – ESA), Peregrine falcon (Vulnerable - ESA), and Rusty blackbird (Special Concern – SARA, Endangered - ESA).

EARD details the results of 1 year of required avifauna surveys including winter, spring migration, breeding bird, and fall migration point counts. Point count locations are concentrated in the centre 2/3 of the Study Area and concentrated along roads and areas of disturbance. Additional point count locations are required in representative habitat to cover the 17 most distal proposed turbines at the southern, northern, and eastern extremes of the Study Area, representing ~1/3 of the Study Area (Drawings 7.30A-C). Notably, these areas (especially the northern extreme) represent the greatest concentrations of EARD predicted breeding habitat for SAR Canada warbler, Evening grosbeak, Olive-sided flycatcher, and Rusty blackbird (Drawings 7.30A-E).

Additional nightjar surveys are required, particularly in areas away from roads and trails, to assess risk. More extensive spatial and temporal coverage of diurnal watches in the spring and fall are also required to assess risk.

A second year of radar surveys is required (see Environmental Assessment Supplemental Checklist: Wind Energy Projects), and the proponent has committed to completing the mandatory second year of avifauna surveys. Additional point counts that cover the full Study Area are required, in particular targeting SAR-suitable breeding habitat. The proponent commits to develop a site-specific post-construction Terrestrial Habitat and Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with government regulators and all other relevant parties. The EARD further outlines 23 mitigation measures planned by the Proponent. Additional consideration could be given to research evidencing the ability of painted turbine blades to decrease bird mortality.

Land Services Branch:
Based on the information provided the Project is located on both private and Crown lands. The Proponent will require authorizations (such as a lease, licence, letter of authority, or easement) from DNR for any activity on Crown lands including:

- Erecting, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning wind turbines and related infrastructure;
- Temporary use and access of the land, such as requests to temporarily use existing Crown owned roads, install meteorological (MET) towers, or to conduct geotechnical investigations;
- Installing and maintaining overhead/underground transmission wires and collector lines, including for submerged Crown lands;

- Requests to construct and use new access road, or to wider or otherwise modify existing Crown roads.

Note: Requests to use existing NSPI or Bell owned infrastructure located on Crown lands must be directed to the owner of the utility infrastructure.
Note: This review does not include research or assessments for existing uses on the Crown lands

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

Clean Energy Branch:
The Clean Energy branch of Department of Energy has no comment on the EA for Setapuktuk as this project is not intended to use the public utility transmission system.

Energy Sector Development Division:
Setapuktuk Wind Project is an onshore wind project that is intended to provide renewable energy to EverWind Fuels to produce green hydrogen and its derivatives primarily for an export market.

Produced using clean electricity, green hydrogen and its derivatives can help Nova Scotia grow its economy, reduce emissions and become a leader in clean energy exports.

The development of these export focused green hydrogen projects can be a catalyst for Nova Scotia to build a domestic market that would contribute to de-carbonization. The Province's Green Hydrogen Action Plan recognizes that green hydrogen projects will make the best use of the Province's natural resources and support sustainable prosperity and the achievement of Nova Scotia's climate change goals.

It was noted that from a socio-economic perspective, the information provided (on page 302) is related to the entirety of EverWind's Phase 2 projects, not this project specifically. It is unclear what the anticipated economic impact of the Setapuktuk project would be.

Geoscience and Mines Branch:
No additional comments.

Forestry and Wildlife Branch:
Old Growth Division:
Mitigation options:
1) Avoid Old-Growth Forest areas
2) DNR Minister approval after public consultation can consider removal of OGF areas or portions of the areas with replacement of 5-10 times the areas of Old-Growth Forest to be purchase from private land.

Silviculture Division:
It is important that this trial is not disturbed during development as it is strategically important for the Department.

Wildlife Division:

- Obtain all permits necessary to undertake the project as required under legislation related to wildlife, species at risk, watercourses and wildlife habitat alterations.
- Provide digital way points and/or shapefiles for all flora and fauna surveys and incidental observations, including for all observations of Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern to NSNR (those species listed and/or assessed as at risk under the *Species at Risk Act, Endangered Species Act*, COSEWIC, as well as all S1, S2 and S3 species). Data should adhere to the format prescribed in the NS DNR Template for Species Submissions for EAs and is to be provided within two months of collection.
- Consult with NS DNR Wildlife Division on placement of collector line poles in or near at-risk lichen buffer zones.
- Develop a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) in consultation with NSNR and NSECCC which includes:
    - Communication protocols with regulatory agencies.
    - Noise, dust, lighting, blasting, and herbicide use mitigations.
    - General wildlife considerations (e.g., human-wildlife conflict avoidance).
    - Education sessions and materials for project personnel regarding important biodiversity features they may encounter on-site (including Species at Risk) and how to appropriately respond to those encounters.
    - Mitigation measures consistent with recovery documents (federal and/or provincial recovery and management plans, COSEWIC status reports) and provincial Special Management Practices for Crown land to avoid and/or protect Species at Risk/Species of Conservation Concern. This includes:
        - Mitigation measures to reduce the potential impact of new road and corridor construction on mainland moose, including decommissioning existing roads where possible or removing access roads during project decommissioning.
        - Mitigation to ensure no new development is permitted in existing or identified old growth forest, in accordance with the Old Growth Forest policy.
        - Mitigation measures to minimize the potential use of roadsides as nesting areas by turtles, including avoiding work during the breeding season and avoiding the creation of stock/gravel piles.
        - Mitigations to minimize time between vegetation clearing/ground disturbance and construction to reduce the risk of a potential encounter with ground nesting SAR/SOCI, especially during the breeding season.
        - Mitigations to minimize work during the active bat period that align with the bat monitoring period (early May to end of October) and peak activity.
        - Preventative measures to reduce or eliminate the risk of ground or burrow-nesting species initiating breeding within stockpiles or exposed areas.
        - Measures to minimize disturbance and avoid the prescribed 100m buffer around known Blue Felt Lichen and Frosted Glass-whiskers occurrences.
        - Avoidance of all Black Ash occurrences and measures to minimize disturbance and avoid the prescribed 200m buffer.

    - Measures to protect and mitigate against adverse effects to migratory birds during construction and operation. The incidental take of breeding birds, as well as their nests and/or eggs, is not permitted under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and the *NS Wildlife Act*. This may include avoidance of certain activities (such as vegetation clearing) during the regional nesting period for most birds, buffer zones around discovered nests, limiting activities during the breeding season around active nests, and other best management practices.
    - Mitigations to proactively protect bats and avifauna against mortality from turbine strikes and barotrauma. This may include implementing turbine deterrents, seasonal or detection-based shutdown systems for turbines, increased cut-in speeds (e.g., cut in at 5.5m/s), or painting turbine blades.
    - Details on monitoring and inspections to assess compliance with the WMP.
- The following surveys are required to inform appropriate mitigations in the Wildlife Management Plan:
    - Breeding bird surveys should be conducted in the Assessment Area prior to turbine construction with a focus on areas of modeled potential SAR habitat, particularly near turbines T1-T6, T23, T25, T29, T34, T48, T41, T50-T54.
    - Targeted Black Ash surveys in appropriate habitat to determine presence/absence.
    - Lichen surveys conducted by a DNR-approved lichenologist.
    - Mainland moose monitoring plan for construction and post-construction phases of the project.
- Revegetate cleared areas using native vegetation or seed sources following consultation with DNR.
- Develop a plan to prevent the spread of invasive species both on and off site in consultation with DNR. The plan should include monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management components.
- Develop a monitoring program to assess mortality for birds and bats in consultation with DNR and ECCC, implemented for a minimum of two years post-construction during the operation stage of the project. Guidance on monitoring requirements will be provided by DNR. Reporting of the results of the monitoring program shall be on an annual basis to the appropriate regulatory agencies. Pending review of results of the monitoring program, additional monitoring or mitigation measures may be required
- Engage with DNR and ECCC to develop an adaptive management plan to inform decision-making related to adverse effects of the project on migratory bird and bat species. Additional surveys or mitigations may be required following a review of the effectiveness of the plan.
- Describe the impacts of the project on landscape-level connectivity for wildlife and habitat (e.g., habitat fragmentation, loss of intact forested habitat, increased road density). Include an assessment of the cumulative effects of the project on landscape level connectivity and habitat loss, and the measures proposed to mitigate those effects, in particular for mainland moose.

Land Services Branch:

No additional comments.

From:	Zwicker,Stephen (ECCC)
To:	McInnis, Mark
Cc:	Hingston,Michael (il | he, him) (ECCC); Aikens,Marley (elle | she, her) (ECCC)
Subject:	- Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, NS
Date:	October 24, 2025 12:57:20 PM

Hello Mark,
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment Registration for the proposed Setapuktuk Wind Project and offers the following comments for your consideration:

Migratory Birds and Species at Risk

References

- ECCC 2025. *Nesting Periods*. https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/general-nesting-periods/nesting-periods.html
- EC 2007a. *Recommended Protocols for Monitoring Impacts of Wind Turbines on Birds*. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-364-2007-eng.pdf
- EC 2007b. Wind Turbines and Birds A Guidance Document for Environmental Assessment. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-363-2007-eng.pdf
- RGI [Renewables Grid Initiative] 2024a. *Avian-Power Line Collision: Overview of Risk Factors & Effectiveness of Wire Markers [Brochure]*. https://renewables-grid.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Nature/Wire_Marker_Brochure_Digital.pdf
- RGI [Renewables Grid Initiative] 2024b. *Avian-Power Line Collision: Overview of Risk Factors & Effectiveness of Wire Markers [Methodology Report]*. https://renewables-grid.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Nature/Wire_Marker_Brochure_Digital.pdf
- Calvert et al. 2013. *A synthesis of human-related avian mortality in Canada*. Avian Conservation and Ecology 8(2): 11. https://ace-eco.org/vol8/iss2/art11/
- Rioux et al. 2013. *Avian mortalities due to transmission line collisions: a review of current estimates and field methods with an emphasis on applications to the Canadian electric network*. Avian Conservation and Ecology 8(2): 7. https://ace-eco.org/vol8/iss2/art7/

General Comments

1. ECCC notes that the Province of NS's Department of Natural Resources (NS NR) holds technical expertise, jurisdiction, and management authority for birds not protected by the MBCA (e.g., raptors) and terrestrial species at risk (SAR) including bats, reptiles, amphibians, land-mammals, insects, plants, and lichen. ECCC advice on these species is derived from federal recovery strategies produced as per the SARA and are focused on species recovery. SAR are a shared responsibility between the federal government and the provinces and ECCC comments reflect this.

2. Commitments to mitigation measures to avoid/minimize potential effects of the Project on migratory birds and species at risk (SAR) should be clearly described without the use of ambiguous language (e.g. "*where possible*" and "*to the extent possible*"). Where effects cannot be avoided/minimized, a proposed plan to mitigate residual impacts should be described (e.g., monitoring plan, scheduling, buffers, offsetting measures, etc.). Contingency plans identifying mitigation measures should be prepared to address all scenarios that may impact migratory birds and SAR during all of times of the year and all project phases.

3. The proponent should retain raw survey data (e.g., radar, breeding bird surveys) until appropriate data standards have been developed. Proponents are encouraged to share and store data with:
   - The ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service (SAR observations; scf-atldonneesei-cws-atliadata@ec.gc.ca)
   - The Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Center (SAR/SOCC observations; http://accdc.com/en/contribute.html)
   - NA Bat (acoustic bat data; https://www.nabatmonitoring.org/upload-data)
   - The Wind Energy Bird and Bat Monitoring Database (bird and bat data; NatureCounts - Wind Energy Bird & Bat Monitoring Database)

4. If NSECC is considering wildlife protection, mitigation, monitoring and adaptive management plans as part of potential approval conditions related to avifauna and/or migratory bird SAR, ECCC recommends clarifying what elements are expected to be included, and that the consultation process is clear for all parties.

   ECCC's preference is that any documents and requests for advice from the proponent be submitted and coordinated through NS ECC as part of their EA process via the ECCC-EA window (FCR_Tracker@ec.gc.ca).

Specific Comments

Migratory Birds

5. ECCC notes that the project area provides potential breeding habitat for several waterfowl species and serves as an important migration and staging area. Although ECCC-CWS does not have breeding waterfowl data within the project area, we have an Eastern Waterfowl Survey plot ~25 km to the west in similar habitat. Based on these data, it is expected that the following species will be breeding in the project area: American Black Duck, Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, American Green-winged Teal, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck. Other non-waterfowl species such as Common Loon, Spotted Sandpiper, and yellowlegs species (Greater and Lesser) likely breed in the area. Englands Lake is large enough and has islands that may host breeding gulls and terns. Satellite telemetry data shows use of the Strait by migrating waterfowl (particularly sea ducks like eiders and scoters) during the spring and fall. Canada Geese and black ducks are also known to migrate through this corridor.

   Waterfowl are known to exhibit avoidance behaviour around wind turbines, resulting in functional habitat loss. Disturbance effects should be considered within a 1 km radius of each proposed turbine. Accordingly, all wetland habitat within 1 km of each turbine should be interpreted as unavailable to waterfowl. Preliminary mapping suggests that while coastal habitats are likely unaffected by this buffer, most wetland habitat within and adjacent to the project area would be effectively removed for waterfowl use.

   Additionally, potential impacts to migratory sea ducks moving through the Strait of Canso should be considered given the proximity of turbines to coastal environments. Although the loss of this habitat alone may not result in population-level effects, cumulative impacts should be assessed in relation to other existing and proposed wind projects in the region, as well as ongoing provincial wetland loss. In particular, cumulative effects associated with the nearby Goose Harbour Wind Project and other developments should be evaluated.

   The timing and methods of the baseline avian surveys likely did not adequately characterize waterfowl use of the study area, given that waterfowl generally breed earlier than passerines and use wetland habitats not well represented by standard point count surveys.

6. ECCC offers the following general recommendations regarding Pileated Woodpecker nesting cavities, which are protected year-round under Schedule 1 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*:
    - Review and understand proponents' responsibilities under the amended *Migratory Bird Regulations* (MBR 2022).
    - Conduct a survey to identify suitable nesting habitat within the area planned for vegetation clearing.
    - Inspect identified suitable nesting trees for any Pileated Woodpecker cavities and determine occupancy; Note: In the Maritimes, ECCC recommends surveying during the second half of June to confirm nesting. By that time, the nestlings are large and loud and may be heard before the cavity can be seen.
    - Notify the ECCC Minister through the Abandoned Nest Registry if any abandoned cavities are found on trees that require removal.
    - Monitor occupancy of cavity(ies) over the next 36 months prior to removal and establish a vegetated buffer around the tree. Note: it is important that the nest itself remains intact, and we strongly encourage the Proponent to maintain as much surrounding vegetation as possible to preserve the woodpecker's habitat. If the construction activities are expected to extend during the breeding season, then actions must be taken to ensure that the nesting woodpecker is not disturbed by the construction activities.

    For more information on the amended nest protections under the MBR 2022, frequently asked questions on how these protections apply to migratory birds, including Pileated Woodpecker, and your responsibilities for reporting abandoned nests, please visit the following:
    - Nest Protection Fact Sheet: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/fact-sheet-nest-protection-under-mbr-2022.html
    - MBR 2022 FAQ: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-permits/faq-migratory-birds-regulations-2022.html.

7. Quote (pg. 297): *"A detailed Post Construction Avian Monitoring Plan will be developed and submitted to NSECC and NSNR for review."*

    ECCC notes that post-construction monitoring for migratory birds could require a *Migratory Birds Regulations* (MBR 2022) permit. Under the MBR 2022, a scientific permit is required to possess and handle any dead migratory birds used for observer

efficiency or scavenging trials (ECCC, s.10.4 2007) and is recommended for the collection of a migratory bird (dead or alive), feathers, or part of a migratory bird (as defined in the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* [MBCA]) found during post-construction monitoring activities (e.g., carcass searches). To apply for an MBR permit, proponents should contact the ECCC-CWS permitting office at: SCF-ATLPermis-CWS-ATLPermits@ec.gc.ca.

EC 2007a and EC 2007b include guidance for developing post-construction monitoring programs for wind energy development projects in Canada.

8. The following mitigation measure regarding clearing activities is listed on page 296: *"Adhere to ECCC guidelines on clearing windows for nesting migratory birds (i.e., outside of the April 15 to August 31 nesting window), where possible. If vegetation and tree clearing activities during the nesting/breeding season cannot be avoided, nest sweeps will be conducted."*

   Nests in complex habitats (e.g., forests, wetlands) are difficult to locate, and adult birds avoid approaching their nests in a manner that would attract predators to their eggs or young. In many circumstances, disturbance and/or harm to migratory birds is still likely to occur even when nest sweeps are conducted prior to vegetation clearing activities.

   Therefore, ECCC does not recommend nest sweeps in vegetation prior to clearing or land disturbance activities during the breeding season. Rather, to promote compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) and its regulations and the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), ECCC recommends that activities that may result in incidental take of nests or eggs, such as vegetation clearing and maintenance, occur outside the migratory bird nesting period (**mid-April to late-August** in this region; nesting zone "C3", ECCC 2025).

   For additional information, see "Vegetation Clearing" standard recommendations below.

9. The EARD does not include sufficient measures to avoid potential effects of transmission and collector ("power") lines on migratory birds.

   Power lines have the potential to harm, injure, or kill migratory birds due to collision and electrocution. In Canada, collisions with power lines are estimated to be one of the top sources of human-related mortality in birds (Calvert et al. 2013), with

estimated mortality ranging from 2.5 million to 25.6 million birds killed per year (Roux et al. 2013).

The proposed placement of above-ground power lines should consider areas used as flight paths by migratory birds during migration, near shorebird staging and foraging involving overland daily movements, or while travelling from nesting to foraging areas, and/or along streams used by waterfowl.

ECCC recommends the following general beneficial management practices to avoid potential harm to migratory birds associated with power lines:

- Avoid building transmission, collection, or distribution lines over, adjacent, or near areas where birds are known to congregate or move, including:
    - Important breeding, staging, moulting areas;
    - Breeding colonies; and
    - Between breeding and foraging areas.
- Consider installing underground power lines in high-risk areas for bird collisions.
- Design "avian-safe" configurations to reduce the risk of electrocutions, including:
    - Providing sufficient separation between energized phase conductors and between phases and grounded hardware;
    - Insulating exposed surfaces in high-risk areas;
    - Installing perch-management (e.g., perch guard) devices on poles; and
    - Removing or minimizing vegetation around poles and lines.
- Install measures on lines that reduce the risk of collisions:
    - Provide minimal vertical separation between lines;
    - Use self-supporting structures to reduce the number of guy wires;
    - Use line-marking devices to increase the visibility of the lines; and
    - Consider illuminating lines and towers with ultraviolet (UV) lighting to increase the visibility of lines in high-risk areas.

ECCC recommends that the Proponent refer to Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (www.aplic.org) for an understanding of avian risks from powerlines and guidance. For information on avian line marker ("bird diverter") use and optimal design, ECCC recommends referencing guidance from the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI 2024a, RGI 2024b).

10. The level of concern (Category 4) (ECCC 2007a), proximity to known areas of

importance for migratory birds (e.g., Strait of Canso, Chedabucto Bay), and relatively large project size/extent (423 MW; 52 turbines; ~8,800 ha project area footprint; 623 ha clearing footprint) warrant additional measures to mitigate potential impacts to birds and bats during spring and fall migration periods when the project is operational.

Based on the level of concern for the project (Category 4)(EC 2007a), ECCC recommends that the proponent follow the precautionary principle and identify operational mitigation measures as part of the EA commitments and implement them such that impacts to migratory birds and bats will be avoided *before* they occur. Additionally, ECCC recommends that the proponent develop adaptive management plan(s) and undertake post-construction monitoring to monitor residual effects (EC 2007a, EC 2007b).

11. If the proposed project is approved, Adaptive Management and Post-construction Monitoring Plans should consider the potential for cumulative impacts of multiple wind energy and other development projects in the area on migratory birds. Where possible, post-construction mortality monitoring reporting should consider post-construction monitoring results from nearby sites (e.g., Goose Harbour Lake Wind Project).

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Species at Risk

12. ECCC notes that avian SAR listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) may occur in the Project area, including but not limited to:
    - **Barn Swallow** (SARA-listed Threatened)
    - **Bicknell's Thrush** (SARA-listed Threatened)
    - **Bobolink** (SARA-listed Threatened)
    - **Canada Warbler** (SARA-listed Threatened)
    - **Common Nighthawk** (SARA-listed Threatened)
    - **Eastern Wood-pewee** (SARA-listed Special Concern)
    - **Evening Grosbeak** (SARA-listed Special Concern)
    - **Harlequin Duck, Eastern population** (SARA-listed Special Concern)
    - **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (SARA-listed Threatened)
    - **Rusty Blackbird** (SARA-listed Special Concern)
    - **Savannah Sparrow, *princeps* subspecies** (SARA-listed Special Concern)

    Additionally, non-avian SAR may occur in the Project Area, including but not limited to: Little Brown Myotis (SARA-listed Endangered), Northern Myotis (SARA-listed Endangered), Tri-colored Bat (SARA-listed Endangered), Silver-haired bat (COSEWIC-

Endangered), Eastern Red Bat (COSEWIC-listed Endangered), Hoary Bat (COSEWIC-listed Endangered), Monarch (SARA-listed Endangered), Yellow-banded Bumble Bee (SARA-listed Special Concern), Blue Felt Lichen (SARA-listed Special Concern), and Frosted Glass-whiskers – Atlantic Population (SARA-listed Special Concern), Boreal Felt Lichen (SARA-listed Endangered), Eastern Painted Turtle (SARA-listed Special Concern), Snapping Turtle (SARA-listed Special Concern), Wood Turtle (SARA-listed Threatened), Brook floater (SARA-listed Special Concern).

For projects undergoing environmental assessment, ECCC recommends that adverse effects of the project on SAR and their Critical Habitat are identified, and, if the project is carried out, that mitigation measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects. We recommend that mitigation measures:

- be consistent with best available information including any Recovery Strategy, Action Plan or Management Plan in a final or proposed version; and
- respect the terms and conditions of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) regarding protection of individuals, residences, and critical habitat of Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened species.

We also recommend follow-up monitoring to verify impact predictions, and adequacy of mitigation measures, and adaptive management in the event that SAR or their critical habitat are adversely affected by the project.

13. Quote (pg. 236) *"…the coastal southern/southeastern extents of the Study Area may be used as a migration pathway for hoary bat based on the density and seasonality of recorded bat passes."*

ECCC notes that the following SAR/SOCC bat species/groups were detected during baseline monitoring: Myotis species (i.e., Little brown myotis and/or Northern myotis; SARA-listed Endangered), Hoary bat (COSEWIC-assessed Endangered), Silver-haired bat (COSEWIC-assessed Endangered), Eastern red bat (COSEWIC-assessed Endangered), and unknown bats (including low-frequency and high-frequency bats).

The populations of the three SARA-listed bat species (Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, and Tricolored Bat) are highly depressed in NS, primarily due to introduction of White-nosed Syndrome (WNS), and therefore few acoustic detections are expected. Any additional loss of SAR bat individuals, maternity roosts, or and/or hibernacula remaining on the landscape can be biologically significant for these long-lived, k-selected species, and affect their recovery. Additionally, the three

"migratory" bats, which have been assessed by COSEWIC as Endangered, are highly vulnerable to mortality due to wind turbines.

ECCC recommends that monitoring, mitigation measures, and adaptive management plans consider the COSEWIC-assessed migratory bat species as though they are SARA-listed SAR, in the event that they become listed during the lifetime of the Project.

Additionally, ECCC notes that the mitigation measures provided on page 238 do not include operational mitigations to prevent bat-turbine collisions. ECCC recommends including EA commitments to mitigation measures for minimizing potential impacts to SARA and COSEWIC-listed Endangered bat SAR during the project's operational phase *before* impacts occur, such as increasing cut-in speeds or altering the pitch/feathering the blades during high-risk collision periods (e.g., during migration or swarming or when wind velocity is low).

ECCC notes that site selection is the most important component of a successful mitigation strategy for bats with respect to wind power development, with turbines and other project infrastructure located as far away as possible from important bat habitat features (hibernacula, potential maternity roosts, migration pathways).

14. Quote (pg. 257): *"Common nighthawks were observed conducting wing-boom territorial displays during the breeding bird season in June."*

    Common Nighthawk and other ground or burrow-nesting migratory birds may be attracted to stockpiles or exposed areas for nesting, particularly if there is a delay between clearing activities and subsequent construction activities.

    Additionally, Common Nighthawk may have a higher collision risk with turbines/blades than other bird SAR recorded during the breeding period, as this species is an aerial insectivore known to occupy open habitat areas and flying at various heights in search of insects. They also defend their territories by aerial displays (wing booms) that might make them more susceptible to collisions if they choose to nest close to turbines.

    ECCC offers the following recommendations:

    - Undertake a habitat suitability assessment for this species and clarify whether areas with suitable breeding habitat will be avoided during micrositing of turbines.

- Develop measures to deter birds from nesting in work areas, such as covering exposed areas or stockpiles when not in use and minimizing the delay between clearing and subsequent construction activities.
- Identify other targeted mitigation measures to avoid and minimize impacts on Common Nighthawk and its habitat;
- Develop a monitoring plan that includes:
    - Post-construction nightjar surveys (dusk and dawn);
    - Post-construction mortality monitoring to evaluate bird strikes; and
    - Adaptive management measures to be implemented should adverse effects be detected.
- Reference the *Recovery Strategy for the Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor) in Canada [Final] (2016)* to inform the development of mitigation measures for this species: https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/species/986-668#recovery_strategies

Wetlands

15. ECCC advocates for the conservation of wetlands, especially in areas where wetland losses have already reached critical levels (e.g., NB, NS, PEI, southern Ontario, Prairies), regionally important wetlands, and wetlands used by avian SAR and SOCC as part of their lifecycle (e.g., Canada Warbler, Chimney Swift, Olive-sided Flycatcher Common Nighthawk, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, etc.).

    ECCC advocates for planning, siting and designing a project in a manner that considers wetland mitigation options in a hierarchical sequence – avoidance, minimization, and as a last resort, compensation.

    In assessing potential for avoidance and minimization impacts to wetlands and avian SAR and SOCC that use wetlands (e.g., Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher), ECCC recommends that the proponent consider implementing a 30-m buffer around wetlands for all project infrastructure (e.g., turbine pads, access roads, transmission corridors, substation). Any vegetation clearing (even if temporary) should be considered an alteration requiring compensation or other measures to ensure wet soils and wetland functions are maintained for migratory birds and species at risk.

    ECCC also recommends the following general measures:
    - Developments on wetlands should be avoided;
    - Hydrological function of the wetland should be maintained;
    - Runoff from development should be directed away from wetlands;

- A 30-metre buffer from the high-water mark of any water body (1:100 Flood Zone) should be maintained in order to retain movement corridors for migratory birds. Please see https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html for further information concerning buffer zones.

Applicable Legislation and Standard Advice

Migratory Birds Convention Act

The federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) and its regulations protect migratory birds and their eggs and prohibit the disturbance, damage, destruction or removal of migratory bird nests that contain a live bird or a viable egg. Migratory birds are protected at all times; all migratory bird nests are protected when they contain a live bird or viable egg; and the nests of 18 species listed in Schedule 1 of the MBR 2022 are protected year-round. These general prohibitions apply to all lands and waters in Canada, regardless of ownership. For more information, please visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html.

For migratory birds that are listed as Endangered, Threatened or Extirpated on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* S.32 (protection of individuals) and S.33 (protection of residences) apply to all land tenure types in Canada. For some migratory bird species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), the residence prohibition will protect nests that are not active but are re-used in subsequent years (please note that the residence of a migratory bird may not necessarily be limited to their nest).

Section 5.1 of the MBCA describes prohibitions related to depositing substances harmful to migratory birds:
"5.1 (1) No person or vessel shall deposit a substance that is harmful to migratory birds, or permit such a substance to be deposited, in waters or an area frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which the substance may enter such waters or such an area.
(2) No person or vessel shall deposit a substance to be deposited in any place if the substance, in combination with one or more substances, result in a substance – in waters or an area frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which it may enter such waters or such an area – that is harmful to migratory birds."

The proponent is responsible for ensuring that activities are managed to ensure compliance with the MBCA and associated regulations.

Species at Risk Act

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) "General prohibitions" apply to this project. In applying the general prohibitions, the proponent, staff and contractors, should be aware that no person shall:

- kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual;
- possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual, or any part or derivative;
- damage or destroy the residence of one or more individuals.

General prohibitions only apply automatically:

- on all federal lands in a province,
- to aquatic species anywhere they occur,
- to migratory birds protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA) 1994 anywhere they occur.

Section 33 of SARA prohibits damaging or destroying the residence of a listed threatened, endangered, or extirpated species. For migratory bird species at risk (SAR), this prohibition immediately applies on all lands or waters (federal, provincial, territorial and private) in which the species occurs.

For project assessments, SARA requires:

79 (1) Every person who is required by or under an Act of Parliament to ensure that an assessment of the environmental effects of a project is conducted, and every authority who makes a determination under paragraph 82(a) or (b) of the *Impact Assessment Act* in relation to a project, must, without delay, notify the competent minister or ministers in writing of the project if it is likely to affect a listed wildlife species or its critical habitat.

(2) The person must identify the adverse effects of the project on the listed wildlife species and its critical habitat and, if the project is carried out, must ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects and to monitor them. The measures must be taken in a way that is consistent with any applicable recovery strategy and action plans.

ECCC notes that all comments it provides concerning species at risk that are not migratory birds derive from federal recovery/management plans as posted on the Species at Risk Registry (https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html), and thus comments may not be comprehensive to the body of knowledge for the species.

For species which are not listed under SARA but are listed under provincial legislation only or that have been assessed and designated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), it is best practice to consider these species in EA as though they were listed under SARA.

Vegetation Clearing

Clearing vegetation may cause disturbance to migratory birds and inadvertently destroy their nests and eggs. Many species use trees, as well as brush, deadfalls and other low-lying vegetation for nesting, feeding, shelter and cover. This would apply to songbirds throughout the region and waterfowl in wetland areas. Disturbance of this nature would be most critical during the key breeding period (mid-April to late-August in this region), however some species protected under the MBCA do nest outside of this time period. Please see the webpage "Nesting Periods" (https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/general-nesting-periods/nesting-periods.html) for more specific information concerning the breeding times of migratory birds. This project falls within zone "C3".

ECCC provides the following recommendations:

- Avoid certain activities, such as clearing, during the regional nesting period for migratory birds. The breeding season for most birds within the project area occurs between **mid-April and late-August** in this region (see above website for more specific time periods by zone).
- Active nests can be discovered during project activities outside of the regional nesting period. To reduce the risk of impacting nests or birds caring for pre-fledged chicks at those times, ECCC recommends implementation of measures such as the establishment of vegetated buffer zones around nests, and minimization of activities, in the immediate area until nesting is complete, and chicks have naturally migrated from the area. It is incumbent on the proponent to identify the best approach, based on the circumstances, to comply with the MBCA.
- Be cognizant that while most migratory bird species construct nests in trees (sometimes in tree cavities) and shrubs, mitigations should be appropriate for migratory birds with different strategies. For example, several species nest at ground level (e.g. Common Nighthawk, Killdeer, sandpipers), in hay fields, pastures or in burrows. Some bird species may nest on cliffs or in stockpiles of overburden material from mines or the banks of quarries. Some migratory birds (including certain waterfowl species) may nest in head ponds created by beaver dams. Some migratory birds (e.g. Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Eastern Phoebe) may build their nests on structures such as bridges, ledges, or gutters.
- Develop and implement a management plan that includes appropriate

preventative measures to minimize the risk of impacts on migratory birds (Please see 'Guidelines to reduce risk to migratory birds' at https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html). For beneficial management practices regarding how to avoid the incidental take of migratory bird nests and eggs, please refer to the Avoidance Guidelines (Website: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/guidelines.html). The management plan should include processes to follow should an active nest be found at any time of the year.

Lighting

Attraction of migratory birds and SAR to light at night or in poor visibility conditions during the day may result in collision with lit structures, their support structures, or with other migratory birds. Disoriented migratory birds are prone to circling light sources and may deplete their energy reserves and either die of exhaustion or be forced to land where they are at risk of depredation.

To reduce the risk of disturbance to migratory birds related to human-induced light, ECCC-CWS recommends implementation of the following beneficial management practices:

- The fewest number of site-illuminating light possible should be used in the project area. Only strobe lights should be used at night, at the lowest intensity and smallest number of flashes per minute allowable by Transport Canada.
- Lighting for the safety of the employees should be shielded down and only to where it is needed.
- LED lights should be used instead of other types of light where possible. LED light fixtures are less prone to light trespass (i.e., are better at directing light where it needs to be, and do not bleed light into the surrounding area), and this property reduces the incidence of migratory bird attraction.

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Fuel Leaks

The proponent must ensure that all precautions are taken by the contractors to prevent fuel leaks from equipment, and that a contingency plan in case of oil spills is prepared. Furthermore, the proponent should ensure that contractors are aware that under the MBCA, "*no person shall deposit or permit to be deposited oil, oil wastes or any substance harmful to migratory birds in any waters or any area frequented by migratory birds*." Biodegradable alternatives to petroleum-based chainsaw bar oil and hydraulic for heavy machinery are commonly available from major manufacturers. Such

biodegradable fluids should be considered for use in place of petroleum products whenever possible, as a standard for best practices. Fueling and servicing of equipment should not take place within 30 meters of environmentally sensitive areas, including shorelines and wetlands.

ECCC recommend incorporating a Wildlife Emergency Response Plan into emergency response contingency plans for scenarios that may impact avifauna directly (injury or mortality e.g. polluting incident) or indirectly (collisions causing mortality, stranding due to light attraction).

For consideration in emergency response and contingency planning related to accidents and malfunctions, ECCC has prepared *Guidelines for Effective Wildlife Response Plans* (ECCC 2022) available online at: https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/national-wildlife-emergency-framework.html. Plans should include:

- Measures to deter migratory birds from coming into contact with the oil or polluting substance;
- Measures undertaken if individuals of migratory birds and/or sensitive habitat become contaminated; and,
- The type, extent of monitoring, and reporting in relation to various spill events.

The proponent is responsible for ensuring that all precautions are taken by the contractors to prevent fuel leaks from equipment, and that a contingency plan is prepared in the case of spills. Furthermore, the proponent should ensure that contractors are aware of s.5.1 MBCA prohibitions.

Events involving a polluting substance should be reported to the 24-hour environmental emergencies reporting system: **1-800-565-1633**.

Bird mortality incidents of 10 or more birds in a single event, or an individual species at risk, should be reported via ECCC-CWS Main Office **(506) 364-5044** or via email to SCFATLEvaluationImpact-CWSATLImpactAssessment@ec.gc.ca.

Stockpiles

Certain species of migratory birds (e.g., Bank Swallows) may nest in large piles of soil left unattended/ unvegetated during the most critical period of breeding season (mid-April through late August). To discourage this, the proponent should consider measures to cover or to deter birds from these large piles of unattended soil during the breeding season. If migratory birds take up occupancy of these piles, any industrial activities

(including hydroseeding) will cause disturbance to these migratory birds and inadvertently cause the destruction of nests and eggs. Alternate measures will then need to be taken to reduce potential erosion, and to ensure that nests are protected until chicks have fledged and left the area. For a species such as Bank Swallow, the period when the nests would be considered active would include not only the time when birds are incubating eggs or taking care of flightless chicks, but also a period of time after chicks have learned to fly, because Bank Swallows return to their colony to roost.

For additional information on designing mitigation measures for Bank Swallow, refer to the following guidance: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/related-information/bank-swallow-sandpits-quarries.html.

Invasive Species

Measures to diminish the risk of introducing invasive species should be developed and implemented during all project phases. These measures could include:

- Cleaning and inspecting construction equipment before transport from elsewhere to ensure that no vegetative matter is attached to the machinery (e.g., use of pressure water hose to clean vehicles before transport).
- Regularly inspecting equipment prior to, during and immediately following construction in areas found to support Purple Loosestrife or other invasive species to ensure that vegetative matter is not transported from one construction area to another.

Noise Disturbance

Anthropogenic noise produced by construction and human activity can have multiple impacts on birds, including causing stress responses, avoidance of certain important habitats, changes in foraging behavior and reproductive success, and interference with songs, calls, and communication. Activities that introduce loud and/or random noise into habitats with previously no to little levels of anthropogenic noise are particularly disruptive.

ECCC recommends the following best management practices:

- Develop mitigations for programs that introduce very loud and random noise disturbance (e.g., blasting programs) during the migratory bird breeding season for their region.
- Prioritize construction works in areas away from natural vegetation while working during the migratory bird breeding season. Conducting loud construction works adjacent to natural vegetation should completed outside the migratory bird

breeding season.

- Keep all construction equipment and vehicles in good working order and loud machinery should be muffled.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Stephen Zwicker

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Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada
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NOVA SCOTIA
Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Place
1903 Barrington Street
Suite 2085
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2P8

Date: October 24, 2025

To: Mark McInnis, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Water Branch, Sustainability & Applied Science Division

Subject: **Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia**

Scope of review:

This review focuses on the following mandate: surface water quality and quantity, groundwater quality and quantity, and wetlands.

List of Documents Reviewed:

Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD) Submission, including Drawings and Appendices.

Details of Technical Review:

Surface Water

The EARD identified 40 watercourses within the study area that it determined would require new and/or upgraded watercourse alterations through watercourse alteration approvals. It indicated that watercourses with upgraded watercourse crossings may experience improved hydrology due to the upgrades. It also notes that the implementation of a surface water management plan may be helpful to minimize hydrology impacts, especially as this site crosses a secondary watershed divide.

The EARD stated that indirect impacts due to sedimentation and erosion would be mitigated with best management practices and committed to developing an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan. To further mitigate risks to water bodies and watercourses, the ESC plan should be tailored to site-specific conditions and should include measures to capture any material eroded from disturbed areas before it reaches watercourses in addition to targeting stream banks and minimizing exposed disturbed areas.

The EARD committed to maintaining 30 m vegetated buffers between project elements and watercourses, to the extent possible, as there are several turbines near watercourses on the site. Both spill response plans (for both construction and operation) and ESC plans should take the drainage patterns of these areas as well as their proximity to watercourses into account to help avoid unintended impacts.

The EARD mentions road salting as part of winter maintenance. Streams and wetlands can be sensitive to chloride additions from road salt which can alter ecosystem structure. Risks to streams and wetlands could be mitigated with a salt management plan that would aim to minimize salt application while maintaining safe road surfaces.

The proponent indicated that a Mobile Concrete Batch Plant may be used to supply the concrete needed during the project's construction phase. Details surrounding the plant are not provided.

Groundwater

As identified in the EARD, the project is located in an area of high elevation known as the Mulgrave Plateau. The bedrock in this area, and in which the majority of local drilled wells are completed, is sedimentary rock of the Horton Group and Mabou Group. The plateau is elevated relative to the coastline along the Strait of Canso and the main coastal road, between Pirate Harbour and Sand Point, along which most homeowners are located. The plateau is elevated some 200 m above sea level and there is a steep gradient between the edge of the plateau, down to the coast.

Drainage of the plateau would primarily follow the topography which is described in the EARD as having a declining gradient to the northeast (i.e. discharging at the coast). It should be noted that, as elsewhere in Nova Scotia, groundwater flow will be strongly influenced by surface topography and is also expected to be regionally to the northeast. Thus, the Mulgrave Plateau likely acts as a groundwater recharge area for the surficial and fractured bedrock aquifer wells along the Strait of Canso.

The EARD describe 63 water wells located within 2 km of the Study Area and 15 water wells within 800 metres of the Assessment Area (infrastructure such as turbine locations and connecting roads).

A "pre-blast survey" including water well quantity (well yield determinations) and water chemistry characterization in the area was proposed in the EARD only for those wells within 800 m of the Assessment Area, and only if blasting would be conducted. Blasting is listed as a potential activity to be determined in later design phases.

Wetlands

The EARD identified the potential for direct or indirect wetland alterations to 87 wetlands and 6 potential Wetlands of Special Significance (WSS) due to SAR bird species. The proponent has noted that, "where practical, a potential WSS will be avoided through detailed design".

Wetland delineations were completed by on-the-ground delineations and using a drone in areas not easily accessible. During micrositing and prior to alteration on the ground, delineations and functional assessments will be required. For example, in the proposed right of way (RoW) there appears to be wetland showing up in the wet area modelling between Turbine 4 and 5, and Turbine 5 and 6 which has not been fully delineated.

Wetland functional assessments were completed using two different versions of WESP-AC version 2.0 and 3.3. Version 3.3 is no longer accepted by NSECC due to reference and background errors and wetlands that were assessed using this version will need to be transcribed into the latest version (currently 3.4) as part of their wetland alteration approval application. The latest version is available on the NSECC wetlands webpage.

The EARD provides an overview of wetland mitigations that will be deployed during the construction and monitoring phases of the Project. Further details will be provided within the wetland alteration approval applications.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)

Surface Water

Mitigative measures proposed in the EARD including erosion and sediment control and measures to minimize impacts of altered hydrology would reduce risks to surface waters posed by the project. To further minimize risks, these measures, and aspects of the contingency plan, could be integrated into a holistic site-specific ESC and SWM plans before construction begins.

Groundwater

There is the potential that some private water wells near the proposed project could be affected by water quantity/water chemistry changes that could result from construction and operational activities. As the Assessment Area is quite large and contains over 50 turbines as well as connecting transmission line corridors and connecting roads, a large zone of groundwater recharge in this area has the potential to be impacted.

In order to assess the potential impact of changes in the groundwater recharge area, a baseline water well survey prior to site construction of those 15 wells identified within 800 m of the Assessment Area is recommended, independent of whether blasting is conducted at the site. A baseline water well survey would provide the best means for evaluating potential water chemistry and water quantity changes in local water wells over time.

Wetlands

Additional micrositing should be completed to reduce and avoid additional wetland alteration, to the extent possible, during the detailed design phase. If the project is approved, the proponent should also submit a Wetland Alteration Approval Application for review and approval for any wetlands proposed to be directly or indirectly altered and complete any necessary compensation and monitoring. WESP-AC functional assessments completed using version 3.3 will have to be submitted using version 3.4. The proponent should utilize Nova Scotia's Wetland Alteration Application's Guided Template for the permit applications. Flagging of the wetland boundaries adjacent the construction areas should occur to prevent un-intended wetland alterations.

NOVA SCOTIA
Fisheries and Aquaculture

Armoyan Centre
1800 Argyle Street
Suite 603
Halifax NS B3J 3N8

Date: October 24, 2025

To: Mark McInnis

From: Lesley O'Brien-Latham, Executive Director, Policy and Strategic Advisory Services

Subject: Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County

Scope of review:
The scope of this review follows the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture's legislated mandate to develop, promote and support fishing, aquaculture, seafood processing and sportfishing in Nova Scotia.

List of Documents Reviewed:
- Environmental Assessment Registration Document - Setapuktuk Wind Project
- 23-9204_Setapuktuk_Drawings2.1-3.4.pdf

Details of Technical Review:
Aquaculture:
There are 23 aquaculture sites and one (1) rockweed lease within 25km of the proposed project. Of these: 21 are marine shellfish sites, one (1) is a marine finfish site, and one (1) is a land-based aquaculture facility.

Sediment is likely to be generated during the road construction and site preparation phases. Sediment can cause turbidity in the water column, which can affect the ability of marine plants to obtain adequate sunlight for growth, reducing oxygen levels for both finfish and shellfish. Settling sediment can obstruct feeding and destroy habitat by covering benthic substrates, smothering the benthic habitat, and impacting the nutrients available to shellfish bottom cultures. High turbidity levels can also affect the ability of fish gills to absorb dissolved oxygen. Sediment can house pathogens and undesired microorganisms, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks among aquatic species. The results can range from reduced growth to morbidity.

The Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD) indicates the following mitigations will be taken to reduce sediment (via fugitive dust) including:
- minimizing the footprint of disturbance to the extent practicable;
- conducting grading and site preparation in phases to minimize disturbed soil areas until just prior to construction activities;
- stabilizing exposed soil surfaces by sloping or using vegetation, stone, soil, or geotextiles to prevent dust and airborne particles;
- compacting and/or ridging disturbed soil to prevent dust formation;
- ceasing dust-generating construction activities during dry periods when winds are high

(where practical);
- wetting aggregate and soil stockpiles to control dust;
- designing storage areas and material stockpiles with prevailing wind directions in mind;
- wetting roadways and heavy traffic areas to minimize airborne emissions;
- tie down, cover, and/or store loose site materials and/or products prior to inclement
- weather and wind events to prevent materials from becoming airborne; and
- washing down vehicles and equipment to remove accumulated mud/dirt on undercarriages, tracks, or wheel wells.

These general mitigation measures should help ensure a low risk to aquaculture sites, if applied appropriately.

The applicant should be made aware of the rockweed harvesting and aquaculture operations within the area and ensure mitigations are implemented appropriately. Please refer them to the following link to identify the sites and operators within their area, Site Mapping Tool - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Mitigation measures should be monitored to ensure efficacy, which the EARD indicates is not a planned activity.

The use of existing road networks and siting in previously disturbed areas contributed to minimizing the project's impact to the geologic environment. There could be potential impacts to the groundwater if blasting is required, but only to wells within an 880m radius. The land-based aquaculture operation is outside of that 880m range.

Power outages can cause equipment necessary to support aquaculture operations to become unusable. Changes to water quality or quantity, via withdrawal or discharge, can also be detrimental to aquaculture operations. In both cases these impacts can result in increased stress, decreased health, or even mortality to aquatic animals in the affected operations.

There is no mention of power supply disruption, water withdrawal or water discharge in the EARD. If a power disruption is required during this project, outages should be planned whenever possible and adequate notice should be given. If water withdrawal or discharge are required, the EARD should be updated to include these actions.

Marine Fisheries:
This development appears to pose negligible impacts to DFA's marine fisheries' interests. However, there are a few fishing wharfs within the 25 km area.

There is a community wharf located in Melford in part of the proposed project area at Middle Melford. The Melford wharf is also used by commercial lobster fishers to dock and maintain their vessels. There is commercial fishing in the adjacent waters in Lobster Fishing Area 29. The Melford wharf also serves as commercial buying stations for lobster.

There is also a wharf north by northwest in Mulgrave, approximately 12 km away. The wharf is operated by the Mulgrave Port Authority and is used by commercial and Federal government vessels including the Canadian Coast Guard and Fisheries and Oceans. Clearwater Fine Foods also dock their offshore Clam fleet there and use the wharf as an

unloading station and to service and maintain their vessels.

Lastly the wharf in Auld's Cove serves as a lobster station and is approximately 20 kms to the north/northwest of the proposed project. The wharf is a privately owned facility with a fish buying station and potential lobster processing activity.

The seasonal commercial lobster fishery opens in the spring (end of April to June). The buying station located at the community wharf is also seasonal and operates simultaneously to the Lobster fishery.

While these nearby activities are noted for awareness, the proposed project is not anticipated to affect any of the local commercial marine fishery's activities located adjacent to the project area.

Inland Fisheries:
Proponent used several means to evaluate fish habitat including drone and GIS modeling, field and watercourse assessments, and electrofishing while classifying watercourses into four (4) categories based on stream width. Electrofishing surveys were conducted in July 2023, for fish presence and relative abundance.

In assessing any potential impacts to fish habitat and the inland fishery, the Department notes that the water temperature, pH, and DO (dissolved oxygen) all seem in the range that would be considered suitable for salmonids and the proponent identified prevalence of Brook Trout and Brown Trout, both important species to the recreational fishery.

Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)
The EARD includes general mitigation measures that should help ensure a low risk to aquaculture sites from sediments, if applied appropriately.

The applicant should be made aware of the aquaculture operations within the area and monitor to ensure mitigations are implemented appropriately. If power disruptions, water withdrawal, or water discharge are going to occur, the applicant should update their plan and provide appropriate mitigations for review and inform nearby aquaculture operators and rockweed harvester.

The proposed project should not affect any of the local commercial marine fishery's activities located adjacent to the project area. The proposed project should also not present any significant navigational hazards where the commercial fishery takes place.

The proposed project involves the construction of 40 watercourse crossing upgrades and new culverts/bridges. Of note, St Francis Harbour River is a Special Trout Management Area of significant importance to the recreational fishery of the area.
To minimize potential impacts to fish habitat and the recreational fishery the proponent must ensure the Department of Environment and Climate Change's watercourse alteration guidelines and regulations are followed.

Project proponent should also be made aware of:
- the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act,
- Provincial Aquaculture License and Lease Regulations,

- Provincial Aquaculture Management Regulations,
- the Nova Scotia Rock Weed Harvesting Regulations, and
- the Department's Site Mapping Tool for information on the location of sites and leases in the area of their proposed project.

Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative
Our Rights. Our Future.

75 Treaty Trail
Truro, NS B6L 1W3

Tel (902) 843 3880 **Fax** (902) 843 3882
Toll Free 1 888 803 3880
Email info@mikmaqrights.com
www.mikmaqrights.com

November 10, 2025

Mark McInnis
Environmental Assessment Officer
Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, EA Branch
E-mail : mark.mcinnis@novascotia.ca

Mr. McInnis,

Re: Consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on the Setapuktuk Wind Project, Guysborough County, NS

I write in response to your letter dated on October 2, 2025, with respect to consultation under the *Terms of Reference for a Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Process* (ToR) as ratified on August 31, 2010, on the above noted project. We wish to proceed with Consultation.

The Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn (KMK) would like to acknowledge EverWind NS Holdings Ltd. with their level of engagement completed to date with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the equity partnerships built with the local Mi'kmaw Communities. While this type of engagement and partnerships being built is preferred, these engagement efforts do not replace the Crown's Duty to Consult with the Mi'kmaq.

The Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) shows a high level of historical and presumed continued use in the Study Area of this project. Moose and beaver are species found in the Study Area and it is our expectation that Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NS-ECC) will ensure that species significant to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia will not be impacted.

Industrial activity within moose habitat must be approached with caution and mitigated responsibly. Continued cumulative development including wind energy projects, forestry, mining, agriculture, and road construction, risk long-term and potentially irreversible impacts. These potentially include water degradation and the immediate and future loss of secure habitat and safe food sources. It is our understanding that this area is also under consideration for High Production Forestry activities. The cumulative impacts for all industry activity in this area must be considered as multiple projects continue to be proposed and approved in the Guysborough County area.

Mainland moose alter their movement patterns in response to sensory disturbances. Wind projects significantly reduce biodiversity within a 200-meter buffer zone. These impacted areas

force moose into narrow corridors, increasing their vulnerability to disease and mortality as other species exceed the carrying capacity of these confined spaces.

While all species deserve to coexist in balance, the invasive nature of human activity has made harmony within our forests increasingly difficult. As our demands on these ecosystems intensify, so too does the stress on wildlife and the environment. Greater consideration must be given to the forest's original inhabitants those who rely on its integrity for survival.

Mainland moose populations are declining at an alarming rate. With the moratorium on harvesting moose in place in the Cape Breton Highlands, sustained efforts are needed to protect the remaining population in Mainland Nova Scotia for the next seven generations of harvesters and beyond.

The Environmental Assessment has identified lichens in this Study Area. The importance of lichens to our environment can not be limited to just one value. Lichens in general can provide us with very valuable information about our surrounding environment. Ie. Some lichens can only be present in areas of low pollution, others can inhabit areas of moderate to high pollution converting that atmosphere into a healthier, more sustainable one. Lichens also hold a strong value within the Mi'kmaw nation in Nova Scotia. Through research, multiple words have been identified in the Mi'kmaw language to reference lichens proving their importance to Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. Further, traditional use of various lichens has been documented and noted to medicinal and ceremonial. Any changes to habitat supporting endangered lichens should be done with full collaboration of the Mi'kmaw.

KMK's Archaeology Research Department (ARD) has reviewed the SETAPUKTUK WIND PROJECT Environmental Assessment (EA) Registration document, particularly Section 9 (Archaeological Resources) of the EARD located on Pages 316-320, the Wind Farm 1 Middle Melford MEKS, and two ARIAs (A2023NS229 and A2024NS010) conducted by Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc.

This proposed wind turbine farm includes 54 wind turbines, road upgrades, and additional infrastructure such as operations buildings, temporary laydown yards and six (6) kms of transmission lines. The project is located predominately on 623 hectares of crown land that will be impacted by construction activities, and 273 hectares of the total area designed as permanent features within the project footprint.

We would like to emphasize that this is an extensive project, and exhibits impacts within a landscape that has an underdeveloped record of Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage. Not only because of its association to the Strait of Canso as a documented route of travel and place where

resources are abundant, but also, its association to historic Mi'kmaw hunting territory. As described in the MEKS (Wind Farm 1 MEKS, December 2024) the following describes,

"The hunting territories of the mainland Nova Scotia were numerous compact interior territories that encompassed the watersheds of interior lakes and rivers as Mi'kmaq did most their game hunting during colder months of the year when they moved inland from the summer coastal camps. . .Cape Breton Island Mi'kmaq hunting territories are larger and more regional, encompassing saltwater coastal shorelines and interior river systems" (Wind Farm 1 Middle Medford MEKS, December 2024: 28).

The two ARIAs (A2023NS229 and A2024NS010) conducted by Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc. included background research, field reconnaissance, and offered recommendations. The results of both ARIAs identified 20 high potential areas (HPAs) for encountering archaeological resources. We support the recommendations that these areas be subjected to subsurface testing should they be unavoidable. It is our understanding that an additional ARIA will be forthcoming. Please provide our office with this ARIA for review and comment when it becomes available.

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs expects a high level of archaeological diligence with evidence-based decisions grounded in an understanding of the subsurface environmental data. The Maw-lukutijik Saqmaq (Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs) expects subsurface data, adequate to eliminate concern for presence, protection, and management of Mi'kmaw archaeological and cultural heritage as part of assessment of potential in advance of any development. It is strongly recommended all proposed disturbances or impact areas within the Setapuktuk Wind Project study area be subjected to subsurface testing.

The project is situated in a poorly documented landscape and any physical impacts to land, regardless of what might be considered minimal, have the potential to damage or disturb buried cultural remains. Any impact to Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage, including lack of detection, loss, or disturbance, has the potential to negatively impact Mi'kmaw Rights and Title.

KMK does not represent the communities of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations. Please contact Senior Mi'kmaq Energy & Mines Advisor at KMK, with any questions.

Yours in Recognition of Mi'kmaw Rights and Title,

Director of Consultation
Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn

Kwilmu’kw Maw’klusuaqn
, Kwilmu’kw Maw’klusuaqn
Candace Quinn, Nova Scotia Office of L’nu Affairs
Doreen Mackley, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division
Marc Theriault, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division
Sarah Jadot, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division
Matt Schumacher, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division
Megan Lesko, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division
Cynthia Steele, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

Submission ID	Submission date	Submission status
62fd5af8	06/10/2025 19:28	PROCESSED

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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

I can't imagine altering (which really means destroying) 80 wetlands in one application. One of the natural benefits from wind farms is their being on high points of land where generally you won't find wetlands. Being somewhat familiar with the area surely there are other spots that don't involve 80 wetlands? We are not moving forward if it requires stepping back in another area entirely. This tells industry that we are not just open for business but that we have no standards either.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Berwick

Postal Code

B0P 1E0

Attachment(s):

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Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

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34e2f35e	08/10/2025 08:18	PROCESSED

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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

As a resident of Manchester, I am completely opposed to this wind project.
First, I am appalled that the turbines will add nothing to the NS electrical grid and will not help us reduce our reliance on coal.
Secondly, I challenge the use of the term "green hydrogen" when there is nothing green about this project at all. The production and shipment of toxic ammonia near waterways is problematic; the energy costs of conversion and shipment of ammonia contradict the claim to a "green" label.
Finally, I am most concerned about this admission in the Everwind proposal: "the project would cause some fish habitat loss, alterations to more than 80 wetlands, and it could cause the loss of some plant and lichen species that are designated as "at risk" or of "conservation interest."

At a time when climate change is already presenting overwhelming challenges, we should not be entertaining anything that further threatens our natural environment, puts species at risk, and does not reduce our reliance on coal.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Marshall Point

Postal Code

B0H 1G0

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Submission ID	Submission date	Submission status
8a8da26a	16/10/2025 14:03	PROCESSED

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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

The Proponent's application document indicates the construction of a 6 km 345kV transmission line which is NOT to be connected to the provincial grid.
As such, there is an absence of "provincial governing" certainty as to the conformity of the proposed line structures with regard to regionally acceptable design standards or alignment with unique local (icing) conditions.
The submitted document appears to lack any such related technical specifications or references regarding the line structure profiles or design criteria/standards.
Similar past Provincial environmental assessment applications, involving 345kV transmission, have provided this type/level of information.
As this line traverses Crown Land, it is suggested that the Minister gain a level of

understanding and acceptance, regarding the proposed line design parameters, prior to granting full approval of the Proponent's application.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Halifax

Postal Code

B3Z 1K3

Attachment(s):

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Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

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Submission ID	Submission date	Submission status
fcf588e7	22/10/2025 11:32	PROCESSED

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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

While renewable energy is an important part of addressing the climate crisis, not all so called "green" projects are created equal, and the Setapuktuk Wind Project, as currently proposed, raises serious concerns for our environment, local communities, and long-term public benefit.
Unlike EverWind's Phase 1 projects, which, I understand does connect to the Nova Scotia Power grid and contribute at least a little bit to local energy supply, my understanding is that the Setapuktuk project is designed solely for export. Wind energy captured here will be used to produce hydrogen and ammonia for foreign markets, not for Nova Scotians. This fundamental difference shifts the project from a local clean energy initiative to a private industrial export operation, with local people and ecosystems shouldering the burden.
The scale and density of the project are particularly troubling. With 54 turbines, the

Setapuktuk project has a very dense footprint.
The environmental risks are substantial. The project area spans over 8,880 hectares and involves altering or disturbing 87 wetlands. We are already grappling with the visible impacts of climate change. Droughts this past summer and now continuing into the fall, have left rivers dry, lake levels dangerously low, and wells drying up. When fresh water becomes as scarce and vulnerable as we are now experiencing, how can we justify clearing large tracts of land, blasting rock for turbine bases, and disrupting sensitive watershed ecosystems? Nova Scotians are being asked to accept substantial environmental degradation, while receiving no direct energy benefit in return. Our natural resources, communities, and watersheds are not simply commodities to be exploited for global markets under the banner of "green" development.
Real sustainability means weighing all costs: ecological, social, and economic, and ensuring that local people see real, tangible benefits. This project, as proposed, does not meet that standard. Thank you for reading my concerns.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Sutherlands River

Postal Code

B0K 1W0

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or choose file to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

Please note:

By submitting your comments, you are consenting to the posting of your comments on the department's website.

Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

Uploaded document(s)

No documents to display.

From:
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Setaputtuk Wind Project
Date: November 4, 2025 11:40:57 AM

Good Day,

The purpose of this email is to show my support for the Setaputtuk Wind Project.
I believe this project will be a huge boost for Guysborough County and beyond. The benefits that this project offers such as job opportunities, tax revenues and general growth are greatly needed going forward. This Renewable Energy Project is also important for the future development in energy production for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Regards

(https://novascotia.ca/)

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6f3570df	06/11/2025 10:50	PROCESSED

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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

The Setapuktuk Windfarm Project is another critical step in advancing meaningful advances in renewable energy development and Nova Scotia and Canada's response to Climate Change.
EverWind have had meaningful engagement with local landowners, residents and local elected officials.
EverWind have gathered feedback and adjusted development plans to minimize concerns arising from their consultations.
The Setapuktuk Windfarm will make a meaningful contribution to local communities in proximity to the development, the local Municipality and more broadly to the Province of Nova Scotia.
The project will also comprise a critical component of EverWind's aspirations to become a

Canadian leader in the production of Hydrogen.
I support EverWind's application for the Setapuktuk Wind Project.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Guysborough

Postal Code

B0H 1N0

Attachment(s):

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Please note:

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

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From:
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Cc: Green Nova Scotia First GNSF
Subject: Green Nova Scotia First - Protest Submission to Setapuktuk Wind Project
Date: November 7, 2025 2:12:42 PM

Protest Submission to EA for Setapuktuk Wind Turbine Project - a 432 Megawatt project with 54 Turbines. Each turbine - 221.7 metres and producing 8MW
Green Nova Scotia First is a group of concerned Nova Scotian citizens that has a collective vision and strategy to encourage sustainable, locally driven community and economic development. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.

Green Nova Scotia First supports the development of wind energy projects in Nova Scotia *provided* the government—Municipal, Provincial, and Federal—*fully* addresses and completes certain obligations :
1. **Before exporting** hydrogen or ammonia, we should eliminate our dependence on coal and fossil fuels for energizing our grid.
2. **Better manage** our forests, soils, and water through a provincial Landscape-Level Planning strategy.
3. **Better protect** Nova Scotia's rich biodiversity and abundant ecosystems through an improved Environmental Assessment process.
4. **Ensure** currently proposed industrial energy projects prioritize ecological and community resilience in the face of climate and biodiversity crises.

Given that these concerns are not being properly addressed, Green Nova Scotia First has made the decision to no longer comment on individual Wind Turbine projects. Our experience from our past engagement with EAs has seen that the process is rigged towards the proponent and does not have real public engagement.

Environmental Assessment modernization project Oct 2023.
We submitted our detailed comments regarding the EA process to the Environmental Assessment modernization project in Oct 2023.
Our submission focused on how the EA process should be revised to be more balanced, inclusive, informed and meaningful. Communities and civil society must have more rights than just commenting. They must be respected and listened too.

The single most important update to the EA process world be for it to require consent of affected communities. Meaningful public participation is the first step towards reaching consent. It must bring all impacted parties into the process. "Open Houses" as an engagement technique must be replaced with town halls, and other working meeting events between proponents and communities. This dialogue should continue over the life of the project.
It is urgent for Nova Scotia to create a province-wide land and water use plan to guide communities and proponents in assessing projects and in decision making.

We had hoped our submission would contribute to effective change of public policy and

practice in Nova Scotia to ensure the health of our ecosystems and communities.

Environmental Assessment Amended Regulations May 2025
In May 2025 when the Environmental Assessment Regulations were amended we did not see any significant improvements recommended. One small example, the consultation period for the public was not extended to 60 days as was requested by many respondents. The main focus of the recommendations was about speeding up the process and was still geared to the proponent. Any "green energy" or "climate change" claims were merrily green washing.

Many of the underlining issues we identified with the current EA process are systemic and cannot be solved with small tweaks and updates. The EA process needs transformative change, done in a meaningful way that with properly prioritize long- term environmental, social and economic well-being. We need to create and implement a system that goes beyond minimizing harms to the environment; we need approved projects that will provide a net benefit to the environment and do so through a justice oriented and anti-oppressive lens. A new process would be based on a recognition that we live in a degraded environment that cannot withstand more devastation. We have seen no indication from the Province that they are ready or committed to going in a meaningful new direction for the whole of the EA process.

For these reasons, we will no longer be participating in individual project Environmental Assessments. Sadly, it is waste of our time.

Green Nova Scotia First - What can we do !
What we are planning to do is to monitor the activities of the Setapuktuk wind project and other wind projects and communicate our concerns directly to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) and the Minister of Natural Resources. Our group is also willing to meet with NSECC to have meaningful dialogue to help NSECC see how the EA system is truly failing Nova Scotians. We will also continue to educate Nova Scotians about these issues via social media, press releases, our website and to engage with the local communities effected.

Submitted by Green Nova Scotia First www.greennovascotiafirst.ca
info@greennovascotiafirst.ca

Municipality of the District of Guysborough

Office of the Warden

Engagement Coordinator
EverWind Fuels

November 7, 2025

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT – EVERWIND SETAPUKTUK WIND PROJECT

On behalf of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG), it is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the EverWind Setapuktuk Wind Project.

EverWind Fuel's onshore wind developments planned in MODG will provide significant socio-economic benefits for the Municipality and surrounding areas, including direct and indirect jobs, community benefit agreements, growing the GDP in Nova Scotia, and provide long-term Municipal Taxation revenues.

EverWind has held numerous open house events in MODG for this project and has established an effective Community Liaison Committee to engage with residents and work through concerns that are brought forward throughout the design process of the Setapuktuk Wind Project.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support for EverWind Fuels. If you require further information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Warden Paul Long

33 Pleasant Street, PO Box 79, Guysborough, Nova Scotia, Canada B0H 1N0
tel: 902.533.3705/3508 fax: 902.533.2749 www.modg.ca

(https://novascotia.ca/)

Submission ID	Submission date	Submission status
adee6547	12/11/2025 09:29	PROCESSED

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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

Without infrastructure projects like this , we will continue to have an exodus of youth from our area . I'm hoping for my children as well as others to have better employment opportunities and be able to live in our area or at least The Province .
If this works towards a greener Grid and lower rates I'm in! NS Gov quit dragging and Action!

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Havre Boucher NS

Postal Code

B0H 1PO

Attachment(s):

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Maximum number of files allowed: 10

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2253a2a3	12/11/2025 09:49	PROCESSED

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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

attached

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Port Shoreham

Postal Code

B0H 1G0

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or choose file to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

Wind Farm #1 EA Comments.docx 1.9 MB

Remaining No of Files : 9

Please note:

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

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Total Documents: 1

Wind Farm #1 EA Comments.docx (/Admin/View-Document/941013f0-4cc3-435c-867f-dc16b61c6e0e/d11dc395-0d4b-433d-ae1d-53d5ce8903f5)

Comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) Registration Document September 26, 2025
Wind Farm #1 Phase 2
EverWind (EW) NS Holdings Ltd. & Membertou Development Corporation Project # 23-9204

Summary Highlights

Guysborough County has the largest percentage of Crown land in a sparsely populated portion of the province. Guysborough County is essentially the sacrificial lamb to a litany of renewable energy and resource projects currently proposed for the offshore and onshore. Local folks are cynical in that their concerns and questions will go unanswered even if they are raised. Please ensure the proponent answers all questions. Discrepancies and areas of uncertainty highlighted in these comments should be addressed to ensure clarity and accuracy in the Environmental Assessment Registration Document.

It is the conditions for approval for the Wind Farm #1 project that will be critical. As an equity partner in the Project, what role will the First Nations have in the project. Will the Membertou, Paq'tnkek, and Potlotek band's equity position ensure their commitment to include the provision of Indigenous-led conservation approaches based on their role as land protectors, ensuring environmental integrity is guided by Mi'kmaq values, and integrating land stewardship ethics throughout the project's lifecycle? Will this partnership include the establishment of environmental management practices that align with Mi'kmaq goals above and beyond those required by the reviewing government agencies for the security of the impacted communities, ensuring the project's development is consistent with their objectives for the land. By embedding Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship into the project, the partnership provides the impacted communities with some assurance that their land is not being sacrificed and is being managed in a way that is environmentally sustainable.

Do any of the litany of specialists that review these projects live in an area that will be impacted by the unprecedented numbers of turbines proposed? If so, we ask you to carefully review the noise modelling, the current format and utility of the Community Liaison Committee, the potential bat and avian mortality numbers, the lack of volunteer monitoring programs during the construction phase, and the impact to traffic and electrical disruption also during the construction phase. Once a turbine is erected there is no going back. However, the use of Smart curtailment can go a long way to mitigate some of the impacts.

Very few dispute that there has been a change in climate, the geologic record has recorded this cyclical change over hundreds of thousands of years. My first job after graduation from Dalhousie was looking at the shifts and reversals in the poles over hundreds of years from the Mid-Atlantic ridge basalts. Lest we forget, EverWind Fuels is essentially and first most a fossil fuels transhipment station and the proposed renewable energy projects will help offset their own carbon footprint.

In the EA document the communities of Boylston, Manassette Lake and Port Shoreham are not acknowledged up front as communities that will be heavily impacted by the construction and operation of the project in terms of the transportation of turbines parts along Highway 344 and the Middletown Rd. system on the Boylston end. EverWind has in part committed to Proximity

payments to nearby residences to offset the sacrifice that will be borne by nearby residences. The lack of acknowledgement of these communities in the EA demonstrates the lack of knowledge of the local terrain and by ignoring the communities significance, it may impact the chance to secure proximity payments. EW also proposes to, in part compensate the local communities through monies from a Community Benefit Agreement. The disbursement of said funds is proposed to be led by the established Community Liaison Committee which in its current form is dysfunctional as detailed in this submission. So, this acknowledgement is critical. If an accompanying addendum could be added to the EA by the proponent acknowledging this, it will be greatly appreciated.

It is the cumulative effect of all proposed wind turbines in the area(54(EW)+24(PHP)+24(Green Current, +? Afton) that adds concern. This turbine farm will provide renewable energy to a hydrogen ammonia project that currently does not have secure offtakes for the product in Europe. Any mention of the use of hydrogen in Nova Scotia would be far into the future if and when the infrastructure would even be built. What will EverWind do with this proposed farm if the hydrogen/ammonia plans do not proceed? As claimed the proponent does not meet the requirement for green hydrogen in Europe. Detailed analysis in support of this of this statement may be found at https://getgreenright.ca.

There are a couple of international and national circumstances that are having impact on the project. Given the tariff wars with China there is a potential for the chosen Goldwind GWH182-8.0 wind turbine to be subject to tariffs. Canada has a 25% surtax on certain steel and aluminum goods originating from China. Wind towers and sections made from this material are subject to this tariff. These tariffs on raw materials like steel and aluminum will increase the cost of the final product. The choice of the Chinese turbines may not economically warrant purchase. If the model and size changes what provisions are in place to redo all modelling and impacts, If the size of the turbines is decreased the numbers of turbines will increase and hence the impact will go up and extend further beyond the current LAA. All modelling will have to be rerun and these results should be made public.

EverWind proposes to use curtailment for certain turbines to mitigate the effects of avian and bat mortality levels and noise and flicker levels that will surpass regulated targets. Is curtailment confirmed or just a proposed mitigation measure. What is EverWind's vision of curtailment? Smart curtailment known as acoustically triggered curtailment (ATC) using EchoPITCH combines bat activity with seasonal and meteorological inputs to create a more defined set of curtailment parameters. This allows operators to customize the cut-in wind speed for their turbines. By tailoring curtailment strategies to local conditions and bat activity patterns, turbine operations can increase while achieving targeted reductions in risk to bats. Smart wind curtailment effectively mitigates shadow flicker and noise by using **real-time data and predictive modeling** to temporarily adjust or pause individual turbines, ensuring environmental limits are met while minimizing energy production loss. Across all scenarios, smart curtailment reduced energy and financial losses by 20–40% compared to blanket curtailment, highlighting the benefits of using meteorological and behavioral triggers. These findings provide practical insights for minimizing energy loss while supporting conservation goals." (Investigation on the Impacts of Smart Curtailment for Bat Fatality Mitigation in Alberta" 29th Sept., 2025 https://doi.org/10.5194/wes-2025-164). As noted, Smart Curtailment is also available for shadow flicker and noise.

Although the EA notes the objectives of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), as summarized below, with exception of a few members, the committee to date does not have terms of reference to conduct community engagement and it has not been proactive in receiving and reaching out to the community for concerns. Without a summary of the committee meetings, it is unclear that all our concerns are being raised at the meetings held to date. As of writing of these comments the EverWind website specific to the project is not up to date and does not contain the minutes of past meetings. https://guysboroughwind.ca. In its current form the CLC does not represent a viable avenue for project concerns and feedback.

The objectives of the Community Liaison Committee are: 1) Provide a platform for ongoing dialogue between the community and EWF. 2)Share project updates, timelines, and any relevant information. 3)Find solutions and incorporate community input, feedback, and questions regarding the wind farm project.

Although various plans and monitoring activities have been promised to be developed, this EA calls out those plans that are deemed of priority. It is critical that these plans be made available at various locations within the affected communities and advertised as to where one may find them.

- Traffic Management Plan to include the routes that all turbine components will take.
- Complaint Resolution Plan
- Curtailment Plan details

The community requests the following additional items be added as conditions for EA approval;

- Surface Water Runoff Modeling.
- Property Assessment Values monitored before, during and after construction and continuing through the life of the operation.
- Terms of Reference beyond the stated Objectives for a Community Liaison Committee that includes a proactive problem-solving matrix, defined feedback loops, regular reporting mechanisms, clear protocols for public engagement and conflict resolution, that will require formal consideration by EverWind.
- Detailed Baseline Water quality analysis.

The following comments are organized by section as it appears chronologically in the EverWind EA. The majority of this respondents comments concentrate on those turbines T49 to T54 on the western and southern side of the project footprint affecting the communities of Port Shoreham and Manassette Lake. To highlight, as of this submission, by the consultants own admission, these areas have not been assessed to the level that other turbine locations have.

EverWind NS Holdings Ltd. & Membertou Development Corporation Project # 23-9204
Executive Summary page I

"EverWind NS Holdings Ltd. (EverWind) and Membertou Development Corporation (together as the "Proponents") are proposing to construct and operate the Setapuktuk Wind Project (the Project) near the communities of Pirate Harbour, Middle Melford, Sand Point, Hadleyville, and Manchester, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia". Issue: Lack of acknowledgment of affected communities.

As highlighted above in the summary, please acknowledge in this statement that the communities of Port Shoreham, Manassette Lake and Boylston will be affected by the project. The turbines are anticipated to access newly upgraded dirt roads in the Manchester and Boylston area and the western/ southwestern end of the project will have direct effects to the aforementioned communities.

"The Project is an onshore wind farm consisting of 54 proposed wind turbines, access roads (44 km of new roads." Issue: Water quality during construction.

New road construction in the vicinity of T50 to T53 will impact surface waterways and the groundwater springs that feed downhill permanent and seasonal residents on MacPherson Lake the majority of which source their water from the lake. The area around the lake is experiencing significant and sustained property value growth. No baseline water quality analysis was undertaken for this area.

Water runs downhill please model potential groundwater and surface water runoff for construction of the new road and turbines in the area of the aforementioned turbine locations. The lake is fed in part from a stream system coming from the T51 area and from underground springs to the north and northeast. Please ensure a site-specific monitoring and baseline water quality analysis is undertaken.

Section 2.0 Project Information
Section 2.2 Purpose and Need for the Project page 3
As part of the Clean Power Plan released in fall 2023, the Government of Nova Scotia set targets for producing 80% renewable energy by 2030 and cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced from electricity by 90%. The development of wind energy is expected to be a significant part of achieving these goals. The Project has been proposed in support of this renewable energy target.

This phase of the EverWind's farm development (Wind Farm #1) is NOT connected to the grid and therefore will NOT contribute to lowering the green house gases for Nova Scotia's renewable targets. Any reference in the EA that this project has any contribution to reducing N.S greenhouse gases is disingenuous. Windy Ridge, Bear Lake, and Kmtnuk farms Phase 1 of EverWind will be connected to the N.S. Grid and EverWind has committed up to 650MW when warranted.

Page 6 Table 2.2: Provincial Regulatory Requirements
"Use of Crown lands NSNR- In 2022, EverWind was granted exclusivity on Crown Lands – the Setapuktuk Wind Project falls within the awarded Crown lands. Crown land lease application submitted May 2023 (NSNR File 5447937)". Issue: Crown land use exclusivity for renewable energy potentially precluding existing mineral rights on Crown lands.

Commented [KM1]: Get a copy

How will the exclusivity grant for renewable energy on Crown land affect existing mineral rights holders? Wind turbine footprints and recommended setbacks could hinder mine development. If significant critical minerals or gold are discovered or located on mineral leases that overlap proposed wind turbine sites, what is the proposed resolution process? It is recommended that all Crown lands with potential mineral conflicts be reviewed to identify these potential critical resources."

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING

3.1.1.1 Residential Dwellings ***Page 11***

The Environmental Assessment Supplemental Checklist: Wind Energy Projects (NSECC, 2025c) requires:

a) Modeling to show that operational noise at permanent and seasonal receptors [within 2 kilometres (km)] will not exceed 40 dBA.

b) Modelling to show that shadow flicker will not exceed 30 minutes per day or 30 hours per year at any permanent or seasonal receptor within 2 km of the project.

"Camp" means a recreational shelter typically used for weekend or short-term activities such as hunting, fishing, or snowmobiling, which is not intended for regular human occupation or living.

As required by the NSECC, all residential dwellings and camps within a 2 km radius of any wind turbine are included in the sound and shadow flicker studies. Consistent with the MRPP, compliance with sound and shadow thresholds are only considered a requirement for residential dwellings.

Please confirm that seasonal cottages will not qualify for sound and shadow flicker thresholds should the modelling prove inaccurate to the 2.5 km distance, the sound model used is good for 1 km not 2.5 km as will be demonstrated below in the Noise section.

3.3 Physical Components

3.3.2 Road Layout page 13

"Highway 344 (Marine Drive; between the communities of Pirate Harbour and Port Shoreham) is the main arterial road that grants access to most of the Project Footprint. A vast network of smaller spur roads and trails suited for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and/or snowmobile use are present throughout much of the Study Area and may require upgrades to facilitate the transportation of turbine components".

In fact, Highway 344 runs to the intersection of highway 16 south and it is in the community of Boylston that the Middletown Rd. intersects the 344 in Boylston. The Department of Transportation has been and continues to be upgraded to accommodate transportation of the wind turbine components along this road.

Transportation of Turbine Components, Equipment and Materials page 17

"Macpherson Lake Road also provides access to the southern part of the Study Area, beginning at Highway 344 and eventually intersects an access road running north into the Study Area (Drawing 2.1)".

MacPherson Lake Road is a well travelled and busy road with increases in traffic numbers in the summer, if the proponent were to opt for this access, it would require a considerable expense to take the numerous curves out of the road along the Nerissa Road section which is the route to access this southern portion of the project area. A better option would be to upgrade the

Old Welsh Rd. that comes off of the 344. → **"Primary access routes during the operational lifespan of the Project are expected to be Middletown Road, Pirate Harbour Road, Goose Harbour Lake Road, and Old Welsh Road, and the existing network of smaller access roads (page 18").** Secondly and more significantly, there would be considerable opposition and push back from the residences along this road should the proponent opt for this access point.

Page 18 "The transportation route to deliver turbine components to the Project is subject to the final turbine technology provider, who will undertake a comprehensive logistics study to determine the transportation route from the receiving and unloading port. The public road portion of the transportation route is expected to require road modifications to provide access to the Study Area. In Guysborough County, this is limited to modifications and upgrades to existing unpaved roads that exit from Highway 344 to allow larger truck traffic to turn off the main road and to travel on the Project's gravel access roads".

Page 19

"The transportation route is expected to require road modifications, including the removal of signage and guardrails. Upgrades will also be made to roads and overhead wires, branches, and signs if conflicts arise. Bridges may be upgraded to increase allowable weight limits or temporary bridges built over existing bridges. Notices will be installed in public areas to inform residents of signage removal or road infrastructure alterations, as well as notify relevant municipal government staff of construction scheduling and safety measures".

Needless to say, the above paragraphs demonstrate what will be a major interruption to the communities affected by the construction of the 54-82 wind turbine farm. A comprehensive transportation and traffic plan not only needs to be undertaken but should be presented at an open public meeting and copies of the plan made available online, at the municipal offices and local community halls. Any power interruptions will require well in advance notification to affected communities.

Confirm that these upgrades will be at the expense of the Proponent EverWind not the local budget of the department of transportation.

3.3.3 Substation, Power Collection Systems, and Transmission page 14

"The medium-voltage electrical cabling will be overhead with the exception of the first approximately 100 m from each turbine, which will run underground".

Have these lines been factored into the avian and bat mortality studies and why hasn't a drawing of how these lines will connect to the substation been provided? How far are off the ground are these lines, hub height?

3.3.8 Borrow Pits page 15

"During construction, aggregate material for road construction may be produced from borrow pits located within the Assessment Area. All borrow pits are expected to be under 4 ha and not require an EA. Should any borrow pit be over 2 ha, an industrial approval would be obtained, as required".

Define borrow pits. There are several private aggregate pits and quarries in the area, please provide a map of existing quarries and pits that have potential to supply aggregate needs without further borrow pitting or in reality quarry development.

3.4.2 Operations & Maintenance – page 20

"In addition to mechanical clearing (mowing, brush cutting, and trimming), selective and localized application of approved herbicides may be required to manage vegetation along the transmission line".

Will the use of herbicides also be used on the power lines that connect each turbine to the substation? Will this be aerial spraying? What notification of the application of herbicides will be given to nearby communities.

3.4.3 Decommissioning page 21

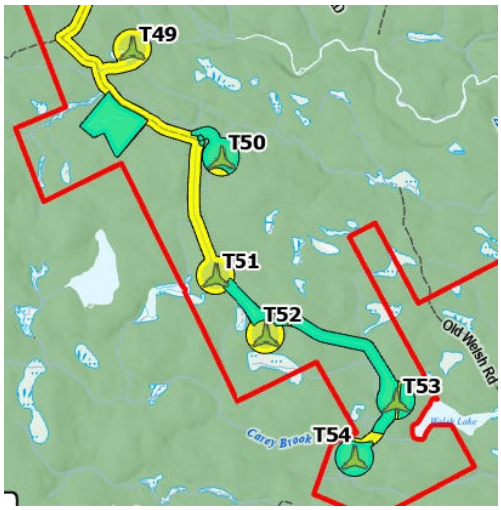
A decommissioning bond will be put in place within five years of the commercial operation date of the first turbine to cover costs of decommissioning.

The bond should be in place upfront as is required for the mining sector in this province**.** Posting a bond 5 years into the project leaves the taxpayer on the line for reclamation costs should circumstances arise that prevents the project from continuing.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

4.7.2 Biophysical Assessment Components and Timing Page 27

"Areas to be assessed during future surveys are primarily related to minor shifts in turbine and road placement, as well as the addition of temporary laydown areas (Drawing 4.1). The Proponent commits to the completion of assessments in the remaining areas prior to the commencement of Project activities in those areas".



Drawing 4.1 Remaining areas to be assessed.

The turbines from T50 to T53 have not been assessed and it is these turbines that will impact the eastern part of the residential and cottage development on MacPherson Lake. These assessments will be conducted outside the EA approval and will not be available for the public to review. Provide a clear timeline or plan for completing these assessments. The following sections in the EA are

missing and as highlighted below and are assumed not to be assessed at this point. Only one of the pictured turbines had been moved from prior renditions, T54!

Field Assessment Drawings noted as Field results in the legend found in 7.16A-7.16N
The drawing lacks information for flora, fish and fauna etc. in the area of T2-T54 please confirm that the area was truly assessed or is it part of the areas that still have to be assessed.

Breeding Birds Drawing 7.30A Appendix 7.23-7.30B
Confirm that breeding birds were not found in locations T50 to T54. Or this an incomplete field assessment in the area of T52-T54 as noted above

Spring Migration Point County Surveys Drawing 7.30B Appendix 7.23-7.30B
Once again confirm that spring migratory birds were not observed at these locations or is this part of an incomplete field assessment survey for T52-T54 as noted once again above.

Fall Migration Point Count Surveys Drawing 7.30C Appendix 7.30C-7.31D
No data for the location T52-T54**.** If these locations were not chosen for monitoring, why and will the proponent complete these surveys prior to construction and make them public.

Winter Point Count Surveys Drawing 7.30E Appendix 7.30C-7.31D
No apparent data for T50 to T54

5.0 MI'KMAQ OF NOVA SCOTIA page 29
The EA indicates that all First Nation bands in Nova Scotia were contacted by EverWind representatives either by mail and/or in person and they did attend and reach out to consult with various bands. 3 of the 13 First Nations bands in Nova Scotia are participating in this wind farm. The EA indicates that none of the other 10 bands provided feedback of any significance, at least in the public purview.

5.1.2 Ongoing Engagement page 34
"EverWind is committed to on-going, meaningful engagement and economic reconciliation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and will continue to provide regular updates and seek feedback throughout the life of the Project. Additionally, EverWind is developing a Mi'kmaq Benefits Agreement (MBA) with the Assembly of First Nations and KMKNO. A MOU was signed with the Assembly in 2022, and a binding Memorandum of Agreement was signed in 2025".

EverWind will continue to engage with KMKNO and the Sipekne'katik Governance Initiative specifically.
Please clarify the relationships between the Assembly of First Nations, KMKNO, Membertou, Sipekne'katik Governance Initiative, Paq'tnkek, and Potlotek with respect to this EA and Wind Farm #1 and especially in light of the following.

Given the increasing number of First Nations land claims across the nation e.g. Richmond BC, Kamloops BC, Kelowna, BC and Western Quebec, what measures are in place to ensure that the remaining 10 bands that have not responded to EW come back at some point in the future seeking their share of the project. What are the legal, economic, environmental and political risks EverWind faces due to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) 9UNDRPA in Canada)and Nova Scotia's ongoing land claims, e.g. currently the Hunters

Mountain land claim protest. It questions what protective measures are in place, the project's financial resilience to potential impacts, the legal standing of related existing agreements like Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) between the proponent and the above noted 3 bands, Assembly of First Nations, KMKNO and the Sipekne'katik Governance Initiative.

Does the KMKNO represent the other 10 bands. Is the binding MOU with the Assembly of First Nations and KNKMO over and above those agreements EW has with the participating 3 bands?

EW identifies a litany of commitments to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia; in turn what commitments do the 3 bands provide EverWind as major participants in the project? As co-owners the bands should share in the project's benefits and risks.

6.3 Electromagnetic Interference Engagement – page 58, 59

The rotating blades and support structures of wind turbines can interfere with various types of electromagnetic signals emitted from telecommunication and radar systems (RABC & CanWEA, 2020). The EMI assessment identified point-to-point, broadcast systems, radar, navigation, and communications systems susceptible to the effects of windfarm interference. The specific characteristics of a wind turbine will influence the type and magnitude of the interference. Other factors that influence interference include blade dimension and design, tower height, diameter of the supporting tower, as well as the material used for blade and tower construction.

If turbine type, layout or design changes, many organizations will need to be re-consulted prior to proceeding.

Not all stakeholders responded to the layout and design change. Will our cell phone and internet service be impacted by the project?

7.0 BIOPHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

7.1.2 Climate Change

What is the current GHG footprint of the EverWind Fuels transhipment facility. By removing 623+ hectares of forest what is the carbon sink loss of this removal.

7.1.3 Sound

EverWind Consultants used BSI standards 9613-2:2024 for modelling the acoustics attenuation of sound during outdoor attenuation of the wind turbine model proposed for the development (in this case, the Goldwind GHW182-8.0 machine).

Section 9, page 26 of this standard specifies an accuracy of +/- 3 dBa over the range of 100 to 1,000 meters. This has two implications.

Within the range of 100 to 1000 meters, the most specific that one can be about the model's predictions at any receptor site, is that the modelled value is actually +/- 3 dBa. Any supposition that the model results have some known implication for real world measurement beyond 1,000 meters is therefore misinforming.

Drawing 7.3 Noise Model Appendix 7.2-7.10 displays the results for 40 dBa noise contours around each turbine. In fact, if the model predicts 40 dBa at a particular receptor site, the best that can be said is that the corresponding measured value at the receptor site is predicted to be in the range of 37 to 43 dBa range.

It then follows that asserting, as the EWF EA does, that a particular site meets the NSE limit of 40 dBa based on the model's results is therefore misleading. Most notably is that the accuracy for model results greater than 1,000 meters is indeterminant. The model results highlighted below used out to 2500 metres, literally a stretch!

Given the above analysis of model results that there is a potential that once the turbines are erected there is a possibility that the guideline of 40 dBA will be exceeded. Perhaps this can be mitigated up front by installing Smart Curtailment at each turbine site.

Pages 92-93 The model followed ISO 9613-2 Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors – Part 2: General method and calculations, and was based on the following input information: "Wind speed of 8.0 m/s at the hub height of 130 m, the loudest speed up to 95% rated power (based on test data from the manufacturer).

The modeling shows a hub height of 120 m. Which is it 130 or 120m. What is the relevance of the 130m hub height in the input information?

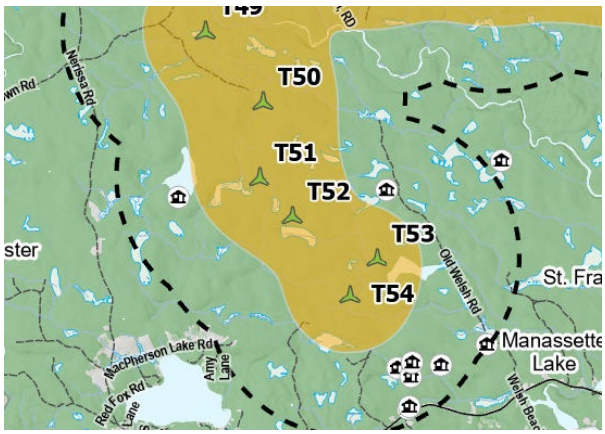
Operational Sound pages 94 and 96

Operational Sound

A total of 171 potential receptors were identified within 2 km of a proposed turbine location. No potential receptors exceed 40 dBA when applying turbine low power modes.

Is EverWind going to operate the turbines at low power modes?

To reduce the noise levels at certain receptors, sound-reduced operating modes (SRM1, 2, 3, and 4) were applied to 16 turbines where receptors may experience noise levels approaching the 40.0 dBA (Table 7.14).



40 dBA contour for T49-T54

T52 and T53 were modeled with sound reducing modes SRM4(106.5 dBA), there are 8 residential and cottage receptors that are either just touching or just outside the 2 km LAA. The analyses indicates that the model was run using 7m/sec to achieve the guideline of 40 dBA or less. How realistic is it to run what I understand is a curtailed power speed in the real operational real, given the Goldwind can operate up to 12 m per second? These are expensive turbines and would it not be more economic to move the turbines back on the plateau and run at max capacity or use Smart Curtailment.

Operational Sound Mitigation

Page 97 "Run turbines in low power modes as necessary to ensure sound levels (ambient and turbine generated sound) do not exceed 40 dBA at residential dwellings"

"Update modelling if the turbine model or layout changes prior to construction to ensure compliance with the Environmental Assessment Supplemental Checklist: Wind Energy Projects/MPRR"

Considering the EA notes that there is no need to monitor the speed as the 40 dBA guideline will be met with curtailment. What measures are in place that ensure the turbines are run in a curtailed mode and what's stops EverWind to crank up the speed and then curtail it once a complaint is launched which will be a long process. EW did not define how they envision curtailment to proceed, what determines "as necessary"?

Any changes to model of the turbine will require the models to be rerun. These should be made available to the public once completed.

Page 12

"As required by the NSECC, all residential dwellings and camps within a 2 km radius of any wind turbine are included in the sound and shadow flicker studies.

However:

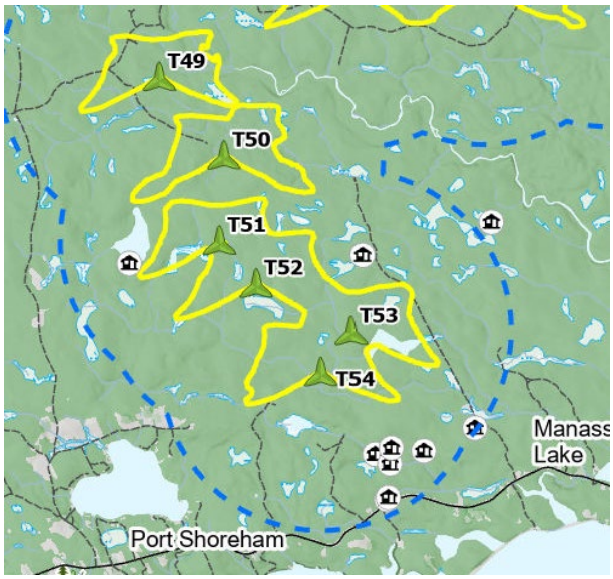
Consistent with the MRPP, compliance with sound and shadow thresholds are only considered a requirement for residential dwellings". Not cottages

The location of the noise sensitive receptors are not identified on a map e.g. A-FO

7.1.4 Shadow Flicker

7.1.4.2 Regulatory Context

"The Environmental Assessment Supplemental Checklist: Wind Energy Projects (NSECC, 2025c) and the MPRR require that a receptor or residential dwelling, respectively, receive less than 30 hours of shadow flicker per year or 30 minutes of shadow flicker per day".



Curtailed shadow flicker results T49 to T54.
Appendix D
From Model
2025-09-18 12:15 PM/4.0.424

SHADOW - Main Result

Calculation: SHAPEFILE EA SHADOW FLICKER - worst case shadow report for EA

No	Name	Worst case [h/year]
50	T50: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m) (465)	0:00
51	T51: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m) (466)	34:13
52	T52: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m) (467)	22:52
53	T53: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m) (468)	10:40
54	T54: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m) (469)	8:13

The above results show that T51 did not meet the criteria for shadow flicker.

SHADOW - Main Result

Calculation: 250815 - WF1 - Real Case Shadow Flicker - T4 Curtailment - Goose Harbour Lake Wind Farm included

No.	Name	Worst case [h/year]	Stopped due to flicker curtailment [h/year]	Expected
50	T50: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m)	(465)	0:00	0:00
51	T51: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m)	(466)	34:27	15:24
52	T52: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m)	(467)	22:52	8:41
53	T53: Goldwind GWH182 8000 183.4 !O! hub: 120.0 m (TOT: 211.7 m)	(468)	10:49	3:22

The above results demonstrate that with curtailment the flicker criteria will be met. Review of the modeling for flicker indicates that curtailment was used for T51 to T54. What guarantee is there and who monitors that the turbines are actually curtailed. Is it fiscally economic to curtail these turbines. Once again EW has not defined curtailment in terms of blanket or smart curtailment and how will it be implemented.

7.1.4.5 Effects Assessment – page 102

Assessment Scenario B predicts that all potential receptors will experience less than 30 hours of shadow flicker per year when curtailment is incorporated into the model for T4 between 0550and 0700 during the month of July. This is still considered a conservative assessment because the scenario still assumes the following:

- **Wind turbines are always in operation (i.e., rotors always spinning) vs estimated operation of the turbines 30% to 40% of the time.**
- **A clear line of sight, with no screening by trees, outbuildings, or other local structures.**
- **The wind turbines are always situated between the sun and the potential receptor.**
- **The rotational plane of the blades is always perpendicular to the azimuth of the sun rays.**

"The Project will develop a Complaint Resolution Plan, which will consider complaints related to shadow flicker and outline a process to investigate complaints".

Living in the literal shadow of turbines T50 to T54 I would like approval of the EA to see this the Complaint Resolution Plan be posted at several locations within the community and on EW Guysborough website. Where does a resident go if the resolution process does not resolve an issue. Again, Smart curtailment is the best mitigative measure for shadow flicker.

Further assessment is required to determine if potential receptor FH meets the definition of residential dwelling (Section 3.1.1.1) to determine if curtailment is required.

What map if any shows the location of receptor FH?

7.2.4 Assessment Results

7.2.5 Effects Assessment

Effects

Table 7.10 Appendix 7.2-7.10 - Arsenic Risk in Bedrock Waterwells

Page 109-110 Construction activities, primarily blasting (if required), have the potential to impact the quality and quantity of surrounding groundwater supply depending on the proximity to drinking water wells and extent of disturbance caused by construction activities. Disturbance of arsenic, manganese and/or uranium containing bedrock can mobilize these

metals within groundwater and subsequently degrade nearby groundwater well quality. Risk mapping shows the Study Area is primarily situated in a region that has a "High Risk" of arsenic containing bedrock.

Mitigation page 110

The use of existing road networks and siting in previously disturbed areas contributed to minimizing the Project's impact to the geologic environment.
The following mitigation measures are also recommended to minimize impacts to the geologic environment:
• Develop and implement a Blasting Plan, if blasting is required.
• Conduct blasting, if required, in accordance with provincial legislation and subject to terms and conditions of applicable permits.
o Conduct pre-blast surveys for wells within 800 m of blasting activities, which may include ground-truthing for nearby well locations.
▪ If demonstrable changes in groundwater quantity or quality to a well are detected due to Project activities, an alternative water supply, of equal or better quantity/quality than that impacted, will be provided to the landowner.

Page 164
"Further, disruption to the hydrology of one area may hinder the hydrological connectivity to other areas, thus resulting in impacts being felt in neighbouring wet areas".

To demonstrate changes in groundwater quality resulting from project-related construction activity, the proponent should be required to undertake extensive baseline water quality samples prior to any ground-disturbing activities, including blasting**.** The analysis should include radon, manganese and arsenic those, elements known to have moderate to high risk of mobilization in the LAA.

Surface water could also be impacted and for those in the western portion of the LAA there is a concern for contamination of surface water which runs downhill to the water source of residents on MacPherson Lake just 1.2 km outside the regulatory 800 metre distance from a blast. Baseline water quality analysis should be a condition of approval for the project. Construction for the roads near turbines T49-T54 will impact MacPherson Lake as the lake is in part spring feed upgradient of the lake to the north and northeast. The proponent should model runoff potential water flows in the area of T49-T54. Springs are groundwater. During construction of T49 to T54 the lake should be monitored for quality changes.

The radon potential mapping (Drawing 7.9) shows areas of "Medium Risk" for radon, but the document states that radon is not considered a risk for outdoor inhalation or drinking water. This could be clarified further to address any concerns as it would be a concern once the ground is open during construction for the turbines and roads.

Due to the drought conditions this summer past 2025, the level of the lake dropped significantly as per other water bodies in the LAA and province.

7.3 Aquatic Environment
Water Quality:

The pH levels recorded in some watercourses (e.g., WC16 and Middletown Road) are below the CCME guidelines for FWAL (Table 7.28). The document does not address how these low pH levels might impact fish habitat or what mitigation measures will be implemented.

Watercourse Alterations:

Table 7.30 lists watercourses with existing alterations and forecasted alterations. However, some watercourses (e.g., WC35, WC68, WC69) are noted as not field-assessed, and their characteristics are assumed based on aerial imagery. This creates uncertainty in the assessment of impacts and mitigation measures.

Mainland Moose Habitat Suitability Modelling

"The Study Area is, however, already subject to noise from forestry activities and recreation vehicles (snowmobiles, ATVs) and despite the preexisting noise, different mammal species were still observed across the Study Area so impacts from sensory disruptions caused by the Project within the LAA are anticipated to be low".

You can't compare the noise of periodic forestry activities and recreational vehicles to the consistent noise from the 54 or 84 proposed wind turbines, don't insult our intelligence.
This respondent has personally observed mainland moose in the western end of the LAA, matter of fact tracks were observed at the western side of MacPherson Lake properties. A female moose looked in the window of my neighbours. I had moose tracks on my property. Moose have also been observed swimming across the Strait of Canso. By the way, moose browse on the new foliage that comes up soon after a forest cutover, so it is feed a component of moose habitat, Daniel R. Geoge Logging, 2025 source, pers comm.

Mammals – page 211

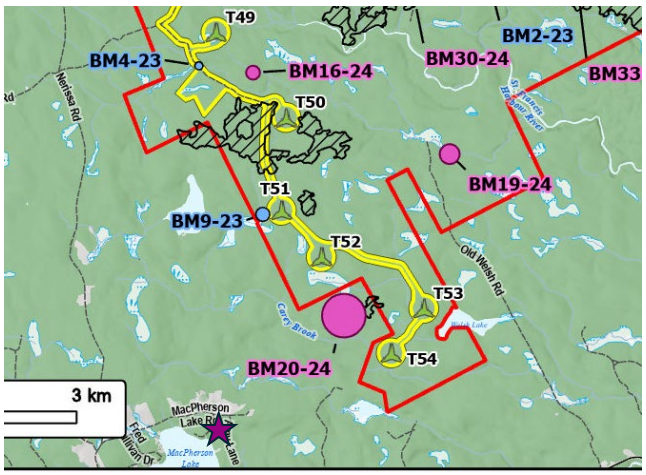
"No evidence of mainland moose was observed during winter tracking surveys; however, potential evidence of mainland moose browse was observed during pellet surveys and summer botany surveys, as well as fresh mainland moose tracks observed in October 2024 (Appendix K). Locations for the observations of potential and confirmed mainland moose sign will be provided directly to regulators".

See above for local moose observations.

7.4.4 Bats

Bats page 238

Only 10 of the 54 turbine sites monitored for bat activity were covered. The bats monitored were more prevalent in the western section of the property, see drawing 7.28 below. It is recommended that future monitoring efforts include a greater number of sites actually where the turbines will be placed and infill data lacking at the western edge. One of the GPS monitoring locations appeared to be in the Middle of England's lake.



Excerpt from Drawing 7.28 Western and south western end of LAA

During operation, turbine lighting will be restricted to the minimums required by Transport Canada for safety.

During the open house held it was suggested by a member of the Community Liaison Committee that there are navigation lights that turn on only when an aircraft is detected within a certain distance of a turbine, the project can further reduce the impact of lighting on the bats by using this technology, it also limits the impact to nearby residences so there is not a constant glow of red lights atop these features. A recent CBC podcast November 2025 sheds lights on bat mortalities near wind turbines. **https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-115-storylines/clip/16179045-bats-vs-wind-energy-gory-tale.**

Bat Assessment Drawing 7.28 Appendix 7.23-7.30B

This commentator concurs with the findings of location B20-24. Bats were observed by this respondent on nights in the western part of MacPherson Lake. It is recommended that ongoing bat detection be set up in this area during the entire construction phase especially around T53 and T54. Once again night hawks nest on the western side of the lake in the mixed softwood/hardwood forest and at least 1 pair of snipes come back each year on the western part of the lake shore and nest within 100 m of the western shore at the same location each year.

Sensory Disturbance Page 292
A literature review conducted by Shannon et al. (2016) found that birds have the potential to exhibit changes in song characteristics, reproduction, abundance, stress levels, and species richness at levels greater than 45 dBA.

Modifications and timing of use for lighting can be managed to limit impacts on birds.
At night, and especially during nights of cloudy skies and low ceiling, artificial lighting can attract birds during migration. Lights that are known to increase disorientation include consistent white or red lights. Strobe lights or intermittent/flashing lights have been shown to decrease avian mortality as it interrupts the zone of influence that lighting on birds can have (Longcore et al., 2008).

Page 337 The Project is predicted to have moderate and non-significant impacts to bats through habitat loss and potential mortality. Effects may interact with effects from nearby projects.

The wind energy association of Ontario provides a stat of 8 to 10 kills per turbine per year for bats, so 54 x 10 at a value of 540 bat kills per year for this project.

"Lighting associated with the Project will be minimal, and the turbines will not be lit at night (apart from TC required navigation hazard lights mounted on the turbine's nacelle). As such, lighting is not expected to impact bird migration. Upon completion of construction and throughout the lifespan of the Project, the navigation hazard lights on the transmission towers, designed to flash only a few times per minute at night, are expected to have minimal sensory disturbance effects on birds due to their low intensity and infrequent flashes".

Nav. Canada requirements for turbines could use hazard lights that come on only when an airplane approaches**.**

"Wind projects requiring an EA in Nova Scotia are required to complete two years of postconstruction mortality monitoring for birds and bats. In addition, it is expected that the Project will be required, as a condition of EA Approval, to develop an Adaptive Management Plan that includes a decision-making process to mitigate potential impacts to bird and bat species during operations. The plan and the monitoring results would be reviewed by NSECC, NSNR, and ECCC. NSECC will also receive the post-construction monitoring results from the Goose Harbour Lake Wind Project. Recent wind EA conditions note NSECC's ability to require additional mitigation as part of adaptive management. Therefore, the potential for cumulative effects will be managed through future requirements for monitoring and adaptive management, as required".

The cumulative effects of mortality on birds and bats can be mitigated in part by the use of Smart Curtailment. Bat surveys should also be conducted at the south west portion of the LAA. Future?? When is this.

8.1.2 Existing Environment Page 298

'The Project is in Guysborough County, near the communities of:
- **Middle Melford (3 km northeast of the Project's center point)**
- **Sand Point (6 km east)**
- **Hadleyville (7 km southeast)**
- **Pirate Harbour (8 km north)**
- **Town of Mulgrave (11 km north)"**

Once again, the proponent failed to highlight that the project will impact the community of Port Shoreham which is 1.8 km to 2.1 km west/southwest of Turbines T49-T54. The communities of Manassette lake and Boylston will be affected by the movement of the turbines into the western and southern section of the LAA. In fact, the majority of the turbines are located within ***Sand Point, Port Shoreham, Steep Creek and Pirate Harbour.*** Throughout the EA documents the EA is inconsistent in the mention of which communities are affected by the project.

Page 299 "The nearest fire station to the Study Area is the Mulgrave Fire Hall, approximately 11 km northwest of the Study Area on Murray Street. Milford Haven Fire & Emergency Services is also nearby, approximately 15 km southwest of the Study Area on Marine Drive".

Seven Communities Fire Station is in Hadleyville, is it not considered a fire station of mention. This once again demonstrates an unfamiliarity of the surrounding communities.

8.1.3 Effects Assessment
Effects Page 305
"EverWind will also create a Community Benefits Fund to provide direct payments to communities, starting at the end of the first year of operations. The payments for the Phase 2 portfolio of projects are expected to be 2 million dollars each year or 70 million dollars over the life of the projects. A committee of volunteers will determine how the fund is distributed".

This figure does not specifically cover Wind Farm #1 of the Phase 2 portfolio of projects and therefore the figure is misleading for this EA. What would be The Community Benefit Fund specific to Wind Farm #1 the local communities and verify that it does not include Community Benefits Fund promised to First Nations.

A "committee of volunteers will determine how the fund is distributed". EW has suggested that the Community Liaison Committee determine this. Previous debate on the current functionality of the CLC is in question so as a resident potentially impacted by the project, I would like to see a separate body determine this with feedback from all community members.

8.2 Land Use and Value
Visual Aesthetics – page 308
People living and working in the vicinity of wind projects express a wide range of perspectives on the visual aesthetics and social acceptability of large turbines (Kirchhoff et al., 2022). While regulations in Nova Scotia do not require aesthetic impact assessment, visual simulation modelling was conducted to demonstrate expected Project visibility from several number of viewpoints (Appendix M)

View Point (VP) 3 Appendix M Part 1 was taken on a back road in a farming area. It is the closest VP to the eastern side of MacPherson Lake; it is not representative of what the permanent and seasonal residents of the lake will be looking at.

The quality of the rendering is poor; you can see 3 turbines off in the distance that look blurry and in fact most of the other view planes have a blurry image at the land sky interface thereby providing a false sense of what the proposed turbine locations would look like. VP 3 does not provide a realistic view of the turbines off in the distance. This image was devised using the previous shorter model.

Given the total assessed value of land at and on MacPherson Lake, the residents want to see a visual of the proposed turbines at actually height from the western section of MacPherson Lake on MacPherson Lake Rd. looking east towards T49 to T54.

Property Value – page 308-309
Potential effects on property value are often a concern of neighbouring residents due largely to anecdotal reports from appraisers of drastic declines in property values following the nearby installation of a wind energy facility (Gulden, 2011). Despite these concerns, many rigorous and statistically defensible studies have concluded that wind energy developments have had no significant effect on surrounding property values".

If this is truly the case the proponent would not mind monitoring property values and to quote a US study (referenced above) that is "18 to 24 km away is not the same as 2 to 5 km away from a 271m structure. Statistically the data is diluted as one moves outward from the turbine farm. It is in the shadow of the turbines that property values are affected.

“A study by Hinman (2010) tracked property transactions in communities located close to a 240- turbine wind farm for an eight-year period that spanned pre-development and operation stages”.

This windfarm quoted in the above noted study was erected in several phases.

“Hinman found that before project approval, property values in the area decreased. This was attributed to a fear of the unknown effects that the development would have; an effect known as anticipation stigma. However, once the development became operational, property values recovered”.

“*Thus, this study presents evidence that demonstrates close proximity to an operating wind farm does not necessarily negatively influence property values or property value appreciation rates”*. This quote was taken directly from the executive summary of the above quoted report. Not necessarily results in valuation uncertainty for property.

“This recovery was attributed to a greater understanding of the operational effects of the development. Anticipation stigma, however, was not detected in a similar study in Colorado (Laposa & Mueller, 2010), in which it was concluded that the announcement of a large wind energy development did not significantly reduce the selling prices of homes surrounding the proposed development”.

This section appears in many EAs filed in N.S. in defense of property devaluation claims, for wind projects that were approved in Nova Scotia, copy and paste. The devil is in the details of this study (WIND FARM PRO X IMI T Y AND PROPERT Y VALUES: A POO L ED HEDONIC REGRESSION ANA LYSIS OF PROPERT Y VALUES IN CENTRAL I LL INOIS), it reveals that the property values remained devalued within 1 mile or 1.6 km of wind turbines. This paper comes with some comments of the statistics on the side comments that can be viewed when the paper is downloaded.

A resident may choose not to live in Guysborough County given the number of proposed renewable energy and resource projects for the area. In addition, those residents that understand the mechanisms and risks associated with an ammonia/hydrogen plant in their own backyard, may opt to leave before construction commences. Focusing in on the Stigma comment, if a residence has no interest in residing in the shadow of the flicker, noise and drone of the gears, alleged green hydrogen plant and proximity to an ammonia they may want to sell before construction begins and if stigma devalues the property prior to construction how is the resident likely to recoup market value for their property. Wait around for 8 years and then sell.

Property Valuation Services does not factor in proximity to wind turbines in their assessment of properties, they are 1 year in arrears in values, a current years assessment value is based on sales from the previous year. The final assessed value takes in a large area in this region greater than the LAA, so if a property is sold in Boylston away from the turbines it still impacts a resident in the shadow of the turbines.

Mitigation Measures

“The Project has been designed to minimize potential effects to land use and value through siting considerations and engagement with neighbouring landowners. As part of this process, the total number of turbines within the Study Area was reduced from 84 to 54, reflecting feedback from stakeholders and the findings of desktop, field, and modelling studies. Specific turbines were relocated to minimize visual disturbance to existing homes”.

Furthermore, the Project has a large spatial (committed to a 1 km minimum setback from non-participating residential dwellings) and topographic separation from most residential dwellings, which will avoid other nuisance interactions such as shadow flicker and wind turbine-related noise.

Not to sound like a broken record, but Smart Curtailment will mitigate the above effects. A timely, open, transparent and clear Complaint Resolution Plan will aid in the facilitation of any issues that may arise counter to the residual effects noted, mitigative measures suggested and any opposing evidence that the proponent is presenting in this EA.

It is recommended that actual monitoring of properties values prior to, during and after construction and operation would support the proponents claim of no evidence of devaluation of property values.

11.1 Climate Change

There is no mention of the effects of drought as experienced throughout this region in the summer of 2025. Water levels of all surface water and ground levels dropped to an historical low. Antidotal information from the elderly indicated that they water levels were not this low since l950's. Numerous water wells went dry. What monitoring and mitigative measures will the proponent put in place should these conditions continue into the 2026+ season during construction.

11.2.3 Wildfire

"A substantial portion of the Assessment Area is surrounded by forest cover (Drawings 7.21A to 7.21H) and there is potential for naturally occurring and/or human-caused forest fires to interact with and damage Project infrastructure".

Will the proponent commit to shutdown construction operations if there is a fire hazard in the area, prime example was the shut down of forest this summer past. Fire suppression systems should be mandatory for these structures.

Appendix A part 4 Structural Benefits

"Energy Supply and Balancing for the Grid – The Nova Scotia Project is poised to deliver annual benefits of over $30 million to Nova Scotia's grid through load following, and ancillary grid services, and tariff payments.

This EA deals strictly with 54 turbines for which the electrical generation will be delivered by an independent transmission line, it is phase 1 that is purporting to provide benefits to Nova Scotia as noted above. If hydrogen generated from renewable energy is to be delivered to EU it cannot be connected to an existing grid that creates energy from non-renewable resources in order for it to qualify as green hydrogen.

Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council

The Maritime Regional Aboriginal Leaders
Intergovernmental Council of Aboriginal Peoples
Continuing to Reside on Traditional Ancestral Homelands

Forums

- ❑ Leaders Congress
- ❑ MAPC Commissions/Projects
- ❑ MAARS Secretariate
- ❑ MAPC Administration

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November 12th, 2025

Environmental Assessment Branch
P.O. Box 442
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2P8

RE: Setapuktuk Wind Project

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS), the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) is providing comments to the Environmental Assessment Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change regarding the Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD) for the Setapuktuk Wind Project being undertaken by EverWind NS Holdings Ltd and Membertou Development Corporation.

Firstly, we raise that in Table 5.1, as it relates to engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, there is mention that the proponent provided a Project update and offer to meet regarding this project to the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC). As attached, this communication related solely to the EverWind Transmission Line project, including sharing of contact information for the NCNS, and did not include any discussions of the Setapuktuk Wind Project. This claim is incorrect, raises serious concerns about the integrity of the process, and makes it evident that the proponents disregard the principles of meaningful engagement and consultation.

While stated in Section 2.2 that this project will support provincial and federal goals of decarbonization, the energy produced from this project will not be distributed to the Nova Scotia power grid and will instead be connected directly to the Point Tupper Green Hydrogen plant through the EverWind Transmission Line. This project will not directly contribute to the goals of decarbonization if the energy produced will be solely owned and used by one of the proponents, EverWind.

The NCNS is generally supportive of projects, works, activities and undertakings which do not significantly alter, destroy, impact, or affect the sustainable natural life ecosystems with their multitude of in-situ biodiversity. As it stands the NCNS does not support this level of habitat destruction across our traditional homelands, and we do not support this application as presented. Our community continues to live throughout our traditional homelands and hold dear the ecocentric worldview. The significant destruction of living habitats for the financial gain of one company is unacceptable and irresponsible. Approval of this project flaunts the Provincial government promises of protecting the environment, and respect for Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and our way of life.

Section 3.3.8 of the EARD details the potential use of borrow pits during construction to supply materials, with limited details on where these pits would be placed or how they would be operated. While we can appreciate that the proponent has not committed to using borrow pits, this is an important factor in the consideration of this project as whole, given that it will contribute to the clearing footprint and disturbance area. The use of these borrow pits contributes to the cumulative effects assessment of this project and given the already extensive clearing footprint for this project, could contribute more significantly to the overall impacts of the project. Given that the use of borrow pits in the construction of wind energy has not been common practice in Nova Scotia, more information is needed on how this will contribute to the already significant environmental impacts of this project.

When discussing the potential impacts of this project on Wetlands (Section 7.3.2), there were a total of 82 potential wetland-project interactions, nine of which were noted as potential Wetlands of Species Significance (WSS), and a total of 12 hectares of wetland habitat to be directly impacted by this potential development. Of this impacted area, two of the areas noted to be a potential WSS observed a Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) breeding pair and are expected to be altered for new road construction. Wetland habitats are known to provide important ecosystem functions, as well as habitat for numerous aquatic, terrestrial, and plant species. As such, any impact to the functions of these habitats can have significant effects on the ecosystem. Given the importance of these habitats and direct impacts of 12 hectares of wetland habitat, MAARS requests to review the wetland compensation plans when they are available.

We do not accept the claim within the EARD wetland effects assessment (Section 7.3.2.6) that the predicted impacts on 12 hectares of wetland habitat are "*partially reversible as any loss will be compensated for through the permitting process*". The terms "reversible" and "offset" are not interchangeable. As well, any compensation that will be provided for the loss of wetland habitats has not been described in the EARD, limiting the understanding of how the Proponent perceives that the loss will be "*partially reversible*". Without this information, it is not possible to fully consider the significance of these effects.

Additionally, MAARS would request that the proponent complete a water balance assessment, given the significant wetland habitat impacts and the potential use of borrow pits. While we understand that this is not a typical requirement for a wind project assessment, we believe that any project which is impacting wetlands and/or watercourses should be required to complete this type of analysis. Without an in-depth analysis of the impacts to the watershed, we find it difficult to

accept that the impacts to the wetlands and watercourses are 'not significant', as stated in Section 7.3.2.6 of the EARD.

Section 7.4.1 of the EARD discusses the Effects Assessment for Terrestrial Habitat, and outlines that the proponent will engage with NSNR "*should impacts to old-growth forests be identified*", despite impacts of the project on **field-confirmed** old-growth stands being identified in Drawings 7.22B, D, E, F, G, and H. MAARS would request that the proponents provide clarification on whether or not the mapping provided in the above-mentioned drawings is accurate to the project layout, and if not that the proponent provide accurate project footprint information as it relates to old-growth stand interactions.

Given the proximity of this project to the Mulgrave Hills Nature Reserve, we have concerns over the potential effects of this project on this area. Specifically, the locations of turbines T20, 21, 30, 32, 35, and 36 which will be situated very close to the Nature Reserve boundary. The EARD states that the proponents, in consultation the Protected Areas branch of NSECC, have determined that the 272m set-back distance is sufficient, however we continue to have concerns about the proximity of such a significant development to a *protected area*.

The EARD also discusses the presence of a total of 38 occurrences of blue felt lichen, and the potential for construction to impede upon the 100-metre buffer for this at-risk lichen. According to both Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)'s Management Plan for the Blue Felt Lichen (*Degelia plumbea*) in Canada (2022) and the Committee on the Status for Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)'s Assessment and Status Report on the Blue Felt Lichen (*Degelia plumbea*) in Canada (2010), blue felt lichen is highly sensitive to changes in habitat, more specifically the reduction in humidity due to deforestation and edge effects. In ECCC's 2022 report, they identified renewable energy, more specifically wind farms, as having the potential to cause extreme effects through the impacts of deforestation and biomass harvesting. ECCC also identified that logging even within a few hundred metres of this lichen can significantly enhance drying effects to which this lichen is particularly susceptible. MAARS has concerns over the potential for this development to impede upon the recommended buffer zone which could have the potential to cause significant harm to an at-risk species, and requests that every effort be made to avoid impacts to the 100-metre buffer for blue felt lichen.

Section 7.4.3 discusses the potential project interactions with Mainland Moose, and the proximity of this development to Mainland Moose core habitat. During field assessments, there was evidence of use of this area by Mainland Moose, and 66 hectares of the clearing footprint for this project constitutes better or best habitat suitability for moose. Development across Mainland Moose habitat continues to shrink the area acceptable to an already at-risk species of cultural significance to the Mi'kmaq people. With this, we call upon the Province of Nova Scotia to commit seriously to the Recovery Plan for Mainland Moose and implement the second objective: *To enhance connectivity to improve genetic health and demographic parameters and to support symmetrical exchange of migrants between each pair of localized groups within the Eastern mainland (Cumberland/Colchester, Pictou/Antigonish/ Guysborough) and the Tobeatic*. It is not acceptable to continually decimate or fragment the habitat available to Mainland Moose.

We also request that a Wildlife Management Plan be developed, including provisions for continuous Mainland Moose and White-Tailed Deer monitoring throughout the lifetime of the project. This is especially important given that the Mainland Moose Recovery Plan lists renewable energy development as a medium impact activity, with moderate severity impacts due to habitat loss, fragmentation, and stress from light disturbance. Additionally, the proximity of this project to a nearby deer wintering area (1 km) indicates the need to also monitor for White-Tailed Deer.

In Section 7.4.4, when discussing the mitigation measures to reduce effects on bats, it is unclear whether the proponent has incorporated mitigation measures during the post-construction/operational phase of this project. These mitigation measures can be critical to ensuring the safety of birds and bats, and particularly those species which are migratory. One of the species highlighted in the EARD was the Hoary Bat, which has recently been assessed by COSEWIC as endangered. One of the key threats identified in COSEWIC's assessment report was wind energy development, classifying wind energy as having a high to very high impact on this species and other migratory bat species, even acknowledging that the current projections of fatality rates by wind farms are likely gross underestimates. COSEWIC identifies turbine curtailment during key periods as an important mitigation measure, with the potential to reduce fatalities by up to 50%. MAARS recommends that the proponent, in collaboration with ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service, develop mitigation measures and curtailment protocols for migratory bats to ensure the protection of these at-risk species.

MAARS raises concerns around the Mitigation and Management Measures for Avifauna (Section 7.4.4 and 7.4.5), which lacks consideration for the timing of activities outside of key migration and nesting periods for both birds and bats. Mitigation measures for all avifauna (birds and bats) must also include consideration of the timing of vegetation management and herbicide spraying, which are key factors in protecting migratory bats, and these activities, as well as removals of potential roosting habitat, must be done outside the key season for these species.

Given the presence of several at-risk bird species, including significant potential breeding for these species, there was a complete lack of any bird surveys undertaken in the south-eastern portion of the project area near, encompassing turbines T23, 25, 29, 34, 38, 41, 45, 46, and 48. This area has significant potential breeding habitat and also noted significant bat activity. In addition to that, this project area is also near the Ragged Head Coastline migratory bird area. The presented assessment of bird habitat within the project area is deficient and does not provide a fulsome understanding of project-avian impacts.

Given the proximity of this project to several areas that exhibit high potential for archaeological resources, we strongly recommend that shovel testing be conducted at regular intervals prior to any ground disturbance. An archaeologist should also be present during these activities to ensure the protection of any potential cultural resources. On our review of the report, the proponent needs to conduct further archaeological investigations in and around this site, considering the report noted proximity to other sites in the area and the impacts of continuing to disturb historic Mi'kmaq resources.

We draw attention to the potential cumulative effects that would be associated with approval of this proposed project, particularly since this project connects to the Point Tupper site and additional

onshore wind projects. While this project alone already encompasses a large footprint, the anticipation of future works, compounding the existing impacts to several species mentioned above. This includes continued shrinking of Mainland Moose habitat, increased impacts to migratory birds and bats, destruction of habitat for lichen SAR, and additional potential impacts to wetlands, including WSS, and/or watercourses. When considered only in conjunction with the adjacent Goose Harbour Lake Wind Farm Project, also undertaken by EverWind, the total area encompassed covers more than 1,000 hectares and is directly impacting 24 hectares of wetland habitat.

Lastly, we do not consider the overall conclusion that the adverse residual effects of this project are "*anticipated to be not significant*" to be accurate. The conclusion that the effects are not significant is deeply concerning, given the cumulative and compounding impacts of continued development and destruction of important ecosystems. We must prioritize the protection of these ecosystems over the financial gain of one company, as continued degradation poses serious long-term risks.

For contextual purposes

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that it is important for all proponents of projects to understand that the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Community represented by the NCNS is included within the definition of the word "Indian" of Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. The Supreme Court of Canada in a landmark decision in *Daniels v. Canada (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)*, 2016 SCC 12. declared that "the exclusive Legislative Authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to all Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians" and that the word "Indians" in s.91(24) includes the Métis and non-Status Indians[1]. Since 2004, in multiple decisions passed by the Supreme Court of Canada: *Haida Nation*[2]*, Taku River Tlingit First Nation*[3]*, and Mikisew Cree First Nation*[4], has established that,

> "Where accommodation is required in decision making that may adversely affect as yet unproven Aboriginal Rights and title claims, the Crown must balance Aboriginal concerns reasonably with the potential impact of the decision on the asserted right or title and with other societal interests."

Further, both the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada are aware that the "Made in Nova Scotia Process" and the *Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference* does not circumvent the Provincial Government's responsibility to hold consultations with other organizations in Nova Scotia that represent Indigenous Peoples of Nova Scotia. While the proponent may have to engage with the thirteen Mi'kmaq First Nations through the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, represented by the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO), the KMKNO does not represent the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Community who have elected to be represented by the NCNS since 1974.

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[1] Daniels v. Canada (Indian Affairs and Northern Development), 2016 SCC 12, [2016] 1 S.C.R. 99
[2] Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests), (2004), 2 S.C.R. 511
[3] Taku River Tlingit First Nation v. British Columbia (Project Assessment Director), (2004), 3 S.C.R. 550
[4] Mikisew Cree First Nations v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage), (2005), 3 S.C.R. 388

We assert that the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Communities, as 91(24) Indians, are undeniably heirs to Treaty Rights and beneficiaries of Aboriginal Rights as substantiated by Canada's own Supreme Court jurisprudence. As such, there is absolutely an obligation to consult with the Off-Reserve Community through their elected representative body of the NCNS. The Crown's duty is to consult with all Indians, not only the Indian Act Bands.

For over forty years, the three Native Council partners of the Maritime Aboriginal People's Council (MAPC) have continued to be the Aboriginal Peoples Representative Organizations representing and advocating for the Rights and issues of the Mi'kmaq/Wolastoqiyik/Peskotomuhkati/Section 91 (24) Indians, both Status and non-Status, continuing to reside on their unceded Traditional Ancestral Homelands. In the early 1970s, the communities recognized the need for representation and advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the off-Reserve community of Aboriginal Peoples, "the forgotten Indian". Women and men self-organized themselves to be the "voice to the councils of government" for tens of thousands of community members left unrepresented by Indian Act-created Band Councils and Chiefs. Based on the Aboriginal Identity question, Statistics Canada (2021 Census - 25% sample) enumerate 25,415 off-Reserve Aboriginal Persons in New Brunswick, 42,580 in Nova Scotia, and 2,865 in Prince Edward Island.

Each Native Council in their respective province asserts Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Rights, with Interest in Other Rights confirmed in court decisions, recognized as existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada in Part II of the Constitution Act of Canada, 1982. Each Native Council has established and maintains Natural Harvesting Regimes, and each have a co-management arrangement with DFO for Food, Social, and Ceremonial use of aquatic species, through the: Najiwsgetaq Nomehs (NBAPC), the Netukulimkewe'l Commission (NCNS), and the Kelewatl Commission (NCPEI).

The Native Council of Nova Scotia was organized in 1974 and represents the interests, needs, and rights of Off-Reserve Status and Non-Status Section 91(24) Indians/Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples continuing to live on our Traditional Ancestral Homelands throughout Nova Scotia as Heirs to Treaty Rights, Beneficiaries of Aboriginal Rights, with Interests to Other Rights, including Land Claim Rights.

The Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) Community of Off-Reserve Status and Non-Status Indians/Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples supports projects, works, activities and undertakings which do not significantly alter, destroy, impact, or affect the sustainable natural life ecosystems or natural eco-scapes formed as hills, mountains, wetlands, meadows, woodlands, shores, beaches, coasts, brooks, streams, rivers, lakes, bays, inland waters, and the near-shore, mid-shore and off-shore waters, to list a few, with their multitude of in-situ biodiversity. Our NCNS Community has continued to access and use the natural life within those ecosystems and eco-scapes where the equitable sharing of benefits arising from projects and undertakings serve a beneficial purpose towards progress in general and demonstrate the sustainable use of the natural wealth of Mother Earth, with respect for the Constitutional Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Rights, and Other Rights of the Native Council of Nova Scotia Community continuing throughout our Traditional Ancestral Homeland in the part of Mi'kma'ki now known as Nova Scotia.

We would appreciate an opportunity to engage on the Setapuktuk Wind project with the proponents directly, regardless of their assertion that this has already occurred. We respectfully request that these concerns be addressed in full and that further engagement with the Native Council of Nova Scotia and local communities be prioritized as this project moves forward. We look forward to further dialogue as we continue to advocate for the rights of Off-Reserve Status and Section 91(24) Indians/Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples of Nova Scotia. To continue to represent the interests and needs of the off-Reserve Aboriginal Community in Nova Scotia, we would like to request the opportunity to participate in early engagement in future Environmental Assessment Reviews.

Advancing Aboriginal Fisheries and Oceans Entities
Best Practices, Management, and Decision-making

Habitat Impact Advisor, MAARS Executive Director, MAARS & MAPC Projects

CC: , Chief & President, NCNS
Commissioner, Netukulimkewe'l Commission, NCNS

Outlook

Re: EverWind Strait Crossing Transmission Line Project

From Mark Stewart <mark.stewart@everwindfuels.com>
Date Fri 3/21/2025 5:21 PM
To [redacted]; Jeff Bonazza <jeff.bonazza@everwindfuels.com>
Cc adoane@strum.com <adoane@strum.com>; [redacted]

1 attachment (3 MB)
EverWind Fuels March Update Strait of Canso - MAPC-NCNS.pdf;

Afternoon Christina and Vanessa,

Thanks for the follow up email with Chief [redacted] contact information as well as your time today, it was great meeting you both.

As discussed, please find attached the presentation to share with Chief [redacted] and the internal team.

We look forward to future opportunities to discuss our project.

Have a great weekend.

Mark

From: [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 21 March 2025 2:54 PM
To: Jeff Bonazza <jeff.bonazza@everwindfuels.com>
Cc: Mark Stewart <mark.stewart@everwindfuels.com>; adoane@strum.com <adoane@strum.com>; [redacted]
Subject: Re: EverWind Strait Crossing Transmission Line Project

Hi Jeff,

Thanks again to you and the team for taking the time to meet with Vanessa and I today to discuss the EverWind Transmission Line.

I wanted to pass along the contact information for Chief [redacted] of the Native Council of Nova Scotia;

Email:
[redacted]

Mailing Address:
Native Council of Nova Scotia
[redacted]

From:
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Cc: Annabel Bruce; Gabriel Bruce; Keith Towse
Subject: Comment on environmental assessment for Setapuktuk Wind Project
Date: November 12, 2025 8:42:01 PM

Good evening

We are local residents and landowners in the community of McPherson Lake, situated close to Port Shoreham and just north of Highway 344, approximately 10 km west of Boylston. There are approximately 50 residences in the community, mostly located on the shores of the lake. The closest turbines in the EverWind project are turbines 52, 53 and 54, which are approximately 2-3 km away, measured to the centre of the lake – these will be clearly visible from many of the residences in the community. We have attended the Open House events hosted by EverWind and discussed the project with project staff.

We support the development of renewable energy and the goal of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is important that the impact of renewable energy projects on local residents is recognized and mitigated where possible. The quiet enjoyment of our property is important to us, and the plans proposed by EverWind will have a significant impact on this.

We wrote with two specific comments regarding the project and the engagement carried out by EverWind, as below:

Visual impact assessments.

We believe that the locations used by EverWind for visual impact assessments do not accurately reflect the visual impact of the project on local residences and properties. The proposed project, consisting of 54 turbines with tip height over 220 m (we believe these will be the largest in Canada), will have a significant impact on the landscape, and the locations selected by EverWind for visual impact assessments are typically lower areas, which minimizes the impact of the turbines. Many of the residential properties in the area are located on higher ground to take advantage of the wonderful views of forests, lakes and the shore. There are 6 turbines within 5 km of the lake, and 22 of the turbines are within 10 km. Many of the residences and properties will see all of these turbines across the landscape.

We have requested that EverWind carry out a visual impact assessment from MacPherson Lake. This request has been denied, citing the cost of such an assessment. We believe this to be a poor argument – the cost of an additional assessment would be little more than $2,000-$3,000, an insignificant amount when the total cost of the project is estimated at over $600 million. We believe that such an assessment would show that the visual impact of the turbines would be an onerous imposition on the community, and would request that the closest turbines be moved, to reduce the visual impact of the project.

Lighting of turbines at night

We understand that Transport Canada regulate the lighting of turbines at night, and that these regulations require a red flashing light on the nascelle of each turbine. This will mean that the entire northern night sky will be obscured by these lights, causing significant loss of amenities to ourselves and other residents, for whom the dark night sky is a significant benefit of living in a quiet rural community. We also understand that Transport Canada can authorize the use of an Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS), which will preserve the dark night sky except when an aircraft is detected in the area. We have requested that the project commit to installing such a system, so that the project is not an intrusive neighbour. This request has been denied, on the grounds of cost. Although the cost of an ADLS system could be $150,000-$200,000, we would argue that this is an insignificant amount when the total cost of the project is estimated at over $600 million. We would request that a condition of approval be the installation of an ADLS system.

Regards

From:
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Setapuktuk EA
Date: November 12, 2025 8:52:28 PM

Honourable Timothy Halman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Premier Houston and his team are often promoting Nova Scotia becoming a "hydrogen powerhouse" and an "energy superpower". Plus, there is the relentless **"Take the NO out of Nova Scotia"** slogan and defending how the EA process is rigorous.

Nova Scotians deserve realistic solutions based on evidence-based research and studies—not slogans focussed on hype. Second, let's take some of the **nonsense** out of the EA process.

Weakening environmental and democratic changes: Just add the new NSECC EA changes to the sweeping list of environmental and democratic concerns over the past year, including the province's decision to overrule municipalities. **The 2025 EA process prioritizes making life easier for industry.** The big win for Nova Scotians was supposedly an extra ten days for public consultation. That would be welcome if there were not multiple projects registered within the same time period and within the same county. This limits meaningful submissions for the public and further erodes public confidence with NSECC.

Best guesses: EA calculations seem to be based on predictions in this moment—not based in reality, such as when construction begins or the wind project is operational. Industry and governments cannot predict the future. Nor can industry and governments assume everything can be mitigated. To suggest otherwise is just setting Nova Scotians up for false hope and failure. With respect to Setapuktuk project: there are no prior studies with a 54-wind turbine project, with a project size of 8880 ha, with 727 feet wind turbines, with 1 km setbacks, directly adjacent to a 24-wind turbine project, which is adjacent to a newly proposed 20-22 wind turbine project. **Even Health Canada later cautioned that its 2014 report about wind turbine health impacts should not be generalized or used in reference to any other wind projects—other than those few projects they studied.**

When reality and failure collide: Reality sets in after the EA is approved by the province with the presumption that everything can be mitigated with the stroke of a pen. In reality, Nova Scotia is behind— still cleaning up environmental messes from past industries that have bailed. It is also struggling to manage oversight of the current wind industry. For years we have heard about wind turbines leaking oil and malfunctioning or abandoned turbine equipment—such as with South Canoe and Lingan wind projects. The public learns about these issues from concerned residents. And, it's generally through the media after **community members become fed up with the lack of provincial oversight.** It is rare for industry or governments to sound these alarms first or provide meaningful or non-redacted responses.

Common sense: Nova Scotia is the second smallest province—with only a fraction of Crown

lands compared to other provinces. We have a high rural population so industry is always in someone's "back yard". Still, the province thinks and plans like Nova Scotia is the size of Quebec. Nova Scotia has no caps or limits on wind projects and it does not have an overall provincial wind landscape plan. The cap or limit is whatever wind companies can afford to build. The province is trying to morph **Guysborough County into an Energy Sacrifice Zone without any meaningful public consultation.** Meaningful dialogue is not one poorly advertised open house (Net Zero/Dept Energy Oct/25) two years after some of these wind hydrogen projects were announced. There are over 500 proposed wind turbines for hydrogen/SAF export—mainly using Crown lands, all within one county, mainly within the Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG). Where is the balance, common sense and respect for impacted rural communities?

Sure, some wind projects throughout Guysborough County might get reduced due to turbine technology, some proponents might not make it to the finish line, but there is nothing stopping current proponents from increasing wind turbines, or from new proponents showing up. **There are no protections from expropriations. There are no protections preventing a wind project being built on protected provincial lands**. Back in January 2024, the MODG publicly voiced their displeasure with the province for protecting more lands in MODG citing it could deter industry.

Respect for local communities starts by identifying and acknowledging how many local households are impacted by industry. This information was missing from the Setapuktuk EA. **There is an estimated well over 170 households living among Setapuktuk wind project.**

Differences between wind projects and municipalities: Setapuktuk will have a **much higher turbine density footprint** compared to other EverWind projects. First, Setapuktuk was reduced by 30 turbines—this is mainly due to using different turbine technology but a few other reductions were made as well. Setapuktuk project is around 8880 ha with 54 turbines so roughly **1 turbine per 164 ha**. EverWind's Kmtnuk project has 7306 ha with 16 wind turbines which is about **1 turbine per 457 ha,** which is similar to EverWind's Windy Ridge (adjacent to Kmtnuk). Both those two projects in the Municipality of Colchester are considered low density, as per EverWind. Put another way if all EverWind projects had similar density levels —**Setapuktuk would have around 19 wind turbines not 54.** Setapuktuk wind project will also increase in turbine numbers due to EverWind negotiating with land owners to build more turbines on private lands.

Beyond the density issue—this is not just about this one wind project; it's about all the other wind projects combined. It's about having a landscape map of the area—a fulsome picture. Setapuktuk project is adjacent to the approved PHP Goose Harbour Lake 24 turbine project (Phase1), which is adjacent to another newly proposed Green Current Energy 20-22 wind turbine project. **Around 100 proposed turbines, possibly more in the future,** predominantly in one MODG district (#3). The more wind turbines, the more potential for accumulative impacts for lands, fauna, wetlands, waterways, terrestrial mammals, birds, bats, aquatic life, plus human health/well-being, lifestyle, tourism and property values.

Although the province has overridden municipal setbacks to an equivalent to .89 km (with 727 feet turbines)—**EverWind will marginally increase the Setapuktuk setbacks to 1km. EverWind will honour Colchester's 2 km setbacks.** Maybe this is because the Municipality of Colchester (for the better part of a year) engaged in community consultation knowing these

mega wind hydrogen projects were coming, and created strong bylaws (14 pages, finalized in Oct. 2024), which included those 2 km setbacks to protect residents. The MODG 2022 land use/wind bylaws (~2 pages, roughly .89 km setbacks) were finalized a year before constituents knew about mega wind hydrogen projects. When repeatedly asked, the MODG declined to update its 2022 land use/wind bylaws.

Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) to keep night skies dark: This was included in EverWind's Colchester June 2025 community presentation documents. It was omitted in Setapuktuk's June 2025 community presentation documents.

Setapuktuk wind project will definitely have many temporary construction jobs. It would be useful to know for Goose Harbour Lake wind project (currently under construction)—**how many temporary construction jobs are filled by locals from Guysborough County or from outside Guysborough County**. As for long term Setapuktuk jobs: Will EverWind use the turbine manufacturer (i.e as part of the service contract during the warranty period) to fill the full-time wind turbine operations and maintenance positions?

Nova Scotia has a history of **"boom & bust & boomerang"** industry. Nova Scotia still has one the lowest median incomes and one of the highest poverty rates across the provinces. **The MODG known for its "open for business" or "industry first" approach has one of the lowest median household incomes across Nova Scotia.** It also has a significantly higher older population that has likely suffered though those past decades of "boom & bust".

EverWind has promised a generous **community vibrancy fund** plus additional municipal tax revenue based on $1000 per MW produced for all of its different wind projects. The community vibrancy fund will likely not significantly benefit every single household impacted by Setapuktuk wind project. That fund is still very important— but it's just one piece of the puzzle.

Nothing will change here at a local level until there is a **new strategy or framework that changes how local households—impacted by industry— are financially compensated.** This new strategy could help to support impacted households while also increase community "buy in" for projects. Maybe "thinking outside the box" is needed. Nothing changes until something changes. The MODG would be in the best position to help—given the 3.8 million dollars per year of tax revenue earned from Setapuktuk project.

Guysborough County

(https://novascotia.ca/)

Submission ID	Submission date	Submission status
e86e4318	12/11/2025 22:09	PROCESSED

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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

The view from the graveyard on the hill – on which our house sits, immediately to the west – in St. Francis Harbour, north toward the hills, makes my heart sink. It's what I'll see forever from our kitchen window.

The view from Dorts Cove, north across the Bay and on to the hills, is even more disheartening. It's the view we'll have from our sailboat during our summer day trips on Chedabucto Bay.

These views, or "viewpoint simulations," are included in the Sekapuktuk Wind Project Environmental Assessment, Appendix M. They dramatically illustrate the impact the colossal wind turbines will have on the landscape in Guysborough County, if EverWind Fuels is

permitted to proceed with their “green hydrogen” project.

OK, I am now a “senior citizen,” with a pension, and I can afford to allow my love for this place to be anchored in its natural beauty and my respect for the people who have been stewards of the land and the sea. And this beauty, and the traditions and heritage of the people who live here, will be profoundly disrupted, and not in a good way, if the Sekapuktuk Wind Project proceeds.

The Environmental Assessment does an excellent job, I think, in describing this disruption, at least as far as the physical environment is concerned. It also shows that this disruption cannot be mitigated: The wildlife, the trees, the birds and bats, the plants of the forest, our waterways, even the air, will all be changed forever.

Yes, the Environmental Assessment also tells us, efforts will be made to minimize the negative impacts of the industrialization of Guysborough County, but the descriptions of these efforts almost invariably are followed by: “to the greatest extent possible.” In other words, ‘whether you like it or not, this change is going to take place, and as required by regulation, we’ll try to blunt the pain (but we make no promises).’

I don’t need a job, but many people in Guysborough County do, and many more have left to find work in central and western Canada and beyond. (I meet them almost daily when they visit their ancestors in the graveyard next door!) So I defer to those who argue that there is an important trade-off here: We surrender our role as protectors of the land and sea, and allow them to change the biophysical environment, and in return, EverWind Fuels will give us jobs and money.

I think the Environmental Assessment clearly shows that this will be a bad deal: There are too few jobs and too little money being offered for the legacy we have received – a legacy we must pass along to our children.

That the Sekapuktuk Wind Project is not for us, not even for Nova Scotians or Canadians generally, but for an American corporation trying to sell hydrogen to Europeans, makes the deal worse. As the Environmental Assessment shows, the price we will pay for the Sekapuktuk Wind Project will be high and everlasting, but the return to Guysborough County will be minimal and short-term.

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Saint Francis Harbour

Postal Code

B0E 2G0

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or choose file to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

Please note:

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☑ **Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)**

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Submission ID	Submission date	Submission status
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Select a Project:

Setapuktuk Wind Project

Comments:

Name:

Email:

City/Town

Canso

Postal Code

B0H 1H0

Attachment(s):

Drag & drop or choose file to upload

Maximum file size per file: 10 MB

Accepted file types: doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, xls, xlsx

Maximum number of files allowed: 10

comments for Setapuktuk Wind Projec.docx 20.82 KB

Remaining No of Files : 9

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Yes, I agree (must be selected to proceed)

Uploaded document(s)

Total Documents: 1

comments for Setapuktuk Wind Projec.docx (/Admin/View-Document/941013f0-4cc3-435c-867f-dc16b61c6e0e/b640bd85-e635-4fb0-b405-8c0ac4aa23bb)

- I am concerned about the High voltage transmission line of 345kv. With another 345kv transmission line 13km away owned by NSPI.
- I am concerned about the interconnection line that is going to be laid on the ground. There was no mention of if this cable will be buried and if so, what depth will it be buried. I didn't see any mention of the EMF (Electro-magnetic field) impacts from this cable sitting on the ground. I encourage any homeowner in the area to purchase an EMF reader off amazon and get readings from their property before this project starts transmitting electricity. Living near high voltage transmission lines has been linked to childhood leukemia.
- Taxes collected from this project directed to the municipality of district of Guysborough should be directed to initiatives that mitigate our current and future environmental problems in our county. Examples include residential wells drying up for weeks and months during the year; this will happen frequently in the future. Another example of an environmental problem in our county is the increase in dry tinder conditions in the forested areas during summer months. The lack of rainfall in 2025 dramatically increased the risk of wildfires all over the province. Large areas of the county are treed crown land this puts Guysborough county at a high risk for wildfires. The increase of wildfire risk from this project's construction phase as well as the forever increased risk of wildfires from fragmenting the forest and creation of new roads is going to be an issue in the future
- . I believe the creation of a stockpile of wildfire mitigating equipment should be installed on site of project and a permanent facility could be built beside England's Lake for fire fighting purposes long term. An inventory of fire fighting equipment, training more volunteers, and staffing full time personal to respond to wildfires during the wildfire season should be discussed with provincial and municipal leaders. These two initiatives, well water and wildfires, should be given priority within the municipality.
- The MODG is great at giving away our natural resources to foreign companies but has ignored our housing crisis. It's a good thing to bring economic development to the region but if there is no housing, there will be no influx of new residents and no spinoff economic opportunities. Already construction workers are staying in adjacent counties while working on Port Hawkesbury Paper wind farm because Guysborough County has no lodging for construction related workers. We need motels and apartment buildings!
- Discussed in the EA documents are the RABC-CanWEA guidelines (2020). Bell Canada, Eastlink and Seaside communications were consulted. All signed off and approved this project with turbine placements. If residents of the local area who are customers of these services experience decreased quality or disruption of their services; what recourse do they have? Should they continue to contact their cell phone service provider to remedy the problem? Is compensation from loss of service going to come from the service provider? (Bell/Telus). Can residents make a claim in small claims court for damages due to the turbine placement, if so who is liable? Bell, Everwind, CRTC? This is so confusing.
- I would like to request all future avifauna post construction monitoring studies be published and made available to the public. The recent Everwind transmission line project across the strait's EA documents attempted to assess cumulative impacts

referencing multiple projects within a 15 km radius of this project but since post construction mortality survey data is not publicly available; Strum Consulting were unable to make comment on if this project would add impacts creating cumulative impacts to avifauna. This is a simple fix. Make these available to the public.

- Herbicide Spraying. With all the additional wind turbines planned for Guysborough County and throughout the province. How much of an increase and frequency of the increase of herbicide spraying will be? How many hectares of new corridors will need to be sprayed? This chemical is long lasting in our environment. With little to no history of herbicide spraying in Guysborough County other than NS Power corridor, and Atlantic Canada having higher cancer rates than the rest of the country. This sounds like bad news for our health and the health of the environment.
- How many more transmission lines will Guysborough County be required to sustain? Port Hawkesbury Paper is getting one for their wind project in Guysborough County, the existing ones, then offshore wind turbine connectors will be installed on eastern shore of Guysborough County. How many hectares from this project will require herbicide treatment? How many hectares of our province will require herbicide treatment in the future? Cumulative impacts to our health and ecosystem must be considered.
- The departments response to my herbicide questions was "No pesticide approvals have been issued for wind farm projects in the province. The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change maintains a rigorous approval process for pesticide applications, which includes aerial spraying and treatments in specific areas such as forested land, and utility corridors. Recent approvals have primarily supported forestry management and public safety along transportation routes, and all products used must be registered and approved by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency.
- https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112721003479
- The little brown myotis bat is listed on schedule 1 of the SARA. It is listed as ENDANGERED. 'Myotis species were recorded during the monitoring program' on page 251 of the EA document. How in the hell can you approve a 54 wind turbine project in the same area as this species has been recorded? This project is adjacent to a 29 turbine wind farm project. The bat will have no habitat to move to. Bat mortality will be high in this area. I beg the department to release the post mortality studies to the public. Transparency is a big thing. The provincial department is in conflict here, same department that is supposed to be protecting habitat for this species is the same department responsible for approving this renewable energy project.
- Page 337 of EA **Cumulative Effects** of all projects within 15km radius. "The Project is predicted to have moderate and non-significant impacts to bats through habitat loss and potential mortality. Effects may interact with effects from nearby projects." Moderate but not significant? Moderate impacts to a species listed on SARA as ENDANGERED but non-significant impacts? WOW. Strum Consulting has and will continue to lose reputation as an organization that produces defendable scientific studies. I cannot even believe the garbage Strum is writing in these EA documents.
- At what point is Strum going to admit a residual effect? I have not read one EA recently that admitted any lasting impacts. Hmm strange.
- Page 339 Permanent disturbance – only assessing physical features is only telling half the story. Many species will leave this habitat due to the operational sound and sound pressure from turbines.

- Mitigate impacts to birds and bats by painting at least 1 turbine blade black. Why isn't this new tool to mitigate bird collisions being implemented in Nova Scotia projects? The study was published a number of years ago.
- Page 133 of EA document. "A GIS suitability analysis was conducted to design a Project Footprint that would optimize the placement of Project infrastructure to avoid waterbodies and minimize impacts to watercourses, to the greatest extent possible" Yet 5 turbines and a substation are placed around England's Lake.
- Does Sound modelling take into account the loss of trees during construction? Is there going to be sound monitoring after operation of turbines?
- The fact that they have to modify operations on at least 6 turbines because the noise level could be greater than 40dB to receptors is a big red flag. Apparently if they set these 6 turbines to a noise constraint mode that will result in not exceeding the 40dB noise threshold. Theoretically. Based on their modelling. That's a big risk. Why not move those turbines? Clearly they are too close to receptors.
- All in all this project is a silly reason to cut down trees, eliminate critical habitat which will have an impact on biodiversity, decimate bat populations and increase our forest fire risk. What are Nova Scotians gaining from this? I don't see the benefits outweighing the costs. All for a few short term jobs?
- I don't see how renewable energy going to a new non existing ammonia production plant from 54 turbines will benefit Nova Scotians.
- Cutting down trees in the name of fighting climate change is the stupidest thing humans will ever do.