The Eastern Energy Partnership

Wind West:
a Nation-Building Energy Project

NOVA SCOTIA

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Executive Summary

Food, water, air and energy. Humans can't survive without them.

At its core, energy itself is a simple thing. It must be generated, then transmitted to an end user, a customer. Without generation, there is nothing to talk about. Without the ability to move it, there is nothing to talk about. And, without customers, there is nothing to talk about.

Atlantic Canada has incredible generation potential across a number of resources – offshore wind, new hydro and nuclear, among others. And, the surrounding marketplace has tens of millions of needy customers (and growing firms).

Ontario, Quebec, northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada need as much as 100 GW of new electricity capacity by 2050. Each of these markets needs new large volumes of clean electricity at fixed and stable prices.

What is missing is the confidence and the coordinated effort to develop those resources and build out a transmission system scaled to connect supply to that demand.

This is what the Eastern Energy Partnership (EEP) is all about.

Nova Scotia's offshore wind represents one of the greatest untapped new energy resources in the world, capable of providing both quantity and long-term fixed prices.

Nova Scotia's Wind West and the EEP offer the chance to develop this massive new offshore wind resource and then connect it to market. It will unlock tens of billions of dollars in private industry investment that can help build out that generation and supply waiting customers.

The transmission elements of the Eastern Energy Partnership alone will amount to between $15 and $25 billion.

The Government of Canada can make this nation-building clean energy opportunity a reality.

Nova Scotia is asking for the Government of Canada's commitment to:

1. **Designate Wind West as a national interest project** under the Building Canada Act;
2. **Revive proposed Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credits (ITCs)** that would support the EEP transmission components and ensure Clean Technology ITCs are available for the timelines of offshore wind development;
3. **Confirm availability of Canada Infrastructure Bank's (CIB) low-interest financing** for transmission and offshore wind development, similar to that done with NS-NB transmission and onshore wind, and extend time horizons;
4. **Support early engagement with Mi'kmaq** to ensure interested Mi'kmaq communities with respect to Federal support programs for investment; and
5. **Provide upfront and additional support** (e.g. through ITCs, tax incentives or financial programs) to enable upfront investments in ports, labour force or infrastructure.

We would ask that these commitments stand, no matter what the exact layout of the offshore wind farms; but also, whatever transmission route is ultimately chosen (subsea or over land) and whichever customers are selected.

Federal support is also needed for:

- conducting near-term feasibility studies;
- clarifying federal permitting roles and fast-tracking procedures; and
- ensuring any routes meet national priorities for security, resilience, Indigenous engagement and economic development.

We propose the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia enter into a non-binding Umbrella Agreement which would announce our mutual commitment to Wind West as a Nation-Building project.

The sooner these Federal commitments are made, the greater the Federal impact.

The federal government already has the critical, strategic tools needed to achieve this – Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) and the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB).

Nova Scotia not only understands these tools, but has already forged agreements with the Federal Government to use them to develop onshore wind, NS-NB transmission, and other projects.

In 2023, the Federal Government proposed expanding the ITC to support clean energy transmission projects at 15%. This could unlock not only the EEP project, but enable many others across Canada. Unfortunately, it died on the order paper–but the good news is, it's ready to be revived for our country's clean energy transition. We ask for your commitment to include it once again in the federal Income Tax Act.

Committing to Wind West and the EEP will create the necessary confidence for private sector firms to accelerate their proposals and their investments – across different wind sites and turbine types – and across a range of potential transmission routes and technologies.

Wind West will be Canada's first offshore wind development and will set the scale, direction and trajectory for future growth.

Unlocking 5,000 MW in the first phase could produce 24 TWh of clean energy every year and drive $45 to $75 billion in new investment and economic activity across Canada, led by the private sector.

> *"If we build Canada strong, we can give more to ourselves, we can do more for ourselves and each other than anyone can take away from us."*
>
> **Prime Minister Mark Carney**

The buildout phase would provide significant economic development benefits to Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada–by purchasing millions of tonnes of materials (e.g. 1.2 million tonnes of steel); aluminum and by contracting design, engineering, transmission management and construction opportunities for the new HVDC lines, all with significant Canadian content.

Beyond the construction phase, it will provide long-term operations and maintenance contracts, modernize and enhance ports and marine infrastructure and unlock energy abundance for new industries across Canada.

The overall impact on Nova Scotia's GDP will be significant. But perhaps more importantly, for the first time in generations there will be visible, tangible projects – an offshore fleet – that shows a future where Nova Scotia returns from an era of transfer payments and once again becomes a 'have' province.

This Federal investment spread out over many years would mark an historic and impactful economic development initiative in Atlantic Canada (and far more transformative than billions invested in a single manufacturing facility).

This proposal clearly meets both the word and the spirit of the Building for Canada Act:

- strengthening Canada's autonomy, resilience and security;
- providing economic and other benefits to Canada;
- has a high likelihood of successful execution;
- advancing the interests of Indigenous peoples; and
- contributing to clean growth and to meeting Canada's objectives with respect to climate change.

The Eastern Energy Partnership

Ontario, Quebec, northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada all face surging demand for electricity, with an estimated 100 GWs of new electricity capacity needed by 2050.

This demand growth is being driven by electrification, population growth and demand from emerging new industries, such as data centres, AI and other new industries.

Every Canadian province is planning to meet this rising demand through their own mix of new hydro developments, innovations in the nuclear sector, enhanced demand side management, domestic wind and solar, batteries and other tools.

But each of these sources also faces real-world constraints, which means that some new business opportunities are being turned away.

It is clear to us that each of these markets also needs large-scale injections of new electricity – in particular, from suppliers who can contract at fixed and stable prices.

South of the border, ICF sees electricity demand growing by 25% by 2030 and 78% by 2050, leading to higher electricity bills for Americans by as much as 15% to 40% over the next five years, and possibly doubling by 2050.

This problem is creating an opportunity.

Offshore wind from Nova Scotia can provide enormous quantities of clean energy, at stable prices, while diversifying supply, and boosting reliability for customers. And, in addition to Nova Scotia's offshore wind, the Atlantic Provinces have other enormous resources to offer--in new and expanded hydro, in new nuclear, in onshore wind, geothermal, tidal and others.

This regional clean energy wealth – of tens of GWs of new, clean energy supply – formed the basis for the Eastern Energy Partnership. Because to move beyond each province's own backyard, to turn this potential into actual assets, it also required transmission.

The Atlantic Premiers established the Eastern Energy Partnership to:

1. strengthen transmission across Eastern Canada,
2. open new clean power generation,
3. supply stable, long-term prices to Canadian households and businesses, and
4. enhance energy security.

The work has already begun and every province is offering more.

Speaking for Nova Scotia, its citizens have invested $1.8 billion in the Maritime Link, and have developed and agreed to spend another $0.8 billion on a much-expanded Nova Scotia-New Brunswick Intertie. These ties will help support the energy transition underway, which itself has seen billions more go into onshore wind, solar, batteries and other sources to help shift the province off coal.

Likewise, just on transmission alone, Newfoundland has built the Labrador Island Link and PEI invested in its subsea cable to New Brunswick.

With the proper support, Atlantic Canada is ready to move from simply cleaning up its own house to becoming a fully-fledged clean energy superpower.

Newfoundland and Labrador's onshore wind and hydroelectric power potential at Gull can support Eastern Canadian, as well as regional opportunities. Beyond this, the improved use of Newfoundland and Labrador's reservoirs can be part of a future regional optimization, including pumped storage.

New Brunswick sees opportunities for additional wind, solar and nuclear generation capable of serving provincial and national energy needs. New Brunswick is also looking to import Canadian natural gas as a power source to back up the region's wind and hydro resources.

Prince Edward Island is growing its renewable energy capabilities through partnerships with Indigenous communities (e.g., the Wejipek wind and Na'ku'set Park solar and battery storage projects), private developers (e.g., Skinners Pond wind project), the PEI Energy Corporation (e.g., Eastern Kings II wind project), expanding transmission capacity in western PEI and collaborating with Maritime Electric and New Brunswick Power on upgrades at Memramcook.

"The development of Atlantic Canada's offshore wind resources presents an immense opportunity to grow the economy, increase our energy security and leverage decades of experience working in ocean industries.

Strategic investments to support interprovincial energy trade, such as Wind West, will unlock Canada's renewable energy potential, deliver this new energy to domestic and export markets, and secure Canada's place as the world's leading energy superpower."

Elisa Obermann, Executive Director, Marine Renewables Canada

Nova Scotia's contribution to the Energy East Partnership is Wind West–tapping the energy giant that is offshore wind in the North Atlantic.

This one new resource is not a one-off. It's not limited in scale. Nova Scotia's already studied and identified sites alone have the capacity to generate 62 GW of new electricity supply, with capacity factors of up to 60%. This is the equivalent of a quarter of Canada's total current energy capacity.

This is the continent's largest untapped source of new electricity. This all means that when the rest of the opportunities across the region are included, Atlantic Canada is now positioned to help Canada achieve its "energy superpower" ambitions.

None of this happens by only building the generation. The energy must gain access to the market through vastly expanded transmission connections.

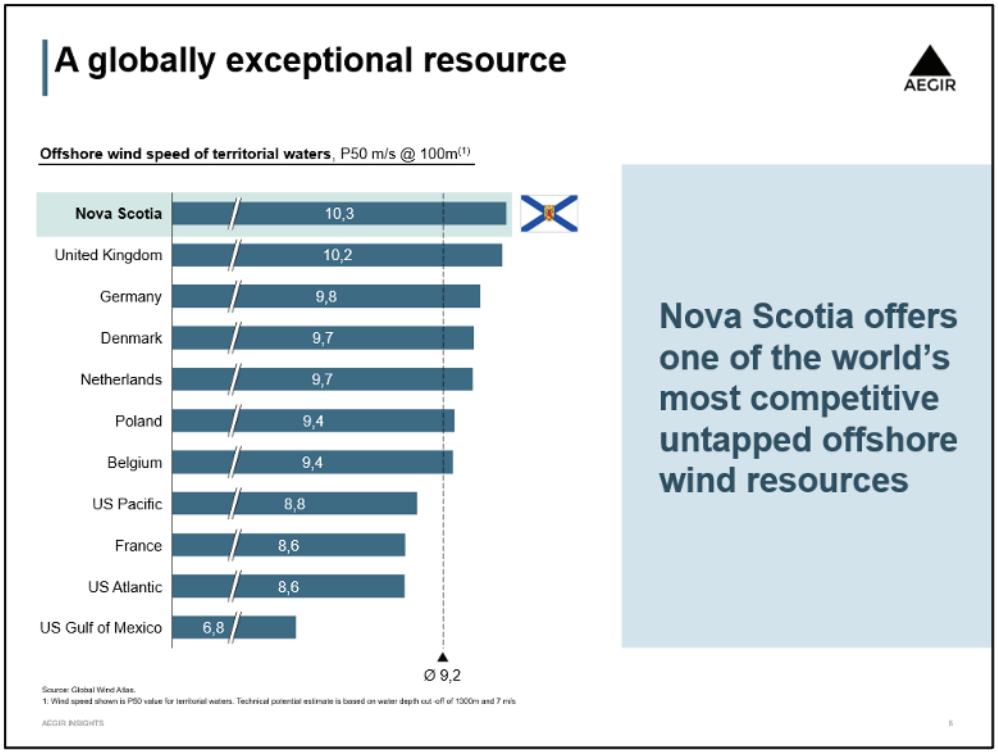
We can build today the clean power generation and the advanced transmission grid required to power Canada into 2035 and beyond without having to turn away our employers of tomorrow.

Wind West: a Nation-Building Energy Project

Wind West will be Canada's first offshore wind development.

Nova Scotia's offshore offers one of the best and most accessible wind resources in the world—strong, steady, with waters not too deep and close to markets.

Offshore wind developers from across the globe are excited by Wind West and the opportunity to invest, build and operate large-scale offshore wind projects. They recognize the long-term potential and want to help make it a reality.



This means, the Federal Government does not need to do all the heavy lifting or provide all the financial support, and nor does the Province of Nova Scotia. The private sector is already experienced in development of these projects, together with the required financing, business plans, designs and operational capability. If each government articulates what it is prepared to put on the table, Nova Scotia is confident the private sector and utilities can provide the experienced and capable proponents to build both the resource and the transmission.

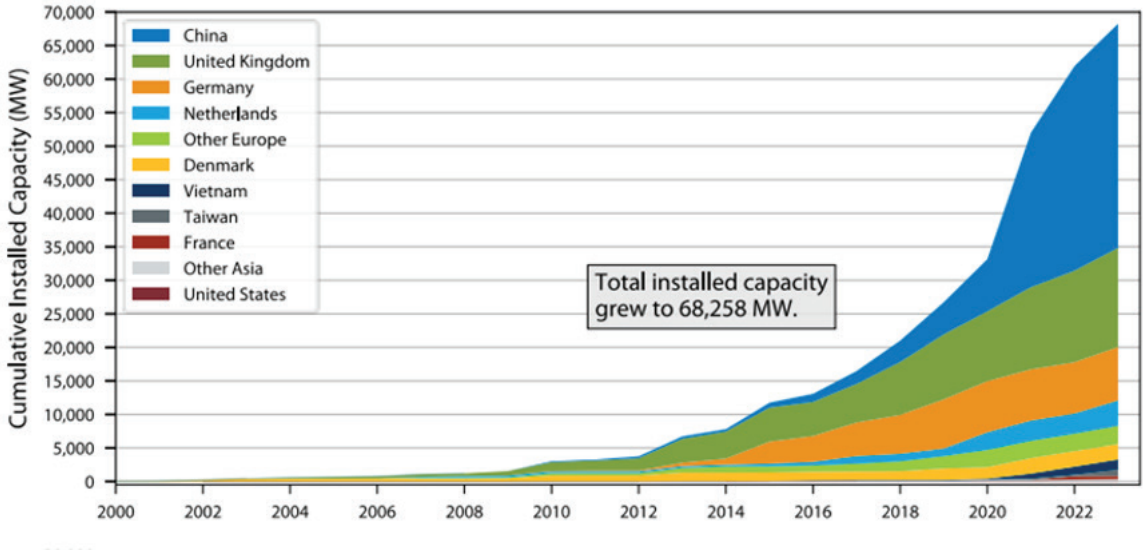
The First Phase – 5,000 MW

An initial 5,000 MW of new offshore wind development, on its own, will produce 24 TWh of clean energy every year. For perspective, this is twice the output of the revered Sir Adam Beck Hydro complex at Niagara Falls.

Two Niagara Falls would be remarkable. And this is offshore wind out of the gate.

It will not be easy. Yet Nova Scotia and Canada have already demonstrated strong intergovernmental collaboration in the offshore and across electricity–wind, solar, batteries, efficiency and transmission.

Technologically, offshore wind is no longer an R&D project or a future technology that shows potential. It has matured into a cornerstone of clean energy.



From Europe's North Sea to the East China Sea, nations are deploying gigawatts of capacity with falling costs, growing turbine sizes, and improved reliability.

Worldwide, offshore wind projects have matured from projects which erected just a few turbines, to projects surpassing 5,000 MWs. We now see jurisdictions planning for 40,000 MWs or more:

- **in the United Kingdom:** The Dogger Bank, Hornsea and East Anglia Array projects are already producing, and are being built out in stages, planned to produce 6-8 GWs or more,
- **in China:** Building on a myriad of existing projects, Guangdong East is now being planned, and will surpass 40 GWs, and
- **in Finland/Sweden:** OX2 / Åland Noatun is a cross-border international project, with 8 GWs under development.

It is in this context that Nova Scotia – with its extraordinary offshore wind resource and located next to multiple large markets facing soaring demand growth – is stepping forward.

Nova Scotia has the energy resource here at home. Eastern Canada's demands situate customers next door. And, Canada is a country which has proven that when it comes to energy, it has the technical, economic and political resources required to make it happen, to the benefit of all.

"Offshore wind could be for Atlantic Canada what oil was to Texas or hydro power to Quebec. We are talking here not of something incremental, but monumental."

Peter Nicholson, Catching the Wind Report (Public Policy Forum, 2023)

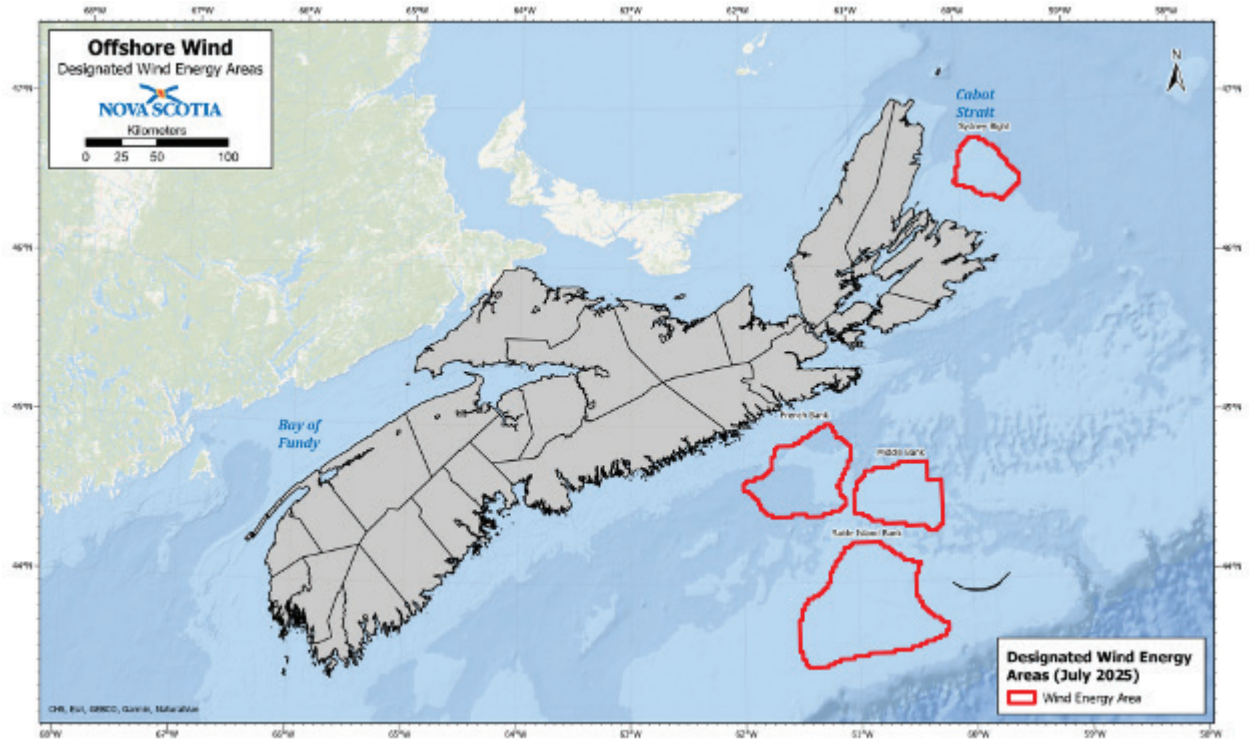
As Canada's first offshore wind development, Nova Scotia's project has captured the attention of the global industry. In fact, Nova Scotia is the envy of the world with our vast energy opportunities. Once we provide clarity about how we will get energy to market through the Eastern Energy Partnership, private investment will flow at pace.

Why is the industry watching so carefully?

Scalability.

While an initial call for bids for 5,000 MW will jump start the development of offshore wind, the initial designated areas can produce 62,000 MW, and potentially more. Industry likes the fact that it can grow within the same jurisdiction–working with an experienced Nova Scotia and Canadian supply chain, supported by Canadian infrastructure and working with a stable government.

This is all very attractive to the private sector.



In terms of Nova Scotia's **initial** wind development areas (see diagram on page 8):

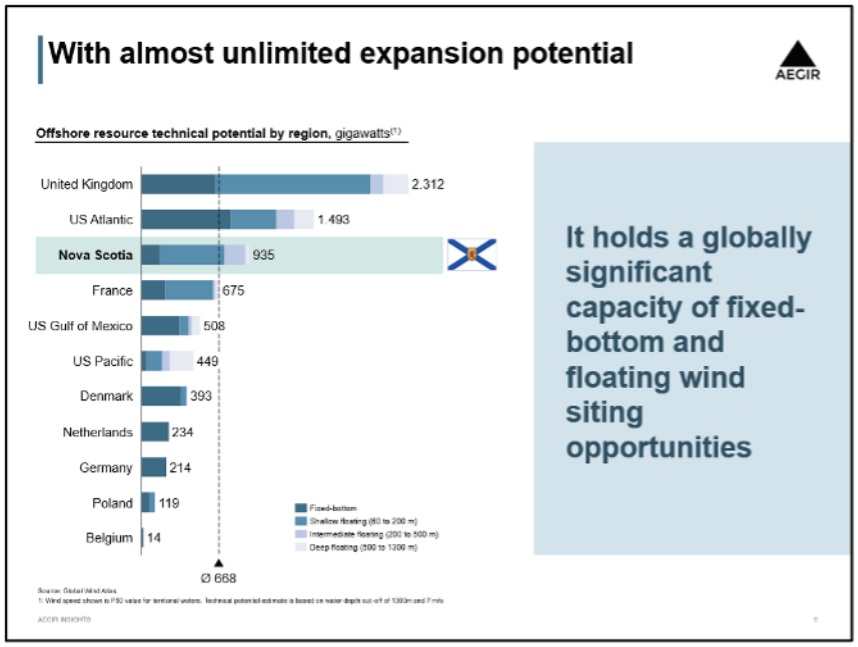
- Sydney Bight can accommodate up to 6,400 MW
- Middle Bank up to 11,400 MW
- Sable Island Bank up to 28,200 MW
- French Bank up to 15,600 MW

  Total of 61,600 MW

The first three areas have a water depth of less than 60m and strong wind resources and are ideal for fixed-bottom turbines. This technology can be developed faster as it has been in operation globally for years. While more costly than fixed-bottom technology, floating technologies are becoming more cost competitive with scale and maturity.

The fourth designated area, the French Bank, will be developed using floating offshore wind turbines. Additional areas can be designated in the future for both floating and fixed-bottom development.

In summary, there are no great technical barriers to overcome. Offshore wind off Nova Scotia



is entirely achievable. Nova Scotia and Canada will be at the leading edge of scalable global offshore wind development and production, as well as exportable expertise and services.

This energy abundance will provide clean energy for new industrial or energy intensive development in Nova Scotia, across Atlantic Canada and beyond, and complement further development of the hydro, nuclear, onshore wind and gas-first resources of the Atlantic Region, Quebec and Ontario.

We face a problem that current regulatory practices prohibit planning for future energy demand.

Canada should invest in, at the very least, the overbuild components—the portions regulators prevent and thereby costing ratepayers more in the long run. Bigger towers built to carry future cables; bigger cables built for future load; bigger converter stations and sub-stations designed for future phases—all designed to encourage and carry the phased development of the Wind West Project.

> *"As the fight to halt climate change becomes more pressing, Canada needs to turn its inexhaustible wind resource into infinitely renewable electricity. That will require a new level of ambition, even audacity."*
>
> **Peter Nicholson, Catching the Wind Report (Public Policy Forum, 2023)**

That next, needed electron at a competitive price

From a market perspective, today's prices for new electricity supply are highly variable in Eastern Canada and the US northeast, ranging from $50 to more than $250/MWh.

The initial 5,000 MW is expected to expand incrementally in phases of 5-10 GW, lowering unit costs progressively as the industry advances, with the potential to grow to more than 60,000 MW.

With the ability to scale projects, Nova Scotia's offshore wind, with a supportive transmission grid, can provide very large quantities of new energy to provinces wishing to buy it – offering fixed prices, over long-terms and with a whole series of risks removed for customers. As a result, the price of offshore wind will likely fall somewhere in the mid-range of costs, and it can work together with new sources of hydro, nuclear and gas-fired generation.

There is no other new energy source in the region that can simply drop 25 TWhs of power on the table, at a fixed price, for a 30-year term...and then repeat the offer 10 more times.

For this first phase, pricing will need to be comparable to the other options available to ratepayers in the Atlantic Region, Quebec and Ontario.

Estimates for the delivered cost of energy are outlined below.

These figures below are derived from scenarios based on the National Renewable Energy Laboratories financial model (US Department of Energy). Capital investment estimates are broad, from $30-50 billion for 5 GW of offshore wind and an additional $15-25 billion for transmission. (The charts below utilize simple mid-points in these ranges). It uses pricing estimates from multiple public and private sources to generate median prices for 5 GWs of Nova Scotian offshore wind power, delivered to Quebec.

Exhibit A (see also Attachment 1)

	No ITC & No CIB	**ITC Only**	**ITC + CIB (Trans only)**	**ITC + CIB (Trans + Gen)**
Wind Generation Cost	$170	$140	$140	$120
Transmission Cost	$70	$60	$50	$50
All-in Cost/ MWh	$240	$200	$190	$170

Assumptions:

- 5,000 MWs (5 GWs) offshore wind
- 57-60% capacity factor
- 25 TWhs annual electricity output
- $40 billion offshore wind capital cost
- $20 billion transmission capital cost
- 30% wind ITC, 15% transmission ITC, CIB loan at 1%

These prices include a Provincial royalty (production tax) of 4%. This 4% might initially appear small, but would scale appropriately as it's based on a percentage – as well as coming on top of economic development benefits (and any other Provincial Crown roles which might be developed).

The benefits of the ITC are clear, potentially reducing costs by $40/MWh. But access for this project to CIB borrowing rates – as has already been done with the NS-NB Intertie – can double down on this, and bring billions of dollars in benefits–to central Canadian consumers, firms, plants, suppliers and workers nation-wide.

In all this, and especially at this early stage, the role of the Federal Government is critical– not just for permits and approvals, but for enabling investments. In terms of project costs, both offshore wind and transmission are highly capital intensive. And as a result, investment incentives and lower borrowing costs are central to bringing costs down and fixing those prices for decades for customers in Quebec, Ontario and Atlantic Canada.

Fortunately, the Federal Government has already created the targeted and strategic tools needed to achieve this–Investment Tax Credits and the Canada Infrastructure Bank. Nova Scotia understands and has used these tools and forged agreements with the Federal Government to develop onshore wind, interprovincial transmission, battery storage and other projects.

For its part, Nova Scotia will ensure all offshore wind development processes are conducted in a manner that meets the Honour of the Crown with Indigenous People, are competitive, and minimize restrictive regulatory processes.

Getting from here to there - path to market

Atlantic Canada's existing transmission infrastructure–while steadily improving–is not designed or capable of carrying gigawatts of new supply across the country. The scale of Wind West exceeds whatever incremental upgrades and provincial planning can deliver.

This is the heart of the Eastern Energy Partnership.

Two Primary Route Options

There are two conceptual route options for Nova Scotia's offshore wind to reach markets:

(a) overland via New Brunswick; and

(b) subsea direct to Quebec/Ontario.

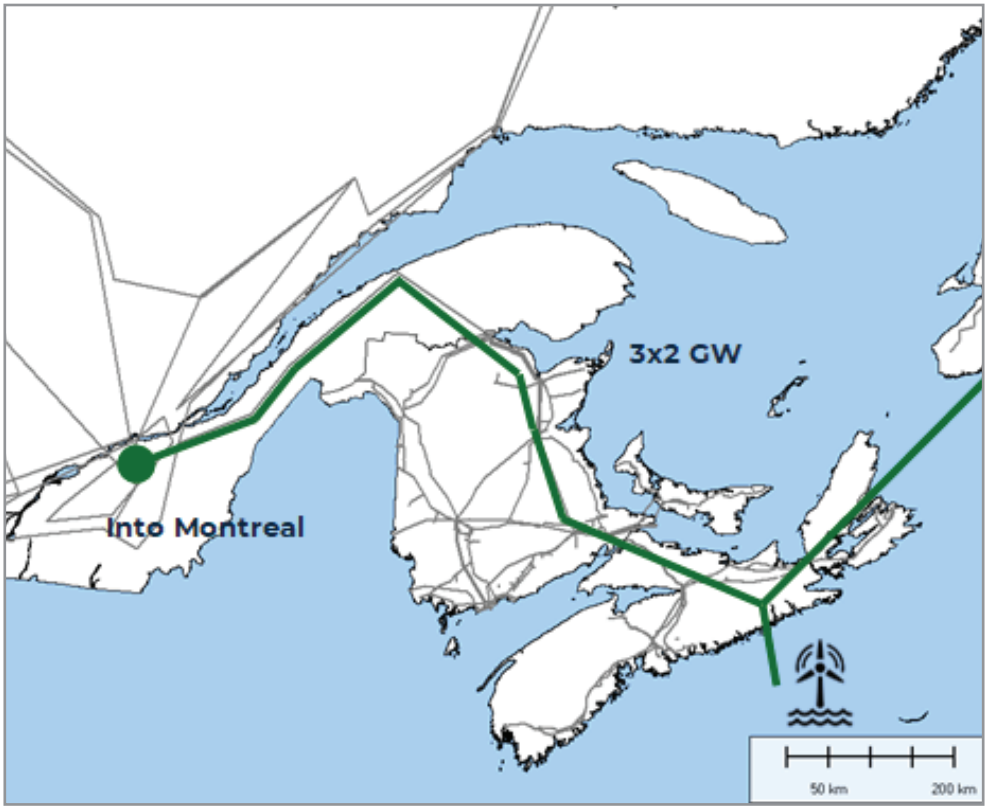
Both approaches are envisioned to meet Eastern Canada's domestic needs, as well as being designed as scalable, "no regrets" projects. Subsequent phases could provide more nation-building opportunities by linking resources from other provinces to serve the larger demand markets, including northeastern US.

HVDC is a mature technology, with significant Canadian engineering and construction experience. Employing an HVDC multi-terminal design in both routes will enable other regional resources to find market opportunities, consistent with the Eastern Energy Partnership.

Nova Scotia is open to either route.

The exact shape of the transmission side can be better designed once it is clear the role the Government of Canada is willing to play in developing the offshore wind industry and its transmission. And following this, Nova Scotia and the EEP can better make decisions around the issuance of an RFP or EOI to see what the private sector can provide re: the design, development, permitting, financing, owning and/or operating of any transmission facilities.

(a) The **overland route** could parallel existing transmission assets where possible, minimizing land use and environmental impacts. This route could unlock regional energy integration across Atlantic Canada and Quebec. The specific routing would be determined following detailed property-level and constraint analysis, but early indications suggest an interconnection point from the offshore would land in the Goldboro area.



Additional transmission may also be required from Newfoundland and Labrador. This has not been factored into this economic analysis at this time.

Incorporating resources from other provinces likely require this line to become a multi-terminal HVDC project, and have a converter station located near the border with New Brunswick, to enable new nuclear, wind, or other resources to be added in.

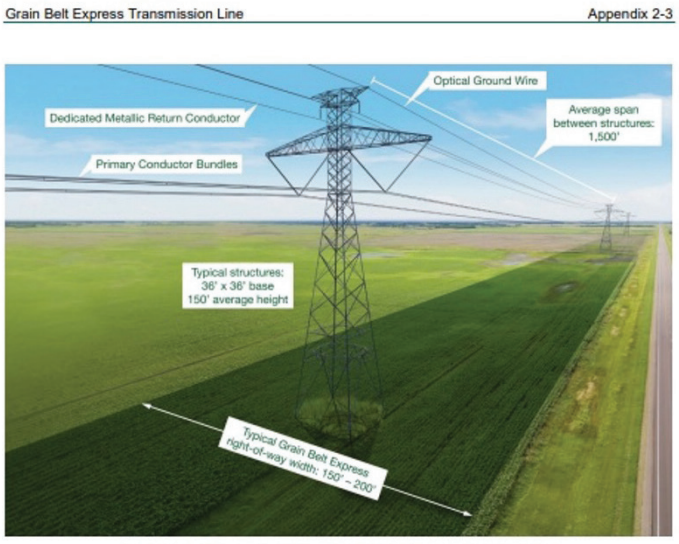
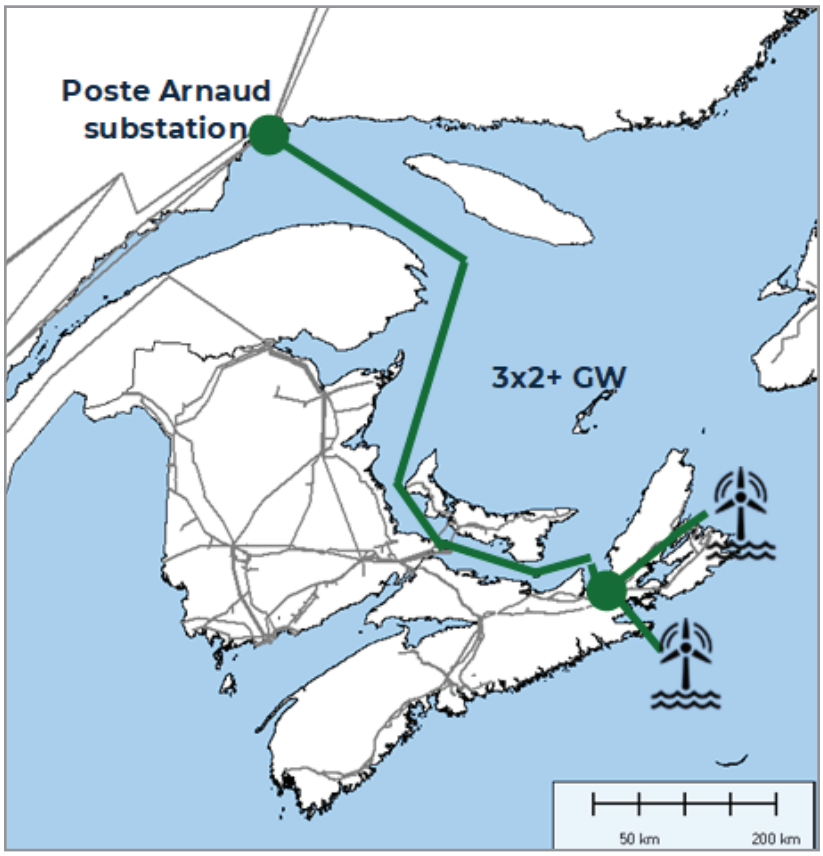


Figure 1. Schematic for Typical HVDC Transmission Line

For reference, the overland route could resemble a similar scale project like the US Grain Belt Express, which is an 800km, 600 kV HVDC multi-terminal transmission project capable of carrying 5,000 MWs. It is estimated at $11 billion USD, consistent with the low-end estimate of $15 billion CAD for this project.

(b) The **subsea route** could involve a subsea HVDC converter substation in offshore Nova Scotia feeding multiple 2 GW cables that make landfall near Quebec or potentially New England load centres.



Subsea HVDC transmission is well proven: Europe has deployed cables >700km and >2,000 MW, at depths of >1,000m. With Nova Scotia's relatively shallow and calmer waters, technical feasibility is strong.

Both options are viable.

The ultimate decision will factor in economics, permitting timelines, environmental considerations and national interests.

The Government of Canada's role is essential to enable financing and fuel investment confidence, as well as:

- Supporting near-term feasibility and routing studies;
- clarifying federal permitting roles and fast-tracking procedures; and
- ensuring any route meets national priorities for security, resilience, Indigenous engagement and economic development.

Federal clarity now, in support of Wind West, will accelerate market engagement, reduce project risk and ensure the Eastern Energy Partnership delivers on its full economic and energy potential.

Economic benefits: putting the wind at our back

Wind West is not just an opportunity to create energy; it is an opportunity to own and develop a new industry in Canada, to anchor manufacturing and to develop intellectual property, engineering and long-term economic value in the country.

Unlocking Wind West through just the initial 5,000 MW first phase could drive $45 to $75 billion in new investment and economic activity across Canada.

The buildout phase provides powerful opportunities for economic benefits to Ontario, Quebec and all of Atlantic Canada–including purchasing millions of tonnes of steel, cement and materials; and contracting in high-end design, engineering and transmission management and construction for the new HVDC lines–all of which will include Canadian content.

Each of these jurisdictions has to determine its own new mix of supplies and suppliers, to provide the project with what it needs.

Wind West also means significant local spending and investment in labour during the construction phase. The initial 5,000 MW project is estimated to result in an average of 5,000+ workers employed per year for construction and in associated supply chain jobs.

The offshore wind system also has annual operations and maintenance expenses which result in revenue–for ports, vessels, services–amounting to $500+ million per year and employing 2,000+ people for decades to come.

There will be opportunities to participate in Wind West's long value chain across Eastern Canada. There will need to be significant upfront construction work in the ports. As well, marine operations will create new opportunities to train a labour force for work in the offshore. There will be more opportunities to train young workers for new, long-term careers in offshore wind, as well as new opportunities for Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, and other economically marginalized communities.

And this initial 5,000 MWs is then expected to be built upon, in waves of 5-10 GWs, lowering unit costs as Nova Scotia and the global industry move down the learning curve, and with potential to grow to more than 62,000 MW.

Wind West will forge a new technical and industrial leadership role in North America, and it has the potential to reduce electricity prices for millions of Canadians.

> *"Nova Scotia cannot undertake an offshore wind project of this magnitude on its own. It is unlikely even the combined resources of Atlantic Canada will be sufficient. Rather, leveraging this opportunity will require a national-level consolidation of resources and industry development strategy."*
>
> **Socio Economic Impact Analysis of Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia (21FSP Advisory, 2025)**

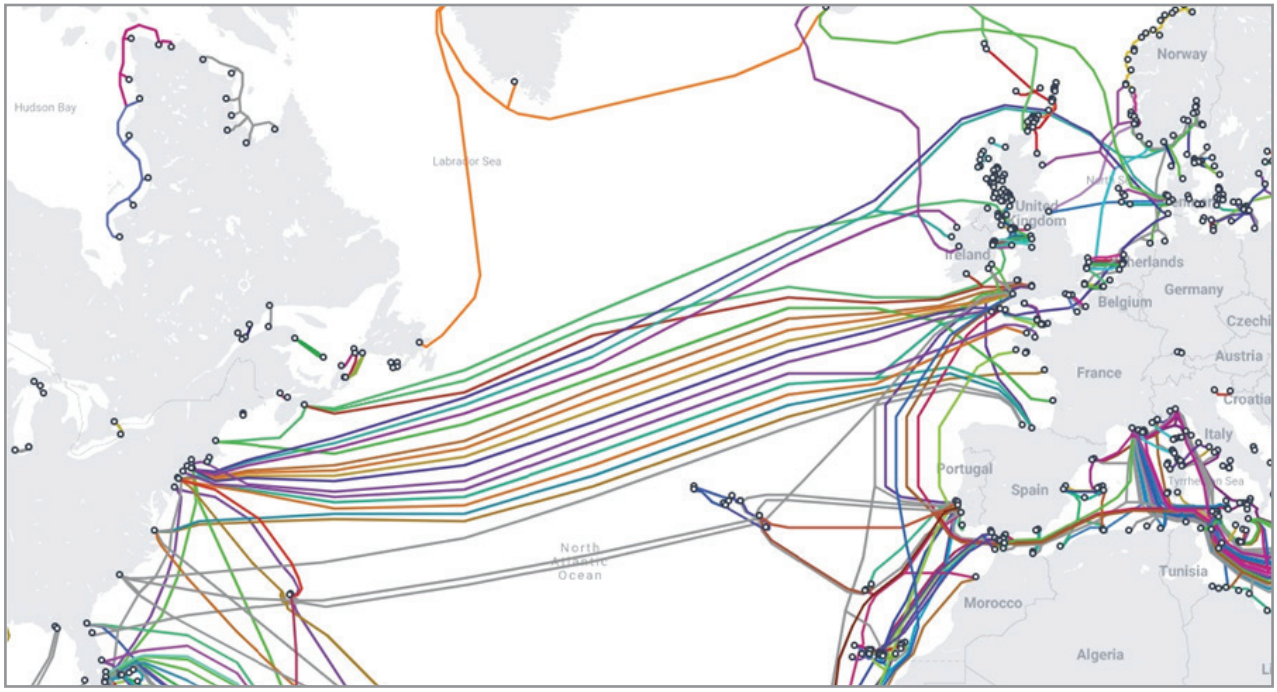


Image: Subsea data cables (Source: Telegeometry www.submarinecablemap.com)

Creating this energy abundance could also enable the development of new AI business and data centres. Data centres require immense amounts of energy and direct access to key cables. Nova Scotia already has many of the attributes data centres are seeking, including strategic access to inter-continental data cables at low latencies, a cool climate, abundant land and water, and a skilled labour pool.

For Nova Scotia, offshore wind and Wind West offer a rare combination of necessity and of opportunity.

The opportunity for, and in fact, likelihood of, economic transformation for Nova Scotia is clear. Why? Today, Nova Scotia has the lowest GDP per capita in North America. Not Alabama. Not Mississippi. Not West Virginia. Not any of the other provinces. Nova Scotia.

Too many leaders have ignored this fact. We refuse to ignore it, to accept it, and we will not look the other way.

It wasn't that long ago that every Nova Scotia community was thriving. There were fishing communities. Boat building communities. Farming communities. Foresters. Builders. Workers.

Generations of our children went elsewhere to work. And they often went to work in the very industries that were killed off here.

It is time to take the "no" out of Nova Scotia. The best solution to poverty and affordability is a good-paying job.

We need a wealth-generating asset for the future.

The massive development of wind energy off Atlantic Canada's coast can play a major role in fulfilling the national decarbonization objective while laying the foundation for durable economic development that the region has been seeking for generations."

Peter Nicholson, Catching the Wind Report (Public Policy Forum, 2023)

Without a sustainable new source of clean, scalable, locally owned and controlled energy, Nova Scotia will remain at the bottom of the economic ladder, unable to participate meaningfully in the national economic project.

The good news is we have world-class wind resources that can change our future.

The benefits will be widespread across various sectors and communities.

Positive and early engagement with fishers has been ongoing, and the four designated wind energy areas were selected based on fishers feedback and minimizing impact to their sector.

Final project locations and cable routes will require further engagement and potential mitigation.

This is the first real chance in generations to chart a new path for Nova Scotia: to build, to export, to lead.

This is true nation building, where the plan and the path can be sustained for decades.

Mi’kmaq Engagement

Nova Scotia is committed to consulting with the Mi’kmaq.

Premier Houston has met with all thirteen Chiefs making up the Assembly of Nova Scotia Chiefs to discuss this project. In the Premier’s discussions, there was broad interest amongst the group for involvement.

We know the Mi’kmaq have participated in the offshore supply chain before, and there is no reason that can’t happen in the future for offshore wind. There will be significant construction work required in ports. There will be opportunities to train youth for new careers in a stable sector.

We are excited by the onshore wind, solar, battery, and transmission developments that the Mi’kmaq have been partners in for more than a decade and are committed to achieving our commitments to close coal and achieve 80% renewable electricity here in Nova Scotia.

Premier Houston has encouraged the Mi’kmaq to work with the Federal Government, through programs like the Federal Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program, to negotiate an equity interest where the Federal Government would provide the funding for the participating communities to purchase equity.

The Ask: How we make it happen

This is a major opportunity for Canada. And with its history of successful energy development–from hydro through nuclear to the oil sands–it can be done.

The Government of Canada already has the tools needed to achieve the objectives of Wind West and the Eastern Energy Partnership. It can invest, incent, support and enable these projects in multiple ways, while levering in substantial private sector investment, while moving risk out where necessary.

Nova Scotia believes this project clearly meets Canada's central criteria: it strengthens Canada's energy autonomy, resilience and security; provides economic benefits; has a high likelihood of successful execution; advances the interests of Indigenous peoples; and contributes to clean growth and to meeting Canada's climate change objectives.

The alignment of Wind West and the broader Eastern Energy Partnership with these criteria, the significant economic benefits, and the diversity and scale of Federal engagement with other projects should encourage the Federal Government to act.

At this point, Nova Scotia is looking to the Government of Canada to confirm its commitments, and empower Atlantic Canada to become an energy superpower.

We are asking the Government of Canada to commit to an umbrella agreement that includes:

1. **Designation of Wind West as a national interest project** under the *Building Canada Act;*
2. **Investment Tax Credits (ITCs)** that reflect the proposed Clean Electricity ITC to support the Eastern Energy Partnership transmission work and ensure Clean Technology ITCs are available for the timelines needed for offshore wind components and generation;
3. **Canada Infrastructure Bank's (CIB) low-interest financing** for transmission and offshore wind generation in a form similar to that done for NS-NB transmission and onshore wind, and with an extended time horizon;
4. **Mi'kmaq engagement** to support early engagement with interested Mi'kmaq communities with respect to Federal support programs for investment; and
5. **Additional upfront support** for necessary upfront investments in ports, labour force, infrastructure, etc. (e.g. through ITCs, tax incentives or financial programs)

We would ask that these commitments be flexible so as to accommodate the final design of the offshore wind farms, transmission routes ultimately chosen (subsea or over land) and the customers served by the project.

The sooner these Federal commitments are made, the sooner private sector confidence will be built, and development funding can be turned into a range of investment proposals–across wind sites and turbine types and a range of transmission routes and technologies– and arrangements can be made for Canadian suppliers and manufacturing capacity.

Timeline

Wind West offers a clear, realistic and achievable path to 5 GW of offshore wind generation, based on proven development models from Europe, the United States and Asia. This phased timeline outlines the sequence of events from proof-of-concept through to realization of one of the world's leading offshore wind energy projects.

2025: Confirm Wind West as a National Interest Project

- Federal Government support and designation secured
- Preliminary studies and data collection initiated
- Transmission routing assessments started
- Stakeholder consultations initiated
- Finalize criteria for Call for Bids

2026: License Developers and Complete Studies

- Complete Call for Bids process
- Engage offshore wind generation and transmission facilities developers
- Complete detailed site selection and initial environmental approval process
- Issue submerged land licenses
- Engage off-takers and initiate contracting

2027–2030: Pre-Construction and Design

- Initiate port development and infrastructure readiness
- Conclude transmission design and initiate permitting
- Develop local supply chain and labour force development
- Issue Call for Bids for the second tranche of up to 5,000 MW
- Continue contracting for incremental energy supply

2031-2033: Construction and Commissioning

- Construction and commissioning of the first 5,000 MW
- Construction and commissioning of HVDC transmission facilities
- Issue Call for Bids for the third tranche of up to 5,000 MW (for a total of 15,000 MW).

2033-2040: 15,000 MW of installed offshore wind capacity is operational.

Conclusion

Wind West and the Eastern Energy Partnership will open up a historic and unique opportunity for Canada and realize a new era of energy abundance that will drive economic growth.

There is no other clean, renewable source of energy at the scale that is available in Nova Scotia's offshore that can provide a staggering quantity of new supply, at fixed and stable prices, with no fuel price risk.

Wind West is truly a nation-building project and with the commitment of the Federal Government, Nova Scotia is ready to build it.

- It will strengthen Canada's energy autonomy, security and resilience.
- It will drive economic growth across provincial borders and secure Nova Scotia's economic future and end dependency on equalization.
- It will offer new potential opportunities for interested Mi'kmaq communities.
- It will demonstrate Canada's commitment to clean growth and climate change innovation by the critical 2050 net-zero date.

Wind West will succeed because it brings together exceptional wind resources, strong market demand, strong partnerships, experienced proponents, world-class Canadian contractors and suppliers and the political will to get it done.

Nova Scotia needs a firm commitment from the Government of Canada that it will support the Province and the Eastern Energy Partnership in developing the Wind West Project.

Attachment 1: Levelized Cost of Energy table

Levelized Cost of Energy

Offshore Wind

Input	
Fixed Charge Rate	7.05%
Capital Recovery Factor (Wind)	6.67%
Project Finance Factor	1.056
Weighted Average Cost of Capital	5.226%
Real Interest Rate	5.00%
Capital Recover Factor (Transmission)	6.01%
Effective ITC (Wind)	23%
Real WACC	5.2%
Weighted Average Cost of Capital (no Crown Debt)	6.93%
Capital Recovery Factor (No Crown)	8.00%
Real WACC (No Crown)	6.93%
Capital Recover Factor (Transmission) No Crown	7.440%

Wind Project Assumptions		
Fixed Operations and Maintenance	100.00	$/kw-year
Wind Farm Amortization	30	years
Wind Investment Tax Credit	30%	
Transmission Project Assumptions		
Transmission ITC	15%	
Transmission Amortization	40	years
Financial Assumptions		
Debt Ratio	60%	
Market Debt rate	5.00%	
Debt Ratio (Crown) % of total project	60%	
Crown Debt Rate	1.0%	
Rate of Return on Equity	12.0%	
Inflation	0.00%	
Debt Ratio (Private) (Calculated, C29-C31)	0%	
Tax Rate (Combined Fed/Prov)	29%	

Project Assumptions

Wind Capital Cost ($million/MW)	
Median	$ 8

Wind Fixed Operating and Maintenance Cost ($/kw-year)	
Median	$ 100

Transmission Capital Cost ($million/MW)	
Median	$ 4

Wind Capacity Factor	55%	
Wind Farm Size	5000	MW
Annual Energy Production	24,090,000	MWh

Model Outputs				
	No ITC or CIB	ITC Only	ITC and CIB	ITC and CIB
$/MWh			CIB Trans only	Trans + Gen
Wind Generation Cost	$ 170	$ 140	$ 140	$ 120
Transmission Cost	$ 70	$ 60	$ 50	$ 50
Delivered Energy Cost	$ 240	$ 200	$ 190	$ 170

O&M Spending annual	
Median	$ 500,000,000

Total Capital cost	
Median	$ 60,000,000,000

The Eastern Energy Partnership

Wind West:

a Nation-Building Energy Project

NOVA SCOTIA