

Regional Assessment for Offshore Wind in N.S.
Halifax, N.S.
November 15th, 2023.

Department of Natural Resources Canada
Ottawa, Canada
Attention: Jon Brady (by email)

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources & Renewables
Halifax, Canada
Attention: Heather MacDougall (by email)

Re: Request for Information

Dear Sir/Madam,

The mandate of the Regional Assessment (RA) Committee is broad and detailed. We have sought data from several federal and provincial departments to support our investigations and analyses and are in the midst of a comprehensive engagement program with a wide range of participants including fishers, fishing associations, general stakeholders and First Nations. We have also met with developers, both through Marine Renewables Canada (MRC) and individually in an effort to gather information on the potential locations that industry believes are suitable for future wind energy development. This latter initiative has had limited success.

The RA Committee understands that Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR) are planning to issue an information request to developers seeking the identification of priority development areas. Recent discussions with NRCan and NRR have highlighted a common interest in this information.

Please consider this letter as a formal request to NRCan and NRR to solicit information from developers as outlined below. We appreciate that the federal and provincial governments may have additional information needs over and above the Committee's and may wish to add to the request at their discretion. The Committee's requirements, in no particular order are:

- The identification of locations within the RA Study Area considered suitable for offshore wind development with any priority areas highlighted and a statement of the rationale for each selection;
- The identification of locations within the RA Study Area considered unsuitable for offshore wind development and a statement of the rationale for their exclusion;
- An anticipated development timeline with reference to a call for proposals and award of license;
- The anticipated scale and, if contemplated, sequencing of any proposed development;
- A description of the anticipated route to market;
- A description of the proposed transmission route to shore, methodology i.e., DC vs AC, and the anticipated number of cables;
- Whether the proposed development would be dependent on, or benefit from, any shared infrastructure and, if so, a description of what that might entail; and

- The anticipated utilization and location of domestic port infrastructure.

We appreciate that there may be concerns related to confidentiality and how the information will be shared by the respective governments and the Committee. From our perspective, the Committee requires only an aggregated summary of the information without identification of or reference to any individual developer. This information will provide essential data for the Committee to consider alongside the myriad of other data it has sourced as it attempts to narrow the prospective development areas and meet the requirements in the Terms of Reference. We would appreciate your support in this information gathering exercise and delivering it to the Committee as soon as practicable in the New Year.

Yours truly,

James Wooder Co-Chair

Ann Wilkie Co-Chair