

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA – UPDATE

November/December 2023

Since the last update, the Committee has been continuing to execute their Fall Engagement Program. The Committee and Secretariat continue to gather information and meet with various stakeholders including industry and federal and provincial authorities, as well as working on report writing and follow-up documents related to the engagement program.

On October 18, 2023, the Committee sent a [letter](#) to the federal and provincial ministers outlining their understanding of their Terms of Reference and description of how they will be addressing the upcoming deliverables associated with the Regional Assessment reporting. Upon receiving the Ministers' response, the Committee will reassess the work plan, and will communicate the next steps to all participants via email update and on the Registry.

The Fall Engagement Program extended into November and included in-person open house sessions in Dartmouth (Nova Scotia), Wolfville (Nova Scotia), Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island), and Moncton (New Brunswick). The objectives of the fall engagement program were to provide information about offshore wind and the Regional Assessment process and to gather input with a focus on thoughts of potential locations for future offshore wind locations in the Study Area. Each session consisted of an afternoon and evening session and participants were encouraged to review poster boards, watch a video on offshore wind, and partake in discussions at a mapping table focussed on around potential future locations. Feedback Forms and Input Boards were also set-up to gather additional feedback. The [poster boards](#) used in the open house sessions have been posted to the Registry. These materials provide general information on the Regional Assessment process and offshore wind.

The Committee also met one-on-one with Chiefs and Councils at Indigenous communities in PEI (Abegweit First Nation) and Nova Scotia (Millbrook First Nation). The Committee also met with representatives of some Indigenous organizations.

In response to requests from various groups, the Committee has planned additional open house sessions for January 2024 in Richmond County (January 23), Cheticamp (January 24) and New Glasgow (January 25). Details will be posted to the Registry under *Information Sessions* (<https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83514/session>).

As a follow-up to the engagement program, the Committee will be posting a *What We Heard Summary* and *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* document summarizing the findings of the engagement program. These documents will be posted to the Registry in December. The FAQ document will remain evergreen and will continue to be updated throughout the Regional Assessment process with the intent to provide information and clarification to various questions on technical, environmental, economic, or other aspects of offshore wind development.

The Committee has continued to meet regularly with the Secretariat to discuss outcomes of engagement sessions and plan next steps. A Summary of Regional Assessment Committee Meetings is updated and posted to the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#).

The Committee continued to meet with federal and provincial government departments and industry in November. A summary of participant meetings will be added to the tracking tables within the relevant

Participation Plans. These Plans include the Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan, Fisheries Participation Plan, and Indigenous Participation Plan. Updated versions of these Plans will be posted to the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#) in December.

All information about the Regional Assessment is available on the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#). The Committee invites all Indigenous peoples, organizations, and any other person or group with information and interests related to the Regional Assessment, and who wishes to participate in it, to reach out via the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) and/or the [public commenting tool](#) with any questions or comments. If you would like your name and contact added to the distribution list, please send your contact information to the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

The Committee and Secretariat will be out of the office from December 18, 2023 – January 7, 2024. An update will not be posted in December; however regular updates will resume in January. We look forward to continuing this important work in 2024.