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December 07, 2023

Ann Wilkie, Co-Chair  
James Wooder, Co-Chair  
Nova Scotia Regional Assessment for Offshore Wind  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Via email:

Dear Regional Assessment Committee:

In response to your correspondence dated November 15, 2023, requesting the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) assist the Regional Assessment (RA) Committee's information gathering by seeking information from offshore wind developers on the potential locations they identify as suitable and of interest for future offshore wind development.

NRR and NRCAN have considered this request and will conduct an industry-focused survey to collect industry interest for developing offshore wind in the Regional Assessment Study Area, on behalf of the RA Committee. We recognize that this information is essential for the RA Committee to consider as part of its broader analysis and to meet its requirements and deliverables under the Terms of Reference of the RA. With respect to the list of information the RA Committee is seeking, NRR and NRCAN may refrain from including information in our response that falls outside of the scope of the RA, such as "anticipated utilization and location of domestic port infrastructure".

The Province of Nova Scotia would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the Province's current focus is on offshore areas under the Canada-Nova Scotia joint-management regime, and that the survey will correspondingly focus on the RA Study Area. This direction was announced on November 22, 2023.

Governments are committed to working with the RA Committee to ensure the survey reflects the interests of the RA Committee and is undertaken in a timely manner to support the RA Committee's deliverables. The Regional Assessment for Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia will help inform future decisions respecting offshore wind and we look forward to the RA's deliverables and recommendations.

We thank the RA Committee for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Heather MacDougall, Executive Director  
Policy and Corporate Services  
NS Natural Resources and Renewables

Kim Doane, Executive Director  
Subsurface and Offshore Energy  
NS Natural Resources and Renewables

Jon Brady, Deputy Director  
Natural Resources Canada