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Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
200-1801 Hollis St.
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3N4

Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia - Interim Report*. Parks Canada would like to take the opportunity to provide comment on aspects of the report relevant to our recommendations.

Parks Canada's *Recommendation Report* to the Committee provides suggested distances for the protection of Canada's protected heritage places, particularly as it relates to views. Parks Canada developed recommendations based on the methodology found in the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition* written by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in 2013. We considered the criteria influencing sensitivity to visual impacts, which are linked to the viewer, their expectation for the views and the extent to which attention or interest may be focused on the views. Visitors engaged in outdoor recreation with attention or interest likely focused on the landscape and on particular views, or visitors to places where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to visitor experience, are most susceptible to change.


The Committee's *Interim Report* identifies that the Sydney Bight PFDA is "Approximately 29 km away from Cape Smokey Provincial Park and Cape Breton Highlands National Park, avoiding potential impacts on views." Given that there are many factors that have potential to influence the visual impacts of offshore wind, in the absence of project-specific details, it is not possible to know whether a 29 km distance from the Sydney Bight PFDA will avoid potential impacts on views. As described in Parks Canada's *Recommendation Report*, depending on the height of the land, the height of the turbines and other factors, a distance of 45 km may be needed to have negligible impacts on the views in Cape Breton Highlands National Park. We recommend altering the boundary of the PFDA or softening the language describing the impacts on views.

Parks Canada appreciates the Committee's efforts to consider *Interim Report* feedback and better understand Parks Canada's recommendations and look forward to continuing

to help inform the Committee's processes during the remainder of the Regional Assessment.

Sincerely,

<Signature removed>

Katherine Cumming 
A/Director, Natural Resource Management Branch