

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia

Indigenous Participation Plan

UPDATED: August 31, 2024

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Please note that the Committee's working language is English.

This Participation Plan is available in French upon request

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1.0 Introduction

Under the conditions of its Agreement and Terms of Reference (TOR), the Committee established for the Regional Assessment (RA) of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia (“the Committee”) has prepared this Indigenous Participation Plan (the Plan) to outline the engagement approach for Indigenous participation throughout the conduct of the RA.

There are three participation plans that have been developed for this RA. In addition to the Indigenous Participation Plan, the Committee has also developed:

1. Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan
2. Fisheries Participation Plan

All three plans are posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry). Additional information on the Committee operational procedures and the confidentiality procedure is complementary to all three participation plans and are available on the RA Registry page: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83514>.

Links relevant to the information provided in this Plan are provided in Appendix A.

It is important to note that while the conduct of the RA may involve collecting information on Indigenous rights, the engagement process is not a rights-determining process.

1.1 Regional Assessment Background

On April 5, 2022, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) announced that a Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia would be carried out under the *Impact Assessment Act (IAA)* to help inform future project-specific federal impact assessments for offshore wind projects in these areas. Early planning included an engagement program conducted in the summer and fall of 2022 to provide information on the regional assessment process and to gather feedback to inform the development of a draft Agreement and TOR.

The draft Agreement and TOR underwent a public review and comment period in October/November 2022 and final versions were posted the Registry when the RA was announced in March 2023.

A five-member, independent Committee was established pursuant to subsection 93(1) of the *IAA*. The Committee will conduct the RA in accordance with the *IAA*, the final Agreement and TOR (released on March 23, 2023). A Secretariat was also established to provide administrative and technical support to the Committee during the conduct of the RA.

1.2 Committee Role and Responsibilities for Indigenous Engagement

The roles and responsibilities of the Committee around Indigenous engagement are detailed in the TOR.

The Committee is mandated to receive information from Indigenous peoples on the nature and scope of Aboriginal or Treaty rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* in the Study Area, as well as information on potential adverse impacts that future offshore wind development activities in the

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Study Area may (individually or cumulatively) have on these rights. Information provided to the Committee as part of this process may also inform Crown efforts to develop and implement meaningful consultation processes with Indigenous peoples in future project-specific impact assessments and other regulatory and decision-making processes after the RA is complete.

In conducting its work, the Committee recognizes that Indigenous knowledge is an important component of understanding existing conditions, potential effects (positive, adverse and cumulative effects), mitigation measures and other measures for addressing effects. In their reports, the Committee will indicate how they have considered and used the Indigenous knowledge provided with respect to the RA.

1.3 Engagement Objectives

It is the Committee's desire to work with Indigenous participants to determine opportunities for meaningful participation throughout the RA process. The objectives of the Indigenous engagement process are to:

- Establish an open and constructive dialogue with Indigenous groups and organizations interested in participating in the RA; and
- Encourage active participation in the RA.

Engagement activities could include, but are not limited to:

- Planned general engagement sessions (in-person or virtual) with Chiefs and Councils, the Assembly of First Nations, Indigenous communities/groups/organizations;
- Focused Advisory Group engagement sessions on a particular topic of Indigenous interest;
- Emails to the Contact List maintained by the Committee and the Secretariat;
- Official notices and updates posted to the Registry; and/or
- Submission of comments to the Committee at any time during the conduct of the RA via the [public commenting tool](#) on the Registry or via the generic email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

The Committee will endeavour to work with Indigenous groups to support and facilitate their meaningful involvement. Where possible consideration will be given to Indigenous group preferences for in-person versus virtual meetings.

The frequency of engagement activities will vary, and be dependent on the Committee's needs, and the needs and availability of Indigenous participants.

2.0 Identification of Indigenous Participants

During the planning phase, the Agency undertook a widespread exercise to develop a comprehensive participant list for Indigenous groups, communities and organizations. The Agency also undertook a media campaign using radio and social media advertising to raise awareness of a regional assessment planning phase.

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2.1 Early Engagement

Participant Funding was offered in the planning phase of the RA to Indigenous communities and organizations to support their participation, including attendance at planning meetings. This phase culminated with the release and review for feedback of the draft RA Agreement and TOR. The comment period took place from October 12 to November 26, 2022. The following is a general summary of comments received from Indigenous groups during that phase:

- Open and transparent communication throughout the process;
- Early opportunities for involvement in the process;
- Consideration of Indigenous knowledge, in accordance with the “ownership, control, access and possession” (OCAP) principles and with reference to existing Indigenous knowledge inclusion protocols;
- Respect for the original formats and processes of the knowledge of the Nations, communities and sub-groups represented (songs, storytelling, etc.);
- Respect for the unique nature of each community and, where reasonably possible adjustment of the process based on preferences;
- The inclusion of diverse perspectives (women, seniors, minority groups, intergenerational, etc.) throughout the process;
- Advance knowledge of timelines with sufficient notice to enable meaningful participation;
- Availability of participation funding; and
- Respect for and integration of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The framework for this IPP was drafted with consideration of the feedback received from Indigenous peoples during the planning phase and from the comment period on the draft Agreement and TOR.

Moving forward with this feedback, the Committee will undertake engagement activities that are intended to fulfill and address all the feedback as the RA progresses.

The list of Indigenous groups and organizations contacted in the planning phase is provided in Appendix B. Due to the extent of the proposed Study Area, outreach included Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec.

2.2 Advisory Groups

As part of the planning phase, the Agency initiated a process to identify organizations or individuals with expertise in one or more fields, to become members of one or more Advisory Groups, per Section 4.1 of the Agreement. These Advisory Groups are:

- Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group;
- Scientific and Community Knowledge Advisory Group; and
- Fisheries and Other Ocean Uses Advisory Group.

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Members of an Advisory Group will function as a voluntary roster of experts from which the Committee can select when they want information or advice on a specific topic. There are no pre-determined hours or defined activities for Advisory Groups, and activities may include, but are not limited to, participating in meetings, providing feedback on literature relevant to the RA, or reviewing a document.

To build the roster for each Advisory Group, an initial [expression of interest](#) (EOI) was posted on the Registry in February 2023 inviting participants to apply to be involved in one or more of these groups by demonstrating relevant expertise and experience. It is expected that Advisory Group discussions will be more focused than general engagement sessions, and more comprehensive than individual meetings.

The Committee will call upon the Advisory Groups on an as-needed basis. The Committee understands the logistical challenge associated with scheduling meetings with multiple participants, and so Advisory Group meeting announcements will be provided in advance, providing as much notice as possible to potential participants.

Meetings with Advisory Groups will wrap up once the Committee is in the final stages of the final Report (expected to be summer 2024).

2.2.1 Indigenous Advisory Group

A description of the Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group is provided in Appendix C. The roster for this Advisory Group is provided in Appendix D and will be updated as new members are added.

Through the Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group, the Committee will seek knowledge and perspectives from Indigenous peoples during the conduct of the RA, in accordance with established Indigenous protocols and procedures.

Those wishing to join this Advisory Group can submit an [Expression of Interest](#) form to the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

All engagement activities, including Advisory Group meetings, will be planned and logged in Appendix E, and included within the public record of engagement.

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3.0 Engagement Planning

3.1 Communications to Indigenous Participants

Engagement will be with Indigenous peoples, including organizations, groups and communities that have Indigenous information, knowledge or interests relevant to the RA.

Participants can submit questions and comments, including requests to be added to the Contact List, to the Committee via the RA email: OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or via the public commenting tool, available on the RA Registry page. The email and the public commenting tool are monitored regularly by the Secretariat and any communications received will be forwarded to Committee members on a weekly basis. All correspondence will be posted to the Registry (subject to any confidentiality considerations). These tools can be used during any point of the RA process.

General Committee communications (e.g., general information, updates, etc.) are sent via the RA email. Updates and other relevant information are also posted to the RA Registry page for public access and review and may include but are not limited to:

- Participation Plans
- Committee Meeting Summaries
- Monthly Updates of the Committee
- Committee Procedures
- Engagement Materials
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Reports

3.2 Engagement Approach

The Committee has identified various ways and methods to approach engagement based on feedback and views gathered during the planning phase of the RA, and from comments submitted as part of the public comment period on the draft Agreement and TOR.

During the conduct of the RA, the Committee will be committed to support and tailor involvement, as needed, based on feedback throughout the conduct of the RA. Engagement approaches may therefore be modified or new approaches integrated, and this Plan will be updated accordingly.

In general, engagement activities could include, but are not limited to:

- Communications (to the Committee) via the public comment tool on the RA Registry site;
- Communications (to and from the Committee) via the general RA email;
- Communication (from the Committee) via official notices and updates posted to the RA Registry site;
- General engagement/information sessions, either in-person or virtual; and/or
- Focused Advisory Group meetings on a particular topic of interest.

Engagement sessions will be offered in-person and/or virtually throughout the RA. The Committee understands the logistical task involved in scheduling engagement sessions and is aware of with multiple

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stakeholders and participants and will strive to provide as much advance notice as possible and multiple options for days and times (for public sessions) to facilitate maximum participation.

Background materials considered relevant to upcoming discussions and agendas will be distributed beforehand and draft meeting notes will be circulated to all attendees for review following each meeting/session.

The Committee recognizes that participant time and capacity is limited. Where possible and acceptable for participants, the Committee is open to joining with other groups and organizations that may also be engaging on offshore wind to reduce the number of meetings, material review and feedback required by participants. Options will be explored throughout the conduct of the RA.

Appendix E summarizes the engagement activities with Indigenous peoples during the conduct of the RA. The Committee is open to feedback on these proposed activities throughout the conduct of the RA and will update the table on a quarterly basis.

3.2.1 General Engagement Sessions

General engagement sessions will include a larger public invitation for participation via a general email to the Contact List; and/or a notice on the RA Registry page; and/or a posting in the *Information Sessions* section of the RA Registry page. Where possible media options (e.g., Facebook and Twitter; local news, and radio) will also be utilized.

Anyone can participate in these general sessions.

3.2.3 Advisory Groups

Advisory Group sessions will involve invitations to members that have submitted an Expression of Interest Form and have shown relevant expertise. The Expressions of Interest will be used to develop a roster of experts that the Committee will refer to and select from based on the topic to be discussed.

Composition and activities of Advisory Groups may therefore vary from time to time, based on the needs, work or expertise required and requested by the Committee during the conduct of the RA. There will be no set schedule for Advisory Group meetings; it will be decided on an as-needed basis.

3.3 Timing of Engagement

There is no pre-determined schedule for engagement sessions, general meetings, or meetings with Advisory Groups. As the RA progresses the Committee will conduct engagement based on information needed and feedback from participants.

3.4 Engagement Topics

In conducting their analysis, the Committee will engage on topics as per section A1.6 of the TOR which includes:

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- existing environmental, health, social and economic conditions;
- information and knowledge gaps;
- positive and adverse effects, including cumulative effects of future offshore wind development activities;
- effects on any Indigenous peoples, and any impact that they may have on the rights of the Indigenous peoples recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- mitigation and follow-up measures;
- existing legislation, regulations, guidelines and standards, and associated approvals or authorizations;
- sustainability and climate change;
- intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors; and
- scientific information, Indigenous knowledge — including the knowledge of Indigenous women — and Community knowledge.

The Committee may, based on its analysis and engagement activity, further refine or add to the list of components listed above.

4 Confidentiality

Comments and other documents received by the Committee throughout the RA process will be posted on the Registry, except for the ones deemed to be confidential or subject to non-disclosure.

The Committee has developed a Confidentiality Procedure which is posted to the Registry detailing how it will conduct itself regarding confidential or sensitive information.

If a participant does not wish for submissions or comments to be published on the Registry, the Committee should be contacted before comments or documents are submitted. Furthermore, confidential Indigenous knowledge is protected from disclosure under section 119 of the IAA, except if written consent is provided.

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Appendix A: Key Links

RA Registry: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83514>

Confidentiality Procedure: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/152086>

Operational Procedures: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/152087>

Final Agreement and Terms of Reference: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147038>

Preliminary Call for Interest for Advisory Group Members: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/146787>

Expression of Interest Form (for Advisory Groups): <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/146788>

Public Comment Tool: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83514/participation>

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Appendix B: List of Indigenous Contacts Developed during the Planning Phase

Community/Group Name
Nova Scotia
Acadia First Nation
Annapolis Valley First Nation
Bear River First Nation
Eskasoni First Nation
Glooscap First Nation
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation
Pictou Landing First Nation
Potlotek First Nation
Waycobah First Nation
Wagmatcook First Nation
Membertou First Nation
Millbrook First Nation
Sipekne'katik First Nation
Prince Edward Island
Abegweit First Nation
Lennox Island First Nation
Newfoundland and Labrador
Nunatsiavut Government
Innu Nation representing Sheshatshui Innu First Nation and Mushuau Innu First Nation
NunatuKavut Community Council
Qalipu First Nation
Miawpukek First Nation
Nunatsiavut Government
New Brunswick
Fort Folly First Nation
Eel Ground First Nation
Pabineau First Nation
Esgenoôpetitj First Nation
Buctouche First Nation
Indian Island First Nation
Eel River Bar First Nation
Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation
Kingsclear First Nation
Madawaska Maliseet First Nation
Oromocto First Nation
Saint Mary's First Nation
Tobique First Nation
Woodstock First Nation

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Quebec
La Nation Micmac de Gespeg
Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government
Micmacs of Gesgapegiag
Conseil des Innus d'Unamen Shipu
Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit
Conseil des Innus de Pakua Shipu
Conseil des Innus de Pessamit
Conseil de la Première Nation des Innus Essipit
Innu TakuaiKAN Uashat mak Mani-Utenam
Première Nation des Innus de Nutashkuan
Indigenous Organizations
Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn Negotiations Office (KMKNO)
Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
Mi'kmaq Conservation Group
Native Council of Nova Scotia / Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council
Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq
Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
Wskijnu'k Mtmo'taquoow Agency Ltd
Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht (AMIK)
Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network (NAWN)

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Appendix C: Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group

The Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group will assist the Committee by:

- Sharing Indigenous knowledge and perspectives on matters relevant to the conduct of the RA;
- Providing information, knowledge and perspectives on Indigenous Peoples and their communities, activities, and other interests, including Aboriginal or Treaty rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- Advising on approaches for the collection, sharing and consideration of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives, and its incorporation into the RA, in accordance with established Indigenous protocols and procedures; and
- Providing input on the development, implementation and updating of the Indigenous Participation Plan (posted to the Registry).

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Appendix D: Roster for Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group

Affiliation	Contact Person(s)
Dominion Diving Ltd.	Cam Howlett
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) - Maritimes Region	Emma Marotte
Canadian Coast Guard, Atlantic Region	Kate Hendry
Canadian Coast Guard, Atlantic Region	Quinn Gallagher
Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO)	Patrick Butler
Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO)	Emily Pudden
Northgreen Capital Inc.	Philip S. Bassil
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq	Zach Sabeau
Department of National Defense	Carol-Lee Giffin
Clearwater Seafood	Cheryl Copage-Gehue
Membertou First Nation/SBM-DP Energy Indigenous Affairs Advisor	Eric Christmas
Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative	Stan Johnson
Potlotek First Nation	Darryl McDonald
AECOM (for KMKNO)	Derek Heath
Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission	Tom Johnson
Paq'tnekek First Nation	Elder Kerry Prosper

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Appendix E: Indigenous Engagement Activities and Tracking Log

Activity	Date	Topic(s) Discussed
MILESTONE: Regional Assessment Initiated (March 23, 2023)		
Circulation of the DRAFT Indigenous Participation Plan	June 2023/August and September	Circulate a draft framework of the IPP for review and discussion on key engagement activities and approach to engagement. Initiated in June 2023 with KMKNO. Further circulation of the IPP occurred August -September
Introductory Meeting with Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO)	May 30, 2023	Introductions Regional Assessment overview/update Discuss the IPP and Advisory Group Obtain feedback and input on the proposed engagement approach Address any early questions or concerns
<i>Virtual Open House Sessions</i>	<i>Early July 2023</i>	<i>Open House Sessions offered virtually to introduce the Regional Assessment process and the Committee members, and to answer questions</i>
Meeting of the Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group	July 28, 2023	Introductory Meeting to discuss Advisory Group feedback and current focus. NOTE: Based on feedback from KMKNO the Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group will include Food, Social and Ceremonial Fisheries and Treaty Fisheries
Meeting with Membertou Geomatics Services	August 23, 2023	Discussion on an MEKS SOW and other options
Meeting with Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated	September 25, 2023	Provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, funding availability, Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement
Meeting with Chief and Council of Glooscap First Nation	September 26, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community and upcoming meeting with the Assembly of First Nation Chiefs
Meeting with KMKNO	September 27, 2023	Preparation for meeting with the Assembly of First Nation Chiefs
Meeting with the Assembly of First Nation Chiefs	September 28, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including offer to meet with Chiefs and Councils at communities
<i>In-Person Open House Sessions</i>	<i>October 2023</i>	<i>Open House Sessions offered in Guysborough, Sheet Harbour, Port Hawkesbury, Inverness, Sydney, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne, Nova Scotia. Focus was to provide information on offshore wind and the Regional Assessment and to gather input on potential future locations for offshore wind development in the Study Area</i>

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Activity	Date	Topic(s) Discussed
Meeting with Chief and Council of Sipekne'katik First Nation	October 3, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
Meeting with Chief and Council of Pictou Landing First Nation	October 10, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
Meeting with Chief and Council of Eskasoni First Nation	October 17, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
Meeting with Chief and Council of Potlotek First Nation	October 24, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
Meeting with Chief and Council of Annapolis Valley First Nation	October 24, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
Meeting with Chief and Council of Membertou First Nation	October 31, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
<i>In-Person Open House Sessions</i>	<i>November 2023</i>	<i>Open House Sessions offered in Wolfville and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, PEI, and Moncton, New Brunswick. Focus was to provide information on offshore wind and the Regional Assessment and to gather input on potential future locations for offshore wind development in the Study Area</i>
Meeting with Chief and Council of Abegewit First Nation	November 6, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
Meeting with Chief and Council of Lennox Island First Nation	November 7, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
Meeting with KMKNO	November 9, 2023	Preparation for meeting on November 16
Meeting with KMKNO, Atlantic Policy Congress, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, and Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources	November 16, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with specific groups around archeological concerns and Indigenous fisheries
Meeting with Council for Millbrook First Nation (<i>regrets from Chief due to unforeseen circumstances</i>)	November 28, 2023	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community

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Activity	Date	Topic(s) Discussed
Feedback Request to Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group	December 2023	Request for feedback on potential future areas of future offshore wind development in the Study Area. NOTE: Feedback received is now posted on the Regional Assessment Registry page , and will be used to help inform the Interim Report.
Meeting with Jay Hartling (BHP)	December 18, 2023	Discussion on First Nations interests with respect to resource development initiatives and related benefit agreements in Atlantic Canada
Meeting with KMKNO	January 10, 2024	Discussion on Indigenous archeology
Meeting with KMKNO	January 16, 2024	Discussion on Indigenous fisheries
<i>In-Person Open House Sessions</i>	<i>January 2024</i>	<i>Open House Sessions offered in St. Peter's, Cheticamp and New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Focus was to provide information on offshore wind and the Regional Assessment and to gather input on potential future locations for offshore wind development in the Study Area</i>
Meeting with Chief and Council of Wagmatcook First Nation	January 23, 2024	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community
Meeting with KMKNO	January 30, 2024	Input and feedback on the What We Heard Summary, and discussion on engagement to date, Interim Report, and planning next engagement
Meeting with Sipekne'katik First Nation	February 7, 2024	Input and feedback from Sipekne'katik First Nation on the What We Heard Summary and general update on the RA
Meeting with Meeting with Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated	February 7, 2024	Discussion on the RA activities including feedback from engagement (What We Heard Summary) to date and next steps
Meeting with KMKNO	February 22, 2024	Follow-up and next steps
MILESTONE: Committee submits Interim Report to Ministers (March 23, 2024)		
Feedback Request to Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group	April 2024	Request for feedback on effects of offshore wind development.
Meeting of Advisory Groups	April 16, 2024	Discussion on Interim Report
<i>In-Person Open House Sessions</i>	<i>April/May/June 2024</i>	<i>Open House Sessions offered in Port Hawkesbury, Sydney, Cheticamp, Charlottetown (PEI), Yarmouth, Shelburne, Guysborough, Sheet Harbour, New Glasgow and Dartmouth. Focus was to engage on proposed future locations for offshore wind development in the Study Area (as proposed in the Interim Report) and gather input on what should be considered for mitigation and monitoring measures.</i>
<i>In-Person Indigenous Community Information Sessions</i>	<i>April/May/June 2024</i>	<i>Community engagement / information sessions offered in Potlotek First Nation, Eskasoni First Nation, Pictou Landing First Nation, and Wagmatcook First Nation. Focus was to engage on proposed future locations for offshore wind development in the Study Area (as proposed in the Interim Report) and gather input on what should be considered for mitigation and monitoring measures.</i>

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Activity	Date	Topic(s) Discussed
Meeting with Chief and Council of Millbrook First Nation	April 30, 2024	Committee presented on Regional Assessment work to date, proposed future locations for offshore wind development in the Study Area (as proposed in the Interim Report) and next steps.
Presentation to Maritime Aboriginal People’s Council	April 30, 2024	Committee presented on Regional Assessment work to date, proposed future locations for offshore wind development in the Study Area (as proposed in the Interim Report) and next steps.
Meeting with Chief and Council of Lennox Island First Nation	May 13, 2024	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community.
Meeting with Mi’gmawe’l Tplu’taqnn Incorporated	May 14, 2024	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community.
Meeting with Chief and Council of Elsipogtog First Nation	May 13, 2024	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community.
Meeting with Chief and Council of Wolastoqey First Nation	May 13, 2024	Introduce the Committee members, provide an overview of the RA, work completed to date, information on Indigenous Knowledge Advisory group, and next steps including further engagement with the community.
Meeting with Grand Council	June 22, 2024	Committee members presented Regional Assessment work to date, including an update on the Interim Report and next steps, and answered questions.
MILESTONE: Committee submits DRAFT Final Regional Assessment Report to Ministers (October 2, 2025)		
MILESTONE: Review and Comment Period of the DRAFT Final Regional Assessment Report (October 2, 2024 – December 2, 2024)		
MILESTONE: Committee submits Final Regional Assessment Report to Ministers (January 2025)		

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