



17 December 2024

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (Atlantic Office)
200-1801 Hollis St.
Halifax, NS, B3J 3N4

(Delivered via email)

Dear Ann Wilkie and James Wooder,

RE: Draft Regional Assessment Report

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Board of Directors would like to extend our thanks for the work the Regional Committee for Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia has completed and produced through its Draft Regional Assessment Report. We appreciated the time the Committee spent informing locally elected officials during a virtual presentation to our members in the Spring.

After an initial review of your report, NSFM would like to echo your call for early and robust consultation with municipalities to plan for offshore wind (OSW) development. The report identifies the following areas where consultation with municipalities is critical for successful engagement with OSW:

- Infrastructure requirements related to ports, supply chains, and grid connections
- The municipal role in building and expanding social infrastructure (e.g. housing, child care, schools, medical facilities etc.) to accommodate an influx of people engaged in OSW
- The capacity and cost of municipal services such as water and sewer
- The impact of OSW development on local tourism, and on physical and cultural heritage sites
- Community health and safety concerns such as waste handling, vessel, and equipment activity

Along with the above-mentioned impacts on municipalities in proximity to OSW, communities where the main economic driver is the fishing industry will be required to balance the needs of that commercial enterprise with the needs of OSW development. NSFM has heard from some of these municipalities and will support their efforts to better understand research relating to the implications of OSW.

The report also speaks to consideration for how residents and communities will participate in the benefits of offshore wind development. We acknowledge the potential of OSW to be a transformative economic investment in the province, and municipalities are interested in a gaining a clearer understanding of what opportunities exist to support the following socio-economic issues you identified:

- The participation of traditionally under-represented groups in education and employment
- Comprehensive profiles of identified port communities to understand capacity and plan for OSW development

Moreover, communities in Nova Scotia and across the country have seen the fall out of a ‘boom and bust’ approach to natural resource development. When employment opportunities are not sustained, when there is an unmanageable influx of population, followed by an equally large decrease upon project completion, municipalities are left with the costs of depreciating infrastructure and economic downturns that can be insurmountable.

We urge other levels of government to consider facilitating innovative solutions such as Impact and Benefit Agreements between developers and affected municipalities to ensure the sustainability of communities who engage with OSW development.

In closing, your report speaks to a relatively short window of opportunity for the federal and provincial governments to engage with local government on this energy transition. On behalf of all 49 municipalities in the province, we would like to express our willingness to immediately begin collaborating with a view to mitigating harms and capitalizing on the potential of offshore wind development for our residents and communities.

Kind Regards,

<Original signed by>

*Mayor Pam Mood
President, Nova Scotia Federation of
Municipalities*

cc. Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
Hon. Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs