

July 19, 2024

## **ELECTRONIC MAIL**

**To:** Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

**Subject: Request for Advice - Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador**

Dear Chris Carter,

The federal Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources and provincial Ministers of Industry, Energy and Technology, Environment and Climate Change and for Intergovernmental Affairs established a Committee, pursuant to subsection 93(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA), to conduct the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador.

On March 23, 2023, the Regional Assessment Agreement was posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site: [Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/RegionalAssessment). This commenced the 18-month work period for the Committee.

In accordance with section 5 of the Committee's Agreement, and with section 23 of the IAA, the Committee can request specialist or expert information or knowledge, from any department or agency<sup>1</sup>, which must then be made available to the Committee. This may include providing information, knowledge or advice related to any matter relevant to the Regional Assessment.

Attached to this correspondence is the Request for Advice form that contains further detail on the request. The Committee requires your department to respond no later than August 23, 2024. You can contact the Committee to discuss the due date if needed. Your department is encouraged to provide as much detail as practicable in responding to the questions in this request.

As per the Committee's [Operational Procedure](#), the information submitted to the Committee in response to this Request for Advice will be made public on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site. Please do not include any information that cannot be shared publicly. The Committee's [Confidentiality Procedure](#) outlines the procedures in place regarding participants confidential information.

If you have any questions regarding the regional assessment process or this request, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee at [OffshoreWindNL-EolienneExtracotiereTNL@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:OffshoreWindNL-EolienneExtracotiereTNL@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

Sincerely,  
The Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador  
/Attachment

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<sup>1</sup> All subsequent references to department mean department or agency.

**ATTACHMENT: July 19, 2024**

**Advice Record**

**Response due by August 23, 2024**

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador

Department/Agency	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's relevant Departments
Lead Contact	Chris Carter, Director, Regulatory Affairs
Email	Chris.carter@gov.nl.ca

**Overview of Request:**

As a result of input received to date from the Committee's [Interim Report: Preliminary Recommendations \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#), as well as the Committee continually looking forward to their draft and final reports, due September 30, 2024 and January 23, 2025, respectively, the Committee has further questions and clarifications in which they seek advice from multiple sectors within the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Subject matters that the Committee wishes to gain further insight or clarification on is as follows:

- Tourism;
- Physical and Cultural Heritage;
- Protected Areas;
- GBA+;
- Communities & Economy; and
- Other miscellaneous items.

**Question 1:**

The Committee would like to obtain a list of all tourism operators, their locations and list of activities within the Focus Area. Recommendations on how potential impacts can be addressed or avoided are welcomed.

**Question 2:**

The Committee would like to obtain a summary table, including locations and any further descriptions of the following (if available):

- Shipwrecks within the Focus Area;
- Areas of historical or cultural significance (official or non-official) within the Focus Area;

**Question 3:**

The Committee would appreciate the recommendations from the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Parks Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation and the Department of Fisheries Forestry and Agriculture, on mitigations regarding protected areas under their respective mandates.

**Question 4:**

Within the Regional Assessment's Terms of Reference, it states that the Committee must: *Consider the intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors and make recommendations on the manner in which future impact assessments should consider and address these factors.* To aid the Committee in their work in integrating Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), they would like to ask the Office of Women and Gender Equality (and any other related departments) for a list of contacts/organizations within the province to engage with to get the most comprehensive view of the province including, but not limited to, those that represent women and gender equality, disability-related, gender-based violence, anti-poverty, safe consumption, youth, etc.

**Question 5:**

As previously discussed in a meeting with all Regional Assessment signatories held on January 10, 2024, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador indicated they would compile information from oil and gas operators on the practical need of utilizing offshore wind to help decarbonize their platform operations in the Jean d'Arc Basin. If any progress has been made on this matter, the Committee would be interested in this information.

**Question 6:**

The Committee previously posed this question to C-NLOPB, in which they suggested to seek advice from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Natural Resources Canada for clarification:

Through the Committee's engagement, they have heard of the potential for decarbonization of oil and gas platforms through wind energy initiatives, though no formal plans have been stated to the Committee to date. Since the Committee's Focus Area does not negate the possibility of offshore wind developments to occur outside of the current boundaries of this area, if an oil & gas proponent did wish to establish a wind energy development to decarbonize platforms, what would that process look like under the board, and could a project of this sort be covered under an amendment to the proponent's current authorization plan?

**Question 7:**

The Committee requests the following information. Where possible, information should be disaggregated, should focus on coastal communities along the west and south coast and extending to Placentia Bay (i.e., coastal communities along the Regional Assessment Focus Area), and should include long-term trends (e.g., past 50 years).

- A summary of population trends overtime for the province as a whole and for the census sections in the Focus Area
- Measures of provincial economy such as GDP, contributing sector breakdown, capital investment etc. Highlight key changes, e.g. start of offshore oil industry, start of cod moratorium, major drop in demand for paper etc.
- Information on labour force, employment and education (e.g., distribution of workforce across types of employment, average and median income, unemployment rate, percent of population on fixed income etc.)
- Community services, capacity and pressures (e.g., healthcare, childcare, housing etc.) Provide information or source of information for progress on the Health Accord implementation.
- Cost of living
- Any existing data/analysis on positive and adverse impacts of the introduction of offshore oil and gas or other large-scale development (e.g., boom-bust cycles, influx of workers, economic

growth etc.) and recommendations for mitigation (and/or enhancements of positive effects) in the context of offshore wind based on this experience.

- In order to support development of the new offshore oil and gas industry in the late 70s/early 80s, the province introduced several programs to develop the capability, capacity, workforce, educational institutions and programs, investment community, and research community relevant to that industry: is there intent to have comparable initiatives for offshore wind energy?
- To aid in the development of infrastructure to support the new offshore petroleum industry, the province initiated a province-wide survey to identify potential communities, industrial sites and/or geographic locations for possible opportunities, such as supply base. Will there be a comparable initiative for offshore wind energy?

### **Additional Information**

There may be additional information that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador sees as relevant, beyond what the Committee has requested. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is welcome to identify any additional information as they deem appropriate for consideration in the Regional Assessment, and work with the Committee to provide this information in a useful format.

### **Use of Data and Information in this Request**

The Committee is aware that there may be limitations to the information or data shared, and therefore should not be used in a way that infers that there are no gaps or areas of uncertainty within the Focus Area. The Committee encourages the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to identify these gaps and uncertainties where applicable. The identification of these knowledge gaps can be used to help form recommendations around how to address these gaps in the future for potential offshore wind developments. The Committee would also like to note if any work is ongoing, but cannot be publicly shared, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador can request confidentiality. If the confidential information can be utilized to some degree (beyond the Committee's consideration) please explain conditions of use.

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Name of Departmental / Agency  
Responder

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Title of Responder

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Date