



December 13, 2024

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

Response letter: OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Dear Committee Co-Chairs,

On behalf of Council for the Municipality of Argyle, we wish to thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft offshore wind development report. While our jurisdictional role is well outside this initiative, our community relies on us to speak on topics that are most important to them.

First, the report is very comprehensive, seeking to address many of the issues we would encounter as engaged in land-based wind development, which happened recently in our municipality. The following are concerns we wish to underline as part of your ongoing development.

First, we note that Tier 1 development is well beyond our geographic location, though we do have residents that fish in many corners of Nova Scotia. Tier 2 development is not yet considered but is on future considerations and located south of Shelburne. We also note and appreciate the buffer zone to coastal Nova Scotia. While we have no insight on what the right number is, the municipality agrees that to minimize impacts, distance is often a key planning element.

In reviewing the report, we would provide the following additional comments and requests.

1. The report's work on compensation for lost fishing opportunities is an important factor in this development. Local fishermen have made their livelihood on the sea and for many, these potential offshore areas are in potential conflict with their livelihood. We strongly endorse work to find proper balance between both industries so there is co-existence. Furthermore, if balance cannot be achieved, compensation and its methodology is an important element if the project seeks acceptance.
2. We note that risks were identified, and at least a theoretical strategy to mitigate risk is noted in this report. Council is asking what response would be in place if mitigation efforts were unsuccessful. What restrictions or regulations would apply to the developer in the case where their development is noncompliant.



3. In addition to the concerns raised on risk mitigation, we would like to understand how those risks were addressed or mitigated in actual developments across the globe. The report mentions Denmark being the first country to endorse offshore wind development. Can the committee outline what were the actual challenges met by other developments, and how that informs this development. Fishers would benefit from actual experiences and how the development responded to issues. Issues of note include vibration, noise, impacts on fish habitats during and after construction, and how those issues impacted the ocean and fishers in other developments.
4. Could council understand the approximate timing of the Tier 2 development, and what factors, if any, could delay the Lahave Bank potential development. Would the community be able to engage with the committee at that time?

We thank you for your involvement in what is a tremendous undertaking. We understand and acknowledge the benefits of renewable energy and all the positives that come out of such an investment.

Sincerely,

Nicole Albright
Warden