



**JUN 29 2023**

Shayne McDonald  
Chair, Regional Assessment Committee  
Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in NL  
<email address removed>

Shayne McDonald:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2023, requesting on behalf of the Regional Assessment Committee (Committee), an amendment to the Final Agreement and Terms of Reference (TOR) to extend the timelines for completion of the Regional Assessment (RA) of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I would first like to thank you in advance for the effort that will be required by the Committee to complete this important initiative. It is very much appreciated. That being said, it is my decision and that of the other federal and provincial signatories to the Agreement and TOR (each of whom are copied here) that such an extension cannot be granted at this time for the reasons outlined in your letter.

The Committee is still in the early phase of its mandate, and so it would be prudent to have further definition of – and progress towards your workplan, including planned Indigenous and public engagement activities, before determining whether there are particular issues or challenges that might prevent the Committee from delivering its report on schedule. This would include developing and posting publicly the Committee's *Indigenous Participation Plan* and *Public, Fisheries and Stakeholder Participation Plan* as required under the Committee's TOR. Therefore, we would prefer to re-evaluate the RA timelines later if there is a specific need or issue rather than initially and speculatively at this stage.

In addition, while collaboration between the Committee and the Nova Scotia RA Committee is certainly welcomed, the specific reference to this in the TOR relates to the latter stages of your mandate (component #2 of your report), rather than the initial meetings and other work of the Committees. For this reason, we are unable to rationalize a time extension at this time.

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In closing, thank you and the rest of the Committee again for your undertaking. This initiative is a vital aspect of our approach to addressing the challenges presented by climate change while also creating opportunities for sustainable economic development. This RA and its outcomes are key to advancing the emerging renewable energy sector in Atlantic Canada, and it is imperative that your report and recommendations are available to help inform the forthcoming licensing and impact assessment processes for future wind developments in this region.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)

c.c.: The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.

The Honourable Andrew Furey, Premier and Minister for Intergovernmental  
Affairs, Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Andrew Parsons, KC, Minister of Industry, Energy and  
Technology, Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Bernard Davis, Minister of Environment and Climate  
Change, Newfoundland and Labrador