

SEP 19 2024

Shayne McDonald, Committee Chair  
Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador

c/o: Erin Stapleton  
Secretariat Manager  
Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador  
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Dear Mr. McDonald:

**RE: March 2024 Offshore Wind Regional Assessment Interim Report**

Thank you for the Committee's interim report dated March 22, 2024. We recognize and thank the Committee for its efforts to date on this important work. Following our review of the report, we are sharing our comments on some of the report's preliminary recommendations for the Committee's consideration.

Given the recent MOU with the Government of Canada defining inland bays under provincial jurisdiction, and the impact on those inland bays of the recommended 10 km perimeter around the province where no offshore wind development can take place, we are interested in whether there is additional data and analysis available to better understand the context of the Committee's proposed buffer.

The Committee also appears to have removed all areas with any potential conflict. While we recognize the size of the Study Area as well as the time constraints, has the Committee given any consideration to ranking areas according to their suitability for wind development, or identifying potential conflicts but still including areas as having potential for wind development with the application of mitigation measures?

A large section of the focus area was removed from further consideration due to the potential of becoming protected areas. These areas are potential NMCAs, MPAs and National Parks, and a great deal of work remains to be done before there are decisions on any of these proposals. Can the Committee provide any additional information regarding its rationale for removing areas that are under consideration for protection prior to decisions being made? Is it possible that any of those areas may be suitable for offshore wind development if they do not become protected areas?

Thank you for the opportunity to share our observations for the consideration of the Committee. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of our comments, my officials are available

to the Committee and the Secretariat. We look forward to receiving the draft final report on October 1, 2024.

Sincerely,  
<Original signé par>

**ANDREW PARSONS, KC**  
Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology

- c. Minister Steven Guilbeault, Environment and Climate Change Canada
- c. Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, Energy and Natural Resources Canada
- c. Minister Lisa Dempster, Environment and Climate Change, Government of NL
- c. Premier Dr. Andrew Furey, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Government of NL