



Department of Environment

PO Box 442
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2P8

Our File Number:
10700-40
40100-30-196

Office of the Minister

Original Dated August 15, 2012

Chief Terry Paul, President
3250777 Nova Scotia Limited
TD Centre
1791 Barrington Street, Suite 300
Halifax NS B3J 3K9

Dear Chief Paul:

**Re: Environmental Assessment - Wedgeport Wind Farm
Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia**

The environmental assessment of the proposed Wedgeport Wind Farm, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, has been completed.

This letter is to advise that, pursuant to Section 13 (1)(a) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, I have determined that the registration information provided is insufficient to allow me to make a decision and that I require additional information.

During the environmental assessment review, it was determined that additional information is required with respect to turbine placement and risks to migratory birds including waterfowl. This information must be developed in consultation with Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. Additional information may also be required with respect to potential adverse environmental effects of the Wedgeport Wind Farm in the event that turbines are relocated to address impacts on wildlife and sensitive habitats.

This information must be submitted by the Special Purpose Company (3250777 Nova Scotia Limited), created as the sole proponent and owner of the Project, within one year, as an Addendum to the original Registration Document. Upon submission of the information I will have 50 days to make my decision. During the environmental assessment review, comments were received expressing concern with the public consultation process. To ensure the local community is informed, the Addendum will be subject to a 30-day public comment period. You are responsible for the publishing of the environmental assessment notice in two papers, one having local distribution and one having province-wide distribution. You are also required to place copies of the Addendum in two public locations in the area of the proposed undertaking.

As you may be aware, Nova Scotia Environment has been actively reviewing projects being developed in response to the Nova Scotia Department of Energy Request for Proposals (RFP) for the procurement of 300 GWh of renewable energy from Independent Power Producers (IPPs). On August 2, 2012, the Renewable Energy Administrator announced the three successful projects. Collectively, these projects are expected to bring total wind energy close to the 500 MW wind threshold by 2015. This is near the technical limit of the amount that can be integrated into the province's electricity grid, according to the 2008 Nova Scotia Wind Integration Study by Hatch Energy. Consequently, the province does not expect to issue more requests for proposals for large-scale wind projects in the near future. In light of this recent announcement, a discussion of Project viability and applicable schedules must be included in the Addendum to the Registration Document.

3250777 Nova Scotia Limited must not commence the undertaking or any part thereof until the undertaking has been approved under Part IV of the *Environment Act*.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact the Acting Manager, Environmental Assessment Branch, Ms. Helen MacPhail, at (902) 424-3960 or via e-mail at macphafh@gov.ns.ca.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Sterling Belliveau
Minister