



**Environment and Climate Change
Office of the Minister**

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File number: 10700-40-58038
40100-30-318

April 14, 2022

Robert Apold
CEO, Natural Forces Developments Limited Partnership
1205-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3N4

Dear Robert Apold:

**Re: Environmental Assessment – Natural Forces Developments Limited
Westchester Wind Project - Cumberland County Nova Scotia**

The environmental assessment of the proposed Westchester Wind Project in Cumberland 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 Document provided is insufficient to allow me to make a decision, and that I require additional information. Specifically, the review determined that the following additional information is required in order to evaluate potential environmental effects that may be caused by the undertaking.

In consultation with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (ECC), and other Departments where specified, provide the following additional information:

1. In consultation with Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR) Wildlife Branch, and Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service provide:
 - a. Additional details for all flora and fauna surveys including but not limited to methodology, timing and duration, coverage, weather conditions, equipment used, and incidental species observances, particularly for Species at Risk (SAR).
 - b. Details and results of additional flora and fauna surveys, if required.
 - c. Assessment of potential impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitats and wildlife, including SAR, that may be impacted by the project and include proposed mitigation measures.

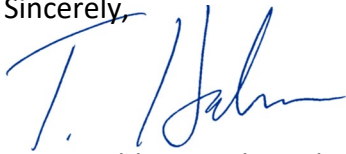
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2. In consultation with ECC Wetland Specialist provide:
 - a. Functional assessments for wetlands in the project boundary and information to determine Wetlands of Special Significance.
 - b. Details of each wetland in the project boundary in relation to project infrastructure, including details of any proposed wetland alterations.
 - c. Proposed mitigation and monitoring for wetlands.
3. In consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada provide fish and fish habitat surveys for watercourses and wetlands in the project area. Provide details of each watercourse and wetland in the project boundary in relation to project infrastructure, including any proposed watercourse and wetland alterations.
4. Provide justification for the noise assessment methodology used and how the modelling software addresses these larger scale commercial wind-turbines (5 MW) and their sound level outputs at the nearest receptor locations. Refer to Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: Noise (Health Canada, 2017) as necessary. The noise assessment should also ensure the modulation of sounds from operations, low frequency noise, proposed mitigation and monitoring.
5. In consultation with ECC Protected Areas and Ecosystems Division provide an analysis of potential impacts to biodiversity values and land-scape scale ecological connectivity from habitat fragmentation. Identify any associated mitigation measures.
6. Provide the final Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment, reviewed and approved by Nova Scotia Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

I understand that the Municipality of the County of Cumberland is currently conducting a review of its Land Use Bylaw as it relates to wind turbine development and that the review was deemed necessary to ensure that future approved developments reflected both industry best practices and community values. Be advised that any future approval granted pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Regulations does not exempt Natural Forces Development LP, or any proponent, from obtaining the necessary permits from the Municipality or other government agencies as required.

This information must be submitted by Natural Forces Developments Limited Partnership 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. Registration of the Addendum will require publication of a Notice to inform the public of the 30-day Addendum public comment period. If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Helen MacPhail, Supervisor, Environmental Assessment Branch, at (902) 483-2696 or Helen.MacPhail@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Halman', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Honourable Timothy Halman, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

c: Lorrie Roberts, Executive Director
Helen MacPhail, Environmental Assessment Supervisor