

4.0 Public Engagement

4.1 Overview

Stakeholders play an important role in the energy transition within Nova Scotia and should be actively involved in clean energy projects. The Proponent aims to facilitate inclusive public processes that encourage input throughout Project development. This section describes Natural Forces' approach to outreach and engagement, including both past and future activities, and reflects feedback received from the community regarding the proposed Project.

Core to the Proponents approach to engagement is that the concerns expressed by community members are not only addressed but that they become supportive of the Project and the immense benefits that renewable energy can bring through local economic benefits, energy security through source diversity, and a reduction in air pollutants from carbon-based energy sources. The Proponent recognizes that traditional forms of information sharing are not always successful and has developed, over several years, various alternative and creative forms of engagement to reach all stakeholders involved in the Project.

Previous engagement efforts were made in 2011/2012 ahead of the proposed RFP of 2012. As it had been approximately 10 years since the Project was initially proposed, the Proponent re-engaged with the public and other stakeholders in early 2021. Throughout Project development, Natural Forces has and will continue to meet with various community stakeholders, local businesses, and members of municipal, provincial, and federal government agencies. These communications have been important to build relationships with stakeholders early in Project development and to ensure alignment with regulations and community needs. Natural Forces has also assembled a stakeholder list to which regular updates on Project status are sent in the form of newsletters.

4.2 Community Overview

4.2.1 Closest Communities

The Project is proposed in a rural area of Cumberland County near Westchester Station. The nearest community is the town of Oxford, which is approximately 25 km north of the Project site. Additionally, the Project lands are approximately 1.5 km from the county border with Colchester County.

4.2.2 Businesses

Major industries in Cumberland County include agriculture, manufacturing, accommodation and food services, construction, and trade (Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture 2017). Most likely to benefit from the Project are local skilled trades, supply and hospitality businesses.

There are no businesses in the immediate area aside from those associated with agricultural activities on the site.

4.2.3 Elected Officials

The Project is in the constituency of Cumberland South, represented in the Nova Scotia Legislature by the Honourable Tory Rushton. The Project, as mentioned, is approximately 1.5 km from Colchester County, which is represented in the Nova Scotia Legislature by Larry Harrison. The Project area falls in

the Municipality of Cumberland. The Municipality is divided into eight (8) districts, and is led by a Mayor (currently represented by Mayor Murray Scott). The Project is located in District 4, and is represented by Councilor Kathy Redmond.

4.2.4 Recreation

The community is home to the local Vonetta's Museum Centre, the Portapique Wilderness Area, and various recreational trails.

The Project site is actively being used for agricultural purposes. Through community consultation, we have learned that some of the Project and surrounding land is used by community residents for hiking and access using recreational vehicles.

There are active snowmobile trails managed by the Sutherland's Lake Trail Groomer Association. Two of their trails overlap with the Project site and they have a warming hut near the Project. Natural Forces has been in contact with the snowmobile club and will be discussing solutions to ensure their use of the land is not negatively impacted by the Project.

4.2.5 Nearby Wind Projects

This area of the province has a number of existing wind energy developments. The nearest wind farms are as follows:

- Higgins Mountain Wind Project Phase I, a 3.6 MW project located approximately 9 km east from the Project. This project was commissioned in 2006.
- Fitzpatrick Mountain Wind Project, a 0.8 MW project located approximately 28 km from the Project. This project was commissioned in 2007.
- Nuttby Mountain Wind Project, a 50.6 MW project located approximately 40 km east from the Project. This project was commissioned in 2010.
- Amherst Wind Project, a 32 MW project located approximately 45 km from the Project. This project was commissioned in 2012.
- Amherst Community Wind Farm, a 6 MW project located approximately 44 km from the WPP and was commissioned in 2017. This project was developed, built, financed, and is now operated by a partnership between Natural Forces and the 13 Mi'kmaw bands in Nova Scotia similar to that which is proposed for the Project.

4.3 Community and Public Engagement

The Natural Forces development team has been responsible for communications and government relations for all of its projects. There are several development staff who are dedicated to stakeholder engagement and local outreach. The Proponent has a flexible, place-based approach to engagement that ensures the consideration of a wide range of interests and allows the maximization of community participation. In-person engagement is always conducted in accordance with COVID-19 regulations and guidance.

The following section lists and describes the activities the Proponent has and intends to use throughout the lifetime of the Project. This section includes a non-exhaustive list of the tools that will be used to consult and engage with residents, stakeholders and Rightsholders.

Maintaining flexibility with consultation and engagement is vital to address current and future concerns in an appropriate manner that best suits the needs of the community.

Various forms of communication have been, and will be used to engage stakeholders and are detailed in the following section and summarized in **Table 4**. Examples of some of the print materials used for consultation are included in **Appendix A**.

TABLE 4: STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION CHANNEL MATRIX

Channel	Community Members	Economic & Special Interest Groups	Elected Officials
Email	X	X	X
Telephone	X	X	X
Newsletters	X	X	
Website	X	X	
Meetings and Presentations	X	X	X

4.3.1 Stakeholder Identification

The first step of the consultation process is the identification of stakeholders. This important step provides a better understanding of the people living within the community and leads to a better understanding of how the Project could impact the community. Properly identifying the stakeholders ensures those who will be affected by the Project have access to information regarding the Project and opportunities to discuss and voice any questions or concerns that may arise. In the early stages of development, the Proponent undertook comprehensive stakeholder identification. Stakeholders were identified in the following categories:

- Community Members;
- Economic and Special Interest Groups; and
- Elected Officials.

Each phase of the Project will have differing objectives when it comes to community and public engagement for each of these three categories of stakeholders. These objectives are summarized in **Table 5**.

TABLE 5: PROJECT PHASE OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Phase	Community Members	Economic & Special Interest Groups	Elected Officials
Early development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform of the Project • Bring forward concerns and questions the community members may have about the Project • Address or seek to address any concerns through development activities and studies being conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform of the Project • Discuss any concerns from the business perspective and discuss potential synergies in working together on the Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and educate on the Project and the Proponent • Form relationships with local leaders and become a resource for municipal leaders when their constituents ask questions • Listen to better understand the community where the project is located and understand its members • Follow advice from municipal leaders on how best to approach informing and engaging with community members
Mid-development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue informing on the Project progress and the results of the studies conducted on site • Inform local community members about opportunities for the public to participate in the Project • Continue to address or seek to address any concerns or questions arising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform on Project progress • Address concerns • Build a list of local suppliers interested in the Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform on Project progress • Continue to keep communication lines open • Build on the relationship established • Continue to offer our expertise as a resource for and to local leaders and community members
Pre-construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform on Project progress and on any activities that may impact local community members • Address concerns arising before construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing business owners of Project progress • Continue communication with businesses interested in supplying services or material for the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform on the Project progress • Continue communication • Listen to concerns heard by municipal leaders

Phase	Community Members	Economic & Special Interest Groups	Elected Officials
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform on construction activities that could impact the area • Share accurate schedule for construction activities • Continue to address concerns and questions raised 	Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide tenders to suppliers that meet the right criteria as appropriate • Inform of the Project progress • Share accurate schedule for construction activities • Continue to address concerns and questions raised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to offer our expertise as a resource for and to local leaders and community members • Inform of Project progress • Share accurate schedule for construction activities
Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the opportunity to visit the Project • Inform about Project facts • Continue to address questions as they arise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the opportunity to visit the Project • Inform about Project facts • Provide contact details for a project representative should any issues or questions arise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the opportunity to visit the Project • Inform about Project facts • Provide contact details for a Project representative • Continue to offer expertise as a resource for and to community members and future developments

4.3.2 Public Consultation Comments Received

Through the engagement methods described in the sections below, the Proponent has received various comments, questions, and feedback on the proposed Project. These comments and the steps taken to address them are listed in Table 6.

TABLE 6 COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, AND FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

Comment	Methods Used to Submit Comment	Methods Used Proposed to Address Comment	Summary of Response
Will the Project impact the value of my property?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversation • Email 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 2. Canadian Renewable Energy Association materials on wind energy and property values provided to individuals 3. Email response to individuals 	<p>Many studies globally and throughout Canada have been conducted on this topic and have found that being located near wind turbines does not impact local property values. One such study, a review of properties in Chatham- Kent, Ontario conducted following national professional appraisal guidelines found that it was highly unlikely that a relationship exists between wind farms and the market values of rural residential real estate. These findings are consistent with studies throughout Canada and internationally. We acknowledged that in the absence of understanding how the project will affect the viewscape of the general area during the development of the project, this might affect some purchasers but that as the studies show, once the project is built, there is no evidence that wind projects affect property values.</p> <p>Further information and studies are discussed on the following Canadian Renewable Energy Associations page: https://canwea.ca/communities/property-values/. Paper copies of these sheets were available at the open house.</p>
Will I hear the turbines from my home?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversation • Email 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 2. Canadian Renewable Energy Association materials on wind energy and sound levels provided to individuals 3. Email response to individuals 4. Frequently Asked Question posting on website 	<p>There is a possibility that some homes will hear the turbines under very specific weather conditions a handful of times throughout the year. However, this is mitigated by having the wind turbines set back sufficiently far from nearby homes. In this instance, the nearest home to a proposed turbine location is 1 km away in which case, the noise heard will be faint especially given the natural environment surrounding the Project.</p> <p>Modelling has also been carried out to predict the worst-case sound levels that could be experienced at nearby houses. This modelling shows that the sound levels will not exceed the provincial limit of a maximum of 40 dB(A) at a residence.</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence from other wind projects throughout Canada was also shared to explain that local landowners have expressed their surprise that they could not hear the project from their homes.</p>

Comment	Methods Used to Submit Comment	Methods Used Proposed to Address Comment	Summary of Response
Will post construction sound level monitoring studies be completed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversation • Email 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 2. Email response to individuals 	This type of study has been shown to be ineffective in monitoring the sound levels coming from a project like this one because it cannot distinguish between sound coming from the Project and that coming from other background sources, such as the wind itself and cars on the road. Therefore, this type of study is not planned. Rather, there is a Complaint Resolution Plan for the Project that individuals can follow if they experience sound levels from the Project that are bothersome. Then, there are various mitigation measures that can be put in place to reduce the sound levels, such as the addition of vegetation nearby to block the sounds.
How will emergency services be involved with the Project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversation • Email 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 2. Email response to individuals 	Our operations team will prepare an emergency response plan, likely in collaboration with the local fire departments. Part of this can be site visits to ensure that the fire departments are familiar and comfortable with the Project site.
Will the Project deter terrestrial wildlife from using the area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 2. Email follow-up response to individuals 	From our experience with our other projects, this type of development does not in practice deter wildlife from using an area. In fact, we have had sightings of deer, black bears, coyotes, and other animals at our operational sites. Habitat fragmentation tends to be the biggest impact to terrestrial wildlife from this type of development. However, for this Project, we are using a site that has largely been heavily forested or lands used for agriculture and has an existing network of access roads. We will take advantage of the existing infrastructure to allow us to reduce the amount of additional fragmentation. Ultimately, our environmental assessment studies will help in determining the types of species that use the area and how we can mitigate our impact on them.
Will we be able to see the Project from our communities nearby?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 	Due to the topography of the area it is actually less likely that the nearest residences will be able to see the Project since we have proposed the Project in an elevated area that has forested lands around it. On the other hand, because the Project is proposed on elevated land, the Project (or parts of it) will be visible from surrounding areas that are slightly further from the Project.

Comment	Methods Used to Submit Comment	Methods Used Proposed to Address Comment	Summary of Response
			The shadow flicker maps and photomontages were also presented to the individuals and discussed in detail.
How far will the turbines be from residences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversation • Group meeting conversation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 2. Discussion in meeting with group 3. Frequently Asked Question posting on website 	Natural Forces uses the industry standard of a minimum of 1 km setback from residences for any wind turbine locations. In this case, the turbines are setback more than a kilometer from nearby residences.
Can local companies take part in the Project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversation • Group meeting conversation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 2. Discussion in meeting with group 3. Frequently Asked Question posting on website 	For construction contracts, Natural Forces makes every effort to hire local contractors using our in-house construction management company Natural Forces Construction to ensure smaller companies are able to participate as subcontractors of the overall construction contract.
Who will be responsible for the decommissioning of the Project? How do we know decommissioning will occur? Is there any risk to the municipality to be responsible for the decommissioning costs if the Proponent goes bankrupt?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House conversations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion at open house with individuals 	<p>Our wind projects are built to run for 25+ years, and because it is difficult to predict future energy needs or environmental issues, there are several things that could happen. Depending on future needs, the project could be refurbished or replaced with new turbines and continue operating. Alternatively, the project could cease operations and be dismantled, and the lands remediated.</p> <p>Natural Forces and our partners intend to own and operate this project for its entire life and bear the responsibility for end-of-life arrangements and costs. Each jurisdiction may have its own approach to decommissioning requirements, and we comply with these local requirements as an integral part of the project. Our leases with local landowners include specific wording to protect them from shouldering the costs. Finally, these projects are financed through large, multi-national institutions who would bear these costs if Natural Forces and our project partners go out of business. The decommissioning costs will not fall to the municipality.</p>

Comment	Methods Used to Submit Comment	Methods Used Proposed to Address Comment	Summary of Response
What kind of radar studies are you doing on site?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion at open house with individuals 	To monitor how birds migrate over the site at night, a marine radar is used alongside acoustic microphones to inform us on the volume of birds migrating during the spring and fall, at what heights they are flying, and how factors such as weather and wind direction are related to flight patterns. The study design and radar unit choice is developed by our consultants and experts in this field from Acadia University who have significant experience in designing these types of studies. The results of these studies are discussed in our environmental assessment.
Are you going to have a community liaison committee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion at open house with individuals 	Typically, we respond to each question individually, via phone, email or in person meetings, whichever meets a person or groups request the best. We share frequently asked questions on our website, and update our website and mailing list with project developments as they occur. These methods of open communications have worked very well for communities near existing projects throughout Nova Scotia and across Canada. We understand that a community liaison committee may be the best solution for some communities, so we are open to establishing one.
Have you found bat caverns nearby?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion at open house with individuals 	A review of known caves, mines, and other bat hibernacula (areas where bats hibernate) was conducted as part of this EA process. Additionally, acoustic surveys for bats were conducted as part of the EA process, and the results are also shared in the EA document.
Will you stop locals from using the land once the project is operational?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion at open house with individuals 	The Project is situated on privately owned land parcels. There are various land uses to consider on the Project lands and the proponent remains committed to working with landowners and users to maintain safe use and enjoyment of these lands.
How much bigger will these turbines be compared to other turbines in the area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion at open house with individuals 	Wind turbine technology has advanced significantly in the past 10 years. New turbines can now produce much more electricity than previous versions. Part of this advancement has been an increase in overall height. This allows for the same amount of electricity to be generated with a lower impact on land. The newer turbines being built today are approximately 200 m tall from the ground to blade tip. There are turbines that are taller and shorter, but this is a fairly standard height.

Comment	Methods Used to Submit Comment	Methods Used Proposed to Address Comment	Summary of Response
			<p>The turbines under consideration for this project have a total height from ground to blade tip of 170 -200 m. These are taller than the other wind turbines in Nova Scotia, but are proven technology seen elsewhere in Canada and abroad.</p> <p>The turbine type is selected based on the turbine models that best fit the measured wind regime of the area, turbine availability, site suitability and other factors.</p>

4.3.3 Meetings with Elected Officials and Special Interest Groups

Natural Forces has and will continue to engage elected officials and special interest groups to provide Project information. The Proponent believes these discussions help to formulate bonds with trusted community leaders and ensures they are aware of the Project details prior to hearing of the Project from their constituents and/or members. These conversations help to determine possible areas of concern in the communities allowing Natural Forces to address these potential issues in initial communications.

These meetings will continue to occur throughout the development, construction, and operation of the Project. These key stakeholders and elected officials have and will be notified prior to any communication with the community to allow time for their questions to be answered in advance.

This category of consultation also includes all the relevant regulators. As such, the government engagement and consultation efforts for the Project are summarized in the sections below by jurisdiction.

4.3.3.1 Municipal Consultation

Natural Forces has had formal and informal meetings to discuss the proposed Project with Municipality of Cumberland staff and council. In January 2021, the Councillor for the district of the Municipality of Cumberland in which the Project is located was contacted via email to set-up a meeting, as well as introduce the Project. Regular email correspondence has since followed. The Proponent also had phone conversations with several of the municipal councillors and the Mayor in January 2022 with respect to the Project objectives, benefits, and the municipal-wide hold on the development permit process for wind projects.

In June 2021, the Proponent met with the municipal planner to establish a working relationship, and to begin discussions surrounding municipal permitting requirements. Following this meeting, the Proponent has kept up regular correspondence with the city planners as the permitting process progressed.

The Proponent will continue to work with the municipality to develop its Land Use By-laws as they relate to wind energy projects and through the development permit process.

4.3.3.2 Provincial Consultation

The Proponent has met and discussed the Project with various provincial organizations. The Office of L'nu Affairs has been engaged on the topic of Mi'kmaq engagement. The scoping of this EA registration document was designed in consultation with the Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Consultation topics included:

- Submission process and timelines;
- Pre-registration consultation;
- Consultation and engagement efforts; and
- Scoping and guidance of wildlife surveys and studies to conduct as part of the Project EIA.

The Proponent commits to maintaining dialogue with provincial authorities when necessary throughout the duration of the Project.

Additionally, the Proponent met with the MLA for the area in January 2021 to introduce both Natural Forces and the Project, and to gather more information about the appropriate stakeholders with which to engage.

4.3.3.3 Federal Consultation

The Proponent has consulted federal government entities, or consulted guidance documents and databases, regarding the development and construction of the Project. The following federal government entities were contacted and consulted: the Canadian Wildlife Services branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, Navigation Canada, Transport Canada, the Department of National Defense, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Canadian Police. Similar to their provincial counterparts, federal regulators have provided guidance in the preparation of this document, Project planning, and design.

The Proponent will continue to engage federal regulators when required throughout the development, construction, and operation of the Project.

4.3.4 Digital Communications

4.3.4.1 Project Website

Websites have proven to be an excellent way to make project information available for the general public to access and stay up to date on the progress of wind energy projects. The website has and will continue to be updated periodically in order to inform the general public, Rightsholders, and stakeholders about all aspects of the proposed development. Website content and updates will include some or all of the following items:

- Purpose of the project;
- Project details and progress;
- Contact information for Natural Forces;
- Notices for public information sessions;

- Photos of the Project location and turbine types;
- Progress reports on the EA;
- FAQ section that addressed concerns identified during consultation activities;
- Construction activity notifications;
- Online questionnaire and comment form; and
- Media and Press Release related material.

Additionally, the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section on the website allows Natural Forces to address questions and concerns brought forward through all engagement and consultation activities.

A webpage for the Project was created in the winter of 2021. This has ensured that up to date information has been available to community members should they wish to learn more about the Project. The Project webpage can be viewed at:

<https://www.naturalforces.ca/westchester-wind-project.html>.

This webpage is, and will continue to be, updated on an ongoing basis.

4.3.4.2 Email

Email will be used to contact stakeholders, answer questions sent via our contact page, plan informal engagement activities, and distribute newsletters and to send Project updates to our stakeholder list.

4.3.4.3 Social Media

Social media is used by the Proponent to post pertinent information to the Project, including construction updates and open house notifications on applicable group platforms. The Proponent can be found on Twitter at @naturalforce1 and on LinkedIn at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/natural-forces>

In lieu of posting to the company Facebook page, the Proponent has identified popular community pages and creates content for individual community members to share.

4.3.5 Open Houses

Open houses are used to consult and engage with stakeholders and local community members in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Natural Forces prefers a drop-in style open house to allow stakeholders to attend the meeting and receive answers to their questions when and for the duration of time that best suits their schedule. The Proponent also believes there are many other benefits to the one-on-one discussions such as:

- Having discussions about the Project specifics, the community, the region, other developments, etc.;
- Being able to discuss with the experts conducting the studies;
- Intimate conversation for those who may not be comfortable with public speaking; and,
- Forming relationships with the attendees and to exchange views.

Open houses have, among others, the following elements:

- A general sign-in, information sheet and COVID tracing system;
- Several information boards displaying the location of the proposed Project in relation to nearby communities, facts, and figures pertaining to the wind energy generation, and general public updates on the status and progress of development activities;
- Large-scale maps and renderings that illustrate the Project area; and
- Take home resources, including a summary of information presented at the open house and fact sheets on common topics.

4.3.5.1 First Open House

The Proponent held an open house in July 2021 at the Westchester Fire Hall, which is an accessible site located close to the Project. Local community members, special interest groups, and government officials were invited to come learn more about the Project and meet the Natural Forces team in person from 4 pm to 8 pm. Community members and stakeholders were invited via email, newspaper advertisement, and letters. Invitations to the open house were sent to individuals who had previously requested to be on the stakeholder list, Municipal council and staff, and local recreational special interest groups and their members.

Approximately 20 people attended the first open house, including the Mayor and Councillor for the district.

Attendees were given handouts containing the Project information that was presented on display boards at the open house. This included a preliminary map with the site identified, Project overview, Project timeline, frequently asked questions, a sound level study map, and contact information should stakeholders have any questions about the Project. In addition, attendees were given the opportunity to pose their questions and provide their feedback using post-it notes on a display board and by filling out a questionnaire. All of the questions that were asked at and after the open house were recorded and the most common were added to the frequently asked questions section of the Project website. Additionally, all attendees who asked for follow up information were contacted.

In addition to the questions, Project information presented at the open house can be viewed on the Project website for anyone who was not able to attend the open house in person. More information on the website is outlined above in Section 4.3.4.

The second open house for the Project is being planned for early March 2022, pending COVID-19 restrictions. This second open house will be hosted to provide the most up to date information on the Project.

4.3.6 Other Engagement Tools

There are many other engagement tools that the Proponent has used or is open to using should it be appropriate for the community. These are listed in the sections below.

These additional engagement tools should be used when a specific need or synergy exists.

4.3.6.1 Newsletters

The Proponent uses newsletters as a key engagement tool to update and inform the local community on recent Project activities. Circulating the newsletters with Natural Forces' primary contact information also provides community members the necessary information to contact the appropriate person should questions or concerns arise.

Newsletters are distributed via Canada Post and/or email directly to nearby residents, landowners, and individuals who have expressed interest in the Project. These newsletters introduce the Project with a brief description, identify the location of the proposed Project, provide information on the EIA progress, and include contact information with a statement encouraging the public to voice any concerns.

The Proponent distributed the first newsletter in July 2021 with preliminary information on the Project and Natural Forces, contact information for questions, a timeline, the Project location, and information about the Open House. Another newsletter was sent out in November 2021 with updates on Project development. As the Project continues to progress, the Proponent will continue to use newsletters as a form of communicating with community members and key stakeholders.

4.3.6.2 Newspaper Advertisements

Advertisements in local newspapers were used to inform the local community of the open house event that was held in July 2021. This form of communication will continue to be used to inform local community members of upcoming events, as well as provide information on Project benefits and contact information for the Proponent.

4.3.6.3 Individual Dialogue

The Proponent encourages and welcomes individual dialogue with stakeholders throughout the development, construction, and operation of the Project. Individual dialogue can occur under many forms such as email correspondence, phone calls and in-person discussions. Individual discussions can be most effective at resolving concerns as they can easily facilitate mutual learning and an exchange of varying perspectives.

4.3.6.4 Signage

At the entry point(s) to the Project during construction and operation, the Proponent will have signage introducing the Project, listing the primary contact person, and identifying the presence of any hazards, such as ice throw during certain weather conditions. Natural Forces will use this as an opportunity to provide additional information about the Project including facts about the construction schedule, electricity generation, and wind energy statistics. At a minimum, signage will include contact information for the Proponent.

4.3.6.5 Town Hall or World Café

If there is a desire in the community, the Proponent will participate in a town hall or world café style meetings.

Town hall style meetings are formal engagement activities that include a presentation from the Proponent followed by a question-and-answer period. The question-and-answer period usually involves an appointed moderator who directs questions from the audience to a panel made up of several members of the Project development team and/or consultants.

A World Café exercise is an engagement method that makes use of an informal café-style setting for participants to explore an issue by discussing it in small table groups. Discussion is held in multiple rounds of 20-30 minutes, with the cafe ambiance intended to allow for more relaxed and open conversations to take place.

4.3.6.6 Participation in Community Events

Proponent presence at local BBQs, sporting events, and other community gatherings can allow an opportunity for the Proponent to have informal discussions about the Project with local residents.

4.3.6.7 Group Presentations

Group presentations can be completed if interest arises. To date, the Proponent has held such presentations to a number of community groups interested in the Project.

4.3.6.8 Expert Visits

If a key area of concern is identified, an expert can be integrated into the community engagement process as opposed to working solely with the Proponent. Experts may attend an open house or community workshop as most appropriate to the level of interest and the issue of concern.

4.3.7 Issues Resolution

The Proponent has drafted a Complaint Resolution Plan as part of this EA registration document. This plan will cover what community members should do and whom to contact should there be negative impacts affecting the community members or the environment caused by the Project. The Complaint Resolution Plan is located in **Appendix B**.