

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com
Sent: April 6, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Project: higgins-mountain-wind-farm Comments: I have been involved in land protection for years with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust former long time board member and privately protecting lands in NS. Large portions of Wentworth Valley have been protected through hard work by the NSNT and private individuals. There are very few places on the mainland that have the integrity of the small mountains that the Wentworth Valley and surrounding area have and it would truly be criminal and a huge slap in the face of those who have worked so hard to protect this incredible area. The wildlife and water shed are in danger of losing their natural balance if more clearcutting is allowed as will be necessary for a windfarm installation and the noise pollution created will add additional stress to a rare track of land. The government has agreed to protect 30 of lands in both NS and Canada and this area should be falling into this mandate as there is already surrounding areas that are pristine and allow for natural and undisturbed habitat for wildlife. I am not against windfarms but there is a right spot for everything and this area is definitely not the right spot.... Name:

Email: @gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Wentowrth email_message:

Privacy-Statement: agree x: 51 y: 19

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: April 6, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Cc: ministerenvironment@novascotia.ca; @bellaliant.com
Subject: Higgins Mountain Wind Farm Project

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear Minister

I am writing with my response to the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm Project environmental assessment as filed with your Department on March 15, 2023. I have been enjoying the Wentworth valley and all of the amenities it has to offer for almost 40 years and moved here full time almost 15 years ago. Our property borders on the proposed assessment area. I graduated with a degree in Science, Forestry in 1982 and worked as a professional forester with the then Department of Natural Resources of the Province of Nova Scotia for 34 years. For most of my years working with the Department my primary focus was in tree improvement and forest renewal. I have spent a lot of time over the past 40 years in the assessment area appreciating its ecosystems and biodiversity. I have been fortunate enough to have encountered moose in this area and identified moose signs on a number of occasions. These sightings, including GPS coordinates, have always been reported to [redacted], Biologist with the Department of Forestry and Renewables. Given my connection with this area and my professional background I feel I have a good understanding and perspective related to the many community concerns with this project which I have heard expressed both at community meetings and the open houses organized by the proponent. I share these concerns and support the community's general opposition to locating this project in the proposed area.

My primary concerns related to this proposed Wind Turbine Project proceeding in the proposed location and the related EA submission include:

Water quality and quantity- Our well is one of the 7 noted in the EA document that is within 800 meters of the Assessment area. I believe our well is the one identified on page 76 of the EA that is closest to the Assessment area. The document does identify the potential for negative impact on the quality and quantity of drinking water resulting from construction activities. Risk related to arsenic, uranium and lead as well as the Karst topography concern me most. The EA identifies that full impact of risk on water cannot be determined until the level of blasting is confirmed and geo technical investigations are completed. Access to safe drinking water is essential for the enjoyment and use of our property and to maintain health. Based on my understanding of the concrete required and activities related to building and maintaining the integrity of these huge turbines I expect that there will be a negative impact on water. I am not prepared (or should any in the community) to accept that this project be approved and proceed at the cost of risk to our water supply. The Minister needs to defer the approval of this project until the work is completed to provide a detailed assessment of impact on all water supplies in the area and detailed mitigating measures to offset. I would expect a guarantee of continued availability of safe water at the existing supply level from the proponent prior to commencement of this project.

Endangered Mainland Moose- I know included in the Project area is critical habitat for the Endangered mainland Moose as is identified in the EA document. As previously mentioned I have been fortunate enough to have seen many Moose in the area. This is a species at risk as has been identified and I was encouraged when the Province released its

Nova Scotia Recovery Plan in November ,2021 including its commitments to the recommendations in this report . My family for 4 generations has been connected with this area and have had interest and monitored the Moose population. I am aware that the Province has commissioned a survey of the NS Mainland Moose population but do not know the status or how its results will compare with the comments with respect to the Moose population in the area as detailed in the EA. When the Moose recovery plan was issued I like many were concerned that the Moose population had declined to a level that was beyond any action plan designed to increase the population and save this species . But the recovery action as described in the report did provide some optimism, but highlighted the importance of preserving , increasing ,protecting and conserving moose habitat and corridors. It is clear that these recovery actions are critical to protecting the NS Mainland Moose population from extinction and that the population cannot bear any additional stress or reduction of habitat (including wetlands) or corridors. The approval of this EA does not include appropriate mitigating measures to protect the Mainland Moose and would be a contradiction to the recovery actions that the Province committed to as outlined in the NS Moose recovery plan. I ask that the Minister not approve this project which would significantly negatively impact the recovery and survival of the NS Mainland Moose. It is my hope that myself and future generations will continue to enjoy sightings of Mainland moose in the Wentworth Valley.

Land Use and Value/Tourism Recreation- The EA concludes that there will not be a negative impact on Land Use, Land Value, Tourism and Recreation but these assertions are not supported by the EA . The EA does not recognise the key drivers that result in investment , visitors and home construction. The EA does not appreciate the traditional uses and attraction to this area. Community residents and visitors are drawn by the natural beauty , outdoor activities , biodiversity, wildlife etc. It is well known as a hotspot for biking,hikers, skiers , snowmobilers etc . The conclusions on the impact related to land use, land value, recreation and tourism as provided in the EA are based on a lack of understanding of what the drivers of these factors are in the Wentworth Valley and outdated studies referencing locations that are not comparable to unique qualities of the Wentworth Valley. We have many friends from all over the region that come to the Wentworth Valley to enjoy and marvel all that this area has to offer.. I ask the Minister not to rely on the conclusions provided in the EA document and request that the study related to Land use, Land Value, Recreation and Tourism be redone based on current and relevant data and with an understanding of the drivers of use, value , Tourism and Recreation are in the Wentworth Valley.

Visual Impact - Wind turbines the size of those proposed which are much higher than any currently in Nova Scotia are to be constructed at an elevation of approximately 300 to 800 feet. For perspective the ski hill is at the top 900 feet (above sea level ASL) and the base is approximately 300 ASL. So if you placed one of these turbines at the ski lodge it would be as high as the whole ski hill itself. The turbines proposed are higher than the Egyptian pyramids(139 metres). The unique topography and elevations of the proposed sights for construction will, undoubtedly have a significant visual impact in the Wentworth Valley.and surrounding areas.

Mr Minister I submit that the EA document does not provide adequate support for conclusions that our community will not be negatively impacted. The vagueness, lack of clarity, disregard of community concerns and incorrect assumptions exhibited in the document were the same qualities I observed in the proponents' open houses I attended in response to Community Concerns. I am asking that this EA not be approved.

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From:
Sent: April 6, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Project: higgins-mountain-wind-farm Comments: Have a camp on the Mountain. Like to hunt,fish,ATV,boat and snowmobile. We do not want Wind Turbines in our area. Belong to Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club and North Shore ATV club. We see all kinds of wild life. Moose tracks a couple weeks ago behind Trout Lake Name: Email:
@hotmail.com Address: Municipality: Truro email_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x:

51 y: 23

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @hotmail.com
Sent: April 6, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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@hotmail.com Address: Municipality: Truro email_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x:
52 y: 7

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @eastlink.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Wentworth Valley.. wind turbines proposal

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Dear Officials,

I was born in Westchester in the Wentworth Valley many decades ago. My parents and grandparents lived there. Now my children and grandchildren live there. The older I get, the more I appreciate the wonderful environment with which we were all were, and still are , blessed.

I am quite horrified about the massive wind turbines proposal that is being proposed. I am also stunned that an Environmental Assessment is being paid for by the proponent? How can this be fair? In addition to the probability of a slanted outcome, it is incredibly expensive, something that the local group cannot afford.

There are so many potential negatives involved. What will happen to water quality and quantity? What will happen to the largest moose habitat in the province? What will happen to the unique diverse animal and vegetation population? What will happen to the highest wetlands in the province?

The whole prospect of the Wentworth Valley living with the MASSIVE turbines proposed makes me physically ill.

i don't understand how a Non open, non transparent Environmental Assessment can happen in Nova Scotia.

Our beaches, such as Green Bay , Crescent Beach, Peter Kelly's waterfront , Cherry Hill beach are under attack. Common Land is under attack in Lunenburg. I just do not get it. I do not understand why the province is so weak on these issues. Beaches and unspoiled land are a huge part of the appeal of Nova Scotia to tourists, and to people who move here. If the government is not respectful of the local populations of these gems, perhaps they would think of their economic benefit .

Please protect our province.

Respectfully,

Truro

Sent on my iPad

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: hotmail.com>
Sent: April 7, 2023 8:44 AM
To: Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables; Minister, Env;
toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com; Environment Assessment Web Account
Cc: Tom.Taggartmla@gmail.com; Victoria Lomond; Christine Blair;
kredmond@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca; mscott@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca;
info@protectwentworthvalley.com
Subject: Higgins Turbine Wind Farm - Environmental Assessment - Input
Importance: High

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Good morning

I will be submitting the below on the NS website, and wanted to make sure all on the email were aware of my feedback.



Good morning

I am writing in response to the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm Project EA that proposes up to 17 Wind Turbines in the Wentworth Valley area. I am a long-time resident of the Wentworth Valley and am concerned with wind projects proposed for sensitive areas with the likelihood to cause long lasting and negative changes for the people of Nova Scotia. This area is home to the endangered Mainland moose, Acadian forests, many species at risk and people who enjoy natural beauty and tranquility. Residents have chosen this area for a way of life that is in jeopardy due to this project. There are many things listed in the EA that I would like to respond to. I have limited the list to 4 categories.

1. Geophysical Environment including Water Quality and Quantity

- There is known Arsenic and Uranium deposits in the project area (EA pg 76). The impact of blasting, ground disturbance to build roads, construction sites to accommodate the massive concrete bases, and all other activities to build and maintain poses a high risk to contaminating the water bodies and run off affecting residents and wildlife health. This is an unacceptable risk to life and by itself should cause the project to be denied approval.
- No monitoring programs are recommended in relation to the geophysical environment (EA pg 77). Without a monitoring plan, it will not be possible to evaluate the actual results of the work compared to the EA assumptions, provides no chance of reacting to unexpected effects and no clear responsibilities for the project owners to remediate.

2. Visual Impacts

- Visuals were raised by the community at every meeting with the project owners as a high impact issue. Assurances of simulation standards and identified criteria were given by the project owners but did not happen (example: 50 mm lens, panoramic views, community identified viewpoints). The community identified various viewpoints and some were used by the project owner and others were not. Some turbines were repositioned due to Municipality of Cumberland bylaw changes, which improved visuals from most viewpoints, but a few concerns remain for turbines in the Municipality of Colchester . **It is highly recommended that if the project is approved, turbines 15 and 16 be removed or repositioned (set back) at least 300m further away from HWY 4 as this will greatly improve visual impacts and satisfy many community concerns (simulation 10.2N).**
- The EA states the visual simulations were created using a 50mm lens (EA pg 235). This is incorrect and misleading as the visual simulations provided in simulations 10.2A-10.2N have a variety of Lens mm used – from 21 to 50. A shorted lens length makes objects look further away and more tightly compacted. The human eye will experience a different view, one that is closer to 80 mm. The result will be bigger and closer looking turbines than depicted in the simulations.
- Simulations provide a limited angle of view (maybe 45 degrees). The human eye sees in a 180-degree field, and of course more when the head rotates/body position changes. Therefore, the visual simulations are not reflective of what will be seen by the eye. Example: simulation 10.2D shows minimal turbines in view but an increase of 30 degrees to the left will bring 8 additional turbines in to view.
- Simulations indicate some turbines will be hidden by vegetation. The insertion of the turbine by the project team into a picture was in such a way that turbine blades were stationary and does not account for the way trees and scrubs move in the wind. That is misrepresentative of the actual experience that will occur (example: simulation 10.2K turbine #17 obscured by a thin tree). Also, vegetation can change (example simulation 10.2N – turbine 16 obscured by a tree. Since Hurricane Fiona, that tree is no longer there)

3. Loss of habitat

- The project area contains the highest and third highest elevations in mainland Nova Scotia. The microclimates are unique and relied upon by the wildlife and fauna present. Construction and operation of the turbines will cause changes that will put strain on the native species. The Mainland Moose are a specific example. The NS government has implemented a recovery plan and it identifies the Wentworth valley as high-quality moose habitat and a corridor for moose to travel to and from the Portapique River Wilderness Area and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area. Disruption to the Wentworth Valley corridor contradicts the people of Nova Scotia's mission to protect the endangered Mainland moose.

4. Cumulative effects of projects in a concentrated area

- There are multiple large scale wind turbine project proposals for the Wentworth Valley. These include this project, 1 on the opposite side of HWY 4, and 1 in Westchester. Each has many considerations and will be managed by different project owners. However, the residents will be the same and the combined impacts will create a high degree of impact that must be considered when reviewing the projects independently. In summation, I am **not** in support of the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm Project. If the project is approved, I hope it is with the stipulations outlined above. I have faith in the Responsible Government model and that the Minister and elected officials will support the Wentworth Valley residents and Valley users wishes in this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions

@hotmail.com

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @hotmail.com
Sent: April 7, 2023 8:59 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

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Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @hotmail.com>
Sent: April 7, 2023 6:43 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Fw: Higgins Turbine Wind Farm - Environmental Assessment - Input
Importance: High

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From: RC H
Sent: April 7, 2023 8:43 AM
To: mindnr@novascotia.ca <mindnr@novascotia.ca>; Minister.environment@novascotia.ca <Minister.environment@novascotia.ca>; @bellaliant.com @bellaliant.com>; ea@gov.ns.ca <ea@gov.ns.ca>
Cc:

Subject: Higgins Turbine Wind Farm - Environmental Assessment - Input

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@hotmail.com

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @eastlink.ca >
Sent: April 9, 2023 10:11 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Fwd: Higgins Mountain Wind Farm Environmental Assessment - Response

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded

Subject: Fwd: Higgins Mountain Wind Farm Environmental Assessment - Response

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

Subject: Higgins Mountain Wind Farm Environmental Assessment - Response

Dear Sir,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter concerning the Environmental Assessment of the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm. My hope is that you will read my comments with an open mind that is not biased one way or the other. My family have been residents for the last 100 years of this area and have always tried to maintain the integrity of nature for the enjoyment of everybody and for future generations.

I have read and listened for the past two years to the arguments, pro and con, for this project. The biggest theme that has come from the residents of Folly Lake and Wentworth is that this project is not something that they support and feel it is detrimental to the well-being aesthetically, environmentally, and economically to this unique area of our province. This was made very clear to MLA Tory Rushton in a community meeting in Wentworth this winter. He said he heard very clearly that people did not want this project in this area and that he would carry this message forward.

Since then the Environmental Assessment has come forth. As a general overview of the document, it is quite clear who it was written for. If you look at every area they researched there were problems that could arise but in every instance, they stated how

the proponents could overcome them. In the summary section, pp 246-249 under the significant level, all the items were considered "Not Significant". Can you honestly believe that based on the counter opinions presented over the past two years that this is true?

It seems to me that since this assessment was paid for by the proponents that it is heavily weighted in their favor. Check most sections where the assessors found issue (flooding, flicker, moose habitat, etc.) they proposed a way around it even though the issues are real and significant.

Since the government has designated this area as a protected Nova Scotia Mainland Moose habitat, how is it going to help them when you clear cut 90 acres and then build roads to haul in supplies with over 100,000 truckloads of concrete being trucked overland to the 17 sites? Do you really believe this is not going to be significant for this endangered species?

The report says that wells and waterways could be affected during construction when the soil that contains uranium flows downhill. Flooding will occur after construction because of all the cleared land. How is this not significant?

Everyone who lives in this area knows how sound travels from one end to the other now. Think of the noise generated when the blasting takes place, when all of the trucks travel through the area, and the noise generated if and when the massive, industrial turbines are built. How is this not significant to the people who live here?

Then look at the plants that are going to be disturbed, some of which are endangered or rare. How is this not significant to this wilderness area?

I could go down the list of pp 246-249 and express the concerns that will affect this area and the people that live in it, but I hope you get my point of concern that this area should not be considered as a site for a wind farm. Nova Scotia has lots of areas that are better suited and where the inhabitants want it. Give this project to them and not to Wentworth then everyone is happy.

The people who live in a proposed area should be listened to as they are the ones who will have to live with the consequences. The government needs to pay attention to its taxpayers and voters. It is time for the government to say "NO" to this project. The Minister should fail this Environmental Assessment.

Yours Truly,

Folly Lake, Nova Scotia

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: April 9, 2023 11:41 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Higgings Mountain Wind Farm

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To Whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed wind farm on Higgins Mountain, Cumberland and Colchester Counties.

I live in the area, [redacted] in Wentworth and I will be inside the federally suggested minimum distance to some of the proposed turbines. Why is the provincial government not following federal guidelines in this matter? This seems like it will cause a lot of problems in the long run. As a user of the woods and trails in the area I am opposed to the further destruction of the Acadian forest. It pushes many species of animal already at risk further towards extinction like the mainland moose. It has been my experience that these companies use the excuse of green energy to actually do further damage to the environment and this will be a continuation of this theme. The next problem is that Wentworth and the surrounding areas are increasingly popular with summer and winter recreation and cottages. This project will negatively affect both of these things. In an age where we need to get more people active and outside, this project will have the opposite affect in the local area. There are plenty of locations in the province, far from cottage county and large recreation areas that have suitable wind conditions. Put the wind turbines there. Like everyone else in Wentworth and Westchester I have had to look at 3 turbines that have sat unused on top of the mountain for the last two decades. There was no plan to decommission them and that was the result. I have my doubts that these have a decommissioning plan either. The first ones were put up with massive government subsidies and all that money went to waste, lets not make the same mistake twice. I realize this is a NIMBY argument but frankly, keep them out of my back yard. Literally.

Thank you,

April 10, 2023

Submission regarding

Higgins Mountain wind Project Environmental Assessment

This submission is surrounding conclusions in the EA regarding the the construction and operation of an industrial Wind Complex on Higgins Mountain and its effect on the Mainland Moose population.

My concern today that the proponent has not demonstrated in any way how the project will not harm the mainland moose population currently present in the subject area nor have any mitigating processes been suggested as required or even possible. Once again in the report its another area of valued concern that has been glossed over, no real mitigation is deemed required as there is “no evidence of harm” rather than providing evidence that harm is unlikely.

In Section 34(1) of the Environment Act, the Minister shall examine or cause to be examined the information that is provided respective an undertaking and shall determine that..

(f)the undertaking is rejected because of the likelihood that it will cause adverse effects or environmental effects that cannot be mitigated.

The mainland moose recovery plan has identified the subject area as either core habitat or area that is essential to the continued existence/survival and re-establishment of the mainland moose population. This study has been accepted by the Province of NS and a commitment has been made by the departments responsible to adhere and its recommendations. This recovery plan is in full conflict with the proposed wind development.

The Higgins Mountain wind Project can not co-exist with the recovery of the mainland moose population. The moose will not survive the disruption of 3-year construction period let alone the operational phase, a few less breeding calves destroys the population and thus the biodiversity corridor from the NB moose stock is gone. In essence the population of the whole of NS will be doomed by the loss of this habitat. This must matter to the department of the Environment, and I ask that this gets brought to the attention of the Minister.

I want to highlight to the Minister concerns that were brought to the attention of the Higgins Mountain proponents by the authors (Dr. Karen Beazley,) of the study but were omitted from the Environmental Assessment .

Key guidelines/advice that I had mentioned in conversations with the proponent and that were omitted in the Higgins Mountain wind farm EA:

- 1. Minimize roads, fences, lighting and other linear infrastructure.***
- 2. Orient and clump them together in ways that do not sever or intersect intact forest or other natural habitat linkages through the site.***
- 3. Plan in a spatial way that retains wide (300 m minimum; 1000 m ideal) habitat linkages/corridors through the site in multiple directions, especially to connect with intact habitat beyond the site.***
- 4. Retain both hardwood and softwood and access to water in order to provide summer and winter security and thermal cover and forage.***
- 5. Include mechanisms to deter motorized human access beyond that necessary to service the site.***
- 6. Retain and enhance natural cover for moose and other SAR habitat delineated as core habitat in Recovery Plans.***
- 7. Retain and enhance natural cover for moose and other SAR habitat modeled as high habitat suitability or high likelihood of presence as delineated in Recovery Plans.***
- 8. Avoid new road construction/expansion/enhancement in areas delineated as unroaded/low road density in Recovery Plans.***
- 9. Retain as much natural cover as possible to favour moose habitat over deer habitat to minimize incursion of deer and associated P. tenuis (brainworm fatal to moose and carried by deer).***

I ask the Minister that despite a Province of Nova Scotia objective to establish 350 MW of renewable energy that every project is scrutinized for its own merit and specifically its cost/benefit to the Environment. I am of the asking that regarding the damage likely to the mainland moose population that this project is declined a permit to proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

April 10, 2023

Submission regarding

Higgins Mountain wind Project Environmental Assessment

The purpose of this submission is to bring the Minister's attention to the lack of detail around geotech data surrounding required blasting to anchor and build the foundations for the 17 towers. Those of us familiar with the granite in the Folly Mountain area and its proximity to the surface expect this project will require significant drilling and blasting. The proponent has done little or no analysis including site to determine the amount and type of work required.

We as residents are asked to evaluate an incomplete EA regarding the risks associated with the work to establish the foundations of the 600 ft tall towers that will include holes to accommodate over 2500 tons of concrete. The intention is that the Geotech work is to be done once approval is granted. It would seem that this should be part of any EA that will potentially disturb the bedrock and possibly the ground water.

Residents who live at the valley floor or at various elevations up the mountain either draw water from drilled wells or dug wells on the valley floor fed by river water and below the water table. There is no mention on water testing and mitigation in the event of naturally occurring risks that could be released by construction. Risks include radon, uranium and acid in the granite, and as always there are arsenic risks in Nova Scotia.

The point of this submission is that this EA seems to be missing a key element, Geotech drilling data, expected blasting requirements, monitoring and mitigation to drinking water. Landowners should be offered pre-testing, ongoing monitoring and a mitigation plan as part of this EA in order to assess its adequacy. This is their drinking water and there is no recognition of these risks within the EA.

I would request that the Minister order the proponent to conduct all the geotech required to construct the towers and detail the plan to monitor and address risks to downstream residents before any approvals or permits are allowed.

Regards,

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: April 10, 2023 8:34 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Higgins Mountain wind project broken power poles hazard

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hello,

Submission of two photos for the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm project.

Drawing 3.2 shows 2km of existing 2km project infrastructure/transmission line starting on Hwy 4 in the Wentworth Valley, running west up Higgins Mountain. The remaining 8km of the same transmission line is dangerously dangling in places along Higgins Mountain Road and other forestry roads on Higgins Mountain.

The line was used to connect to the now defunct 2006 Higgins Mountain Road wind farm.

Will the Proponent of the 2023 Higgins Mountain Wind Farm project decommission these poles and wires ASAP.

Photo location about 1km south of site of felled Turbine Site related to recent NSE decommissioning non-compliance directive.

First photo January 2023

Second photo April 8, 2023

Sent from my iPhone





Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From:
Sent: April 10, 2023 9:31 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Higgins Mountain Environmental Assessment

You don't often get email from [redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)

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April 10, 2023

Submission regarding

Higgins Mountain wind Project Environmental Assessment

I am writing today with my concerns regarding the Higgins Mountain Wind Project.

In Nova Scotia we have a large number of vulnerable, threatened and endangered species. One of those endangered species is the mainland moose.

According to the Nova Scotia endangered species mainland moose recovery plan (PDF) <https://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/pdf/recoveryplans/mainlandmooserecoveryplan.pdf>, " The Colchester/Cumberland area of NS has been identified as having some of the highest road densities in the province, in addition to currently containing the highest concentration of mainland moose in N.S.."

Forest and land management are important components for the recovery of this endangered species. Protecting this moose habitat corridor between NS and NB is obviously key to their survival. How is the Nova Scotia Government managing, protecting and conserving the land on Higgins Mountain?

Construction over a three year period will include the building of roads, staging, deforestation, human activity, trucking, lights enabling nighttime construction, helicopters and blasting. All of

these factors will disrupt the normal patterns of mainland moose, particularly breeding. Should this disruption occur and it prevents the recovery of the mainland moose, there is no going back.

There is nothing in the environmental assessment that addresses the concerns above nor takes into consideration the direct recommendations by the authors of the mainland moose recovery plan. I see no option other than the minister declining permission for the project to proceed.

Thanking you in advance,

From: @gmail.com
Sent: April 11, 2023 2:07 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Project: higgins-mountain-wind-farm Comments: Hello, I had a big analysis on the EA, comments, etc, and deleted it all. Heres why... For the past 8 years, going on 9, Ive been trying to get some kind of help, relief, from the impacts that the turbines at the Millbrook project have on us and nothings come of it. Not a single provincial representative has ever come to our house to actually experience what goes on. Ownership and the government point to the EA process as proof that everything is okay - but the EA that was done was flawed. You cant use the document to prove the document. There is no penalty or relief for this EA being wrong, either. We are left to deal with shadow flicker that lasts 20 mins and can induce headaches when no shadow flicker was predicted. We are left to deal with noise that can be so loud it can be heard inside the house, cause dizziness, and disturb sleep. Impacts that has ruined our enjoyment of our house and property, when it was predicted that we have a low noise impact. For the past two years or so, and since the announcement of more procurements, Ive been trying to raise awareness of a deeply flawed system, and I dont feel anything has come of it. Instead the province appears to be slamming ahead with projects that proponents say is a wonderful thing, while using an acknowledged flawed RFP process, a knowingly and demonstrably flawed EA process, awareness of many impacted by past turbine projects Ive provided that list previously, and no provincial land plan - just putting them where ever proponents say is best. It doesnt make any sense. There will be more people impacted like we have. None of the projects should go through until the flawed RFP, flawed EA process, and lack of consequences is addressed. The Provincial government should take the time to interview citizens within a decent radius of current projects and not rely on whatever proponents say is going on. Getting it right is far more important and critical than getting it done. Specific to Higgins Mountain. The people dont want it there. Cumberland moved to protect their part of the area. Colchester did the best they could with bylaws because they didnt have their municipal plan done - having attended the meetings I can safely say they dont want it. Please dont punish residents for the Municipalitys slow actions on the municipal plan. The Higgins Mountain area is critical moose habitat and will be impacted, possibly destroyed. It will have serious impacts on the tourism industry there. It will impact residents and future development in the area. Know who wants the project there? Proponents. The same ones that often tout things like we will work with the community and if we dont have community support we wont proceed - yeah, sure. Theyll make their money and not have to deal with the consequences. Also worth noting the Strum did the Higgins EA. Strum also did the terribly incorrect EA for the Millbrook project that greatly impacts our mental and physical health. I have a hard time trusting their abilities. If this somehow sits well with your decision than I will have failed in my goal to never let what happened to us happen to someone else, and you will have failed in your duty to protect people. I apologize, somewhat, if this comes across as snarky or off putting. Im tired. Ive been fighting for a very long time, and I dont feel like its getting anywhere. Im worried for people in the area of all these proposed projects because I know what can happen, we live it every day. I also know there is nothing anyone will do once the projects go ahead and people are impacted. This is not just a 25 year sentencing. Its 25 plus options to renew over and over. It has the very real potential to rob people of their single biggest investment - their home. Again, please, take the time to get it right, not just get it done. Thank you. Name:

Email: @gmail.com Address: Municipality: Old Barns
email_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 59 y: 25

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @hotmail.com
Sent: April 11, 2023 7:36 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

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Project: higgins-mountain-wind-farm Comments: As someone who has grown up in Wentworth Valley and now has a parent residing there full time, the last thing we want to impact our gorgeous environment is a wind farm. Please, we urge you to reconsider using this area? Wentworth valley is one of the most beautiful places in Nova Scotia and putting up a bunch of wind turbines that will only be good for so many years and then sit to rot for the next century sounds ludicrous. The people who live in this Rural area are tired of the clear cutting and the harm it does to the wildlife. Please preserve this valley. Stop stealing it?Ts beauty and natural habitat! Name: Email:

@hotmail.com Address: Municipality: Halifax email_message: Privacy-Statement:
agree x: 41 y: 28

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: April 11, 2023 12:38 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Higgins Mountain wind EA Fwd: Wind RFP; RES, Higgins Mountain, SWEB, Natural Forces in Folly Lake region

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hi,

I have shared a lot of emails with the EA office over the years relating to the Higgins Mountain wind project. An interesting example of one is attached.

Not everyone replied but I appreciated the reply from the Atlantic Region, Team Lead for the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada worked hard to answer all of my questions related to federal jurisdiction.

ea@(novascotia & gov.ns.ca) was addressed in this email related to Higgins Mountain wind projects but it was prior to the 30 day comment.

Can EA @ emails sent prior to EA for Higgins Mountain wind project comment period be retrieved and attached to the ea commented, or does the ea office require historical emails about the Project be forwarded?

While the situation is different now, with only the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm project by the Higgins Wind group, the members of the community are even more exhausted, stressed than before.

I do not believe Strum Consulting captured in their EA Registration Document the widespread outrage their project has generated. They avoid addressing it in their EA. It was and is Significant.

Instead they used methods such as referencing 'generally favourable' wind survey from areas with nothing in common with the Higgins Mountain wind project. They also used Visual Simulation tricks to distort visual representations that are far from reality.

The EA is full of errors and omissions.

When I emailed Strum President March 28th regarding his EA I got the following reply,
'Please be aware that I will be on vacation on Tues March 21 and returning to the office on Monday, April 3rd. I will only be monitoring emails periodically while I'm off so if your matter is urgent, please contact our main office number (902-835-5560) and someone can assist you.'

President

Still haven't heard from . In fact the last time I heard from him was when I called him observing his MREM, Community Engagement Officer (May 9, 2022) secretly taking notes and recording a Cumberland County wind by-law Open House. Strum Engagement Officer denied several times they were working in any capacity. Once I sleuthed who they worked for I called who confirmed the Engagement Officer was working. He didn't see any problem with his staff secretive/evasive tactics.

Sorry my email is becoming a rant instead of the single question posed above.

Thanks,

Begin forwarded message:

From: <[@gmail.com](mailto:)>
Subject: Wind RFP; RES, Higgins Mountain, SWEB, Natural Forces in Folly Lake region
Date: May 2, 2022 at 4:47:25 PM ADT
To: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>, "ea@gov.ns.ca" <ea@gov.ns.ca>, atlanticregion-regiondelatlantique@iaac-aeic.gc.ca, enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca, corridorsecologiques-ecologicalcorridors@pc.gc.ca
Cc: Tory.Rushton@novascotia.ca, Tom Taggart <Tom.Taggartmla@gmail.com>, Christine Blair <cblair@colchester.ca>, Murray Scott <msscott@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca>

Hello,

The NS renewable energy RFP process is overwhelming our community, groups and resources. Community members are stressed, not sleeping well, and getting burned out.

Specifically in our case I am referring to the 4 projects totalling 350MW surrounding the Wentworth region of NS;

RES Windy Ridge
Stevens Wind Partnership's Higgins Mountain
Natural Forces Westchester Wind project
SWEB Blueberry Acres project

It is nearly impossible to keep up with the four proposed projects in our area. The RFP process has created this Wild West situation that is unfair on small, under-resourced communities trying to understand impacts and to counter the well funded industrial development projects.

I respectfully request areas with multiple projects being proposed not be included in this round of RFP to help give local communities time to properly prepare.

The expected EA's documents are extremely long and technical. Trying to potentially evaluate 4 projects in a similar 30 day comment period is unrealistic.

Considering the size and scale of these projects they would be better addressed through a Federal EA that is more in-depth and gives more time for comments. A Federal EA could assess the huge potential cumulative impacts, significant risks to biodiversity, conservation areas, connectivity, far better than a provincial EA.

Most of the area of these projects is better suited to a National Park than for industrial development. If the mature and old growth forests of this area are further fragmented by roads, logging, and approximately 70 turbines of over 600' Nova Scotia will have no ability to remain ecological connected with the rest of Canada via a Parks Canada-led program of key ecological corridors to connect habitats and conserve biodiversity that was announced on April 21, 2022

Sincerely,

Folly Lake, NS

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: April 11, 2023 1:43 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Fwd: Higgins Mountain Wind socio-economic impact analysis & visual assessments
Attachments: Tourism resume 2022.docx

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Correspondence with Higgins Mountain Wind Farm regarding Socio-economic impact analysis work they promised but never delivered or reached out for.

Begin forwarded message:

From: @gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Higgins Mountain Wind socio-economic impact analysis & visual assessments
Date: April 29, 2022 at 1:33:49 PM ADT
To: @elementalenergy.ca>
Cc: n@strum.com, @mmfi.ca, "ea@gov.ns.ca" <ea@gov.ns.ca>, wind.info@novascotia.ca

Hi,

Sorry I could not make last nights CLC.

Based on timelines of RFP and potential EA submission dates, I feel you are many months behind schedule for beginning a socio-economic impact study and interviews with affected community members. The potential socio-economic impacts are numerous and will be felt by many businesses, community groups, home owners, recreational trails, conservation areas, general tourism economy of the region, county and provincially as Wentworth is one of Nova Scotia's largest tourism operators and Cumberland County's largest employers.

I've heard from numerous groups and people recently and no one other than communication tower owners have heard from you related to your work.

I have been asking you for several years to begin the socio-economic study that you promised to have complete before submitting your EA. I have serious concern you will have the time or allocate enough resources to complete a thorough study before your desired EA submission date. Tourism and outdoor recreation have been the backbone of the community for 90 years.

This is all of great concern to myself and many others.

Otherwise, I am happy to share document in person with Strum’s economic analysts at their earliest convenience. Please reach out to set a meeting in Wentworth. This would be helpful help to show them around the high value tourism properties to get a real flavour of what it is about.

This would also be a great time to meet with Ski Wentworth to see our 100 page Technical Assessment & Master Plan by EcoSign Mountain Resort Planners. Implementation has begun to transition to a year round tourism and recreational facility.

Again we are happy to share in person but not to give a copy at this time due to some confidential business details.

We are fine with most details being used for socio-economic impact study but not all.

This would also be a good time for Strum to do some of the certified visual assessments the community has been asking for but yet to receive. I am gravely concerned about the visual assessment receptor locations that you have neglected to use. Has there been an assessment from any of the very popular look-offs our scenic valley is well known for? Have you done any for tourism properties I am developing in Wentworth Valley?

I am attaching my tourism resume with you, so you can better understand my tourism experience and background to give you confidence in my expertise in assisting your socio-economic impact analysis as it relates to tourism.

Thank you,

On Apr 28, 2022, at 8:05 PM, [@elementalenergy.ca](mailto:elementalenergy.ca) wrote:

Just following up on the 30-page Master Plan – are you able to share this for our consideration?

Thanks,

<image001.gif>

, EIT, PROJECT COORDINATOR
 d 604.558.8005 e [@elementalenergy.ca](mailto:elementalenergy.ca)
 2150 – 745 Thurlow St. Vancouver, BC, Canada V6E 0C5
www.elementalenergy.ca

Investing in the power of the elements.

From:
Sent: March 31, 2022 2:08 PM
To: [@gmail.com](#)
Cc: [@strum.com](#)>
Subject: RE: Higgins Mountain Wind socio-economic impact analysis & visual assessments

Thanks for sharing the Site Master Plan. Are you able to share the detailed version?

Rest assured the socioeconomic study will be completed for the EA, as well as the visual simulations from a representative set of vantage points.

Kind regards,



From: [@gmail.com](#)>
Sent: March 21, 2022 8:32 AM
To: [@elementalenergy.ca](#)>; [ea@gov.ns.ca](#); [wind.info@novascotia.ca](#)
Cc: Tory Rushton <[Tory.Rushton@novascotia.ca](#)>;

Subject: Higgins Mountain Wind socio-economic impact analysis & visual assessments

Hello,

I have been asking the proponent for a number of engineer certified visual assessments for three years for both my high value/scenic tourism properties and for Ski Wentworth properties. I have only received a few poorly done visuals done by 3G'S of the Higgins Wind consortium.

So far we have received a couple of very weak wireframes done by proponent and they have never bothered to return after a broken camera prevented them from visiting several other nearby sites with different views but huge potential impacts.

I asked for 4 assessments from my tourism properties, not including Ski Wentworth properties. I own 100 acres of prime tourism/scenic development properties, including

four different development areas, each with different views of the surrounding landscape. One of the views is on the cover of the attached document.

The properties mentioned above and their future plans should also be included in the long awaited Socio-Economic Impact Study the proponent promised. **The Higgins Wind proponent promised at both CLC and public meetings to have a Socio-Economic Impact Study complete to submit with their EA.**

EA's need to be submitted in less than two months which doesn't not leave enough time for a thorough Socio-Economic Impact Study to be completed. The proponent still has not reached out to any tourism or other stakeholders in Wentworth regarding the socio-economic impact analysis.

I have attached a Site Master Plan for phase 1 of my tourism development plan for the famous Higgins Brook waterfall and scenic blueberry fields across the highway. The plan includes a low impact mix of Blue Route/wheelchair accessible public-park like spaces, skating rink, ski glades, trails, picnic areas, scenic viewing areas, weather shelter, off highway parking, and include a mix of tent pads, tiny cabins, domes, and a couple of larger rentals. The trails on the property will also connect to adjacent NS Nature Trust properties, the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and to Ski Wentworth public trail network.

Ski Wentworth is also transitioning to a four-season tourism model that will include new lifts, new ski lodge, resort village and many enhanced public amenities. Work on the new chairlift begins April 2022.

A nordic spa is also planned but we are still determining the best location beside Ski Wentworth or on my Higgins Brook Falls property.

, I have a more detailed 30 page Site Master Plan I can discuss with Strum or whoever they sub-contract the visual analysis and socio-economic impact analysis. As I have said several times over the last few years, please hurry up, time is ticking.

EA office and wind.info RFP manager

With the lack of engineer stamped visual assessments or a thorough socio-economic impact study of the Higgins Wind project on the community, the Higgins Wind project must be rejected for any consideration for EA's or the RFP process. Especially considering a proponent can win an RFP bid when it may not have a chance to pass an EA.

The attached overview document is private and should not be shared publicly.

Thank you,

Kawaba Developments owner
Ski Wentworth principal

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: April 11, 2023 1:47 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Fwd: Unethical behaviour by environmental consultants on behalf of proponents

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Higgins Mountain Wind Farm EA

Begin forwarded message:

From: @gmail.com>
Subject: Unethical behaviour by environmental consultants on behalf of proponents
Date: May 10, 2022 at 1:02:50 PM ADT
To: wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>, "ea@gov.ns.ca" <ea@gov.ns.ca>, Helen MacPhail <helen.macphail@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Planning <planning@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca>, Murray Scott <msscott@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca>, Kathy Redmond <kredmond@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca>, Tory Rushton <Tory.Rushton@novascotia.ca>, Minister.environment@novascotia.ca, PREMIER@novascotia.ca, jhoughtaling@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca, fgould@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca, rgilroy@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca, dporter@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca, angmccormick@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca, mjoseph@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca, gherrett@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca, cgoodwin@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca

Hello,

May 9th the Municipality of Cumberland County hosted a community information session regarding their current wind bylaw review.

I got there early and was speaking with county planner _____ when I noticed someone sitting off to the side taking notes. I could not confirm but it appeared she was also recording the meeting on her phone.

I later sat down and introduced myself to her and asked why she seemed to be writing down my conversation with _____. She said her name was [insert Strum Community Engagement Officer name here] and was a 'local community' member with an interest in wind energy. I asked if she had a professional interest in the meeting and she said no.

I moved on but returned to her a while later and asked again if she was at the meeting in a professional capacity for any of the wind proponents, consultants or government. She again said no when I noticed her notebook had the name Strum written on the cover. Strum Consulting is representing at least two wind energy proponents in Cumberland County; Higgins Wind and I believe SWEB.

I then asked her again if she was there taking notes for Strum. She again said no even though she acknowledged she works for Strum.

Since she previously said she was from the community I asked if she was from Cumberland or even neighbouring Colchester County (since 3 Cumberland County projects sit along the county line) but she said no, she was not from either Cumberland or Colchester County.

I introduced who she worked for to the room and several community members immediately went to her to express their concerns over the projects by proponents she was secretly representing.

I immediately called Strum President _____, who I previously met through the Higgins Wind CLC process and shared I did not think the behaviour was very ethical. He did not agree and did not see any issue with it. We disagreed with each other for a few minutes before I ended the call.

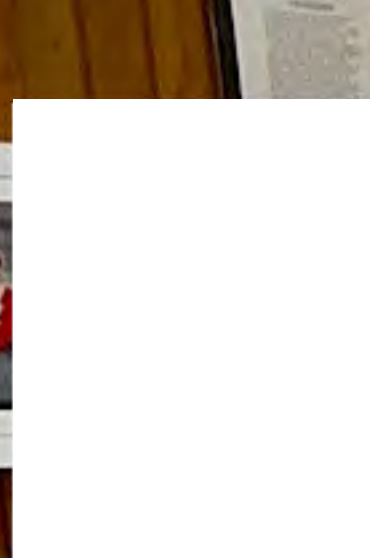
Previously when Strum staff were presenting at proponent Open House events they all wore corporate logo wear and name badges, yet there was _____ wearing clothes I assume she chose to look like she just woke up on a Sunday morning. Very casual, mis-matching outfit.

In my opinion this is a serious breach of ethics on behalf of the proponents Higgins Wind and SWEB confirmed and this type of action should be a significant strike against any proponent using Strum Consulting for the wind RFP. It seems to be in line with Higgins Wind comfort level of unethical behaviour as _____ once accidentally Cc'ed members of Protect Wentworth Valley that they should send a mole to a community meeting PWV was hosting that proponents previously were asked not to attend.

See attached photo of Strum consultant, with _____ (back to camera) speaking to a community member.

RFP Administrator and EA office, I would like to know what, if any, actions or penalties this type of behaviour will lead to for consultants and proponents?

Thank you,



← WASHROOMS



Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: April 11, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Fwd: Higgins Mountain Wind: June CLC

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Begin forwarded message:

From: @gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Higgins Mountain Wind: June CLC
Date: July 14, 2022 at 2:15:50 PM AD
To:

Hello,

Thanks for the prompt sharing of minutes this time. It makes it much easier to confirm meeting notes when still fresh.

April meeting notes

I see that you accepted the previous April 2022 minutes as accepted but made no reference/changes to my related comments at the June meeting or in my July 11th email to CLC members. Attached below.

Specifically you did not add any content related to;

- discussion around planning, visual assessments, etc
- moose expert emailed comments around road building and construction that have never been captured or discussed.
- see others below

Can you please add these comments to ensure they are recorded in our CLC notes? Or justify why not being included?

June 30th meeting notes

RFP update, last point. said most towers would likely be a 'hybrid' style tower, which means it would have a very tall concrete base extending up above the ground. This tower type requires a huge amount of concrete via a 'continuous pour' technique where concrete trucks run 24/7 for a long time. Next meeting should have this on the agenda as the around the clock noise nuisance to communities is often significant.

6:45 Gar asked about Higgins/Northern Pulp plans to formalize a legal commitment Higgins group pledged to the community that would prevent any further turbines on the property beyond 100MW as previously promised. Higgins Group said no further action has moved forward. asked to make sure these comments were captured in the minutes, which did not happen.

comments. said Northern Pulp would protect the moose but gave no evidence or at, where, when, why. Since seem to have open access to Northern Pulp could they encourage Northern Pulp to attend next CLC as we have been asking for three years.

Visual Assessments & Socio-economic impacts

has previously promised to interview local business operators regarding the socio-economic impact study but are now saying 'individual interviews are not in the scope ...' Why are you going back on previous promise?

has previously promised to do visual assessments for numerous sites before the EA that currently haven't been completed. . At least two outstanding historic and very popular look-offs look towards the Higgins group project area. Why are going back on your previous promise?

Copied from July 11, 2022 CLC email regarding June and earlier CLC meeting notes

After getting disconnected from June 30th CLC during minutes review, I later shared I'd like to make some changes to the previous minutes.

Thanks to for acknowledging that sharing CLC minutes notes less than 24hrs before the following meeting is unacceptable and that the Higgins Group, specifically , will get future notes out 2 weeks after the meeting. Please add this the June meeting notes.

I noted that a lot of details were shared about various topics but no details were included from planning expert discussion.

Some of what shared includes the following that should be added to the April minutes;

Visual Impact Analysis

- Visual analysis should be done via DTM with photo overlay
- analysis should include a Dominance & Prevalence rating such as what Protect Wentworth Valley presented in 2021
- visual analysis camera focal length should be 90mm as this is closest representation to how the human eye sees images.
- photo representation should be on a clear blue sky, not grey, overcast, or cloudy.
- video representation from receptors is very easy with today's technology. Wind developers should share this with communities.

- developers should share 'how much space a project will occupy'

notes that Higgins wind has not addressed any of the above to date despite talking about these things since 2021

Have never received promised visual impact analysis from two very popular trails with spectacular look-offs that face towards proponents project area. Proponent has promised this since at least mid-2021.

Committee member has repeatedly requested leading moose experts to attend a meeting. Proponent has not accommodated this request. I mentioned them both the following April 28th.

, Dalhousie, lead author Mainland Moose Recovery Plan, k@dal.ca
Donna Hurlburt, DNRR, Species-at-Risk lead, Donna.Hurlburt@novascotia.ca

Asked how many hectares of land to be cleared for layout? Never answered and still relevant with latest layout changes.

Asked if proponent will get legal commitment from landowner and partners that no more turbines would added if 100MW plan moves forward.

Proponent again stated socio-economic impact study will be completed and submitted with EA

Environmental

...' this has been made possible through community feedback...' This statement is very misleading. The only layout changes the proponent has undertaken is from RFP downsized from 150 to 100mw, then changing setback via overlay that occurred due to displeasure with Higgins group and community members mobilizing to make changes in other ways beyond negotiating with proponent.

It wasn't at the April meeting but I also noticed emailed comments to proponent Nov 23, 2021 but they have not made it into any meeting notes nor were they ever discussed at a meeting. Please add them to these meeting notes with reference not captured since Nov 21.

lead author of NS Mainland Moose Recovery Plan wrote;

Points that I would be looking for or recommending in terms of windmill (and road) location are:

1. Locations should be concentrated so as to minimize footprint of site impact (clearing) caused by windmills, associated construction, access and maintenance roads and any other infrastructure;
2. Layout should be such that moose could move across the site in both directions (e.g., east-west and north-south) (1) without being more than 200 m from mature forest cover and ideally (2) with no or minimal road crossings;
3. To avoid indirect impacts on moose:
 - a. Any roads that can be decommissioned post construction should be, and those that cannot should be gated, with restricted access, to minimize opportunities for disturbance due to motorized recreational and other human uses, including poaching;
 - b. Cleared areas needed for construction but not needed for operations should be restored to enhance recovery of forest cover, to benefit moose and discourage deer (who carry a brain worm that kills moose).

Thanks,

Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: gmail.com>
Sent: April 11, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: Fwd: Significant habitat Rockland Brook

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Higgins Mountain Wind Farm EA related

Begin forwarded message:

From: @gmail.com>
Subject: Significant habitat Rockland Brook
Date: January 4, 2023 at 2:28:11 PM AST
To: Helen MacPhail <helen.macphail@novascotia.ca>

Hello,

While exploring DNR crown land ID 4385 crown both before and after Fiona I've noticed a huge, new to me, cliff face directly above a Rockland Brook. There appears to be large areas full of large rocky outcrops, talus pockets.

If so could this be significant habitat for birds, bats and and maybe other flora and fauna?

In the 2006 Higgins Mtn wind energy EA figure 3.1 shows two large Significant Habitat talus slope areas on the eastern slope of Higgins Mtn.

The Rockland Brook crown land area is much steeper with more cliff habitat.

Is DNRR and NSE aware of this habitat?

How does classifying it as Significant Habitat work?

Also in the same 2006 EA nearby Roaring Brook is described as having Significant Habitat in the text yet it isn't marked as such on Figure 3.1.

Is Roaring Brook and Hants Brook considered Significant Habitat?

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone













No 4 Highway, Folly Lake



Assessment	\$121,700
PID	20131264
Lot Size	338 acre





Pollock, Meaghan Elizabeth

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: April 11, 2023 1:56 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: 2003 Wentworth tourism Higgins Mountain Wind Farm EA

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An example of Ski Wentworth early tourism development into four-season model from 2003 Fall Colours Festival when we first encouraged mountain biking and hiking.

