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Our File number: 10700-40-325

40100-30-325

October 30, 2023

Daniel Roscoe P.Eng., CEO, Roswall Development Inc. and Mersey River Wind Inc. Suite 1500, 1625 Grafton Street, Halifax, NS B3J 0E8

Dear Mr. Roscoe:

RE: Amendment of condition from the Environmental Assessment Approval – Mersey River Wind Farm.

This letter is in response to information received from STRUM consulting titled *Mersey River Wind Farm Revised Project Description* dated October 12, 2023, in which you propose several changes to the layout of the Mersey River Wind Farm (the Project). The Project was approved pursuant to Section 40 of the *Environment Act* and Section 13(1)(b) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations on March 27, 2023.

From the information provided, I understand that Mersey River Wind Inc. (the Approval Holder) has revised the Project's layout to include the relocation of a few select turbines and access roads, a change to the transmission line corridor, as well as to propose the use of existing borrow pits on the site. The reasons for the changes include recommendations from Natural Resources and Renewables for buffers associated with lichen species at risk and old growth forest stands, and to avoid high potential areas for archaeological significance.

Although the information STRUM provided shows that two high potential archaeological sites have been avoided by the revised layout, further archaeological work identified one area considered to exhibit high potential for encountering archaeological resources within the new layout of the transmission line. As an unacceptable environmental effect may occur, I consider it necessary to amend condition 8.1 of the Environmental Assessment Approval pursuant to Section 41A of the Environment Act. As required by Section 41A (2) I hereby give notice thirty days in advance of making the amendment. This letter is accompanied by the amendment to section 8.1 of the Environmental Assessment Approval (enclosed).

Please note that the Environmental Assessment Approval remains subject to obtaining all other necessary approvals, permits or authorizations required by municipal, provincial and federal acts, regulations and by-laws before commencing work on the Project. It is the responsibility of the Approval Holder to ensure that all such approvals, permits or authorizations are obtained before commencing work on the Project.

If you have any questions regarding the environmental assessment requirements for the Project, please contact Helen MacPhail, Supervisor of the Environmental Assessment Branch, at (902) 483-2696 or via email at Helen.Macphail@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,

T. Halm

Timothy Halman, MLA

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Encl.

c: Helen MacPhail, Environment and Climate Change