



**Environment  
Office of the Minister**

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Our File number:  
40100-30-256  
10700-40-50788

**SEP 20 2016**

Martha Campbell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Celtic Current Limited Partnership  
10442 Route 19, Southwest Mabou  
Nova Scotia, B0E 1X0

Dear Ms. Campbell:

**Re: Environmental Assessment – New Victoria Community Wind Power Project,  
Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

The environmental assessment of the proposed New Victoria Community Wind Power Project in Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia has been completed.

This is to advise that I have approved the above project (for the Option 1 turbine location as described in the Registration Document) in accordance with Section 40 of the Nova Scotia Environment Act, S.N.S., 1994-95 and subsection 13(1)(b) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, N.S. Reg. 348/2008, made under the Act. Following a review of the information provided by Celtic Current Limited Partnership, and the information provided during the government and public consultation of the environmental assessment, I am satisfied that any adverse effects or significant environmental effects of the undertaking can be adequately mitigated through compliance with the attached terms and conditions.

This approval is subject to any other approvals required by statute or regulation, including but not limited to, approval under Part V of the Environment Act (Approvals and Certificates section).

If you have any questions regarding the approval of this project, please contact Peter Geddes, Director, Policy and Planning, at (902) 424-6250 or via email at [Peter.Geddes@novascotia.ca](mailto:Peter.Geddes@novascotia.ca).

Sincerely,

Margaret Miller, MLA  
Minister of Environment

Encl.

c: Peter Geddes

# Environmental Assessment Approval

Approval Date: SEP 20 2016

## New Victoria Community Wind Power Project Celtic Current Limited Partnership

Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia

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The New Victoria Community Wind Power Project (the "Undertaking"), proposed by: Celtic Current Limited Partnership (the "Approval Holder") in New Victoria, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia is approved pursuant to Section 40 of the *Environment Act* and Section 13(1)(b) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations. This Approval is subject to the following conditions and obtaining all other necessary approvals, permits or authorizations required by municipal, provincial and federal acts, regulations and by-laws before commencing work on the Undertaking. It is the responsibility of the Approval Holder to ensure that all such approvals, permits or authorizations are obtained before commencing work on the Undertaking.

This Environmental Assessment Approval is based upon the review of the conceptual design, environmental baseline information, impact predictions, and mitigation presented in the Registration Document.

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### Terms and Conditions for Environmental Assessment Approval

#### 1.0 General Approval

- 1.1 The Environmental Assessment Approval for the Undertaking is limited to the Undertaking as described in the Environmental Assessment Registration Document. Any proposal by the Approval Holder for expansion, modification or relocation of any aspect of the project from that proposed in the Registration Document must be submitted to the Environmental Assessment Branch for review and may require an environmental assessment (EA).
- 1.2 The Approval Holder must, within two years of the date of issuance of this Approval, commence work on the Undertaking unless granted a written extension by the Minister.

The Approval Holder must notify NSE the commencement date of the

Undertaking, at a minimum 30 days prior to the commencement.

- 1.3 The Approval Holder must not transfer, sell, lease, assign or otherwise dispose of this Approval without the written consent of the Minister. The sale of a controlling interest of a business or a transfer of an approval from a parent company to a subsidiary or an affiliate is deemed to be a transfer requiring consent.
- 1.4 The Approval Holder must implement all mitigation and commitments in the Registration Document, unless approved otherwise by Nova Scotia Environment (NSE).
- 1.5 The Approval Holder must provide a report to NSE's Environmental Assessment Branch one year following construction of the Undertaking. The report must include, but not be limited to, site development, mitigation plans, monitoring results, and compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the Environmental Assessment Approval.
- 1.6 The Undertaking is approved for the Option 1 turbine location, as described in the EA Registration Document, unless otherwise approved by NSE.

## **2.0 Flora and Fauna**

- 2.1 Prior to clearing and/or construction, the Approval Holder must provide Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Division with digital way points and/or shape files revealing precise locations for all "RED", "YELLOW" and "UNDETERMINED" listed species (under the General Status Ranks of Wild Species in Nova Scotia), and S1, S2 and S3 listed species (under the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Center), identified during field work within the area of the Undertaking. The date of the above noted field data must also be provided to DNR. The Approval Holder must report to NSE that the files have been provided to DNR.
- 2.2 Prior to the turbine becoming operational, the Approval Holder must conduct additional bird surveys in the month of June, in wetlands present within the Undertaking area. The Approval Holder must provide the survey results to DNR.
- 2.3 Prior to clearing and/or construction, the Approval Holder must develop a program to monitor the mortality of birds and bats. The Approval Holder must undertake the mortality monitoring program for two years including 2 spring surveys and 2 fall surveys, once the turbine becomes operational. The monitoring program and associated reporting requirements must be developed and implemented to the standards as required by DNR and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). The Approval Holder must surrender all

specimens from such work to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative for necroscopy. Based on the results of the monitoring, the Approval Holder must make necessary modifications to mitigation plans, and/or wind turbine operations, to the satisfaction of NSE.

- 2.4 Site preparations that include deforestation, clearing and grubbing must be conducted outside of the breeding season for most bird species (April 15 to August 15), unless otherwise approved by NSE.

### **3.0 Noise and Visual Impact**

- 3.1 Prior to clearing and construction, the Approval Holder must provide updated sound modelling, shadow flicker assessment, and any other information requested for the final turbine selection/placement to NSE for review and approval.
- 3.2 The Approval Holder must monitor noise, at the request of, and to the satisfaction of NSE under varying climatic conditions in order to ensure that noise levels do not exceed 40 dBA. Based on the results of the monitoring program, the Approval Holder must make necessary modifications to mitigation plans and/or wind turbine operations to reduce the noise level to 40 dBA or lower.
- 3.3 The Approval Holder must develop a plan to monitor shadow flicker, at the request of, and to the satisfaction of NSE (does not exceed 30 minutes per day or 30 hours per year at any receptor). Based on the results of the monitoring program, the Approval Holder must make necessary modifications to mitigation plans and/or wind turbine operations to prevent any unacceptable environmental effects to the satisfaction of NSE.
- 3.4 Prior to the turbine becoming operational, the Approval Holder must develop and implement a turbine lighting plan in consultation with CWS and Transport Canada, and notify NSE upon completion of the plan.

### **4.0 Ground and Surface Water Resources**

- 4.1 The Approval Holder must not construct a turbine within 30 m of a wetland or watercourse (measured from the tip of the blade), unless otherwise approved by NSE.
- 4.2 The Approval Holder must not carry out any Undertaking related activities within 50 metres of the New Waterford Municipal Water Supply Area (shown in Figure 3 of the EA Registration Document). No development or removal of vegetation within this 50 metre buffer is permitted unless otherwise approved by NSE.
- 4.3 The Approval Holder must obtain an approval from NSE for the construction of watercourse crossings and/or wetland alterations, as specified in the Activities Designation Regulations.

- 4.4 Prior to any blasting, the Approval Holder must conduct a pre-blast survey for water wells within 800 m of the point of blast. The survey must be conducted in accordance with the NSE "Procedure for Conducting a Pre-Blast Survey", and the results of this survey must be sent to NSE prior to any blasting. Any water well impacts from the blasting must be corrected by the Approval Holder to the satisfaction of NSE.
- 4.5 During clearing and/or construction, and after severe storm events, the Approval Holder must conduct regular visual assessments of the site to ensure the effectiveness of erosion and sedimentation controls, unless otherwise approved by NSE. Results of the assessment must be submitted, one year following construction of the Undertaking, to NSE as part of the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP).

## **5.0 Public Consultation**

- 5.1 Prior to clearing and construction, the Approval Holder must develop and implement a complaint resolution plan to address all concerns associated with the Undertaking. The Approval Holder must appoint a contact person designated to deal with complaints, and must provide the contact information to NSE.
- 5.2 Prior to the turbine becoming operational, The Approval Holder must develop and implement a plan for the formation and operation of a Community Liaison Committee (CLC), including terms of reference. The Approval Holder must operate the CLC for the duration of the Undertaking and until released in writing by NSE. The NSE Guidelines for the Formation of a Community Liaison Committee shall be used for guidance.

## **6.0 First Nation and Aboriginal Engagement**

- 6.1 The Approval Holder must develop and implement a Mi'kmaq Communication Plan for the Undertaking, which will include a process for communicating project details and seeking input from the Mi'kmaq community.

## **7.0 Archaeological and Heritage Resources / Aboriginal Interests**

- 7.1 The Approval Holder must cease work and contact the Special Places Coordinator, Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage immediately upon discovery of an archaeological site or artifact unearthed during any phase of the Undertaking. If the find is of certain or suspected Mi'kmaq origin, the Approval Holder must also contact the Executive Director of the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office.

## **8.0 Environmental Management System**

- 8.1 Prior to clearing and/or construction, the Approval Holder must provide to

NSE an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Undertaking. The EPP must include, but not be limited to:

- i) details of erosion and sedimentation control plans;
- ii) a monitoring program for surface waters;
- iii) a plan to deal with sulphide bearing materials and acid drainage;
- iv) a contingency plan to address accidents that includes spill response procedures, fires, emergency contacts, and staff training.

8.2 Prior to clearing and/or construction, the Approval Holder must provide to NSE and DNR for review and approval as part of EPP, the updated locations and construction details for proposed new roads, turbine and associated infrastructure, and any other such information as required by NSE. The final locations must be provided in a digital format as specified by NSE.

8.3 The Approval Holder must adhere to the EPP once finalized and accepted by NSE.

## **9.0 Radar/Radio Interference**

9.1 This Approval is conditional on NAV CANADA and Department of National Defence (DND) providing their acceptance of the Undertaking. Prior to construction, the Approval Holder must obtain written consent from NAV CANADA and DND demonstrating the final site plan is acceptable to both parties and does not interfere with radar communications.

9.2 Telecommunication reception affected by the wind turbine must be corrected by the Approval Holder to the satisfaction of NSE.

## **10.0 Site Reclamation**

10.1 The Approval Holder must submit a decommissioning and site reclamation plan to NSE for review and approval, two years prior to the end date of the Power Purchase Agreement. The Approval Holder must reclaim the site to the satisfaction of NSE.

10.2 The Approval Holder must decommission the wind turbine to restore habitat. In the event any turbine ceases to be operational for a period of two years, the Approval Holder must submit a report to NSE outlining a time-line for reparation to the unit(s) to either render it fully functional or provide similar details for removing the turbine from the site within two years from when the report was received.



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Margaret Miller, MLA  
Minister of Environment