

November 24, 2022

Mr. Mike Atkinson
Regional Director
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
200-1801 Hollis St Halifax, NS B3J 3N4

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

Re: CAPP Feedback on Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to review the draft Agreement with Newfoundland and Labrador, the draft Agreement with Nova Scotia and the draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) supports the Regional Assessment concept as an effective way to assess resource development projects in the offshore area. Based on the recent Regional Assessment of Offshore Exploratory Drilling in the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area there are many learnings that should be taken into consideration as this assessment progresses to ensure the process is smooth and efficient. For example, the Geographic Information System (GIS) decision-support tool contains geo-spatial data and information that benefits all offshore energy developers, and we encourage the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) to build on the existing capabilities of this system.

CAPP also proposes that the Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Assessment study area be expanded to include all areas that were also included in the Regional Assessment of Offshore Exploratory Drilling. This will ensure that in the future, offshore oil and gas operators would have the ability to use the Regional Assessment should they wish to pursue offshore wind development to power offshore oil and gas facilities. While it is positive that the proposed area currently covers the Jeanne d'Arc basin, which is home to all current offshore production facilities, including the Flemish Pass and Orphan Basin in the study area would be positive as these areas are seeing active offshore exploration programs and are potential areas for future development.

As Canada moves to a low carbon future and the oil and gas industry explores ways to further reduce emissions, having coherence between the offshore oil and gas and wind energy regional assessment areas in Newfoundland and Labrador as well as in other offshore jurisdictions such as Nova Scotia, if such regional assessments are contemplated, is our preferred approach.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this feedback and we look forward to participating in the Regional Assessment as it progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul Barnes

Director, Atlantic Canada & Arctic

cc: Jill Adams, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada