



Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi

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Regional Assessment Committee

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland & Labrador

Via email: Erin.Stapleton@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Re: Miawpukek First Nation Feedback on the Draft Report for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development

Dear Members of the Regional Assessment Committee,

On behalf of Miawpukek First Nation (MFN), I am writing to follow up on the recent Draft Report for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador.

First, I would like to reaffirm that our comments and concerns submitted during the Interim Report phase remain valid and should be given due consideration. MFN continues to emphasize the importance of protecting our Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) fisheries, ensuring adequate buffers for near-shore areas, and fully incorporating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into the planning and decision-making process.

Based on the Indigenous Engagement portion of the Draft Report, MFN would like to highlight the following key points:

Cultural and Environmental Protections: MFN strongly supports the recognition of areas of cultural importance, environmentally sensitive habitats, and species that hold cultural significance (e.g., Atlantic salmon and American eel). We emphasize that buffers and setbacks must be established in collaboration with Indigenous groups to minimize potential adverse effects on our traditional fishing activities and the ecosystems on which we rely.

Incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge: MFN agrees with the need for meaningful engagement and integration of Indigenous knowledge and supports future measures that ensure this knowledge is treated with the same validity and respect as scientific data. Going forward, we encourage consistent protocols for data collection, storage, and use that respect OCAP© principles and Indigenous data sovereignty.

Community Engagement and Capacity: We appreciate references to capacity building and ongoing engagement. MFN urges the Committee to recognize the need for more direct, timely, and in-person consultations with our community members and leaders. In

addition to meaningful consultations with community members and leaders, MFN encourages opportunities for the inclusion of our youth, particularly those at the high school level, in the engagement process. By doing so, younger generations will have the opportunity to learn about and understand offshore wind development. This will allow them to be better informed about potential long-term implications and to actively participate in shaping decisions that may affect their future. We remain cautious about potential timelines and request that sufficient time be allotted for thorough review and response, in a manner that eases capacity strain and respects our decision-making processes.

Future Offshore Wind Development and Cumulative Effects: MFN values the Committee's attention to cumulative effects and the recommendation to study long-term environmental and socio-economic impacts before offshore wind projects move forward. This aligns with our stance that no development should proceed without understanding the full scope of potential effects on Indigenous lands, waters, and communities, as well as exploring meaningful mitigation and accommodation measures.

We ask that these points and our previously submitted comments be clearly acknowledged and addressed in the Final Report. MFN is prepared to participate further to ensure the report accurately reflects our interests, rights, and perspectives.

We appreciate your ongoing efforts and for considering our positions. We look forward to the Committee's continued engagement with MFN as this process moves forward.

Wela'lin,

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Cc: Angelina Amaral, MFN Director of Justice and Legal Affairs
Ross Hinks, MFN Director of Natural Resources