



3 August, 2023

Karen Lalonde,  
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Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
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SENT VIA EMAIL

**Subject: Natural Resources Canada Submission of the Federal Authority Advice Record for the Designation Request of the Proposed Port au Port-Stephenville Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation Project**

Dear Colleague,

On July 14th, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) requested that Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) provide input regarding the request for designation under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* for the proposed Port au Port-Stephenville Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation Project (the Project).

NRCan is responding to this Designation Request pursuant to subsection 13(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*. Details of NRCan's response can be found in the attachment below.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at [shelley.ball@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:shelley.ball@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)

Sincerely,

Shelley Ball  
Acting Team Lead  
Office of the Chief Scientist  
Natural Resources Canada

cc: Peter Unger – Director, Office of the Chief Scientist  
Kathy McPherson – Senior Impact Assessment Officer

**ATTACHMENT: July 14, 2023**  
**Federal Authority Advice Record: Designation Request under the IAA**  
**Response due by August 3, 2023**

Port au Port-Stephenville Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation Project (also known as Project Nujio'qonik)

Department/Agency	Natural Resources Canada
Lead Contact	Shelley Ball
Full Address	588 Booth Street, Ottawa
Email	<a href="mailto:shelley.ball@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca">shelley.ball@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca</a>
Telephone	613-240-1696
Alternate Departmental Contact	Kathy McPherson ( <a href="mailto:kathy.mcpherson@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca">kathy.mcpherson@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca</a> )

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1. Has your department or agency considered whether it has an interest in the Project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action (including provision of financial assistance) that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

*NRCan does not have an interest in the Project, nor has it taken any course of action (e.g., regulatory decision, funding, etc.) to enable the Project to proceed in whole or in part.*

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2. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed?

*Based on the information provided, NRCan is unlikely to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project.*

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3. If your department or agency will exercise a power or perform a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project, will it involve public and Indigenous consultation?

NA

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4. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to any potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction caused by the Project or adverse direct or incidental effects stemming from the Project?

*NRCan has the following expertise that may be relevant to the assessment of the project:  
 Marine environmental geoscience  
 Clean fuels production (including hydrogen and ammonia)*

*NRCan may further refine its expertise as more information related to the project becomes available.*

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5. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the Proponent or other parties in relation to the Project?

*NRCan's Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Fuel Sector met with the company in April 2022 to discuss regulatory and permitting speed. Additionally, NRCan has regular contact with the proponent on key project updates and challenges to inform policy work on potential financing mechanisms and tax credits.*

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6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, does the Project have the potential to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects as described in section 2 of the IAA? Could any of those effects be managed through legislative or regulatory mechanisms administered by your department or agency? If a licence, permit, authorization or approval may be issued, could it include conditions in relation to those effects?

*Based on the limited project information currently available, NRCan does not have a view on the potential of the project to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction.*

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7. Does your department or agency have a program or additional authority that may be relevant and could be considered as a potential solution to concerns expressed about the Project? In particular, the following issues have been raised by the requestor:

- effects to fish and fish habitat;
- effects to wildlife, including migratory birds and species at risk;
- effects to the marine environment (e.g., disruption of historic contamination);
- accidents or malfunctions (e.g., ammonia or hydrogen leaks);
- alternative means of carrying out the project were not adequately considered;
- cumulative effects from past drilling, mining, milling, and accidents and malfunctions in the area,
- mistrust in the proponent and the provincial process (e.g., perceived project-splitting);
- effects to Indigenous peoples (e.g., country foods, current use);
- effects to climate change from upstream and downstream impacts of hydrogen and ammonia production; and
- inadequate public and Indigenous engagement on the Project.

*No.*

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8. Does your department or agency have information about the interests of Indigenous groups in the vicinity of the Project; the exercise of their rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; and/or any consultation and accommodation undertaken, underway, or anticipated to address adverse impacts to the section 35 rights of the Indigenous groups?

No.

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9. If your department has guidance material that would be helpful to the Proponent or the Agency, please include these as attachments or hyperlinks in your response.

NA.

Shelley Ball

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Name of departmental / agency  
responder

Acting Team Lead

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Title of responder

3 August, 2023

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Date