



January 9, 2024

Ms. Leslie Kieley  
Project Manager  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
Newfoundland and Labrador Office  
301-10 Barter's Hill  
St. John's, NL  
A1C 6M1

Dear Ms. Kieley:

Energy NL is pleased to provide comments on the initial project description for the Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project. Energy NL strongly supports this project. The Port of Argentia (the Port) has a key role in support of energy development in Newfoundland and Labrador and the Cooper Cove expansion will properly position the Port to grow in support of transportation and energy related opportunities for the province.

Energy NL was founded in 1977 to represent the supply and service sector of the energy industry. Today, Energy NL represents over 500 member organizations which are involved in, or benefit from, the energy industry of Newfoundland and Labrador. Energy NL members are a diverse representation of businesses involved in a range of activities related to both renewable and non-renewable energy development, construction, and operations. This includes, but is not limited to, areas such as direct offshore and onshore supply, health and safety equipment and training, engineering solutions and fabricators, law firms, and human resource agencies.

The Port of Argentia, with its ice-free harbour, an abundance of flat land, and direct access to international shipping lanes, has been a longstanding strategic industrial asset for Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada. In fact, it is these attributes which led to the United States selecting this area for the construction of a U.S. military base under the Leased Bases Agreement with Britain in 1940. Both during and long after World War II, the base played a pivotal role in the security of Canada and North America.

Since the closure of the U.S. military base, Argentia has become a prime example of success through diversification. Following the base closure, a reuse study completed by both federal and provincial governments, with significant community involvement, helped steer Argentia's future as it highlighted the Port as a strategic industrial asset upon which the community could

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use to soften the impact of the base closure and diversify the local economy. In the years since, the Port has done just that as today it hosts a range of industrial activity including heavy civil construction associated with offshore oil and gas; cargo and container shipments; supply of major components for offshore U.S. wind projects; along with its role in potential future development of onshore wind and hydrogen production. The Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project is the next step required if the Port is to fully achieve its potential.

In addition to increasing capacity for cargo and container shipments, this expansion will better position the Argentia region, and Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole, to have a significant role in the development of renewable energy, such as support for future offshore wind projects, or world-leading wind-to-hydrogen projects. The Port has attracted the attention of major offshore wind developers who are now using it as a transshipment point for offshore wind monopiles destined for the U.S.. Pattern Energy, one of the world's largest privately-owned developers and operators of wind, solar, transmission, and energy storage projects has identified the Port of Argentia as the site for the Argentia Renewables project which will use land-based wind power to produce green hydrogen and ammonia for export. Through its role in these projects, the Port of Argentia is contributing to, and will have even a more substantial role in, global emissions reduction and energy security.

The initial project description for the Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project details the potential environmental impacts, with appropriate mitigation measures along with a description of wide-ranging engagement undertaken by the Port. The terminal expansion project will involve very similar industrial activities to those which the Port has been engaged for many years, on a site which allows such activities with only minimal environmental impact. Possible adverse effects of the project that are within federal jurisdiction are limited. In contrast, the economic benefits would be substantial, with an anticipated 315 person-years of direct employment and up to 800 jobs during its construction phase. While the economic benefits will largely accrue to the rural communities adjacent to the Port, the terminal expansion can fully expect to lead to new economic development opportunities, investment, and export revenues which will be beneficial to Energy NL members and the entire province.

Energy NL appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments regarding this terminal expansion project and is proud to offer support for an initiative with such great benefits with minimal environmental impact. Should you require additional information regarding Energy NL's interest in this project, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Charlene Johnson  
CEO