



Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
5019 52nd Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6420 000 009/001
NIRB File: 19XN014

April 11, 2019

Via email at: info@nirb.ca

Cassel Kapolak
Environmental Administrator
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Dear Cassel Kapolak:

**RE: 19XN014 – Northern Energy Capital Inc. – Nunavut Clean Energy Project:
Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake – NIRB Screening**

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) regarding the above-mentioned screening and is submitting a comment via email. ECCC's specialist advice is provided based on our mandate, in the context of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

The following comment is provided:

1. Migratory Birds

Reference(s)

- Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service. Wind Turbines and Birds – A Guidance Document for Environmental Assessment. 2007a. Available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-364-2007-eng.pdf
- Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service. Recommended Protocols for Monitoring Impacts of Wind Turbines on Birds. 2007b. Available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-364-2007-eng.pdf

Comment

Wind energy projects have the potential to affect migratory birds adversely through direct fatalities, disturbance and habitat loss. ECCC notes that the Project Proposal documents contain no information on the possible effects or considerations made to migratory birds or other wildlife. The location of a wind turbine (e.g. relative to sensitive areas or migratory routes), design features (e.g. height) and weather appear to be important factors in determining the level of risks to migratory birds and other wildlife. ECCC has developed guidance and protocols (ECCC 2007a, 2007b, provided in the reference section above) to determine the level of risk, baseline requirements and monitoring for the potential impacts of wind turbines on migratory birds.

Proper siting of wind turbines is a key factor in mitigating adverse environmental effects. ECCC notes that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit may be available from knowledgeable community members and the local Hunter and Trappers Organization to assist with choosing a location that minimizes potential effects to both migratory birds and other wildlife.

ECCC Recommendation(s)

ECCC recommends that the Proponent review the ECCC guidance provided in the reference section above (ECCC 2007a, 2007b) and engage ECCC as soon as possible to discuss the Project and determine the level of risk, baseline requirements and monitoring for the potential impacts of wind turbines on migratory birds.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4732 or Emily.Nichol@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Emily Nichol
A/Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Bradley Summerfield, A/Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)