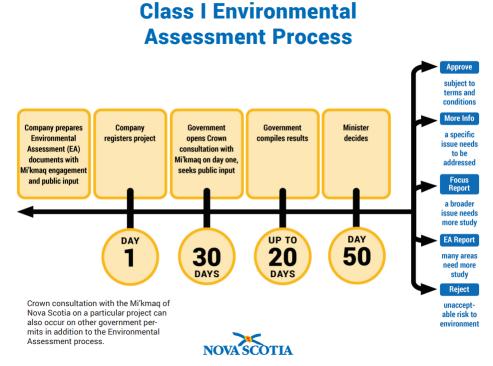
# **Short Guide:**

# **Environmental Assessment Registration for Wind Projects**

### **Environmental Assessment for Wind Projects**

Wind energy projects that generate 2 MW of energy or more require a Class I environmental assessment (EA). Early engagement with the EA Branch will allow time to address questions and provide clarity and support on minimum requirements. It is strongly recommended that you set up an EA scoping meeting early.



https://novascotia.ca/nse/ea/docs/EA--ClassIClassI--Infographic.pdfInfographic.pdf

## **Minimum Requirements**

To officially register a project for an EA, Registration Documents submitted for review must include the information listed in Section 9(1A) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations.

This information ensures that the reviewers have a fair understanding of the project, its purpose, the impact on the area surrounding the proposed undertaking, as well as the socio-economic implications. More information on the legislated requirements can be found in the *Guide to Preparing an EA Registration Document for Wind Power Projects in Nova Scotia* available at <a href="https://novascotia.ca/nse/ea/docs/EA.Guide-Proponents-WindPowerProjects.pdf">https://novascotia.ca/nse/ea/docs/EA.Guide-Proponents-WindPowerProjects.pdf</a>

#### Wind Environment Baseline Studies Checklist

Environment baseline studies are essential in evaluating the impact of a project. It is expected that proponents have completed and present the results of the following environmental baseline studies as part of their environmental assessment registration document (EARD). By doing so, the risk of delays and/or redesign is lowered.

The following table is intended to be a guide and is not a comprehensive list of studies required for wind power projects. Please contact the EA Branch to set up a meeting to discuss your renewable energy project <a href="mailto:ea@gov.ns.ca">ea@gov.ns.ca</a>.

Type of Study/Survey	Details	Completed
Noise Levels	Noise modelling that incorporates baseline noise, per Wind Guide, and mitigations.	
Shadow Flicker	Shadow flicker modelling per Wind Guide and mitigations.	
Visual Impact Assessment	Visual impact assessment per Wind Guide and mitigations.	
Cultural and Heritage Resources	Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment (ARIA): summary of accepted Communities Culture, Tourism and Heritage report. Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (discuss if not complete)	
Public Engagement	Summary of public sessions and engagement and discussion of how comments/issues were addressed.	
Mi'kmaq Engagement	Summary of engagement actions and discussion of how comments/issues were addressed.	
Birds	At least one year of complete bird surveys (four seasons) including radar and acoustic monitoring, with adequate coverage of the entire site. Discuss second year of bird monitoring if not complete.	
Bats	At least one full year of complete bat acoustic monitoring (spring and fall) and field habitat assessment, with adequate coverage of the entire site. Discuss second year of bat monitoring if not complete.	
Wetlands	Identification and functional assessments of wetlands that may be impacted (directly or indirectly), per Wind Guide and ECC's Wetland Policy. Discussion of how wetlands, including wetlands of special significance, will be avoided to the extent possible and mitigations.	
Flora and Fauna Species and Habitats	ACCDC data, and core and critical habitat mapping included, and supported by field survey data, including targeted field surveys for species at risk with adequate site coverage.  Discussion of mitigations. Duration and seasonality per Wind Guide.	
Fish and Fish Habitat	Fish habitat assessment following Fisheries and Oceans Canada advice.	
Surface Water	Field identification of watercourses and baseline water quality data. Discussion of impacts to water quality and mitigations.	
Groundwater	Identification of groundwater users and baseline or general description of groundwater quality, any interactions with groundwater and impacts, and mitigations.	
Weather Conditions	Description of ecoregion and climate norms	
Climate Change	Description of greenhouse gas emissions, mitigations, and adaptation (planning and preparation for a changing climate) within relevant sections of the assessment.	
Air Quality	Discussion of air emissions (e.g., dust) and mitigations. Description of any monitoring programs.	
Geology	Description of geological setting, including surficial and bedrock, and known geohazards (PAG rock, karst topography)	