

NOVA SCOTIA

RATE BASE PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Addendum 3: Revisions to Section 6.2.4 and Appendix 8.5

The Procurement Administrator is issuing the following Addendum to Section 6.2.4 Environmental Risk and Appendix 8.5 Template: Environmental Risk Questionnaire of the Rate Base Procurement Request for Proposals (RFP). An updated version of the RFP that contains the revisions outlined in this Addendum has been uploaded to the RFP tab of the RBP website, and the original version has been removed. Below, the Procurement Administrator has included the corrected Sections, as well as a redline outlining the changes made. The Procurement Administrator has also updated the template configuration form to reflect these changes.

Corrected Sections:

6.2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

Proponents will be evaluated on their ability to develop the Project and minimize its impacts on the local and surrounding natural environment. The PA will evaluate this scoring category based on the Proponent's responses to the Environmental Risk Questionnaire (see Appendix 8.5). The Environmental Risk Questionnaire will assess the following three categories:

- 1) *landscape fragmentation and degradation*: the extent to which a Project impacts relatively intact natural areas;
- 2) *regional ecological connectivity*: the extent to which the Project impacts the flow of ecological processes and native species; and
- 3) *fine-filter biodiversity elements*: the extent to which the Project impacts endangered, rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species.

Furthermore, additional points will be available for Projects that have obtained certification for completing a field study or that do not require an Environmental Assessment, as described in the Scored Criteria.

To succeed in the *Environmental Risk* scoring category, Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. complete Environmental Risk Questionnaire;
- b. the following maps that include the Project Boundary, per the instructions below:
 - i. Mature Forests or Multi-Aged/Old Forest;
 - ii. Roads;
 - iii. Existing parks and/or pending Protected Areas;
 - iv. Significant Habitat and Old Forest Policy Lands; and

- v. Special Management Practice Zones; and
- c. if applicable completed field investigations or field surveys (included in Section 5.14).

Prior to preparing Proposals, Proponents are encouraged to contact NRR and the Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch of Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change to conduct a preliminary assessment whether a proposed Project Boundary may overlap with lands under consideration for conservation or land protection.

6.2.4.1 Landscape Fragmentation and Degradation

Proponents are encouraged to avoid and limit impact to relatively intact natural areas in designing and siting the Project. Relatively intact natural areas refer to lands that, while not necessarily “pristine,” have low levels of anthropogenic disturbance at the landscape scale and are therefore critical to biodiversity conservation at the landscape level. These areas have a lower density of roads and other linear corridors such as power lines compared to other lands in the region and are generally comprised of more mature and less fragmented forests.

For the scoring purposes of this RFP, anthropogenic disturbance is measured by the density of roads and utility corridors and the prior land use. Proponents will be required to demonstrate the Project’s impact to relatively intact natural areas in two ways, using the [Provincial Landscape Viewer](#):

- 1) identify if the Project Boundary overlaps with “**Mature Forest**” or “**Multi-Aged/Old Forest**” using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {“Forestry” → “Forestry” → “Old Forest Policy” → “Development Class”}, and noting the areas of “Mature Forest” and “Multi-Aged/Old Forest”; and
- 2) identify the density of roads (kilometers of roads / square kilometer) within the Site using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {“Nova Scotia Roads” → “Addresses Roads” → “Trans Canada Highway”, “Highway”, “Arterial Highway”, “Collector Highway”, “Local Road”, “Ramp, Median Crossover”, “Private Use”, “Restricted”} (All road types except “Seasonal”). [For Projects on Crown lands, this applies to each Crown land parcel with a unique PID on which the Project is sited]

Note: Proponent’s must have all parent layers selected for sub-layers to populate.

6.2.4.2 Regional Ecological Connectivity

Regional ecological connectivity refers to lands that, due to their location on the landscape and their ecological condition, play a critical role in biodiversity conservation by facilitating the flow of ecological processes and native species (terrestrial species, birds, bats, aquatic species, etc.) across the landscape, including between relatively intact natural areas and between protected areas. Proponents are encouraged to evaluate how the project plan impacts the regional ecological connectivity when designing and siting the Project. To demonstrate the Project’s impact on the regional ecological connectivity, the Proponent must identify if the Project Boundary is located near existing or pending parks or protected areas using the [Protected areas interactive map](#).

6.2.4.3 Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements

Proponents are encouraged to avoid lands with rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species at the site level when designing the Project. There is a large range of types of land with rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species; the RFP requires Proponents to look at the Project from multiple lenses and indicators. Lands containing rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species at the site level can be determined using the [Provincial Landscape Viewer](#):

- 1) identify if the Project Boundary overlaps with Significant Habitats using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {“Wildlife” → “Significant Habitat”}, and noting the areas of “deer wintering”, “migratory bird”, “moose wintering”, “of concern”, “other habitat”, and “species at risk”;

- 2) identify if the Project Boundary overlaps with Old Forest Policy lands using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {Forestry → Forestry → Old Forest Policy} and noting the populated areas; and
- 3) identify if the Project Boundary overlaps with special management practice zones using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {"Special Management Practice Zones" → all sub-layers ("Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Buffers", "Lynx Buffer, Marten Range Patches 2019", "Marten Range Patches 2030", "Marten Habitat Management Zone", "Cape Breton Island Lynx Range", "Mainland Moose Concentration Areas")} and noting the populated areas.

6.2.4.4 Scored Criteria for Environmental Risk

0 points	The Proposal receives a score of 2 or less on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.
1 point	The Proposal receives a score of 3 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.
2 points	The Proposal receives a score of 4 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.
3 points	The Proposal receives a score of 5 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.
Additional 1 point	The Proposal: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. includes a completed field studies related to flora and fauna species and habitat, native vegetation/biodiversity, bird migration, bats, and/or fish and fish habitat; and b. includes a certification from a qualified professional that the studies indicate reduced sensitivity in the study area in respect of the field.
Additional 1 point	If the Project: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. requires an Environmental Assessment and the Proponent has registered the project for an Environmental Assessment with the Minister of Environment and has complied with the applicable publication requirements under Part IX of the <i>Environment Act</i> (Nova Scotia); or b. the Project does not require an Environmental Assessment.

8.5 TEMPLATE: ENVIRONMENTAL RISK QUESTIONNAIRE

Category	Questions	Yes (0 pt)	No (1 pts)
Landscape Fragmentation	1. Does more than 30% of the Project Boundary overlap with Mature Forest or Multi-Aged/Old Forest on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		
Landscape Fragmentation	2. Does the Site have a lower density of roads than 0.6 km/km ² on the Provincial		

	Landscape Viewer? [For Projects on Crown lands, this applies to each Crown land parcel with a unique PID on which the Project is sited]		
Regional Ecological Connectivity	3. Is the Project Boundary located 500m from an existing or pending park or Protected Area > 500 ha on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	4. Does the Project Boundary overlap with Significant Habitat, or Old Forest Policy lands on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	5. Does the Project Boundary overlap with special management practice zones on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		

Redline Between Corrected Sections and Original Sections:

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