



**Natural Resources and Renewables
Office of the Minister**

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January 31, 2022

Kevin Rackstraw
CustomerFirst Renewables
9801 Washingtonian Blvd. Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20878 US
krackstraw@customerfirstrenewables.com

Dear Kevin Rackstraw:

Re: Final Instructions for the Procurement

I would like to thank you for your diligent work in conducting the Request for Proposals. The level of engagement and professionalism by all involved – including the hundreds of firms, local groups, suppliers and engaged individuals – has been exceptional.

I, like many Nova Scotians, am excited to take this next step in our transition away from coal-fired power, and toward local renewable energy. The clean energy that comes from this RFP will soon save Nova Scotians more than 1 million tonnes of Greenhouse Gases each year, reduce cost pressures on ratepayers, and mark the single largest step toward meeting our Climate targets.

As the launch of the RFP approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to deliver Government's final instructions for the procurement, as per section 2.02 of our contract. As a new Government, and having listened closely to the concerns of Nova Scotians, I have three requests with respect to the content of the RFP:

1. Please include a mandatory requirement that the maximum acceptable price should be capped at \$56/MWh. This is consistent with the Electricity Act, and provides a guarantee that Nova Scotian ratepayers, unequivocally, will save money from these projects; and,
2. We want to ensure that this procurement process reflects both the support, and the concerns, that Nova Scotians may have with these projects. To that end, we ask that you add five additional points to strengthen the Public Engagement evaluation criteria (category 6.1.4), bringing the total points in this category to 10. This will ensure greater representation of the full breadth and depth of public voices. This should include both support for and concerns about these projects, from local Municipal governments, citizens, stakeholders and communities, and should be reflected in the final evaluation criteria.

As part of this category, we would like the RFP to require bidders to submit one or more of the following documents, if available:

1. Letters of support from local governments.
 2. Support from a range of stakeholders or groups: civic groups, environmental organizations, businesses, tourism associations, etc.
 3. The existence and support of project specific community liaison committees.
3. Also as part of this category, and to ensure a full reflection of public support and concern, we request that CustomerFirst use its outreach abilities to remind any Nova Scotians who have concerns about a particular project to write to wind.info@novascotia.ca for their views to be noted in the procurement process. To ensure that this input is useful to the evaluation I suggest Nova Scotians raise specific concerns about particular projects.

I wish CustomerFirst Renewables all the best in this, and I look forward to our next communication from you - containing the winning proposals and marking the next big step on our cleaner future.

Regards,



Tory Rushton
Minister

c Karen Gatien, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables
David Miller, Director, Clean Energy, Natural Resources and Renewables