



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada



Barbara Pike  
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator  
[bpik@nsopb.ns.ca](mailto:bpik@nsopb.ns.ca)

Dear Barbara Pike:

First, let us extend our congratulations to the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator in its new mandate as the lifecycle regulator for offshore renewable energy in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area. Consistent with commitments made during Parliament's consideration of Bill C-49, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia are taking swift action to prohibit offshore wind development of Georges Bank.

Please let this letter serve as joint direction, pursuant to subsection 57(1.1) of the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation and Offshore Renewable Energy Management Act*, and subsection 60(1A) of the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation and Offshore Renewable Energy Management (Nova Scotia) Act*, to the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator to issue an order prohibiting the issuance of submerged land licences for the purposes of carrying out offshore wind projects in the Georges Bank Prohibition Area, as described in Schedule IV of the Acts.

This joint direction is being issued to align with the existing moratorium for offshore oil and gas activities, which was implemented and maintained due to the nature of Georges Bank providing critical habitat for a wide range of fish, marine mammals and corals and it is one of the world's most productive fishing grounds, supporting thousands of jobs and vital commercial fisheries.

Further, our joint direction is for the order to be drafted and implemented promptly and published on the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator's website as soon as practicable thereafter. The intent of both governments is to align the time period of this prohibition with the statutory moratorium on oil and gas activities in the Canadian portion of Georges Bank. For the oil and gas prohibition, the Acts also provide for the possibility of further extensions up to a period of 10 years each through subsequent ministerial notices. Any future extensions to the offshore wind prohibition order will be updated in alignment with the oil and gas prohibition, including updating any science and socio-economic review as part of the process.

Canada

We thank you for your prompt action on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wilkinson'.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources  
(he/him/il)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Boudreau'.

The Honourable Trevor Boudreau M.L.A.  
Minister of Energy  
Government of Nova Scotia

c.c.: Christine Bonnell-Eisnor  
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator  
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