

Offshore Wind Prequalification NS25-1R – Questions and Answers

Last Updated: **November 25, 2025**

This document will be updated with answers to questions regarding offshore wind Prequalification NS25-1R as they are received.

Please submit any questions to landtenure@cnsouer.ca

1. **Q:** Do supply companies need to submit the Offshore Wind Prequalification NS25-1R Form?
A: No. Prequalification is only required for companies who wish to hold a share in a Submerged Land Licence or become an Interest Owner and participate in the offshore wind Call for Bids.
2. **Q:** What is the “applicable legislation” regarding mandated disclosure in Section I and under what circumstances would the legislation override the confidentiality protections?
A: In the *Accord Acts*, there is a general rule of confidentiality or privilege protection of information or documentation submitted for the purposes of Part II. This applies to information and documentation submitted for Prequalification. Note that the Federal Energy and Natural Resources Canada and Provincial Department of Energy Ministers are entitled to this information or documentation as well if they request it of us. The privilege protection still applies to any information or documentation obtained by Ministers through this request. Further, the information or documentation is subject to the third-party confidentiality provisions in the federal *Access to Information Act* and personal information is subject to the *Privacy Act*.
3. **Q:** Will the list of qualified operators be kept confidential in perpetuity, or would the confidentiality provisions terminate at a future time?
A: The CNSOER intends to keep the list of any participants in the Prequalification process confidential in perpetuity.
4. **Q:** Regarding Section IV, Part A, is the question asking for those actions taken against the applicant that may affect applicant’s ability to finance, develop, and/or operate an offshore wind project offshore of Nova Scotia, or how the actions may have affected applicant’s ability to advance other projects in the past, present, and/or future?

- A:** Section IV, Part A responses should include anything that may affect the applicant’s ability to finance, develop, and/or operate an offshore wind project both generally and in Nova Scotia. If there are ongoing actions or actions within the past five years, an explanation of how these actions impacted the applicant’s ability to advance other past or present projects should be included as part of the description of these actions.
5. **Q:** How does the second paragraph of prompt Section IV, Part A differ from the first paragraph? Should the applicant just focus on actions from the last five years, or a longer period?
- A:** Section IV requires the disclosure of any *ongoing* actions as well as any *resolved* in the past five years. The first paragraph requires the submission of *ongoing* actions; the second paragraph requires any *resolved* in the past five years. If relevant, both ongoing and resolved actions are expected in the response.
6. **Q:** Do supply companies that intend to be a co-developer in the initial phases of project development and hold a share of a Submerged Land Licence need to participate in Prequalification?
- A:** If the intent is for partnership to be in place at the time of participation in the Call for Bids, yes – prequalification is necessary. If the partnership arises post-issuance of the Submerged Land Licence, no – prequalification is not necessary at this time. Once a Submerged Land Licence has been issued, the disposition of any interest will only be accepted if the Regulator is satisfied that the terms and conditions of the licence can be met following the transfer, assignment or other disposition. (See sections 106(1) and (2) of [the Accords Acts](#)).
7. **Q:** When a consortium applies for prequalification, may the members collectively meet the prequalification criteria (e.g., experience, financial capacity), or must at least one member individually satisfy all minimum thresholds?
- A:** Each member applying for a share in the Submerged Land licence must prequalify for the Legal and Social Criteria (Section IV). Only one member per group must qualify for the Financial Criteria (Section II) and the Technical Criteria (Section III).
8. **Q:** Could CNSOER clarify whether a prequalified consortium may change its composition after the prequalification phase but before bid submission — for example, by adding, removing, or replacing members? If such changes are permitted, what level of notification or approval would be required from CNSOER? Would any such change automatically trigger a



re-evaluation of the consortium's prequalified status, or could the existing prequalification be maintained subject to CNSOER's consent?

A: Any removal of a member of a group is permitted provided a member(s) that prequalified for the Financial Criteria and Technical Criteria remains as a part of the group. An addition or replacement of a member at the Call for Bids stage is only permitted provided that the new member has already prequalified. There will be no additional opportunity to prequalify past the deadline. CNSOER would be notified of the change through the bid process. A bid will not be accepted unless all members of the bid have prequalified.

9. **Q:** In the context of the NS25-1R Prequalification, if two or more companies each individually obtain prequalification and then form a consortium or joint venture to bid together, does the consortium need to submit a separate consortium-specific prequalification application (or amendment) to CNSOER?

A: If two or more corporations prequalify individually, they may bid jointly for a share in the Submerged Land Licence. There will be no further information necessary at the prequalification stage. The details of what documentation will be necessary to bid will be provided at the Call for Bids stage.

10. **Q:** If a consortium or joint-venture structure includes one or more parties that did not individually apply for or obtain prequalification, can that consortium still be eligible to bid and what are the consequences for including non-prequalified parties?

A: No bid will be eligible unless all parties have been previously prequalified. If a new group forms after the prequalification stage, all members must have prequalified individually or as a part of separate group. If a member prequalified as a part of separate group, the member or members that prequalified in the new proposed group for the Financial Criteria (Section II) and the Technical Criteria (Section III) must remain unchanged from the prequalification phase. For greater clarity, a new member that prequalified in a prior group may only be added to a new group if the member(s) of the prior group that prequalified with Financial Criteria and Technical Criteria remain in the prior group.

11. **Q:** If a company's audited financial statements are prepared in a currency other than CAD, should the figures be submitted in the original reporting currency, or should they be converted to CAD?

A: Please provide your financial statements in their original currency.

12. **Q:** In cases where audited financial statements report only net revenue and gross annual sales are not separately disclosed, how should applicants complete the sections of the prequalification form that request total annual revenue or gross annual sales?
A: If total annual revenue/gross annual sales are not listed on financial statements, evidence of a net total annual revenue of CAD 400,000,000 is acceptable.
13. **Q:** How does the Prequalification scoring system work? Is it the case that all parties who meet the minimum threshold will advance to the Call for Bids stage?
A: There is no scoring applied during the Prequalification NS25-1R evaluation. It is a pass-fail process which considers each section of the application in its entirety. Only those that pass Prequalification will be allowed to participate in Call for Bids.
14. **Q:** Is it required that all submission responses be contained within the original 19-page Prequalification form, or can applicants add more pages of “additional space” as long as the 60-page maximum is not surpassed?
A: Applicants may include additional material to supplement the submission of the application form so long as the entire package, excluding audited financial statements, does not exceed 60 pages.
15. **Q:** Are there any details available regarding determinations around lease cost and associated bonds/security requirements, or will this become available during the Call for Bids stage?
A: More information regarding any financial commitments will be made available after the conclusion of Prequalification NS25-1R. If you wish to make comments on this matter please do so through the [Call for Information NS25-1R feedback form](#).
16. **Q:** For a consortium where one shareholder meets the financial requirements on behalf of the group, is it still required for the other shareholders to submit their financials if they do not meet the financial requirements individually?
A: If one member of a group knows that they will not pass the Financial Criteria, they do not need to submit their financial statements for Prequalification NS25-1R.