

GCP RFP ECC Info Session

Department of Energy and Department of
Environment and Climate Change
2026



Session Overview

- Welcome and Introductions
- Department Overviews
- Green Choice Program RFP
- Environmental and Regulatory Pathway
- NS Environmental Assessment Process
- EA Approvals, what comes next and typical approval conditions
- Protected Areas
- Questions

Department Overview

Department of Energy

The Department of Energy supports the use and development of energy resources to help increase energy security, create jobs, grow the economy and create social benefits. The department works to develop local, renewable energy and clean energy solutions to create new economic opportunities, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save people money on their energy bills.

Department of Environment and Climate Change

The Department of Environment and Climate Change works to ensure a clean, healthy environment for all Nova Scotians. We lead the province's response to climate change and the transition to a net zero future by 2050. As a regulator, we help maintain clear environmental laws that support safe, responsible economic development while protecting our natural resources.

Green Choice Program RFP

Green Choice Program RFP August 12, 2026 Draft

2.12 Environmental Risk

- a) For each Project Configuration, Proponents must submit as part of their Proposal:
 - i. a completed Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk which includes confirmation that each applicable Project Configuration of the proposed Project will meet human health criteria concerning shadow flicker and turbine noise based on modelling results and the Environmental Risk Questionnaire with responses supported by evidence; OR
 - ii. have an Environmental Assessment approval for the proposed Project.
- b) Prior to preparing Proposals, Proponents are encouraged to contact the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables by email at wildlifeEA@novascotia.ca to discuss the proposed Project Site and its potential impact on items such as wildlife, species at risk, wetlands, old growth forest or a core critical habitat.

Green Choice Program RFP

Environmental Risk
Green Choice Program RFP
August 12, 2026 Draft

Prescribed Form Requirements

- *Environmental Assessment Approval*
- *Human Health Impacts*
- *Environmental risk Questionnaire*

RFP Environmental Prescribed Form

Scoring Criteria Category		Maximum Points	
Energy Rate			50
Project Risk and Maturity			24
	Resource Assessment	3	
	Financing Plan	4	
	Experience	4	
	Environmental Risk	6	
	Project Site	7	
Engagement			10
Social and Economic Benefits			16
	Ownership	6	
	Social Programs	5	
	Economic Benefits	5	
Total			100

Green Choice Program RFP

Timeline Update

The table below provides the expected timeline of the Green Choice Program Procurement. Power Advisory reserves the right to adjust the schedule as needed.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Posting of Draft RFP & PPA	June 2, 2026
Webinar	June 18, 2026
Deadline for Proponent Registration	September 17, 2026
Deadline for Feasibility Study Submission to IESO Nova Scotia	September 30, 2026
Issue Final RFP	September 10, 2026
Deadline for submitting questions and comments	October 8, 2026
Deadline for Issuing Addenda	October 29, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	January 14, 2027
Target Date for Notice of PPA Awards	May 6, 2027

Environmental Regulatory Pathway

Environment and Climate Change

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Department of Environment and Climate Change

Sustainability & Applied Science Division

*Includes Environmental
Assessment and Protected
Areas Branches*

Climate Change Division

Policy Division

Compliance Division

*Regional offices,
managing approvals,
carrying out inspections*

← Business Relationship Managers Available for Support →

Environmental Approvals

Environmental Assessment	Construction/Operation Approval
➤ Support planning and ensure potential impacts to the environment are identified and mitigated. ➤ This process requires companies to identify the benefits of their project, its potential environmental impacts and how the impacts will be managed. ➤ This allows sustainable development to occur while the environment is protected.	➤ Authorization before construction and/or start of operations. ➤ This process evaluates and restricts the impact that methods and materials used, and waste generated can have on the environment. ➤ To conduct work that alters a watercourse or wetland, a construction approval is required.

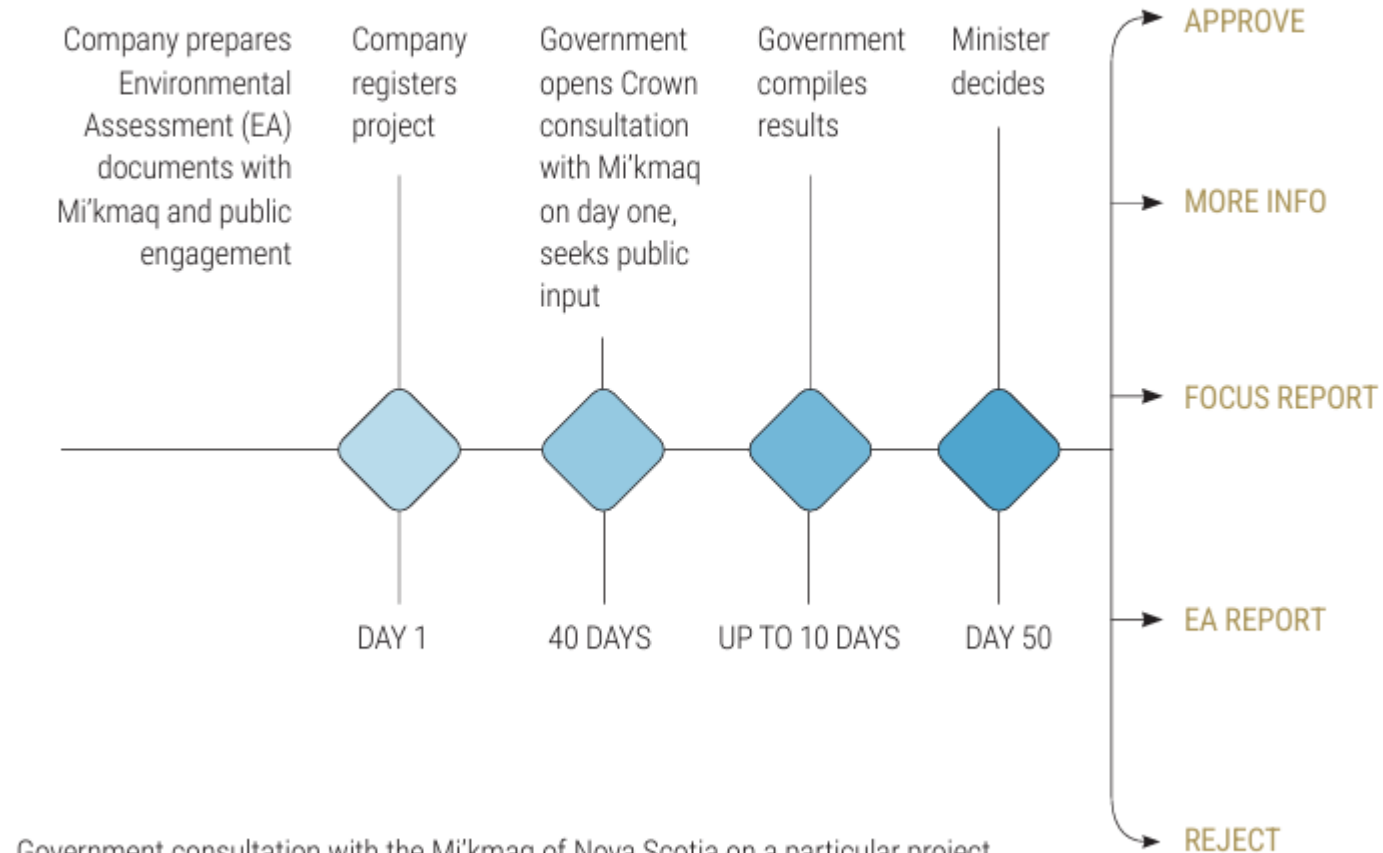
Nova Scotia Environmental Assessment

EA Process

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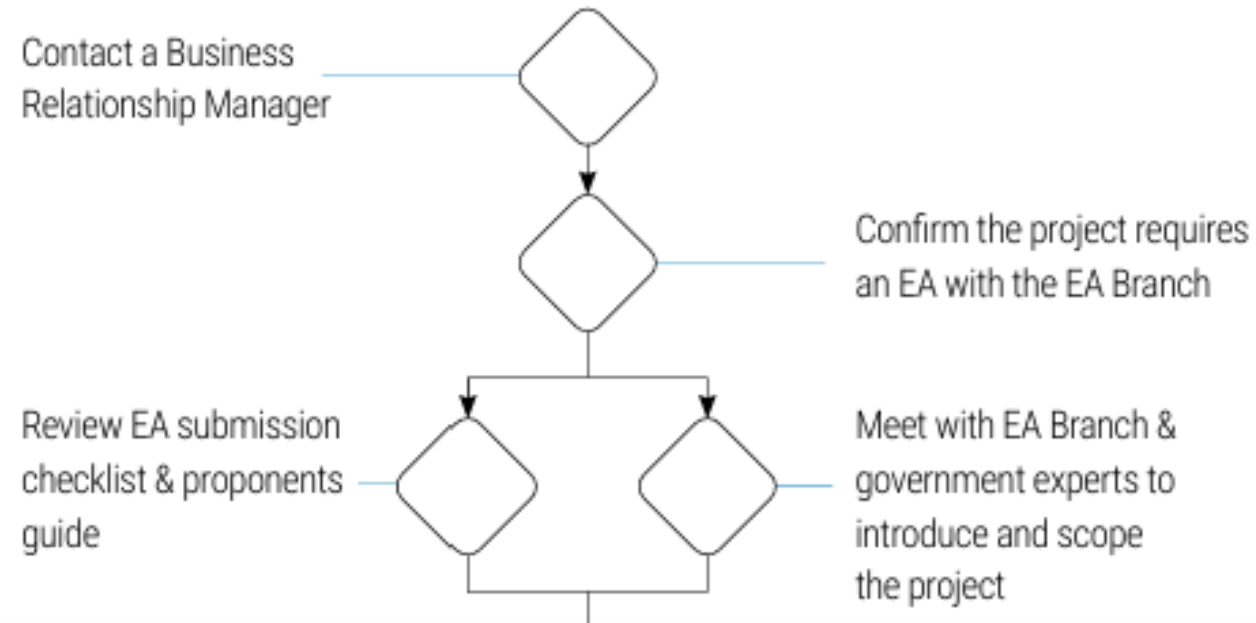
CLASS I ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applies to projects like mines, waste facilities and developments in wetlands



Government consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on a particular project can also occur on other government permits in addition to the Environmental Assessment process.

Understanding Requirements



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This checklist helps proponents to meet requirements outlined in the Environmental Assessment Act and the Environmental Assessment Regulations. It lists the studies needed for a complete environmental assessment registration. It also provides information on how to register an assessment. Use the Notes section at the bottom to explain why a study is or is not completed yet. Visit our [website](#) for **sector-specific checklists**.

See also the [2025 Proponent's Guide to Class I Environmental Assessment Managers](#) or the [Environmental Assessment Branch](#) with any questions to support preparation for environmental assessment. Where there is a change in the Environment Act and associated Regulations, the Environment Act

COMPONENT	IN THE REQUEST
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	- Describe the proposed project and access, nearest structures and and Parcel Identification Number and infrastructure and proposed design - GIS Shape files for all project

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MI'KMAQ OF NOVA SCOTIA*

- Refer to Proponent's
- Explain how the Mi'kmaq they raised, and how they planned, mitigation
- Provide plans for

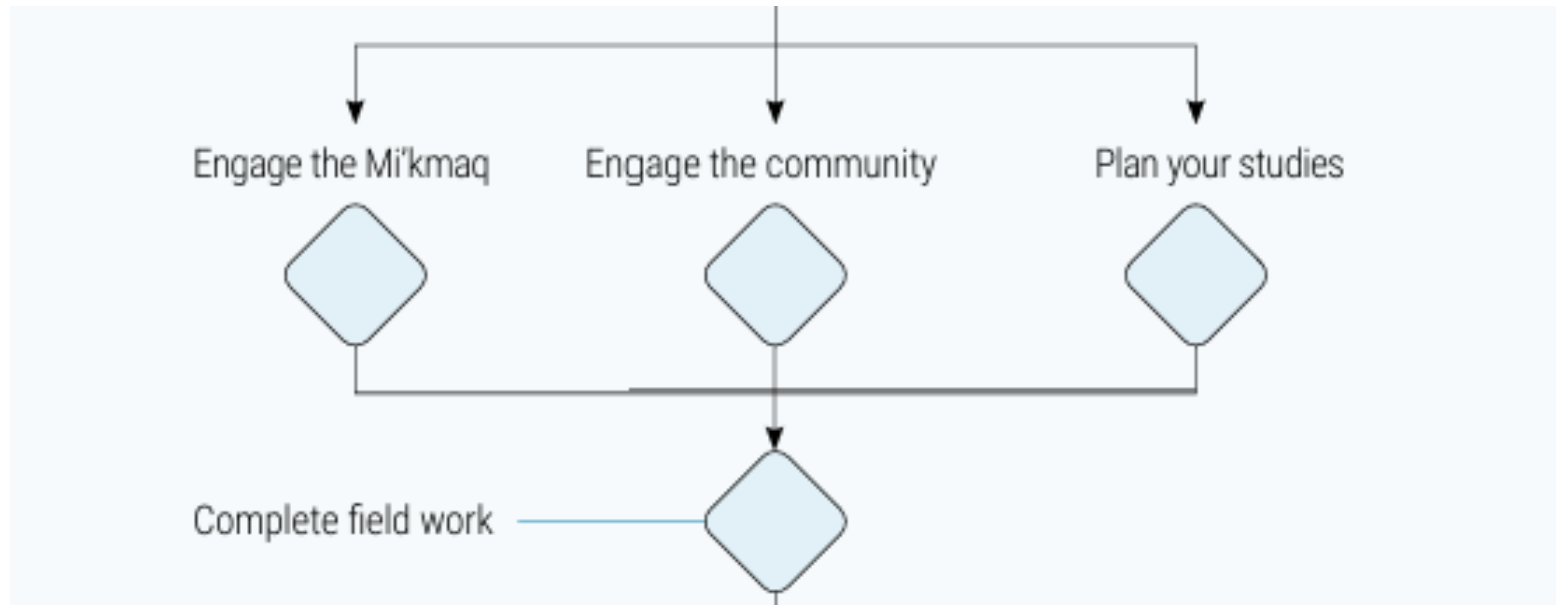
- Provide a map that can be positive and negative

This checklist for wind energy projects is to be used in addition to the [Class I Environmental Assessment checklist](#).

VALUED COMPONENT	KEY INFORMATION / STUDIES FOR WIND PROJECTS	COMPLETED	N/A
BIRDS & BATS	• Birds: conduct at least one full year of bird surveys (covering all four seasons) using point counts, radar, and acoustic monitoring. Include the data, analysis, and results in the registration document. • Bats: conduct at least one full year of acoustic monitoring (spring and fall). Include the data, analysis, and results in the registration document. • Projects should conduct two years of bird and bat surveys covering the entire project area before starting operation. This data will be used to create a wildlife management plan and an adaptive management plans. • If the second year of study was not completed, outline your plans to complete before starting operations.	☐	☐
	• Identify potential bat habitats in or near the project site, including any known bat hibernation areas nearby.	☐	☐
	• Include standard modeling to show that operational noise at permanent and seasonal receptors (within 2 km) will not exceed 40 dBA. Provide modelling data, assumptions, analysis and results in the registration document. Include any sensitive receptors in the analysis.	☐	☐
	• Provide detailed maps showing all turbine locations and labelled receptors within 2km.	☐	☐
	• Include baseline noise monitoring in the modelling	☐	☐

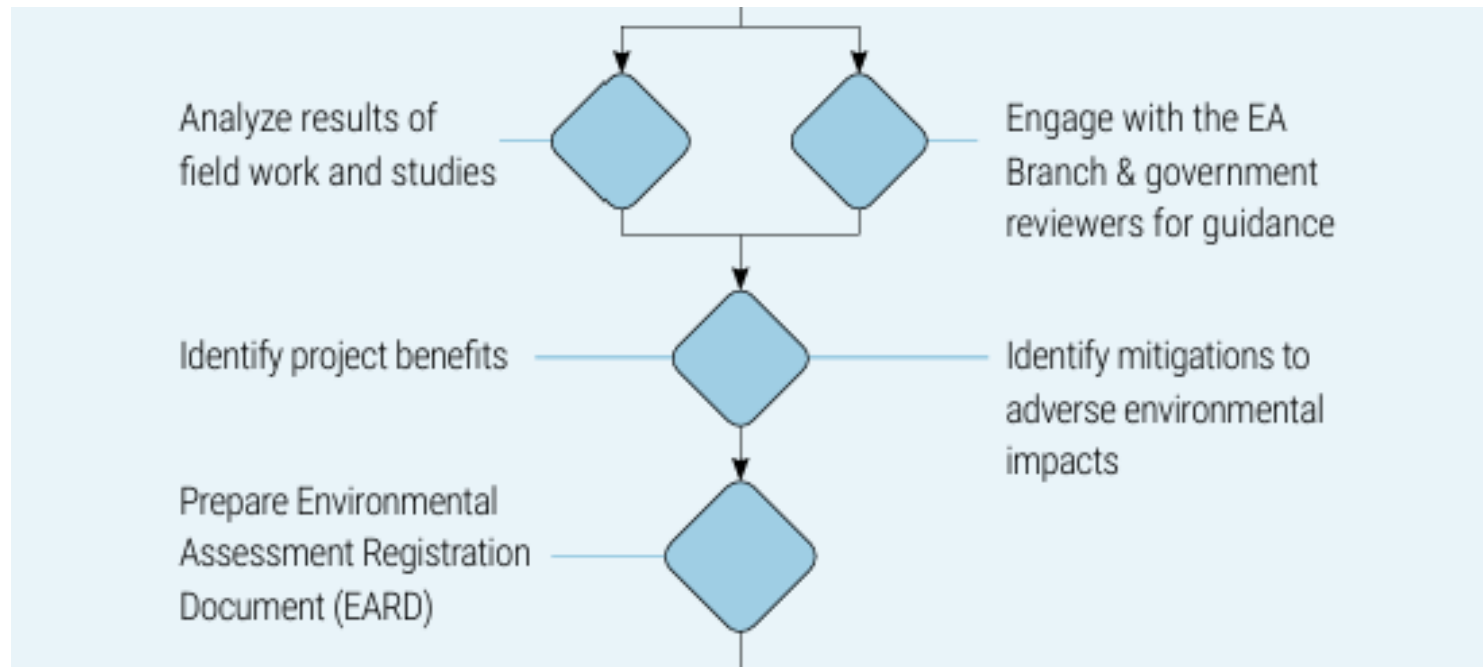
Planning and Data Collection

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Analysis

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Submission Reminders

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Timing	Deliverable
As Soon as Possible - Prior to Registration	• Draft Public Notice to EA Branch for review and approval • Plain Language Summary & Map to EA Branch for review
7 Days Before Registration	• EA Registration Document • Fee and two (2) printed copies of EARD • Electronic copy of EARD • Copy of final approved public notice • Information for two (2) public viewing locations • Deliver one (1) printed copy of EARD to closest ECC Regional Office
This is a summary of EA Registration Reminders; for full information and requirements please contact ECC Environmental Assessment Branch	

Environmental Assessment Approval: What Comes Next

Post-EA Approval

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Stage	Lead	Key Activities
EA Approval Issued	Minister (via EA Branch)	Approval granted with terms and conditions set by the Minister that must be fulfilled
Compliance Oversight	Compliance Division	Monitors adherence to EA Approval Terms and Conditions and addresses compliance-related matters
Construction & Operation Approvals/Notifications	Compliance Division	Separate approvals may be required, such as Wetland and Watercourse Alterations
Project Support	Business Relationship Managers (BRMs)	BRMs remain available as a primary point of contact to help navigate regulatory requirements and coordination with department staff.

Typical Approval Conditions

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Section	Highlights
Project Design and Operation	• Updated turbine layout, shadow flicker assessment, and noise modelling
Water Resources	• Surface Water Management Plan • Sediment and Erosion Control Plan
Habitat, Flora and Fauna	• Wildlife Management Plan • Additional year of baseline bird/bat studies (where required) • Minimum two-year post-construction mortality monitoring • Adaptive Management Plan • Additional monitoring possible (e.g. Moose)
Air Quality, Noise and Visual Impact	• Compliance with noise levels and shadow flicker limits
Archaeological and Heritage Resources	• Stop work requirements for significant discoveries • Subsurface testing for any areas of elevated archeological potential that cannot be avoided
Public & Mi'kmaq Engagement	• Complaint Resolution Plan • Community Liaison Committee • Mi'kmaq Communication Plan

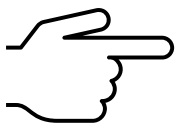
Projects may also require Wetland Alteration Approvals and Watercourse Alteration Approvals or Notifications, where applicable

Protected Areas

Protected Areas

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- The Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch, at Environment and Climate Change is responsible for planning and managing Nova Scotia's [Wilderness Areas](#) and [Nature Reserves](#).
- Nature Reserves are designated under the *Special Places Protection Act*
- Wilderness Areas are designated under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*
- Activities are restricted in protected areas as outlined in the respective Acts. Wind energy development and other resource development is generally prohibited.



[Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas System](#)

Questions?

Thank you

Upcoming Session:

Wednesday, July 29 - Department of Natural Resources