This page sets out the instructions for completing the Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk.

All capitalized terms used in these instructions and the Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk, unless otherwise stated, have the meanings ascribed to them in the RFP.

INSTRUCTIONS APPLICABLE TO THIS PRESCRIBED FORM: ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

a. This instruction page is not required to be submitted as part of the completed Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk.
b. The Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk is required to be submitted electronically via the File Transfer Site prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline in accordance with Section 3.9 of the RFP.
c. Pages of the Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk should be kept together in sequential order.
d. Apart from the completion of any blanks, drop down lists, check boxes or similar uncompleted information in the Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk, no amendments may be made to the wording of the Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk.
e. The Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk should be completed in its entirety unless instructions are provided to the contrary. Fields marked <if applicable> should be completed if applicable to the Proposal. If not applicable, they should be marked "N/A".
f. The Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk must be signed by a person with authority to bind the Proponent. The Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk may be printed, signed and scanned, or may be signed digitally through Adobe (Digital ID, or Fill and Sign), Apple Preview or DocuSign.
g. With the exception of this instruction page, instructions within the Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk will be enclosed in brackets < >.

Section 1 – Proponent and Proposal Information (mandatory)

Unique Project ID:	
Legal name of the Proponent:	
Name of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Project:	

To satisfy the mandatory requirement set out in Section 4.2a)(xiii) of the RFP and to be eligible for environmental risk points as set out in Section 4.3e)(iv) of the RFP, the Proponent must provide the information requested in this Prescribed Form. As noted in the RFP, prior to preparing Proposals, Proponents are encouraged to contact the Land Strategy and Planning (Branch) of 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.

Section 2 – Environmental Assessment Approval (mandatory)

a.	The Proponent has received an Environmental Assessment approval with conditions for the Primary Project Configuration *<check appropriate box>*	☐	Yes
		☐	No
b.	The Proponent has submitted: *<check if applicable>*	☐	If "Yes" checked above, a copy of the Environmental Assessment approval with conditions for the Primary Project Configuration has been attached as Exhibit A to this Prescribed Form.

Section 3 – Human Health (mandatory)

<Note: Proposals in respect of Projects that have received EA approvals with conditions are not required to complete Section 3 - Human Health.>

a.	Does the Primary Project Configuration cause shadow flicker less than 30 mins per day and/or 30 days per year at any permanent or seasonal receptor based on modeling? *<check to confirm>*	☐	Yes
b.	Does modeling predict the Primary Project Configuration will cause a cumulative noise level of less than 40 dB at any permanent or seasonal receptors? *<check to confirm >*	☐	Yes
c.	The Proponent has submitted: *<check to confirm required modelling results have been attached>*	☐	standard modelling results for the Primary Project Configuration, attached as Exhibit B to this Prescribed Form, showing that shadow flicker will not exceed 30 minutes per day or 30 hours per year at any permanent or seasonal receptor within 2 km of the project.
		☐	standard modeling results for the Primary Project Configuration, attached as Exhibit C to this Prescribed Form, to show that operational noise at permanent and seasonal receptors (within 2 km) will not exceed 40 dBA. Include baseline noise monitoring in the modelling.

Section 4 – Environmental Risk Questionnaire (mandatory)

<Note: Proposals in respect of Projects that have received EA approvals with conditions are not required to complete Section 4 - Environmental Risk Questionnaire.

Points will be awarded to the Project Configurations of a Proposal based on the responses provided in the Environmental Risk Questionnaire supported by the required accompanying documentation.

Submission of the Environmental Risk Questionnaire is a mandatory requirement of the RFP however there is no minimum score requirement.>

a.	The Proponent has submitted: *<check all that apply>*	☐	a completed Environmental Questionnaire, in the form of Exhibit D, for the Primary Project Configuration, attached as Exhibit F-1 to this Prescribed Form.
		☐	supporting evidence for the responses in the Environmental Questionnaire for the Primary Project Configuration attached as Exhibit F-2 to this Prescribed Form. *<see Exhibit E for supporting evidence requirements>*
		☐	a completed Environmental Questionnaire, in the form of Exhibit D, for the Alternate Project Configuration, attached as Exhibit G-1 to this Prescribed Form.
		☐	supporting evidence for the responses in the Environmental Questionnaire for the Alternate Project Configuration attached as Exhibit G-2 to this Prescribed Form. *<see Exhibit E for supporting evidence requirements>*

I hereby confirm that I am an individual with the authority to bind the Proponent and that, if applicable, by signing this form using electronic signature, I agree to the content, terms and conditions set out in the document on behalf of the Proponent.

Proponent Name:	
Per:	
Print Name:	
Print Title:	
(I have authority to bind the Proponent)	
Date Signed:	

EXHIBIT A

COPY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT APPROVAL (MANDATORY IF APPLICABLE)

<Note: Attach a copy of the Environmental Assessment approval with conditions for the Primary Project Configuration>

EXHIBIT B

SHADOW FLICKER MODELLING RESULTS (MANDATORY, IF APPLICABLE)

<Note: Attach a copy of the standard modelling results for the Primary Project Configuration that shows shadow flicker will not exceed 30 minutes per day or 30 hours per year at any permanent or seasonal receptor within 2 km of the Project.>

EXHIBIT C

NOISE MODELLING RESULTS (MANDATORY, IF APPLICABLE)

<Note: Attach a copy of the standard modelling results for the Primary Project Configuration that show operational noise at permanent and seasonal receptors within 2 km of the Project will not exceed 40 dBA>

EXHIBIT D

FORM OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

The Environmental Risk Questionnaire will assess the following six (6) 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;
3. Fine-filter biodiversity elements: the extent to which the Project impacts endangered, threatened, rare, special, or vulnerable ecosystems and species;
4. Wetlands: the extent to which a Project impacts Wetlands; and
5. The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia: the extent to which the Project impacts the Mi'kmaq and whether a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study ("MEKS") has been started and/or contracted in accordance with Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol, 2nd Edition.
6. Migratory Birds and Bats: the extent to which the Project impacts migratory corridors;

Category	Questions		No (0 pts)	Yes (+0.5pts)
Landscape Fragmentation	1.	Does less than 30% of the Project Boundary overlap with Old Growth Forest Policy lands on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence)?		
Regional Ecological Connectivity	2.	Is the Project Boundary located more than 500 m from an existing or pending park or Protected Area > 500 ha on the Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas System?		
Regional Ecological Connectivity	3.	Does the Project Boundary avoid the use, crossing or impact of federally or provincially protected lands?		
Category	**Questions**		**No (-0.5 pts)**	**Yes (+0.5pts)**
Landscape Fragmentation	4.	Does the Project Site have a higher density of roads than 0.6 km/km^2 on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence)?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	5.	Does the Project Boundary avoid overlap with endangered or threatened species occurrences, core habitat, or critical habitat?		
Wetlands	6.	Does the Project Boundary avoid overlap with Wetlands?		
Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS)	7.	Has a MEKS been started and/or contracted for the Project?		
Migratory Birds/or Bats	8.	Does the Project Boundary avoid bird migratory staging areas, critical feeding areas and pathways (e.g. Important Bird Areas)?		

EXHIBIT E

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE INSTRUCTIONS

To support the responses in the Environmental Risk Questionnaire (Exhibit B to this Prescribed Form), Proponents must attach the following maps that include the Project Boundary and/or if applicable completed field investigations or field surveys, according to the instructions provided below for each category.

Proponents are permitted to submit their own evidence in addition to the provincially available datasets (such as dated satellite imagery or geo-references drone footage) to demonstrate that the Project is sited to avoid or limit impact on intact natural areas. For example, a Proponent may submit its own evidence to demonstrate that data in the Provincial Landscape Viewer showing an Old Growth Forest stand where there is no longer Old Growth Forest is outdated. Any additional evidence submitted by a Proponent must display the Project Site superimposed over the land in question and provide a written description of how the evidence supports a "Yes" answer on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire referencing the question.

(Note: when using the Provincial Landscape Viewer all parent layers must be selected for sub-layers to populate.)

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:

a. **Old Growth Forest Policy lands:** Identify if the Project Boundary overlaps with "Old Growth Forest" using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {"Forestry" → "Forestry" → "Old Forest Policy" → "Development Class"}, and noting the areas of "Old Growth Forest"; and

b. **Roads:** identify the density of roads (kilometers of roads / square kilometer) within the Project 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"} (i.e. all road types except "Seasonal").

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.

a. **Parks and Protected Areas:** To demonstrate the Project's impact on the regional ecological connectivity, the Proponent must identify if the Project Boundary is located near existing parks, protected areas, pending parks or protected areas using the Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas System.

3. Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements

Proponents are encouraged to avoid lands with rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species, critical habitats, and core habitats at the Project 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 Project Site level can be determined using datasets for species of conservation concern, core habitat, and critical habitat as well as the Provincial Landscape Viewer as listed below.

a. **Significant Habitat and At Risk Species**
   i. Obtain a dataset for species occurrence that overlap with the Project study area from the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre for species of conservation interest. Place particular emphasis on species listed under the Provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

   ii. Obtain the Nova Scotia Species at Risk Core Habitat dataset available at: Geographic Data Directory. Proponents should also contact biodiversity@novascotia.ca to request core habitat data for location sensitive species that may overlap the Project area since core habitat identified for three additional species is not publicly available. Determine proximity and overlap of the Project with identified core habitat.

   iii. Obtain the federal Critical Habitat dataset for species listed under the federal SARA available at: Critical Habitat for Species at Risk National Dataset - Canada - Open Government Portal. Determine proximity and overlap of the Project with identified core habitat.

   iv. 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";

4. Migratory Birds and Bats

Proponents are encouraged to avoid and limit impact to migratory staging areas, critical feeding areas and pathways (e.g. Important Bird Areas).

a. **Migratory Corridors for Birds and Bats:** To demonstrate avoidance of such areas and potential impacts, Proponents are encouraged to provide at least one year of completed bird surveys (four seasons) including radar and acoustic monitoring, and at least one full year of complete bat acoustic monitoring (spring and fall) and field habitat assessment, with adequate coverage of the entire Project Site, noting that two years of survey data for birds and bats should be conducted prior to operation. If surveys have not yet been completed, Proponents should provide a clear and mature plan to conduct surveys on migratory birds and bats at the Project Boundary, including information on any environmental consultants engaged in the effort, contact information for the individuals who are completing the survey, and any additional relevant survey planning/ development details.

5. Wetlands

Proponents are encouraged to avoid and limit impact to Wetlands.

a. **Wetlands:** For Proponents to receive points on this section of the Environmental Risk Questionnaire, the Proposal must provide a map of the Project Boundary superimposed over Wetlands. To do so, Proponents should contact the Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change Department via email to wetlands@novascotia.ca to request Wetland Area Mapping.

6. The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia

Proponents will receive points for the question on the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) if the Proponent can demonstrate that a MEKS has been started and/or contracted in accordance with Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol, 2nd Edition.

EXHIBIT F-1

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE – PRIMARY PROJECT CONFIGURATION (MANDATORY, IF APPLICABLE)

<Note: Complete the Environmental Questionnaire below for the Primary Project Configuration>

Category	Questions		No (0 pts)	Yes (+0.5pts)
Landscape Fragmentation	1.	Does less than 30% of the Project Boundary overlap with Old Growth Forest Policy lands on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence)?	☐	☐
Regional Ecological Connectivity	2.	Is the Project Boundary located more than 500 m from an existing or pending park or Protected Area > 500 ha on the Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas System?	☐	☐
Regional Ecological Connectivity	3.	Does the Project Boundary avoid the use, crossing or impact of federally or provincially protected lands?	☐	☐
Category	**Questions**		**No (-0.5 pts)**	**Yes (+0.5pts)**
Landscape Fragmentation	4.	Does the Project Site have a higher density of roads than 0.6 km/km^2 on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence)?	☐	☐
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	5.	Does the Project Boundary avoid overlap with endangered or threatened species occurrences, core habitat, or critical habitat?	☐	☐
Wetlands	6.	Does the Project Boundary avoid overlap with Wetlands?	☐	☐
Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS)	7.	Has a MEKS been started and/or contracted for the Project?	☐	☐
Migratory Birds/or Bats	8.	Does the Project Boundary avoid bird migratory staging areas, critical feeding areas and pathways (e.g. Important Bird Areas)?	☐	☐

EXHIBIT F-2

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE – PRIMARY PROJECT CONFIGURATION (MANDATORY, IF APPLICABLE)

<Note: Attach the supporting evidence for the Environmental Questionnaire responses for the Primary Project Configuration>

EXHIBIT G-1

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE – ALTERNATE PROJECT CONFIGURATION (MANDATORY, IF APPLICABLE)

<Note: If applicable, complete the Environmental Questionnaire below for the Alternate Project Configuration.>

Category	Questions		No (0 pts)	Yes (+0.5pts)
Landscape Fragmentation	1.	Does less than 30% of the Project Boundary overlap with Old Growth Forest Policy lands on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence)?	☐	☐
Regional Ecological Connectivity	2.	Is the Project Boundary located more than 500 m from an existing or pending park or Protected Area > 500 ha on the Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas System?	☐	☐
Regional Ecological Connectivity	3.	Does the Project Boundary avoid the use, crossing or impact of federally or provincially protected lands?	☐	☐
Category	**Questions**		**No (-0.5 pts)**	**Yes (+0.5pts)**
Landscape Fragmentation	4.	Does the Project Site have a higher density of roads than 0.6 km/km^2 on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence)?	☐	☐
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	5.	Does the Project Boundary avoid overlap with endangered or threatened species occurrences, core habitat, or critical habitat?	☐	☐
Wetlands	6.	Does the Project Boundary avoid overlap with Wetlands?	☐	☐
Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS)	7.	Has a MEKS been started and/or contracted for the Project?	☐	☐
Migratory Birds/or Bats	8.	Does the Project Boundary avoid bird migratory staging areas, critical feeding areas and pathways (e.g. Important Bird Areas)?	☐	☐

EXHIBIT G-2

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE – ALTERATE PROJECT CONFIGURATION (MANDATORY, IF APPLICABLE)

<Note: If applicable, attach the supporting evidence for the Environmental Questionnaire responses for the Alternate Project Configuration>