

Groups Applaud Governments' Decision

Environmental and community groups are applauding the December 4th decision by the federal and Nova Scotian governments to not approve an offshore oil and gas licence that would have been sandwiched between Sable Island and the Gully Marine Protected Area off the coast of Nova Scotia.

"We were very concerned about the impact of seismic blasting and drilling on marine life, particularly on northern bottlenose whales in the Gully. We're so relieved this license has been dropped and we can get on with urgently needed climate solutions such as offshore wind," says Gretchen Fitzgerald, national program di-

rector with Sierra Club Canada Foundation.

The proposed licence would have been for \$1.5 million in work expenditures, one of the smallest bids in N.S. history.

"Nova Scotia has made strong commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop offshore wind. This bid was incompatible with those goals," says Lisa Mitchell, executive director with East Coast Environmental Law Association.

The Offshore Alliance, a coalition of environmental and community groups, has been working for years to protect N.S. waters, shorelines and ecosystems from risks associ-

ated with offshore oil and gas exploration and development.

"Those of us who understand that we should be working to protect and enhance the value of our fishery resource, could not be happier with this decision," says John

Davis, co-chair with the Offshore Alliance.

N.S. groups look forward to working with the provincial government to ensure that the province meets and beats its climate targets. The adoption of wind, other renewables and

storage will play a key role in this effort.

In a press release from Oct. 4, 2023, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board announced the \$1.5 million bid but noted that joint approval was required from the

provincial and federal governments. On Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, Ministers Jonathan Wilkinson and Tory Rushton announced that they were suspending the decision to approve for thirty days. The deadline was set to expire Monday, Dec. 4, 2023.

I Screwed Up, Big Time

Continued from page 1

In one instance, I said Ever-Wind were "grandfathered" and could proceed with pre-engineering and Environment Assessment. I also sent a confusing message, about which motion was proposed, what was suggested as an amendment, what was defeated, and what was finally approved by council.

I wish to "thank" those readers and municipal leaders who brought these matters to my attention. My thanks is not just for highlighting my errors, but also for the courtesy and professionalism they did what they should do.

To get a true reading on all that I screwed up, I decided to contact Paul Smith, Director Community Development, Mu-

nicipality of Colchester, because he is in the thick of all things, "wind turbine" and much, much more.

After a bit of discussion, so I could better understand, where I went wrong, I was very pleased when Paul agreed to Review my article and send modifications in bullet form.

The following paragraphs and bullet points are what Paul sent me to set me straight and so I could use Paul's accurate facts to help clear up any confusion or misunderstanding you may have. Here goes:

Council heard a presentation by Protect Wentworth group in October 2023 who expressed concern over a couple of new wind turbine projects extending from east Folly

Lake to Earlton. The group encouraged Council to impose a second moratorium on any new wind development applications until a county-wide planning strategy and land use bylaw was completed in late 2024.

The original year-long moratorium was lifted in February 2023 during which time staff and the PAC did an extensive review of the bylaw standards. This resulted in some significant changes including doubling the setback distances to seasonal and permanent residences (ie 1 km to 2 km) as well as new requirements for the posting of a decommissioning bond.

At their regular monthly meeting on October 26, 2023, a motion was passed to amend the Wind Turbine Development Bylaw which would ef-

fectively suspend any new applications from being reviewed until December 2024. Council also passed a motion that would enable a special Council meeting to be held at the outset of their Council Committee meeting on November 16, 2023 to consider Second Reading of the amendments. All bylaw amendments require two readings before any changes can take effect.

Council convened on November 16 to consider final adoption of the proposed amendments, the motion was defeated and the amendments did not come into effect. This effectively means the previous approved Wind Turbine Development Bylaw remains in place and new applications can be considered and processed at any time.

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Psychedelic therapy for veterans
The Senate's Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs is urging the federal government to immediately launch a major research program on psychedelic drug therapies for veterans struggling with serious mental health issues, like posttraumatic stress disorder. The recommendation stems from the subcommittee's latest report, *The Time is Now: Granting equitable access to psychedelic-assisted therapies*

New ED at Maggie's Place
Andy Bonnell, has become Executive Director at Maggie's Place for Colchester County!

For the good of our community
Launched in Fall 2021, the NSLC's For the Good of Our Community Fund is a pillar of our community investment program, awarding grants ranging from \$5,000 up to \$20,000 to selected registered charities or non-profit organizations in Nova Scotia.
Applications for 2024-25 funding have closed but were accepted between November 1 and December 20, 2023. Save this information for next year's program.
Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be a registered charity or non-profit organization that works to support communities within Nova Scotia. Organizations must be working to address areas of critical community need within Nova Scotia. Projects and initiatives should be aligned to one of our community investment focus areas. Preference will be given to organizations working on projects and initiatives that promote inclusivity, equity, or underserved groups and communities. Preference will be given to organizations that have an impact throughout the province of Nova Scotia.
How to Apply: Review Eligibility Criteria; Complete the For the Good of Our Community Application and send application and supporting materials via email to csr@myNSLC.com.
If you have questions or require accessibility or translation support to complete your application, please contact Laura Graves by email at: Laura.Graves@myNSLC.com or telephone at 902-430-6518.

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2024 The Shoreline Journal RATE CARD

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Nov, 2024	Oct 22, 2024	Oct 30, 2024
Dec, 2024	Nov 19, 2024	Nov 27, 2024
Jan, 2025	Dec 9, 2024	Dec 17, 2024

Colchester
be centred here.

Presentation Meeting
Tuesday, January 2 @ 6pm

Council Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 11 @ 6pm

Council Meeting
Thursday, January 25 @ 6pm

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