

Mycroft, Colleen V EAO:EX

From: EAOINFO EAO:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2009 3:49 PM
To: Wager, Fern P EAO:EX
Cc: Alexander, Garry EAO:EX; Mycroft, Colleen V EAO:EX
Subject: 30050-20/NaiKun-16 FW: Nai Kun Wind Energy Project EA

FYI: eaoinfo email

regards

Robert W Shields, Web Administrator
Environmental Assessment Office
(250) 387-2407

-----Original Message-----

From: Thomas Cheney [mailto:cheney@unbc.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2009 2:59 PM
To: EAOINFO EAO:EX
Cc: lshaw@naikun.ca
Subject: Nai Kun Wind Energy Project EA

Thomas Cheney
Box 556
Masset BC
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250-557-4782

Attn: Garry Alexander - Project Assessment Director

RE: Nai Kun Wind Energy Project

Dear Mr. Alexander,

I would like to extend my congratulations on the thorough Environmental Assessment conducted for Nai Kun Wind Energy Development for the phase one of the Nai Kun Wind Energy Project. I was particularly impressed by the large amount of information contained in the report in contrast to many of the other environmental assessments that I have reviewed as a concerned citizen or as an undergraduate student in Environmental Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia where I took a course (ENPL 305) in environmental assessment where we critiqued the environmental assessment of the Dokie wind proposal near Chetwynd, BC among others. I was impressed with the depth and breadth of information on fauna and other marine lifeforms e.g Sea Turtles.

One concern that I do have is the lack of quantifiable information on the displacement effects of the project. That said, I am aware that the acquisition of information in regards to such effects is difficult considering the relative youth of the industry. I raise the displacement issue due to the fact that Phase One of the Nai Kun project is represents only 300 Megawatt of the potential 15,000 Megawatt wind resource in the Haida Energy Field according to a study done by Helimax Consultants.

I am concerned that the environmental assessment process was not able to determine the significance of the displacement impacts of the wind energy project other than to state that they have been documented at other offshore wind farms in the North Sea and the Baltic which

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may entail different environmental effects than occurs . That said, the impact of wind farms on the presences of resident waterfowl species has been species-specific from the Horns Rev project in the Danish North Sea. However, in the interests of the protection of ecological function a certain percentage (Lets say 70%) of all marine ecosystem types within the Haida Energy Field be excluded from wind energy development for twenty years until the impacts of offshore wind industry are better understood. Such a proposal would not unduly impact the industry's growth at this stage as would allow the development of around 4.5 GW of peak wind capacity and would allow the generation of over 13,000 Gigawatt-hours a year assuming a conservative capacity factor of 35% for the entire energy field. There is also a need to have spatially-defined wind energy zones to ensure that other users of the environment are not unduly effected. Another concern that I have is that I did not find any management measures for invasive plants in the terrestrial ecosystem section of the environmental assessment for the Tlell landing site for HaidaLink. The Tlell Area has significant infestation of Cytisus scoparius (Scotch Broom) as well as Cirsium vulgare (Canada Thistle) in the area and that the HaidaLink Project will have some ground disturbance. What mitigative steps does the proponent intends to undertake to manage invasive plants at the Tlell landing site?

I am satisfied with the research done in terms of the projects impacts on migratory birds and agree that the impacts are not significant, although, for future projects I would like to see the set migratory corridors defined to reduce any impacts of wind energy development on the migratory energetics of avifauna which traverse the Haida Energy Field. Overall, the Environmental Assessment is very well done considering that the project is among the first offshore wind farms to be proposed in North America and am particularly appreciative of the adaptive management framework that the proponent intends on using. I would like a legally-binding commitment to the adaptive management framework for impacts should be made as a condition of the granting of the Environmental Assessment Certificate. I would like to express my support for this project as a means to achieve the province's emission reduction goals under the Climate Action Plan of 2008.

Sincerely,

Thomas Cheney

4th Year Undergraduate Student in Environmental Studies at UNBC