

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

**NaiKun Offshore Wind Energy Project (proposed Project)
Marine Bird Subcommittee Meeting
September 3, 2009**

Final Meeting Summary

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Affiliation
<u>Provincial Government</u>	
Fern Wager	Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)
Dan Bate	Ministry of Environment (MOE)
<u>Federal Government</u>	
Steve Samis	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)
Pat Lim	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Kristie Trainor	Environment Canada (EC)
Sean Boyd	EC , Canadian Wildlife Service
Ken Morgan	EC
Paula Doucette	Transport Canada (TC)
Julie Harris	Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
<u>Local Government</u>	
Terry Vulcano	Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District (SQCRD)
<u>First Nations</u>	
Mike Henry	Rescan – Council of the Haida Nation
Kyle Bateson	Gitxaala Environmental Monitoring (GEM) - Gitxaala Nation
<u>Proponent</u>	
Matt Burns	NaiKun Wind Development Inc. (NaiKun)
Graham Seagel	Hemmera
Mike Demarchi	LGL Ltd.
Charlie Palmer	Hemmera

1. Opening Remarks

- EAO stated purpose of the meeting:
 - i. To identify issues that require additional information; and
 - ii. To identify mitigation or monitoring commitments from the Proponent to address any outstanding issues
 - iii. To identify the next steps to resolve outstanding issues (meetings, submission of additional documents, etc.)

2. Lighting

- NaiKun requires additional information for lighting the top of the towers
- NaiKun noted their lighting commitments: minimize lighting; brief pulse; long duration between pulses; shielded where possible; colour

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- NaiKun noted the need for lighting for marine and aerial purposes
 - TC noted their preference to use lighting with an aircraft detection system
 - **NaiKun will examine the feasibility of the Obstacle Collision Avoidance System (OCAS™)**
 - **NaiKun will submit a lighting document containing information from the adaptive management plan and a final design and siting document by September 11, prior to the navigation subcommittee meeting**
3. Radar Monitoring
- NaiKun stated that radar monitoring pre construction is not feasible due to the power requirements, however as construction is over multiple years, radar monitoring could start during the first year of construction
 - EC stated it would be ideal to have this baseline data help design the monitoring program and to compare the data collected post construction to determine proposed Project effects on migration and movement patterns
 - **NaiKun will submit a radar monitoring document by September 11**
4. Ongoing Surveys
- NaiKun provided an overview of the surveys completed since 2002
 - **NaiKun will submit a baseline data report incorporating all survey data and addressing comments received to date**
 - NaiKun stated monitoring will resume prior to construction (2 years) and continue during construction and 3 years post construction for a total of 8 years of both aerial and boat based surveys
 - EC stated the most valuable data is the past two years and is content with the survey design and planned surveys
 - NaiKun sought input as to whether the ferry surveys should be continued and will follow up with EC
5. Layout of Vessel Survey Transects
- NaiKun noted EC concern regarding the surveys in relation to the control area, noting that the siting of the wind farm in the eastern quadrant of the Investigative Use Permit (IUP) area shifted the control area to the west and asked whether the transect layout should change for future vessel surveys
 - **NaiKun will provide maps of transects and meet with EC prior to the start of surveys in 2010 to decide on final survey design**
6. Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Data
- NaiKun noted the limitations to the use of the CBC data and noted the CBC data was presented in the Application as background information with the province wide data to show species trends and the regional data to show point counts
 - **EC will provide NaiKun with a standardized approach for using CBC data to add rigour to the data; NaiKun will meet with EC to discuss if the previous data should be standardized, or only future CBC data**

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7. Spills and Response

- NaiKun is examining biodegradable options for fluids within the wind farm
- NaiKun noted the Emergency Response Plan will require the involvement of agencies; NaiKun will submit the framework for the plan and work with agencies
- EC noted concern re: response capability for stricken vessels within the wind farm area
- NaiKun will access Coast Guard records re: vessels that have lost power in the area
- NaiKun stated the proposed Project would provide the opportunity for additional resources such as a helicopter and potentially a dedicated rescue vessel
- **NaiKun will do additional risk analysis and submit document for comment by September 27**
- EC recommended using the model developed to predict the movement of an oil spill for a potentially stricken vessel
- EC reiterated that its primary concerns with respect to Emergencies are: (1) spills of hazardous materials during construction; (2) the offshore diesel storage tank; and (3) collision of a vehicle with a turbine resulting in a spill from the vessel.

8. Adaptive Management

- EC stressed the importance of this aspect of the proposed Project
- NaiKun noted the potential for the information gained through adaptive management to benefit others including regulators for any future wind farms
- **NaiKun will submit an adaptive management framework for marine birds by September 30 to CWS for technical review before distributing to the Working Group (WG)**
- Hemmera noted two good examples of adaptive management programs on other projects: Deltaport and Bear Mountain
- **NRCAN will distribute the Wolfe Island Wind Project's post construction follow-up program which has many structural elements that could be used in the development of NaiKun's monitoring and adaptive management plan**
- EAO noted that monitoring reports would be posted to the EAO's website

9. Comments

- SQCRD stressed the importance of a proactive approach rather than a reactive approach to mitigation and monitoring
- SCCRD raised concerns regarding the timing of the development of the adaptive management plan and the potential issuance of an Environmental Assessment (EA) Certificate
- EAO stated the adaptive management plan would be developed to the satisfaction of regulators prior to the issuance of an EA Certificate, but that some details would likely not be identified
- **MOE will circulate document re: collision monitoring**

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10. Summary of Action Items

Who	Action	When By
NaiKun	Examine the feasibility of the Obstacle Collision Avoidance System (OCAS™)	September 30
NaiKun	Submit a lighting document containing information from the adaptive management plan and a final design and siting document	September 23
NaiKun	Submit a radar monitoring document	September 23
NaiKun	Submit a baseline data report incorporating all survey data and addressing comments received to date	October
NaiKun	Provide maps of vessel survey transects and meet with EC to discuss future vessel survey transects	prior to the start of surveys in 2010
EC	Provide NaiKun with standard approach for using CBC data to add rigour to the data	October
NaiKun	Meet with EC to discuss if the previous data should be standardized, or only future CBC data	October
NaiKun	Submit document containing additional risk analysis and framework for a spill and response plan for comment	September 23
NaiKun	Submit an adaptive management framework for marine birds to CWS for technical review before distributing to the WG	September 30
NRCan	Distribute the Wolfe Island Follow-Up plan which has many structural elements that could be used in the development of NaiKun's plan	September 3 (complete)
MOE	Circulate document re: collision monitoring	September 3 (complete)