

## RESP Transcript (Transcription Completed by MS Teams Software)

May 16, 2024, 8:18PM

46m 5s



**Mir Sultan** 11:38

Good evening, everyone.

Welcome to the fifth community engagement session for the proposed red spruce Wind Energy project.

We're going to be taking about 5 minutes because I know that many of the times it can be some technical difficulties joining the call, so we're going to give the folks 5 more minutes to join the call and about 5:35, we're going to formally begin the engagement session.

My watch says that now it's 5:35, so let's officially begin with the fifth community engagement session for the proposed red spruce Wind Energy project.

My name is Mir Sultan and welcome to everyone who is joined in for this engagement session today.

So firstly, let's go through the rules of engagement for today's session.

First, let's Please ensure that our names appear correctly in in this section.

So you can change that if there's any kind of changes you want.

Ensure your entire full first and last name are included.

Secondly, an important note, all participants are going to be muted for this engagement session.

If you do decide that there is something you want to learn more about, if there's any questions that you have, then all you need to do is type in the chat or click the raise hand icon and we're going to ensure that all the questions are that out and they're answered during the question and answers period.

So during this first section, we're mostly going to be telling you about the company, about what the project is and the impact is going to have.

And once we get to the question answers period, all the questions that you've asked during this time will then be answered and speakers will be unmuted as necessary.

Any question that is not answered within the allotted time can be answered in a written format and also post it to the project website.

So you don't need to worry if you have any sort of question it you can always reach out to us and ensure that your question does that get does get answered.

And finally, a quick reminder, this presentation as well as the question transcript is

being recorded.

So there's going to be a copy of this available even after, so that if somebody's not able to attend, they're able to, they're going to get a quick summary of what the engagement session went like and what questions were answered.

So let's get on to the next slide.

So here's the acknowledgement that we have prepared for our presentation, Today we will be talking about our proposed Red Spruce Wind Energy Project which is in unceded and surrendered Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all treaty people. Next time, please.

Now this is a brief breakdown of what today's engagement session is going to look like in 4 sections.

Firstly, right now between 5:30 and 5:40, it's going to be the participant sign on time. And like I've been discussing, we're going to be talking about the rules of engagement as well as the acknowledgement between 5:40 and 5:45.

I'm going to be introducing the key all of our team members that are involved with this project and today's presentation between 5:45 and 6:15 is when the official presentation is going to take place.

And between 6:15 and 7:00, o'clock is the question answer period where all of the things that you have doubts about, all the things that you want to learn more about our team is going to be present to answer your questions and ensuring that all of your doubts are cleared and everything you need to know is provided to you next slide please.

And now I'm going to quickly be introducing all of our team members.

So as you can see over here majority of our team is from Halifax, NS, we have Billy who is joining us from Antigonish, who is our GIS technician and will also be helping with the Q&A support.

And from Montreal, we have Stefan, who is our company's CFO and will also be helping the Q&A.

On the Q&A side now running through the rest of the names, we have Jason, who's joining us, our development director, who will also be presenting today, the Mason Baker, the director of Technical Services, who will also be presenting.

We have Rory Cantwell, our company CEO, who will also be helping with the Q&A as well as Evan and myself who are junior putter developers and will be helping this presentation as well.

Now, next we're going to be having Mason discussing more about SWEB

development and letting you know more about us as a company as well as the work that we do.

**MB** **Mason Baker** 20:47

Yeah.

Thanks, Mir.

And uh, thanks to everyone who's joining us public engagement session.

So I'll give a brief overview of SWEB as the company and some of our experience before I hand it off to Jason for more project specific info presentation.

So SWEB development is a renewable energy developer, owner and operator of wind and solar farms throughout Canada and the United States.

So we take a life cycle approach to renewable energy project development, so we obtain land control.

We helped permit the project help with the environmental studies, help construct the project, engineer it, and then own it for the life of the project as long as it's able to sell electricity to the grid, which typically ranges 25 years and up, something projects is not part of our regular business model, which may be part of some other companies business models that are active in Nova Scotia, but that is not part of ours.

We own and operate, so we have a proven track record of community partnerships as well as First Nation partnerships in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and Maine. As mere mentioned, we are headquartered in Halifax, so we manage a number of renewable energy projects throughout Eastern Canada, Ontario included, as well as main Massachusetts, New York, PA those areas.

So every successful project that we developed throughout the northeast of North America contributes and sustains jobs here in Nova Scotia.

Additionally, we have a strong financial backing.

Our parent company is based in Austria.

There are a citizen owned renewable energy company.

They're one of the oldest in Europe.

They got their start about 20 to 25 years ago, so just kind of to differentiate us from other companies active in Nova Scotia.

We've been at this for almost 3 decades.

As I as I said we take a lifecycle approach will be the one operating from the start to the finish.

So when you start dealing with us, we'll be around for the life cycle of the project.

Next slide please.

So this is a bit more about us and our parent company.

So globally, we operate 613 megawatts of wind, solar and hydroelectric power plants were active in eight countries.

So that's Austria, the United States, Canada, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and France.

We've got about 268 employees worldwide, 8300 investors of which 6600 are shareholders, and the cumulative energy produced by our projects annually supplies clean energy for about 1,000,000 people across the globe.

Next slide please.

So here's a brief overview of our operational projects in the Maritimes.

So we have a number of COMFIT projects.

That's the community feed in tariff project from 2014 to 2018.

Ish.

We actually secured the largest proportion of COMFIT wind projects in the province.

Additionally, we participated in Brunswick Powers LORESS program that's locally owned renewable energy projects, which are small scale.

So the project capped there was 20 megawatts.

Uh, and we continue to develop wind and solar energy projects.

As I mentioned, throughout the region, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, as well as Northeastern United States.

Next slide, please.

So here's a bit more about our Novascotia COMFIT projects.

So we, as I mentioned, we are the largest owner operator of COMFIT here in the province that encompasses 20 wind turbines throughout.

Here are some pictures of some of those wind turbines, so we've got some Bedeck, Brenton and Nova Scotia hardwood lands just outside Elmsdale and nearby.

This project North Beaverbank also near this project as well as Parker Mountain on the North Shore.

These projects were completed in partnership with local partners.

Those are two companies, Scotian Wind Inc, as well as Scotian Windfields Inc and as part of that program, as well as our business model.

We ensure community benefits via these projects for all of the local communities that they exist within.

Next slide please.

So here's just a few of the community groups and associations that we contribute to. These are all based in Nova Scotia, but I'd like to highlight especially the hardwood Lands Community Center, which is not too far from the Red Spruce energy project as well as the Beaver Bank Community Awareness Association and the Nine Mile River Community Hall.

Those are all beneficiaries of some of our operating COMFIT projects here in the province.

Slide please.

In addition to our COMFIT projects, we also developed constructed, engineered, and own and operate our Wisokolamson energy project.

That's an 18 MW five wind turbine project in Albert County, New Brunswick.

That's on the Fundy coast between Saint John and Moncton.

If you're not familiar with the area so that project was completed in partnership with Woodstock First Nation, uh again, as part of our business model, we kind of like to go above and beyond what is prescribed to us by the program.

We established bursary programs for Woodstock First Nation students, whether they want to go to college, University, trade school.

We've allocated money every year from the revenues of our project so that they can apply through the First Nation to access funds to go to post secondary institutions in the area as well.

We've allocated funds for a solar installation project and energy retrofit for some of their community buildings in the area, and this was the first project that was awarded in the New Brunswick LORESS program to achieve commercial operation.

Additionally, only 50% of the projects that were awarded under that program actually were built and operates.

So we're very proud of achieving commercial operation and also being the first to achieve that commercial operation.

Next slide please.

So here's an overview of one of our projects in late stage developments here in the province.

This is the Weavers mountain wind energy project.

This was awarded under the rate based procurement a couple years ago, so it's a 94.4 MW project, can process 16 wind turbines that kind of straddles the county line in Pictou and Antigonish counties.

So we've established capacity building initiatives with those nearby communities. It's partnership with Glooscap First Nation, you know, community groups such as the Keppoch positive action for Keppoch Mountain, that sort of thing.

We have established the CLC of the project.

That's community liaison committee and we are also awarded SREP funding from the federal government in September 2023 to contribute to that project.

Slide please.

So from here I'll hand it off to Jason to speak more on the procurement for which this project will participate in as well as more project specifics for the Red Spruce project. Thanks.



**Jason Parisé** 28:32

Right.

Thanks Mason and Mir.

Appreciate the introductions and the context, perhaps important for tonight's discussion and generally with these projects, the focus of renewable energy development and Nova Scotia in terms of in province, consumption of new renewable energy is programs such as the Green Choice program.

So the near term opportunity here in the province for the transition to renewable electricity is the green choice program, which is a follow up to the right based program.

The programs the sensually designed to procure up to 350 or more megawatts of new renewable energy, specifically wind energy here in 2024 and this is part of the focus of Nova Scotia and moving up to 80% renewable electricity by 2030, which is a fairly aggressive goal for a Canadian jurisdiction.

And the focus of these procurements and the Green Choice program specifically is on capacity building for underrepresented communities here in Nova Scotia as well as partnerships with make model communities.

So there's a high priority set on projects that have up to majority ownership by our make much communities here in the province.

So the Green Choice program is one of two more procurements that will follow out to 2030 to achieve the 80% renewable energy target by 2030.

On the far right, we have a few of the key deadlines here.

Probably most notable, the proposal submission deadline of June 28th, so about six weeks away.

The evaluation period will follow throughout the summer by the procurement administrator and then in August, September there'll be a short list notification and project awards given out to five or more projects here in the province.

The intention is for the provincial government Nova Scotia power to execute the contracts for these projects by the end of 2024.

Next slide please.

So tonight's focuses on our red spruce wind energy project.

Uh, so this project will be between 43.52 and one 8.8 megawatts.

And really, that is predicated upon the final number of turbines that they project is bid width and then awarded to the project has been designed for the inclusion of up to 16 turbines.

That nameplate capacities will be up to 6.8 megawatts or up to 7.2, and that range this projects located entirely on privately held lands, which are north of our operating North Beaver Bank Community project just east of Beaverbank Rd.

Located in East Hants Municipality and our site selection for this project site was based on a number of factors.

Four of which are noted here, which are some of the most important so proximity to existing Nova Scotia power transmission lines, strong wind resource on site minimal receptors or homes within the area and then existing infrastructure.

So these projects in Nova Scotia that SWEB tends to develop coincide with forestry practice here in the province.

So there's a lot of preexisting roads that we can use for the project as well to minimize the environmental impact.

Next slide please.

This is a more graphical representation of the project site, so you can see Beaverbank road running through from South to north on the West side of the map, East Uniacke Rd.

On the far West, the gun range in East Hants is showing, and then the northwest portion of the project site.

My graph like to the north and each of the blue circles as the current site plan for each wind turbine for the project site.

The land shown in white are option properties associated with the project and the remaining land shown in Gray are non participating parcels.

Next slide please.

Or if it's being completed to date is important to share with the community.

So we wanted to just note a few things that have been ongoing.

Araw wind data collection has been ongoing with a meteorological tower on site.

As we mentioned before, we have a couple of operating wind energy projects in the area, which gives us a good idea of the wind resource throughout the region.

Our environmental assessment commenced in 2021 by way of the field program that started around that time.

We anticipate that we'll be finished in 2024 and will likely be able to register the EA later this year.

Our stakeholder and 1st nation engagement both began in 2020 and 2021, respectively, and we'll of course continue to engage both of those different stakeholder groups throughout project development.

Construction and operation, our project design and layout optimization are well underway and this project also has a Community liaison committee.

That's been established for the project in community.

Next slide please.

As part of the environmental assessment process, which is one of the first elements I mentioned on the previous slide, this is a requirement for projects that exceed 2 megawatts.

So any new project being built in the province, that's wind would typically fall within that classification.

So Nova Scotia environment and climate change will receive our environmental assessment registration document and associated studies.

And on the next slide.

Once it's registered on day one, there's a 30 day comment and review period for the public and Nova Scotia Environment and climate change.

And that's enables the public and Mi'kmaq communities here in the province to provide comments to Nova Scotia environment and these are kept with Nova Scotia environment for review as well as made public at the end of the 50 day mark.

So 50 days out from the registration date, the Minister of Environment will make a final decision regarding the undertaking and that may include conditions of approval that must be met prior to construction or it may require additional studies.

Next slide please.

Here we just provide a quick overview of the typical baseline studies associated with projects.

So avifauna, which would be things like birds, bats, wetland studies, visual esthetics



of visual montages, air quality changes, sound modeling so on and so forth, and as well as part of the Avi fauna program, larger projects such as this will have an avian radar unit on site to measure movement of migratory species during spring and fall at heights or of heights above the ground of what, 150 meters or more.

Next slide please.

So with respect to watercourses and wetlands, our environmental assessment will include if you key things inclusive of examining the impact of the project on nearby watercourses and wetlands, don't include a detailed plan and proposed activities to ensure efforts to mitigate impact on the right. Watercourses and wetlands.

They'll be methods included to avoid or mitigate those impacts on fish and fish habitat, and we'll have consultants on site and have already that review.

Each of the water courses on site that may be impacted to identify there any fish and habiting those areas.

Next slide please.

Wind turbine dimensions is typically a concept of concern or interest with community members, so our existing fleet here in Nova Scotia have heights of 95 meters and rotor diameters of 100 and 110 meters.

The turbines that are being reviewed by several developers here in the province would be more in the range of what we depicted here, so heights in the range of 118 meters to 125 meters and rotor diameters of up to 163 meters, the main benefit of this change is on a per turbine capacity.

We're able to produce a fair bit more energy on a per turbine unit, so our previous projects would have been two megawatts.

The projects that we're looking at now, the turbines are able to produce between 6 and 7.2 megawatts.

So a fair increase on the yield.

Next slide please.

Noise is typically a modeling element and part of our environmental assessment process.

So in terms of SWEB, our minimum setback internally is 1 kilometer from all receptors.

The setback and various jurisdictions here in Nova Scotia and across Canada will vary and we worked to meet or exceed those setback requirements as part of the EA will complete all necessary acoustic modeling prior to the construction phase as well as post construction and what that essentially does is resents all acoustic modeling

findings.

All of these studies will be submitted to NSECC for review and probably important to note that our modeling is typically based on worst case scenarios.

So the model illustrate the worst case outcome of noise models for the project site.

As part of this, we'll create a plan to react to any noise issues or complaints, and we'll follow all noise.

Pretend what restrictions that are placed on their project as part of the EA next slide, please.

Decommissioning at the end of the project life cycle is also an important aspect to address with the public as part of our agreement with Nova Scotia Power.

If the project is awarded, will be obliged contractually to provide a decommissioning plan and this plan will outline the process in which your equipment and materials will be removed from the site and the event that we're no longer able to construct or operate the project.

So at the end of the projects life cycle or PPA term, which is typically 25 years, this plan will outline and elucidate all of the different mechanisms that will be used to remove the project materials from site and rehabilitate the site.

Nova Scotia Power will hold a \$20,000 per MW security, which means up to 1.56 million, and that plan will be set prior to construction commencement and approved as part of some of the land option contracts that we have in place for this project and others within the province where obliged contractually as well for decommissioning as part of our project agreements.

Next slide please.

Within the Red Spruce project area, there are some snowmobile trails in ATV trails. Historically, we haven't had any sort of prohibitions on the continued use of land areas associated with the project site.

We are in the process of engaging the Snowmobile club to ensure that we have an ongoing dialogue to determine how best to operate the project and grant ourselves Snow access or site access during the winter months and we'll continue to engage the snowmobile club and trail users in that regard during project construction and operations.

A few things regarding traffic and site access during operation, there will be some limitations to traffic on site and a lot of that is dictated by the land owners that are the owners of the parcels that were utilizing actually to the site may be gated and may have keys depending on how the land owners want to treat the project site and

in some cases there will be gates that are project substation and switchyard.

Next slide please.

What's important is well, with typical wind projects in Nova Scotia and some of which are unique to SWEB specific projects here in the province, some of the benefits would be local waiver and services and materials with most men products are directed indirect benefits for stakeholders, such as First Nation communities as well as part of the partnership.

So we are in the process of developing a partnership with more First Nation communities here in the province and we'll be releasing more information about that in the coming months.

The project will be majority owned by one or more First Nation communities, which is a really great product of this particular procurement.

Of course, the project law positive impact on local businesses and will result in employment opportunities in addition to tax revenue for more so than municipality and provincial and federal governments as well.

We still have a fair bit of thermal generation here in the province, so this is a great way to transition away from that to your in Nova Scotia.

The project is planned to produce enough power for up to 38,000 homes here in the province and primarily locally, and a portion of the project revenue will be allocated to the CLC.

And that's on an annual basis and the CLC will have full discretion on how to distribute those project funds to benefit the local community.

Next slide please.

Here we just show a bit more detail on how project development, construction and operations is laid out in blue.

We have some of the central tenants of project development, so this project development began in 2021 and if awarded project development and permit acquisition will be completed by the mid 2027 and prior to construction would start in June of 2027 with turbine delivery in June of 2028 and complete commissioning by the end of 2028.

And this project, if awarded and built, would operate for up to or greater than 25 years.

Next slide please.

So here we've essentially laid out the Red Spruce project and what we hope to do now is open the floor for questions from the community and we hope that we can

address them on a case by case basis.

Thank you.

And perhaps at that clear questions can be submitted through the meeting chat and we'll take them on a case by case basis and answer.

---

Given no questions will officially end the session, but two or three staff members will remain online in case any questions do arise and if anybody else joins shortly thereafter.

Our project information is here.

Project website on the bottom right.

Sorry, bottom left, I am the main cop point of contact for the project, so my contact details are shared here as well as our company details.

Feel free to follow up afterwards if you do have any questions, we'd be happy to answer them.



**Rory Cantwell** 44:42

I'm gonna jump.

Thank you everyone.



**Jason Parisé** 44:44

Thanks Hari.



**Stefan Karkulik** 44:46

It's not.



**Jason Parisé** 45:04

For those still on the line from the public, feel free to jump off.

We will stay online just in case there are any other folks that join who would like to discuss the project and we thank you for for joining this evening.



**Mason Baker** 45:49

And I think you can stop the recording.



**Evan De Silva** 45:52

OK, that's.

What?

Sure.

● **Evan De Silva** stopped transcription