

## 2 FIRST NATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The NB EIA process requires First Nations and public engagement as outlined in Section 6 of the Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment in NB (GNB, 2018a). The overall goal of involvement during the EIA process is to inform those potentially affected by the Project are aware of the proposal and to provide them with information about the Project so that they are able to express any concerns they may have.

WISK is committed to effective stakeholder consultation and gaining ongoing acceptance and approval of the Project by local community members and other stakeholders to maximize support of the Project. WISK will engage in several activities to ensure that this goal is achieved, and the details of these activities are explained below. All First Nations and public engagement completed for the Project will be summarized in a Public Consultation Report and submitted at a later date.

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### 2.1 FIRST NATIONS ENAGAGEMENT

WISK has and will continue to engage First Nations communities in proximity to the Project site throughout its development, construction, and operation to ensure that all questions and concerns are addressed in an appropriate fashion. In addition, WISK intends to include First Nation community members with applicable traditional knowledge to assist the Partners during the EIA process, Project development and construction. WISK has completed a preliminary traditional Indigenous Knowledge study as described below and included in Appendix B. SWEB has engaged the NB Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat regarding the Project and has commenced engagement activities with the following First Nation's communities:

- Woodstock First Nation
- Fort Folly First Nation
- Elsipogtog First Nation
- Indian Island First Nation
- Pabineau First Nation
- Eel River Bar First Nation
- Bouctouche First Nation
- St. Mary's First Nation
- Oromocto First Nation

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#### 2.1.1 TRADITIONAL LAND USE

A preliminary traditional Indigenous Knowledge study was conducted for the proposed Project on November 17, 2017. The full report is included in Appendix B. The following is a brief summary of the report.

The study was carried out under the direction of Elder Gilbert Sewell of Pabineau First Nation, with assistance of Laura Buck (Fort Folly First Nation), Christina LaFlamme (WSP), and Grant Aylesworth (Stratis Consulting). The study focused on the proposed Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) locations and at an additional seven (7) sites along the New Ireland Road.

Mr. Sewell and Ms. Buck determined that no cultural heritage resources and no culturally significant plant/vegetation were identified during the study. Based on previous historical knowledge, it is highly likely that no settlements would be in the area. However, there is still the possibility of discovery in regards to settlement or land use.

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## 2.2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As outlined in Section 6 of the Guide, “public” includes all stakeholders (individuals, companies, agencies, organizations, and interest groups) who may be affected by the proposed Project and includes those who may have local knowledge of the location that may assist in siting or design.

To date, WISK has commenced engagement with a number of stakeholders including:

- The Mayor of Riverside-Albert
- The Mayor of Alma
- Local snowmobile clubs

Of note, the Mayor of Riverside-Albert has expressed strong support for the Project; a letter of support is included in Appendix C. The WISK team also intends to engage other stakeholders near the Project area including community members, environmental groups, and recreational users.

Throughout the construction and operation of the Project, WISK will continue to engage community members regarding Project construction information and safety measures, as well as educational sessions that familiarize community members with the operation of a wind energy project. In addition, WISK will engage the appropriate local authorities and agencies regarding construction timing and important road use information to ensure the Project’s construction and operation meet the highest safety standards.

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### 2.2.1 PUBLIC MEETINGS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

A public open house will be held in May 2018 to invite members of the public, First Nations communities, and other stakeholder groups to meet the Project staff, learn more about the Project, and provide comments and feedback on the Project and EIA documentation. Additional public information meetings will be held in the local community to share accurate information about the project, gather useful ideas from knowledgeable community members, and to respond to questions and concerns of local citizens.

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### 2.2.2 NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications for the Project will be placed in local newsletters and/or papers to offer information regarding the Project. Notifications may also be posted on the Riverside-Albert website and Alma website. Notification letters will be sent to First Nations, residents of Riverside-Albert and Alma, and other key stakeholders.

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### 2.2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE:

WISK will allocate a portion of the Project revenue to ensure that the Project’s benefits contribute to local community planning initiatives. WISK will support the organizing a local community liaison committee that is comprised of community members interested in participating in organizing local capital projects or community-specific programming. The committee will serve to identify and prioritize spending on projects and/or community programming that requires funding.

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## 2.3 REGULATORY CONSULTATION

WISK has and will continue to hold focused meetings with government representatives and key stakeholders to ensure that they are kept apprised of all Project-specific information and planning. WISK has been proactive by engaging members of parliament, members of the legislative assembly, and other government officials to inform them of the potential development in the Fundy region. In addition, consultation with federal agencies including NAV Canada, Transport Canada, the RCMP, Environment Canada Radar, CCG, and the DND has also been completed (Appendix A).