Apitamkiejit Wind Energy Project Virtual Community Engagement Session
Question & Answer Transcript

The Virtual Community Engagement Session for the proposed Apitamkiejit Wind Energy Project was held on March 24th, 2022 from 6:30 – 8:00pm. The below transcript is a record of the questions and answers raised during the session.

Will this have any impact on the local airport a few kms away?
We have already submitted preliminary applications to Transport Canada and Nav Canada. We did note the local aerodrome nearby. At this point it shouldn't have any impact on the airport itself except for the use of aeronautical lighting that will be wired on the turbines themselves. We will need to implement the lighting that is addressed by Transport Canada and Nav Canada. Outside of this, there should be no physical impacts to the airport.

Beyond the Nav Canada and Transport Canada applications and review process, other stakeholders that are engaged as part of the process are the Department of National Defence, the RCMP, Environment Canada, and the Canadian Coast Guard. Nav Canada will encompass the discussions with some of those stakeholders as well.

The proposed turbines are the largest in NS so far. They could be 200 meters in total height. Do you expect turbines be visible from existing homes in the area?
We employ setbacks of at least 1 km. By doing so that greatly reduces any sort of visual impacts. On top of this and in addition to setbacks, we run a full visual analysis. This is part of the environmental assessment process. We will take vantage points and viewpoints from various locations around the site and surrounding the site to create renderings to get an understanding of what will be visible from what angles. This allows us to understand any sort of impacts for shadow flicker or lighting.

As part of the EA process there will be lots of this type of information shared. A lot of this visual analysis is predicated on things such as ground elevation and distances from homes to the site. More often than not, with a taller turbine, it will be visible from somewhere around the project site. However, we will be happy to share this study once we have it available.

May I suggest that due to the fact this is a very rural area, you might consider a meeting in a physical area. Many of the residents are probably unaware of this meeting. In lieu of a public meeting, perhaps a 'householder mailout' to people in the Greenfield through to Chelsea area? Cost would be minimal.
This is just the first stop on a series of engagement that we plan to do. Various forms of advertising through local newspapers, as well as direct mail, and online presence will be used. We are always happy to host another engagement session, and we are certainly happy to do in-person sessions as well.

As part of the environmental assessment process, we are prescribed to hold in-person meetings to seek approval. Its around two meetings that are prescribed, but in the past, we have done double this amount to ensure everyone is aware of what's going on. We also typically continue to hold meetings throughout the project construction as needed.

What percentage of the landowners in the proposed wind farm area have been receptive to wind turbines on there land?
The majority of folks in the area, specifically private landowners that we have talked to have been receptive to not only turbines but also access roads and power corridors. There are some folks who do not want to be involved in the project itself but have said that they don't want to prevent any neighbours from being able to participate. We haven't yet come across any private local landowners who have been completely opposed to the project.

Fire department Facebook pages are highly followed by residents. There is also a large percentage of seasonal residents in the area who would not be around if the meetings were held in the off season.
This is great information. We will plan to host some engagements in the summer months when we see the seasonal population return to the area.