



Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

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<http://www.grrb.nt.ca>

Feb 22, 2019

Re: GRRB comment_ G18X005 and G18L8-001_inuvik Wind Energy Project

The staff of the GRRB have reviewed the applications for the Inuvik Wind Energy Project and offer the following comments and recommendations on matters within its jurisdiction.

Relevant Legislation

- Relevant legislation includes:
 - Migratory Birds Convention Act <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/>
 - NWT Wildlife Act <https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/wildlife/wildlife.a.pdf>
 - NWT Wildlife Act Plain language Summary
http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/wildlife_act_plain_language_summary_january_2018.pdf
 - NWT Species at Risk Act <http://www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca/sites/default/files/SpeciesatRisk.pdf>
 - Federal Species at Risk Act <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/S-15.3/index.html>
 - Fisheries Act <https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/laws/stat/rsc-1985-c-f-14/latest/rsc-1985-c-f-14.html>
 - Gwich'in Land Use Plan <http://www.gwichinplanning.nt.ca/landUsePlan.html>

Species at Risk

- Federally listed Species at Risk that may be present in the area include; Boreal caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*), Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus bohemicus*), Little brown myotis (a bat which may be in the GSA) (*Myotis lucifugus*), Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundris*), Rusty blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*).

Wildlife

- Staff note there is the potential for raptor mortality by wind turbine operation, especially for medium to large size raptors. Peregrine Falcon and Rough-legged hawk nesting sites have been observed at Airport Lake less than 10 km away from the proposed wind turbine and may at risk of increased morbidity or mortality.
- The access road will have a negative effect on wildlife by providing easier access for hunting activities.
 - **Recommendation:** Staff strongly recommend putting in place a permanent access gate to prevent unauthorized vehicle access. It is important to note that 4 wheelers and snowmobiles will probably still have access to the road by going around the gate, unless measure to discourage going around the gate are adopted.
 - **Recommendation:** During construction and use of the access road, staff recommend the proponent suspend activities temporarily if caribou, moose, grizzly bear and muskoxen are spotted within 500m of any work site. Do not attempt to harass or 'encourage' wildlife to move away from the site. Resume activities once the animal(s) have left the area. Give wildlife right of way whenever possible.

If you have further questions concerning this application, do not hesitate to contact me.

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