



North Atlantic Wind to Hydrogen Project Domestic Woodcutting Consultation Plan

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ATV	all-terrain vehicle
DWCP	Domestic Woodcutting Consultation Plan
FMD	Forest Management District
HGP	Hydrogen Generation Plant
HP	Hydrogenation Plant
KI	Key Indicator
kV	kilovolt
LAA	Local Assessment Area
m ³	Cubic metres
MW	megawatt
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador

NL FFA	NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
NL FFA	NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
North Atlantic	North Atlantic Refining Corp.
PA	Project Area
PSA	Public Service Announcement

1. Introduction

North Atlantic Refining Corp. (North Atlantic) is proposing to undertake the development of a Wind to Hydrogen project (the Project) on the Isthmus of Avalon Region in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). This Project will entail the development, construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of a 324 MW Wind Farm consisting of 45 wind turbines on an undeveloped peninsula situated between Sunnyside and Deer Harbour. The Wind Farm will provide renewable electricity via a 138 kV transmission line to a newly developed Hydrogen Generation Plant (HGP), from where generated hydrogen will be transported to a Hydrogenation Plant (HP) for transformation into a Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carrier (LOHC), which will then be shipped from North Atlantic's port facilities to domestic and international markets for use in various decarbonization technologies. The Domestic Woodcutting Consultation Plan (DWCP) has been prepared by North Atlantic for the Project.

1.1 Legal

This document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. As part of a Registration under the **Environmental Protection Act** and Environmental Assessment Regulations, North Atlantic is committed to implementing the actions described herein.

1.2 Purpose

This DWCP has been developed to describe the planned consultation methods and activities with domestic wood harvesters and other related stakeholders in the Project Area (PA) over the lifetime of the Project. In order to identify and address any concerns with the Project and develop appropriate mitigation measures.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the DWCP are to ensure that the appropriate stakeholders are identified and engaged in a meaningful manner, allowing for an opportunity for any concerns related to the Project and domestic wood harvesting in the PA to be acknowledged and addressed. These objectives include the timely sharing of information regarding Project wood harvesting requirements; early identification of active wood harvesters in the PA; development of mitigation measures in consultation with stakeholders; and ensuring equitable distribution of and access to wood for harvesters.

1.4 Site Description

The PA and Local Assessment Area (LAA) considered in this DWCP are described in Section 2.1 of the Registration.

2. Existing Conditions

In NL, the **Forestry Act** governs management, harvesting and protection of forests and forestry resources. Each of the 24 forest management districts (FMDs) in the province prepares a five-year operating plan through a consensus-based multi-stakeholder process. Each Plan renewal is subject to the Registration process. The PA lies within FMDs 1 and 2; however, the footprint does not intersect any commercial harvesting areas.

FMD 2 covers the Bonavista Peninsula and FMD 1 includes the Avalon Peninsula and Isthmus. Commercial forestry does not currently play an important role in the economy of eastern Newfoundland. As approximately half of the population of the province lives on the Avalon Peninsula, loss of productive forest land to competing land use (e.g., cabins, housing, industry, agriculture) is the main constraint to forestry in FMD 1 (NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (NL FFA): NL FFA 2022a; NL FFA 2022b).

In NL, domestic wood harvesting provides fuel for heating homes and cabins. Domestic cutting requires a Crown Domestic Cutting Permit through the Cutting of Timber Regulations under the **Forestry Act**. Each permit specifies volume, species, location and conditions for harvesting. Cutting is limited to designated areas within each FMD. Most domestic cutting occurs in Fall and Winter using conventional vehicles with all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and / or snowmobiles used to access areas without roads.

No commercial timber harvesting or silviculture areas are present in or near the PA (NLFFA, 2022a; NL FFA, 2022b). However, in and near Sunnyside, the PA intersects two FMD 2 domestic harvest blocks: Deer Harbour and Sunnyside (Figure T-2.0-1). In the 2022 to 2026 FMD 2 Operating Plan, each domestic permit has an allocation of 16 m³ (NL FFA, 2022b). Deer Harbour block has five permits allocated, with an estimated five-year yield of 400 m³ of softwood. Sunnyside has 59 permits, with an estimated five-year yield of 4,720 m³ of softwood (NL FFA, 2022b).





	FIGURE TITLE: Domestic Wood Harvesting in the Project Area	NOTES: Domestic Harvest Blocks sourced from Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture GeoHub (NL Government).	PREPARED BY: C. Burke	DATE: 09/06/2025
	PROJECT TITLE: North Atlantic Wind to Hydrogen Project		REVIEWED BY: C. Bursey 09/06/2025	
			APPROVED BY: C. Collins 09/06/2025	
			CRS: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 22N	
				
SEM MAP ID: 016-015-GIS-600-Rev0				

Figure T-2.0-1 Domestic Wood Cutting Zones in the PA.

3. Issues and Approaches to Resolution

3.1 Environmental Effects Overview

The Project examined the commercial and subsistence woodcutting in the Land and Resource Use Section and Baseline Study (see Section 3.1.4, and Appendix R) of the Registration and assessed the Environmental Effects of Project activities and components during each phase of the Project to the Key Indicator (KI) land and resources use which includes domestic woodcutting (see Section 4.2.4 of the Registration). These effects are anticipated to range from negligible to moderate in magnitude.

While there are potential interactions between the Project and harvesting land uses, due to the temporal nature of the effects and that these land uses do not represent high activity zones, it is anticipated that the effects will be minimal.

3.1.1 Site Preparation and Construction

Project site clearing may result in the alteration of recreational and/or subsistence land use due to changes in resource accessibility and availability. Site preparation and construction activities may temporarily reduce access to, or quality of, recreational use (i.e., noise, dust, visual).

3.1.2 Operation and Maintenance

Project infrastructure will continue to reduce the availability of quality land available to domestic wood harvesting due to vegetation management requirements within the Project infrastructure right of ways. This may result in the alteration of recreational and/or subsistence land use along Project transmission lines and roadways due to changes in resource accessibility and availability.

3.1.3 Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

Project clearing for infrastructure removal may result in the alteration of recreational and/or subsistence land use along the Project Interconnect Line due to changes in resource accessibility and availability. Disturbed areas will be restored and rehabilitated, to the extent necessary, to restore full subsistence land resource use.

3.2 Opportunities

The Project recognizes the importance of domestic woodcutting and will explore opportunities to support and enhance community access:

- **Improved Access to Harvest Areas:** Project planning will consider opportunities to maintain or improve access to domestic cutting areas, particularly where infrastructure development overlaps with traditional harvest routes.
- **Preferential Access to Harvested Timber:** Subject to safety and operational constraints, the Project will prioritize making cleared timber available to local residents, particularly in known domestic cutting areas. This will be done in consultation with the NL FFA and local stakeholders.
- **Collaborative Planning and Communication:** The Project will maintain ongoing communication with local wood harvesters and the surrounding community. Stakeholders in affected areas will be consulted regularly to identify concerns, minimize disruption, and optimize access to resources.

3.3 Mitigation Measures and Limitations

Mitigation measures for land and resource use, including domestic woodcutting, are outlined in Section 4.2.4 of the Registration. Key measures relevant to domestic wood harvesting are summarized below:

- The Project will prioritize micro-siting along existing linear corridors (e.g., transmission lines, roads) where practicable, in order to reduce vegetation removal and minimize impacts on domestic woodcutting areas.
- The Project will consult with NL FFA prior to the Construction Phase to identify wood harvest permit holders and explore options for distributing cleared wood to the local community, particularly in domestic cutting zones.
- The Project will maintain ongoing communication with local wood harvesters and the surrounding community through consultation with stakeholders in affected areas, aiming to address concerns and avoid or reduce potential negative effects.

Despite these efforts, certain limitations may apply:

- **Safety and Regulatory Constraints:** Public access to active construction sites or protected areas may be restricted for safety and regulatory reasons.
- **Availability of Timber:** The volume, quality, and type of timber available for community use will vary depending on the nature of site clearing activities and Project requirements.

- Operational and Logistical Constraints: The Project may face limitations related to transporting, processing, or storing timber for community use, due to cost, liability, or logistical challenges.

The Project is committed to working collaboratively with the community and relevant authorities to minimize these limitations and adapt management practices based on ongoing feedback.

4. Consultation Strategy

To ensure stakeholders have a clear understanding of the Project scope, the Project will follow the consultation process outlined in the Public Participation Plan (Appendix P) and as described in the following sections. Transparency will be maintained throughout, with regular updates provided to stakeholders. As the Project further evaluates the potential loss of areas available for woodcutting, affected stakeholders will be engaged to review proposed mitigation measures. Any questions raised by stakeholders at any stage will be addressed in a timely and thorough manner.

4.1 Stakeholder Engagement

The Project will collaborate with NL FFA to compile and maintain a list of active wood harvesters affected by the PA. This list will be required to be updated annually, following the annual expiry and issuance of commercial and subsistence woodcutting permits. This list will be used by the Project for several situations including but not limited to:

- Scheduling meetings with wood harvesters and NL FFA as needed to discuss updates and address concerns; and
- Host public information sessions to present maps and provide details about upcoming Project related woodcutting activities.

The community liaison committee will be informed of the Project woodcutting requirements and asked to share this information with known wood harvesters. They will also be responsible for conveying any community questions or concerns to the Project for response.

4.2 Information Distribution

Information regarding Project woodcutting activities and other related information (i.e., construction of access, use of access for wide loads, buffer zones around defined construction and operation activities) will be distributed to woodcutting permit holders and interested stakeholders via email. This will be an optional email list, in which stakeholders may request to be added to the list.

To ensure maximum information availability to all stakeholders regarding upcoming Project activities that have the potential to affect domestic wood harvesting, Public Service Announcements (PSAs) will be used. PSAs will include information regarding woodcutting activities such as timing and Project contact information, maps of upcoming woodcutting activities, and other relevant notifications and/or advisories. PSAs will be distributed through the following methods:

- Media;
- Social Media;
- Local Websites (including the Project Websites);
- Local Communities (including Sunnyside, Arnolds Cove, Goobies, Come By Chance); and
- Project Newsletter.

5. References

Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (NLFFA). (2022a). Zone 1 forest management plan: 2022-2026. <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/Zone-1-Forest-Management-Plan-2022-26.pdf>

Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (NLFFA). (2022b). Zone 2 forest management plan. <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/2161-Forestry-Plan-Main-Text-for-Zone-2.pdf>