

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: June 4, 2025

Subject: Referral 7410367 – Windpower Investigative Licence

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

The District has received a referral from the Province of BC with respect to a licence application to evaluate the future development of a wind energy project near Mackenzie. Copies of the investigative plan and mapping have been attached for further information.

DETAILS:

Proponent: Findlay Wind (0887581 BC Ltd.)

Authorization Type: Licence of Occupation - Investigative Licence

Purpose/Intended Use/background context: Evaluate the potential for the future development of a wind energy project.

BCGS Mapsheet: 93O.016

Location or Project Name: East of Mackenzie

Area (ha): 874.65

EXCERPT FROM INVESTIGATIVE PLAN:

This Investigation Plan supports the application for an Investigative Licence for wind power, located near the community of Mackenzie, British Columbia. The project has been named Findlay Wind. The Investigative Licence will enable the investigation of the wind resource within the Licence area to evaluate the potential for the future development of a wind energy project at this location. The project is expected to have a capacity of approximately 140 MW, comprising 20 turbines, each with a rated capacity of 7.0 MW.

The application area's centroid is approximately 7 km east-south-east of Mackenzie, within the Fraser-Fort George Regional District, at coordinates 55.300622°, -122.958090°. The licence area comprises one polygon totaling 875 hectares. While the final project will occupy a smaller

footprint, this area allows flexibility for design optimization. The investigation will assess wind resources, site access, proximity to dwellings, terrain constructability, transmission capacity, engineering considerations, and environmental and wildlife constraints.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff have provided this report for information as they have requested clarification from the Province about the proposed project which they would like to share with Council. In particular, more information on the proposed access, the consultation/referral process if they choose to proceed with the proposed wind energy project, and considerations with respect to the overlap with the Mackenzie Nordiques Cross-Country Ski Club's Licence of Occupation.

The District's response to the referral is due to the Province by June 27, 2025. Staff will bring back any further information and answers to any questions Council may have that we can to the June 23, 2025 Regular Council Meeting for final decision.

COUNCILS RECOMMENDATION:

By June 27, 2025, Council is being asked by the Province to choose one of the following options for response:

1. The District of Mackenzie's interests are unaffected by the application.
2. The District of Mackenzie has no objection to approval of the application.
3. The District of Mackenzie has no objection to approval of application subject to specified conditions.
4. The District of Mackenzie recommends refusal of this application due to specified reason

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Emily Kaehn, Director of Corporate Services

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer