

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: June 18, 2025

Subject: Referral 7410367 – Windpower Investigative Licence – Follow-up

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council choose which option they choose for their reponse to Referral 7410367.

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.

FOLLOW-UP:

Staff has received the following response from the applicant to the questions from the last Regular Meeting:

"At this stage, the proposed project area remains conceptual, and we have not yet identified a specific access route. A site visit will be required to better understand potential access options, particularly for deploying a non-invasive, ground-mounted LiDAR wind monitoring device. We're planning a site visit sometime this summer and would be happy to notify the District once it's scheduled.

Regarding ski trails: we will not use or disturb any trails. We've reviewed the Mackenzie Nordiques' trail map and will ensure we remain mindful of their network in our planning.

On the question of access via Cemetery Road off Highway 39: access has not yet been finalized, but Cemetery Road could be considered if there are no objections. However, it appears more likely that we'll access the area via existing logging roads departing Highway 39 farther to the east. For clarification, is Cemetery Road the same as the Parsnip East Forest Development Road?

In terms of traffic, we do not anticipate much vehicle movement during the investigative phase - primarily a few visits related to site assessment and equipment setup.

Regarding the panhandle-shaped portion of the application: this area is intended as a placeholder for a potential future transmission right-of-way and is not related to project access. That route is flexible and could be adjusted to avoid areas of concern - including ski trails - should the project progress.

If the District has any preferences regarding which roads should or should not be used during the investigative phase, we'd welcome that input."

MACKENZIE NORDIQUES

Attached is an email excerpt from Elliot Wiechula of the Mackenzie Nordiques Cross-Country Ski Club sharing their views and concerns with the proposed application for Council to consider.

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