

SECTION 2.0
**THE ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT REPORT**



**GOLDBORO
LNG**

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2.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) REPORT

2.1 Background and Planning Process

The Nova Scotia Department of Environment (NSE) has determined that the Project is a Class II undertaking pursuant to the Nova Scotia Environmental Assessment Regulations requiring approval under Part IV of the *Nova Scotia Environment Act* (NSEA) (see Section 4.1). Class II projects require the proponent to submit an EA Registration Report (Project Description). Pieridae submitted the Registration Report for the Goldboro LNG to NSE on the 8th of February, 2013.

On the basis of the Registration Report NSE develops a Terms of Reference (TOR) document which specifies the requirements for the EA Report. NSE issued a draft TOR for the Goldboro LNG Project on the 27th of February, 2013. Upon release, the public had 30 days to review and comment on the draft TOR. Following the review period, NSE incorporated comments and issued the final TOR on the 7th of May, 2013 (Appendix A). Details on the consultation process and comments and concerns raised are discussed in Section 13.0.

Pieridae prepared this EA Report on the basis of the final TOR. Appendix A (“Terms of Reference and Concordance Table”) identifies the various requirements established by the TOR and communicates in which sections of this EA Report they have been addressed.

In accordance with the Nova Scotia Environmental Assessment Regulations, the EA planning process requires that the proponent submits the EA Report to NSE. Upon review for completeness and conformance with the TOR, NSE provides the EA Report to an EA Review Board appointed by the Ministry. The Board makes the Report available for public review and comment. It also decides whether or not to hold a public hearing to publicly review and discuss the Project proposal. The EA Board will then make recommendations to the Ministry on the approval of the Project and possibly conditions for such an approval. The ultimate decision on the Project approval rests with the Minister of the Environment.

2.2 Purpose of the EA Report

This EA Report has been generated to provide the information required for Project approval pursuant to the NSEA, the Nova Scotia Environmental Assessment Regulations, and, most specifically, the TOR for the EA of the Goldboro LNG Project (NSE, 2013a). As such the EA Report provides:

- a description of the proposed undertaking;
- the reason for the undertaking;
- other methods of carrying out the undertaking;
- a description of alternatives to the undertaking;
- a description of the environment that might reasonably be affected by the undertaking;
- the environmental effects of the undertaking, including any effects on Species at Risk (SAR), Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC) and their habitats;
- an evaluation of advantages and disadvantages to the environment of the undertaking;

- measures that may be taken to prevent, mitigate or remedy negative environmental effects and maximize the positive environmental effects on the environment;
- a discussion of adverse effects or significant environmental effects which cannot or will not be avoided or mitigated through the application of environmental control technology;
- a program to monitor environmental effects produced by the undertaking during its construction, operation and abandonment phases; and
- a program of public information to explain the undertaking.

2.3 Report Organization

The EA Report is organized to reflect provincial regulatory EA requirements and the specific requirements formulated in the TOR for the Goldboro LNG (Appendix A). The report includes the following:

- Executive Summary;
- Section 1 – introduction to the Project and the Proponent;
- Section 2 – outline of the EA Report, its purpose, and organization;
- Section 3 – description of the proposed undertaking;
- Section 4 – outline of the relevant regulatory framework, policies and guidelines;
- Section 5 – discussion of the need for and purpose of the Project;
- Section 6 – description of alternatives to the undertaking;
- Section 7 – discussion of other methods of carrying out the undertaking;
- Section 8 – description of the approach and methodology applied in the EA;
- Section 9 – description of the existing environment;
- Section 10 – assessment of the environmental effects, including their significance;
- Section 11 – evaluation of advantages and disadvantages of the undertaking;
- Section 12 – outline of the Proponents commitments to environmental monitoring;
- Section 13 – description of the Project's consultation and engagement programs;
- Section 14 – summary of the assessment and conclusions of the EA Report; and
- Section 15 – a list of references used in the report.

The EA Report also includes a series of appendices which provide supporting material for various sections of the report. This includes field survey data and documentation of the consultation activities and information material disseminated during the EA process. The organization of the appendices corresponds with the sequence of the above sections. The appendices for this report are provided under separate cover.