



August 17, 2026

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Via email c/o mstone@bcnature.ca

Harold Sellers, President
BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists)
1620 Mt. Seymour Rd.
North Vancouver, BC V7G 2R9

Dear Harold Sellers:

Thank you for your letter on June 16, 2026, regarding wind turbines and migratory birds in the Southern Interior. I recognize your concerns regarding the disapplication of environmental assessment requirements for land-based wind projects and the impacts projects may have on migratory birds, such as the sandhill cranes.

British Columbia is facing an urgent and unprecedented need to deliver clean, affordable, and reliable electricity to meet growing demand, ensure dependable power for rural and remote communities, and support industry electrification, while advancing the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Since June 2025, the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (the Ministry) and the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) have engaged with First Nations, wildlife organizations, renewable energy proponents, and local communities on the regulatory and operational frameworks for renewable energy projects.

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The Province heard feedback about impacts on wind turbines to wildlife, particularly bird and bat populations, and created the [*Renewable Energy Projects \(Streamlined Permitting\) Regulation*](#), which applies new environmental and protection management regulations to replace the *Environmental Assessment Act*. This regulation requires wind proponents to monitor and maintain records of bird and bat mortalities and sets objectives for the BCER to minimize any physical disturbances to birds, bats, and their habitats. The regulation also requires all high-output wind and solar projects in BC, those over five megawatts, to hold a BCER permit under the *Energy Resource Activities Act*.

The BCER has also established policy and regulations to protect bird and bat populations. The BCER framework provides environmental oversight that extends from project planning through construction, operation, and restoration. The BCER's [*Renewable Energy Projects Regulation*](#) came into force in March 2026 and supports the full lifecycle regulatory oversight for high-output wind and solar projects. The following provisions specifically support the protection of wildlife such as sandhill cranes:

- Permit applicants must submit an adverse impacts report, including an assessment of potential adverse effects on land, water, or wildlife over the life of the project. The assessment of adverse effects must include one year of bird and bat monitoring at the site completed prior to project application. Cumulative impacts must also be assessed as part of the report.
- Permit holders must have an environmental management program that identifies measures to be taken to address each adverse effect identified, including how the effectiveness of those measures will be monitored to support adaptive management across the project lifecycle.
- To further support robust oversight, permit holders must notify the BCER of:
 - The death or injury of a member of a species of mammal or bird that is listed in Part 1 or 2 of Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (Canada); or
 - The death or injury of a member of a species that is identified in the permit as locally significant species.

Detailed turbine locations are not typically finalized during the early stages of development. As proponents advance project planning and establish a project area, final turbine locations become available and must be provided to the BCER. The adverse impacts report mentioned above must consider all potential turbine locations, and the environmental management program must be continually maintained to reflect the actual project area and turbine locations.

The Ministry and the BCER are continuously assessing and reviewing our regulatory frameworks and would appreciate any feedback or advice. We recognize the valuable contribution that organizations such as BC Nature make to understanding wildlife populations, migratory pathways, and habitat use throughout BC.

Should you have any feedback on the regulatory framework or guidance, please contact the BCER at info@rep-spa.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Dix', is positioned above the printed name.

Adrian Dix
Minister