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# Wind Power Production and Ramp Forecasting Research Update

*ESIG 2019 Meteorology & Market Design for Grid Services Workshop*  
*June 5, 2019*

Ryan Kilpatrick, M.E.Sc., P.Eng.

**CanmetENERGY**

*Leadership in ecoInnovation*



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# Presentation Outline

- Background / motivation
- Forecasting R&D goals
- Methodology & performance:
  1. Short-term wind power production forecast
  2. Ramping forecast
  3. Ice accumulation forecast
- Conclusions and next steps



# CanmetENERGY-Ottawa

*CanmetENERGY-Ottawa leads the development of energy S&T solutions for the environmental and economic benefit of Canadians*

## Personnel:

- 179 Term and Full-time
- Visiting Scientists
- Co-op Students

## Pilot-scale Facilities:

- To accelerate the advancement of clean energy technologies from the initial research stage through to demonstrations



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# CanmetENERGY laboratories across Canada

- Oil sands & heavy oil

Devon



- Minerals and metals

Hamilton



- Buildings & Communities
- Clean Fossil Fuels
- Industrial Processes
- Renewables (wind, marine, solar thermal, bioenergy)
- Transportation

Ottawa



- Buildings
- Industrial process integration
- Smart grids
- Solar PV
- RETScreen International

Varennes



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# Wind Energy R&D at CanmetENERGY-Ottawa

Current areas of engagement:

- Grid integration of utility-scale wind and solar
- Wind power forecasting
- Renewable energy analysis for remote communities
- Offshore wind resource and constraint assessment
- Advancing Canadian wind models



# Advanced Wind Forecasting: Motivation

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) produces national meteorological forecasts every 6 hours, but no existing mechanism to convert these into a format applicable to wind energy applications
- Responding to specific interest from utilities in:
  - Forecasting large wind speed ramps affecting system economics and stability
  - Predicting effect of icing on power production

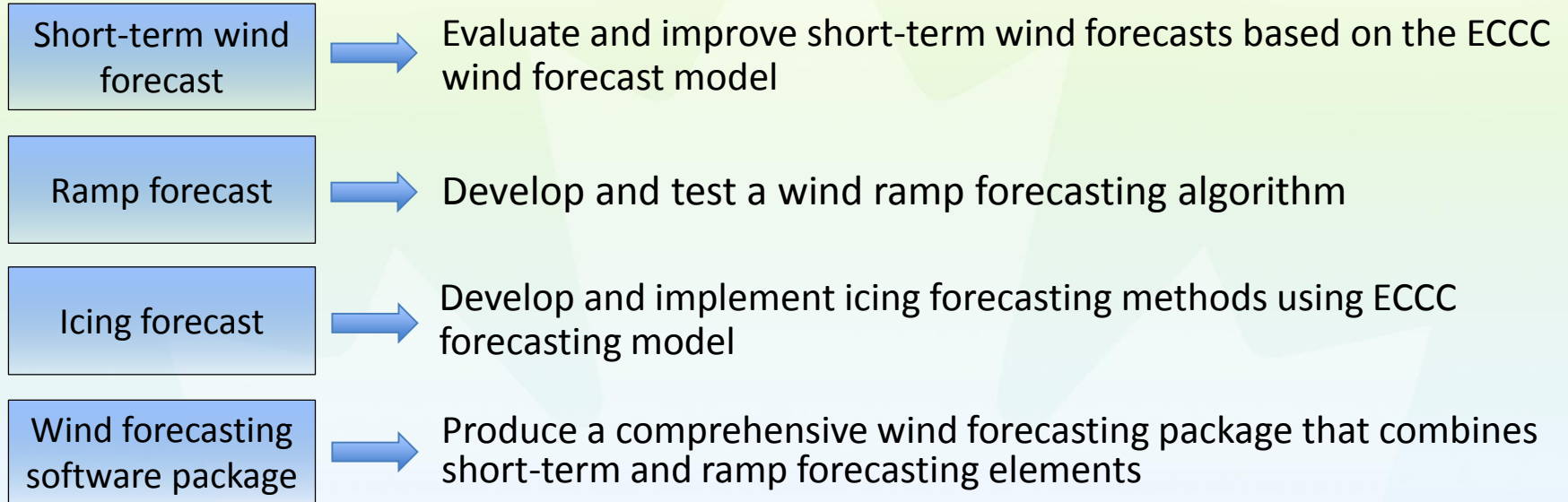
## Problem statement:

How can we better leverage existing ECCC meteorological forecasts to better assist utilities and system operators?





# Project goals



# Project team



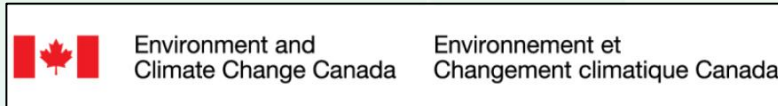
Project sponsor / national wind R&D co-ordinator



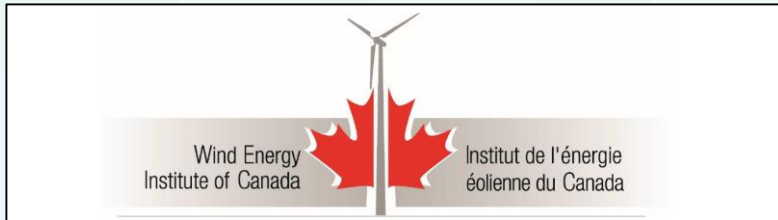
Short-term wind power and ramping forecast



Icing forecast and power loss model



Provision of meteorological forecasts

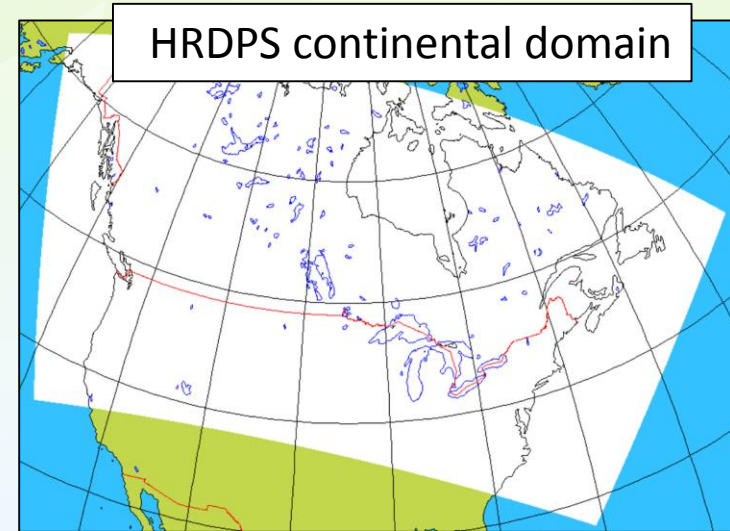


Battery storage coupling and forecast validation



# ECCC Wind Speed Forecasts

- Forecast data obtained from the High Resolution Deterministic Prediction System (HRDPS), derived from one version of the Global Environmental Multiscale (GEM) model used to generate medium range weather forecasts
- Infrastructure investment of \$500M over 10 years
- Forecasts generated at 2.5 km horizontal grid spacing every six hours for 48-hr period at 1 hr resolution
- Project specifications:
  - Forecasts at 30 min. intervals for first 24 hours, 1 hour intervals for second 24 hours
  - Atmospheric parameters extracted from 0 to 300 m at 10 m intervals
  - 2.5km grid points interpolated to GPS coordinates at specific locations



Meteorological Service of Canada (MSC)  
Data Server: <http://dd.weather.gc.ca/>

# Wind Farm Telemetry Data

Seven wind farms selected to provide forecasting and telemetry data over 2-4 year period



Participant wind farms represent 4.5% of Canada's total installed wind energy capacity of 12,796 MW as of Aug. 2018

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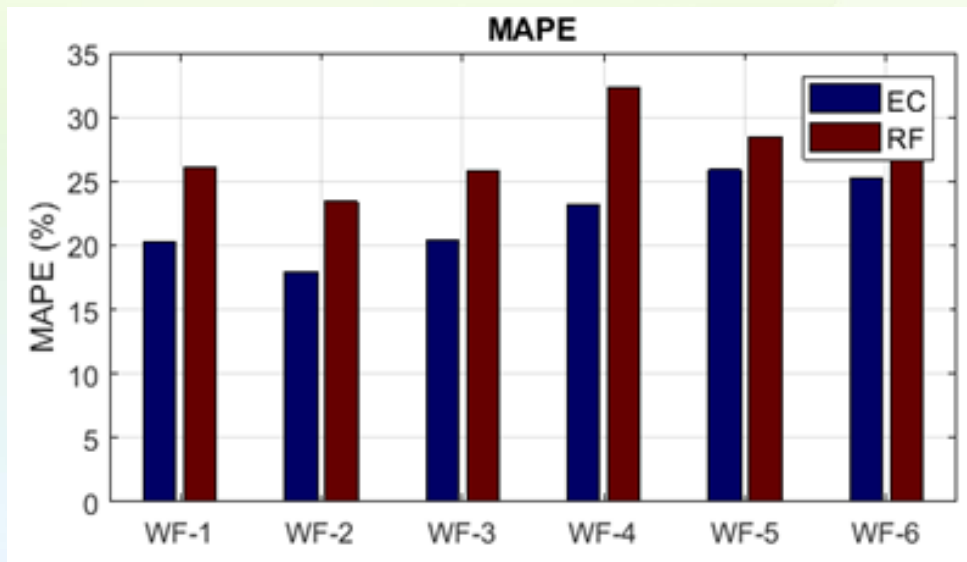
Parameters collected at 5-min. intervals:

- Wind speed, wind dir. and temp. at hub height
- Generated wind power
- Available capacity



# Assessment of ECCC Wind Forecasting Model

*ECCC wind speed forecasts compared to observational data and reference forecast (RF) over 32-month period (June 2015 to Feb. 2018)*



- ECCC wind speed forecast slightly improved over reference
- Some differences across time horizons, wind speed bins
- Both show wind speed error of 20-30% compared to telemetry data

Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) =  $\frac{100}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{|e_i|}{|y_i|}$  where  $e_i$  represents the forecast error at a discrete time  $i$

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# Power Curve Modelling

*Characterizing the relationship between wind speed and wind farm power production*

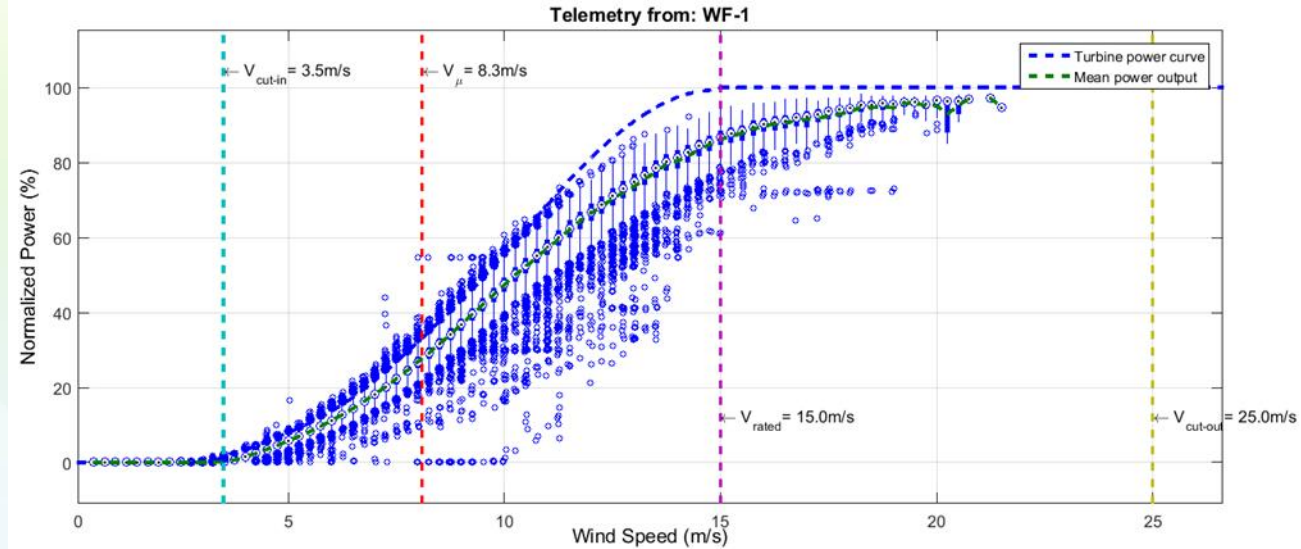
Four models investigated:

## Parametric models

- Polynomial curve fitting
- Cumulative distribution function (CDF)

## Machine learning models

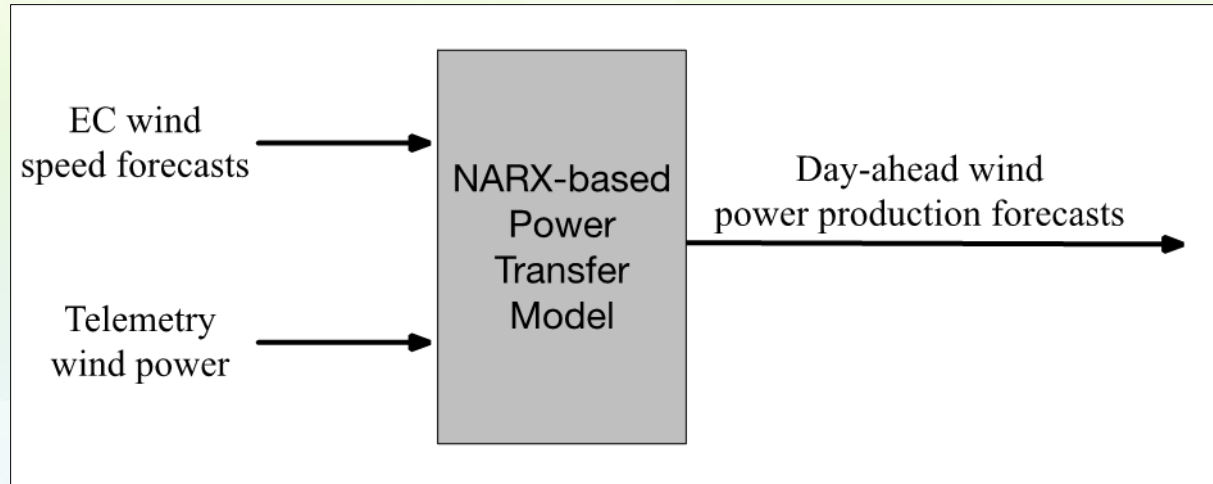
- Multiple layer perceptron (MLP)
- Non-linear auto-regressive exogenous (NARX) neural network



Comparison between manufacturer's power curve and power curve extracted from three years of telemetry data (aggregated over wind farm)

# Methodology: Day-ahead Forecast

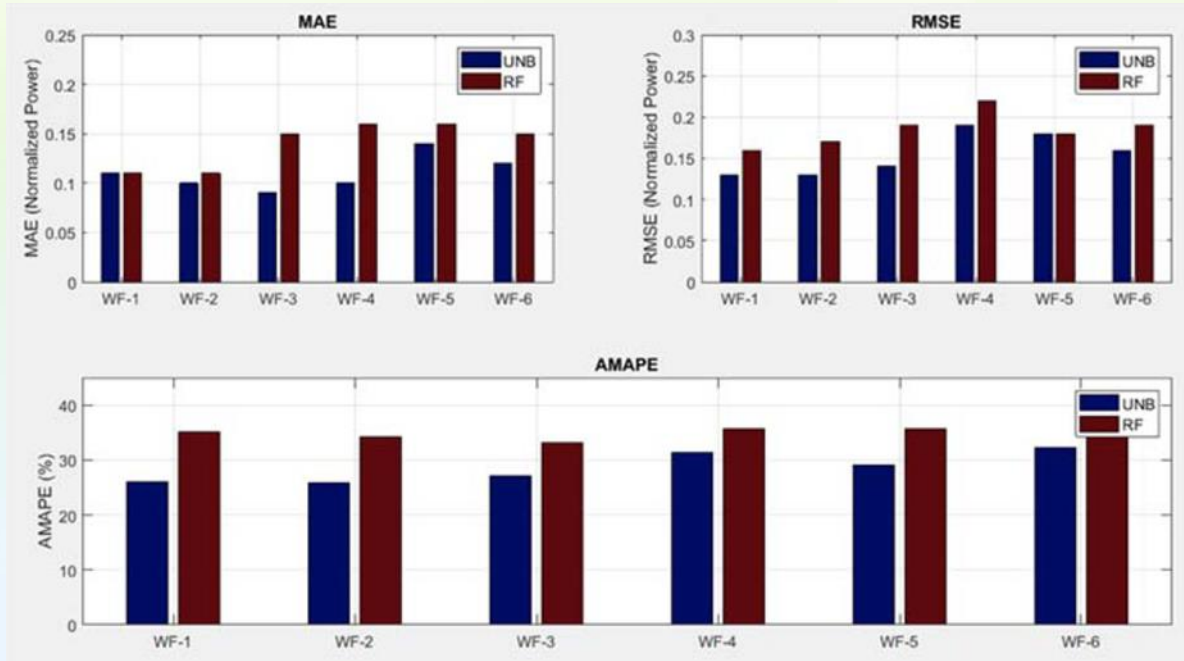
*NARX-based neural network model converts wind speed forecasts into wind power production*



NARX-based power curve modelling approach provided the lowest error values and narrowest error dispersion of the methods attempted

# Performance: Day-ahead Forecast

*Assessment of day-ahead wind power production forecast (Jan. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2018)*



Average error:

UNB: 28.65%

RF: 34.79%

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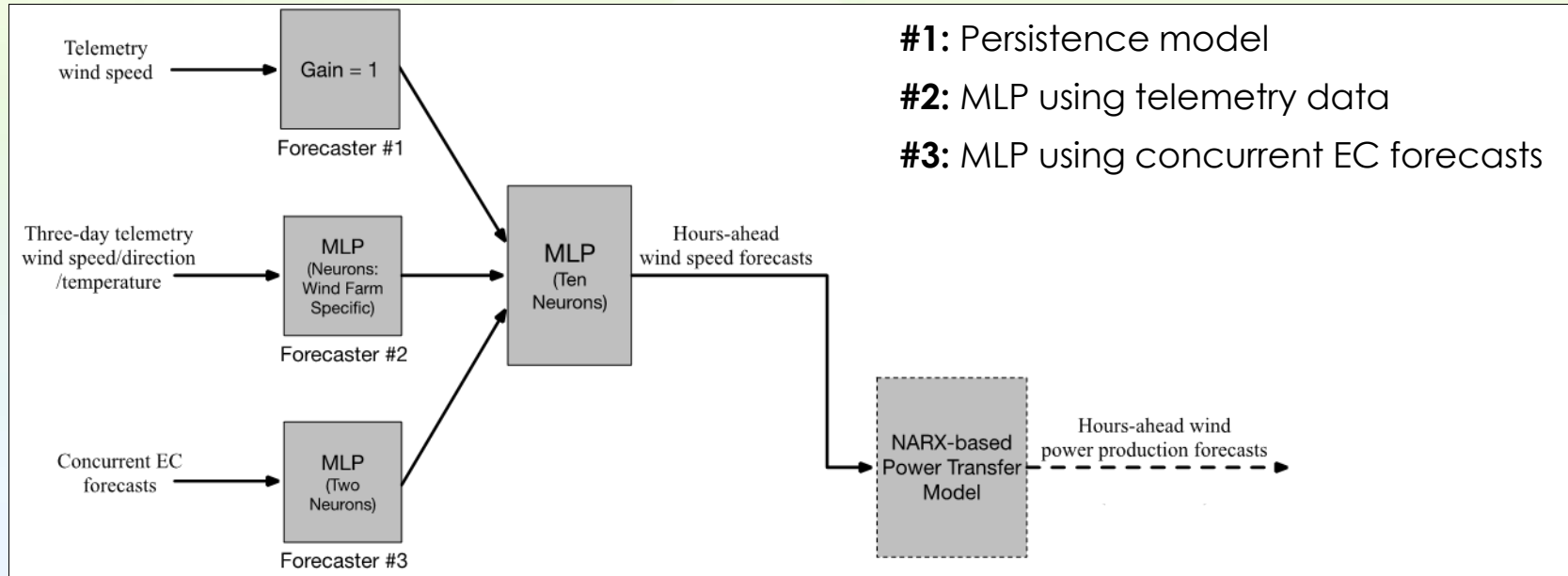
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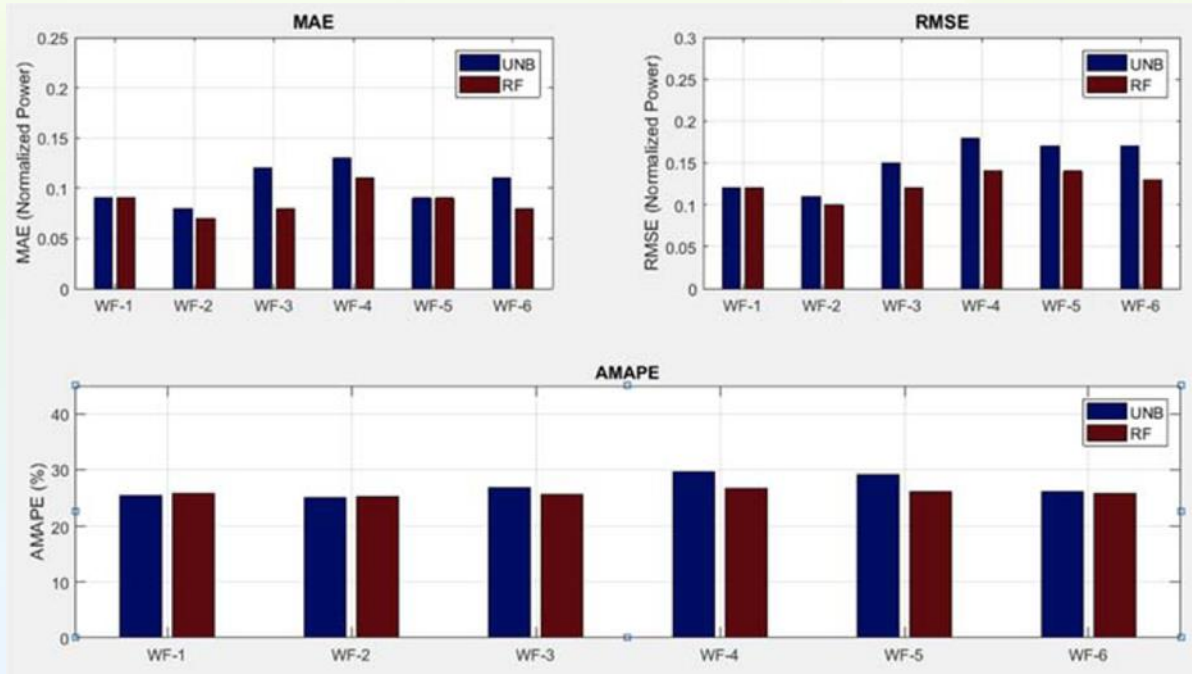
# Methodology: Hours-ahead Forecast

*Three independent forecasts combined into NARX-based power transfer model to provide hours-ahead wind power production forecasts (30 min. to 6.5 hrs at 5-min time steps)*



# Performance: Hours-ahead Forecast

Assessment of hours-ahead wind power production forecast (Jan. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2018)



Average error:

UNB: 26.96%

RF: 25.81%

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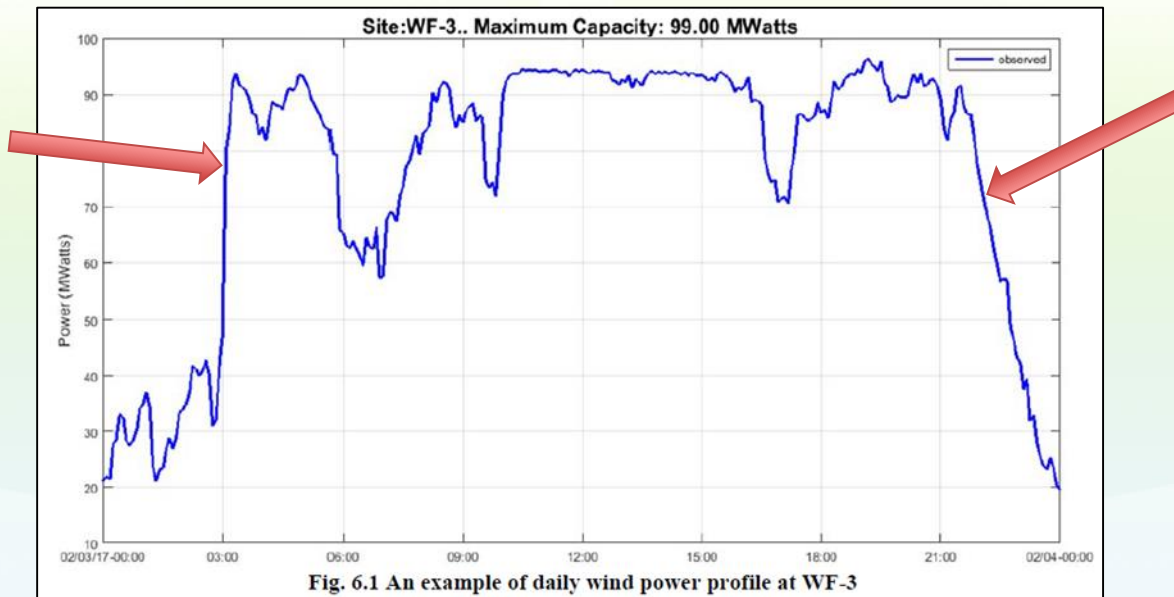


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# Wind Ramp Forecasting



Both up and down ramps require compensation from other sources of generation to maintain electricity supply/demand balance

# Ramp Definition

- No single definition of ramp event
- Commonly defined based on:
  - ramp magnitude only
  - ramp magnitude and duration
  - ramp rate of change
- Two methods of ramp identification tested:
  - DSI: Definition-Based Sign Indicator
  - SDA: Swinging Door Algorithm
- Ultimately UNB team produced a novel method of ramp detection based on similarity search method

In this work, a ramp is defined as a change in wind farm power capacity of greater or equal to 50% over a four hour period

$$|P(t + \Delta t) - P(t)| \geq \lambda \cdot P_{capacity}$$

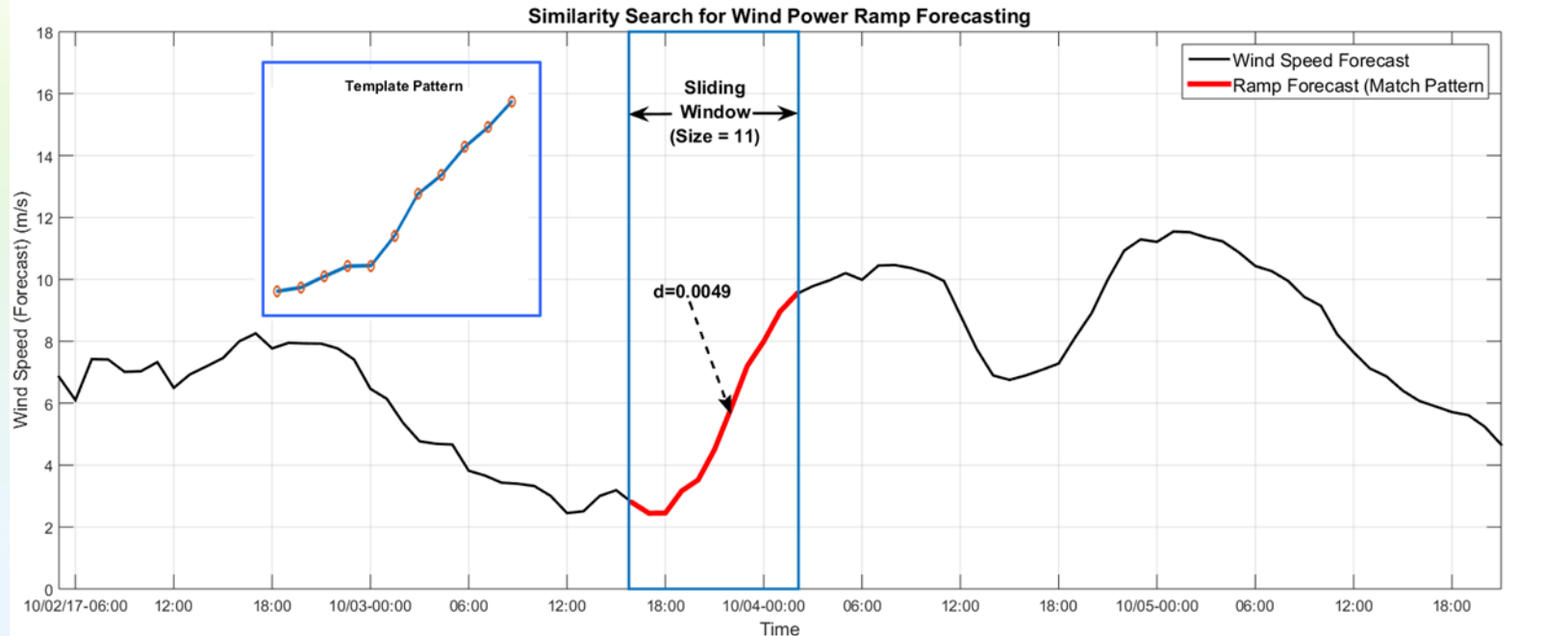
where  $\lambda = 50\%$  and  $\Delta t = 4$  (hour)

magnitude

duration

# Wind Power Ramp Forecasting

*Wind power ramp event forecasting algorithm developed from ECCC wind speed forecasts*



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# Ramp Forecasting Performance

Results Jan. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2018

Wind Farm	Ramp Event	TOL	ACC	Hit	Timing Effective	Mag. Error	False Alarm	Miss		
WF-1	101	45%	61.39%	62	40.00%	73	72.28%	11	82	28
WF-2	218	50%	69.72%	152	37.16%	175	80.28%	23	234	43
WF-3	403	60%	64.02%	258	40.82%	286	70.97%	28	346	117
WF-4	459	70%	65.58%	301	46.31%	360	78.43%	59	290	99
WF-5	437	60%	61.56%	269	39.27%	341	78.03%	72	344	96
WF-6	418	65%	68.90%	288	43.05%	316	75.60%	28	353	102

- Accuracy (ACC) is the percentage of actual ramp events successfully reported by the model
- An identification is deemed “Hit” if the ramp event identification test satisfies criteria for ramp amplitude of 80%-120% of actual *and* timing error within  $\pm 1$  hour

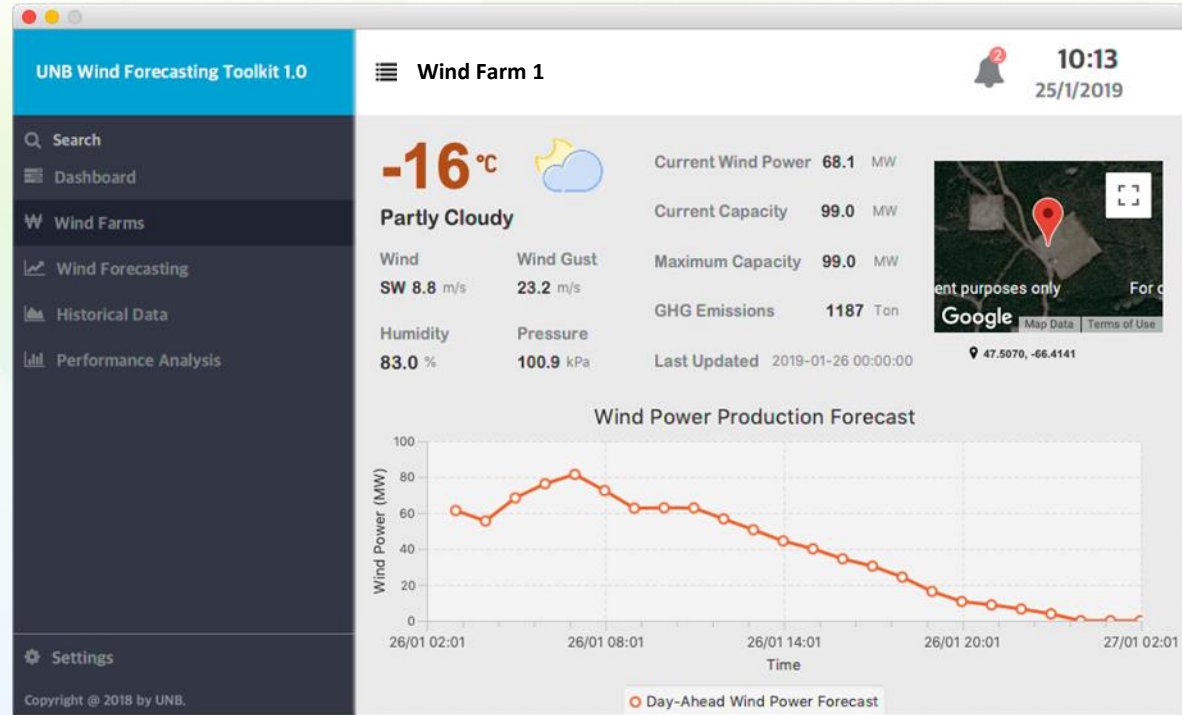




# Forecasting Package

## OVERVIEW

UNB wind forecast package provides wind forecasts including day-ahead and hours-ahead wind power production forecast and ramp event forecast



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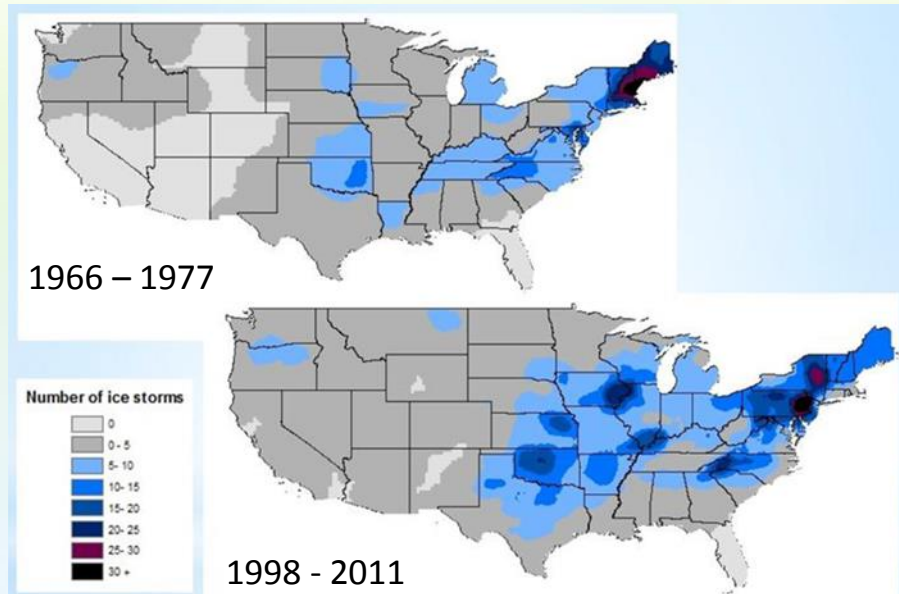
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# Forecasting Icing Events: Motivation

## Number of documented ice storms across U.S.



- Icing event frequency and location is changing
- Applications beyond wind energy: transmission, transportation etc.

Source: Kovacik, C., and K. Kloesel, 2014: Changes in Ice Storm Frequency Across the United States. Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program, 21 pp.

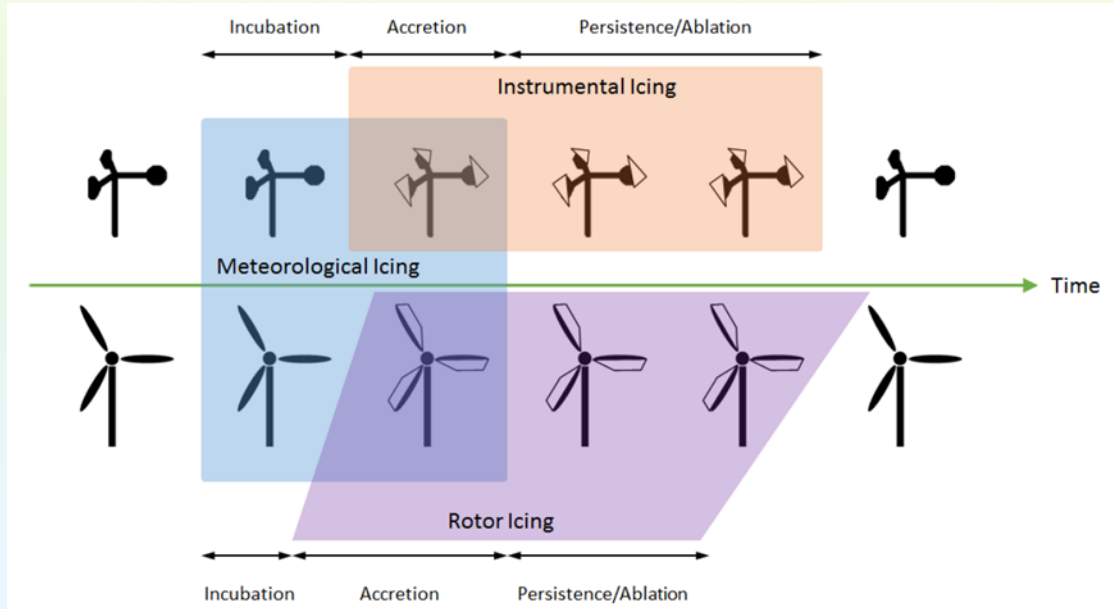
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# Ice Forecasting Model Development

*Icing events characterized by phase and location of occurrence*



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# Ice Forecasting Model Development

*Ice forecasting model developed by Nergica using input ECCC forecasts*

- Measurement & instrumentation
  - Wind speed, temperature
  - Icing detectors (Combitech, Goodrich)
  - Cameras on wind turbine nacelles
- Input ECCC forecasts
  - Operational weather forecast (48 hrs, updated every 6 hrs)
  - Adjusted to turbine location and altitude
  - Time resolution: 30 min.
- Validation over two winter periods
  - 2017-12-20 to 2018-04-30
  - 2018-11-27 to 2019-03-31



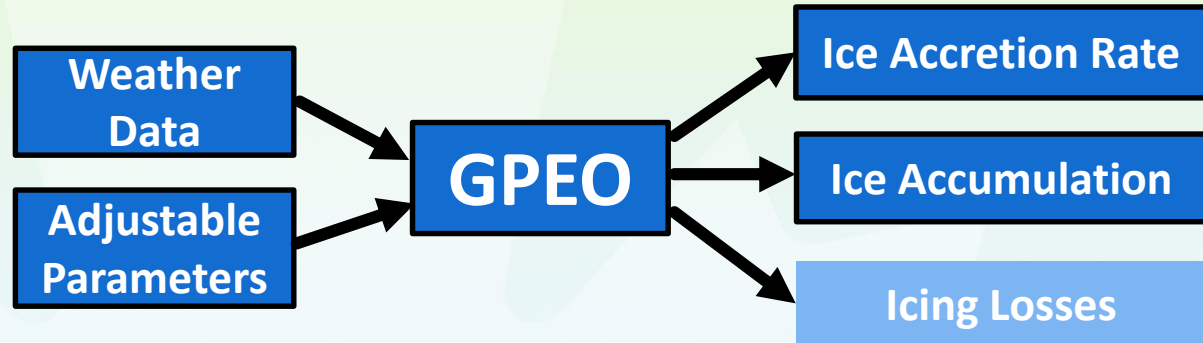
Research conducted at Nergica's test site (Gaspé, Québec)

# The Ice and Energy Loss Model (GPEO)

*GPEO model translates atmospheric conditions into operational icing forecast*

## Model elements

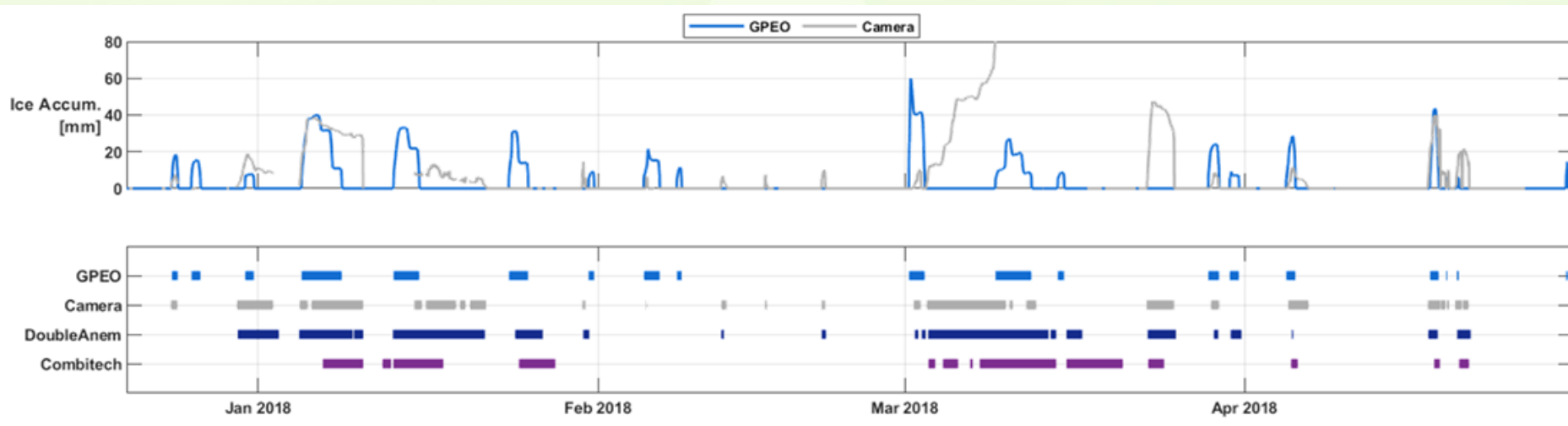
1. Ice accretion
  - Freezing rain, in-cloud icing, wet snow
2. Ice ablation
  - Simplified ice fall model
  - Ice melting
3. Total ice accumulation
4. Filtering
5. Ice losses
  - Transfer function





# GPEO Model Assessment

## Modeled ice accumulation and event length vs. instrumental observations



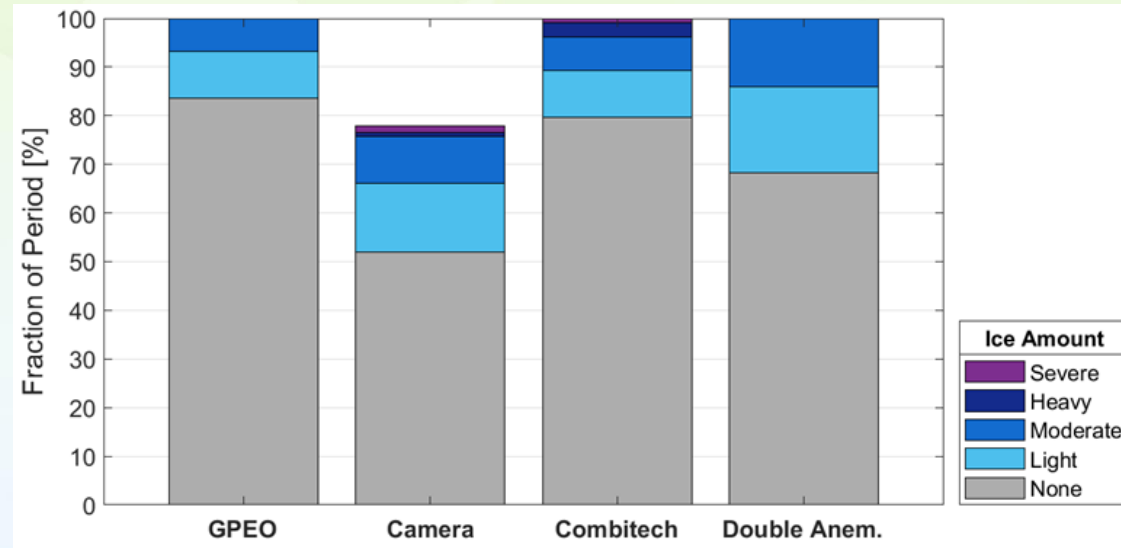
- Analysis shows some consensus on icing event detection but differences in event duration

# GPEO Model Assessment

## Overall insights:

- Good results on annual basis
- Accretion well modelled, when inputs are accurate
- Melting rate too high
- Next steps:
  - Further validation against observation data
  - Refinement of ice shedding and melting models
  - Predict wind turbine power loss

## Ice severity: Winter 2017-2018



# Conclusions and Next Steps

- Short-term and ramping wind power forecasting models developed by UNB, leveraging the ECCC wind speed forecasts as model inputs
- Comprehensive forecasting package developed that includes day-ahead and hours-ahead wind power production forecasting, ramp event forecasting and performance assessment for historical data
- Package currently being tested at Nergica and WEICan, with further testing in utility settings intended
- Ice forecasting model developed by Nergica, with power loss prediction component and further refinement and validation underway



# Acknowledgements

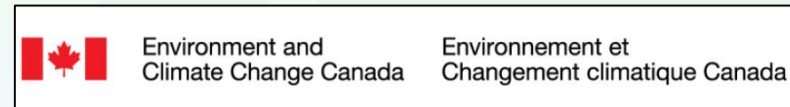
Liuchen Chang and Bo Cao, UNB



Marilys Clément and Nigel Swytink-Binnema, Nergica



Franco Petrucci and Simon-Phillippe Breton,  
Environment and Climate Change Canada



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# Thank you!

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# Appendix

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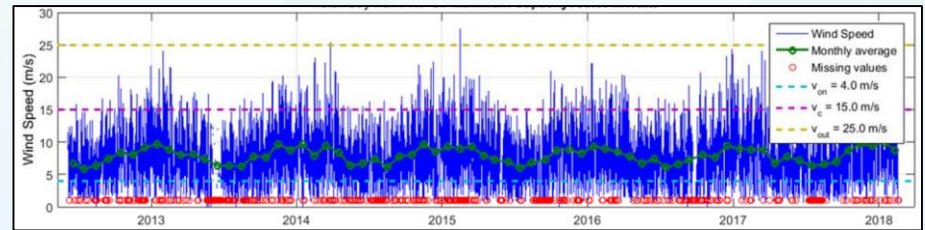
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# Wind Farm Telemetry Data

*Wind speed, direction and temperature at hub height at 5-minute intervals*

Weather Variable	Unit	Frequency
Wind Speed @ hub height	Meters per second (m/s)	Every 5 minutes
Wind direction @ hub height	Degrees (0° to 360°)	Every 5 minutes
Temperature @ hub height	Degrees (Celsius)	Every 5 minutes
Generated wind power	Megawatts (MW)	Every 5 minutes
Available capacity	Megawatts (MW)	Every 5 minutes
Number of turbines	Cardinal number	Once or upon change
Turbine types	Model identification	Once or upon change
Turbine rated power for each turbine	Megawatts (MW)	Once or upon change
Turbine cut-in, rated and cut-out speeds	Meters per second (m/s)	Once or upon change

Quality assessment procedure to  
exclude erroneous samples



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# Forecasting Model Assessment

## Global Statistical Metrics

$e_i$  represents the forecast error at a discrete time  $i$

$$\text{Bias} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (e_i)$$

$$\text{Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (e_i)^2}$$

$$\text{Mean Average Error (MAE)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |e_i|$$

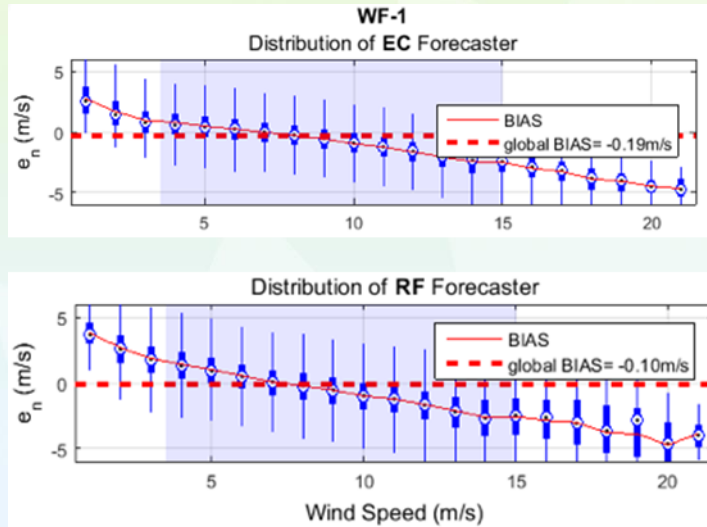
$$\text{Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE)} = \frac{100}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{|e_i|}{|y_i|}$$



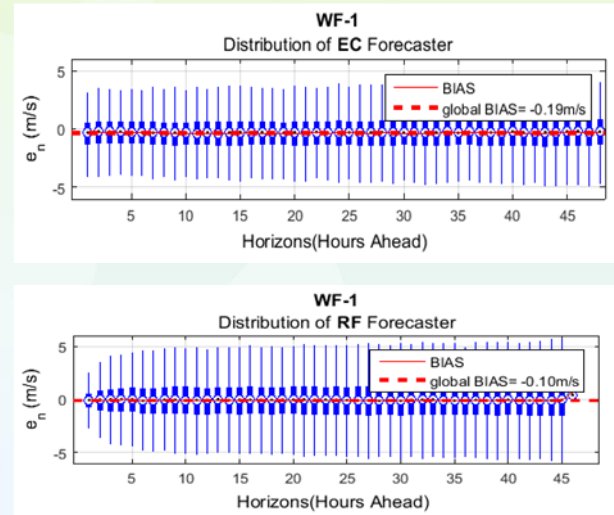
# Assessment of ECCC Wind Forecasting Model

*ECCC wind speed forecasts compared to observational data and reference forecast (RF) over 32-month period (June 2015 to Feb. 2018)*

Error distribution by wind speed

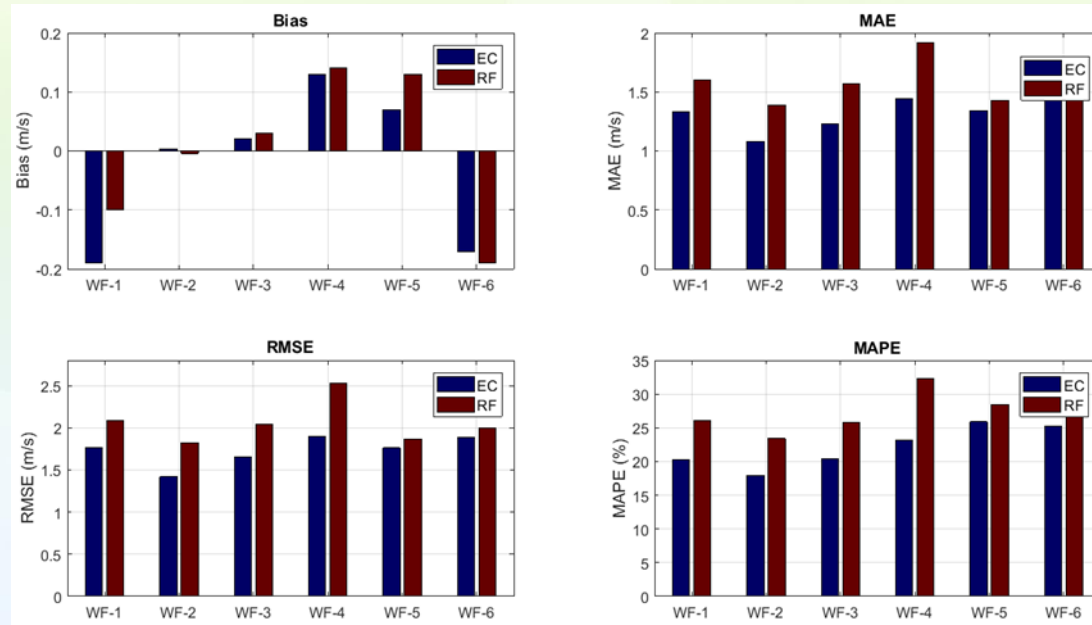


Error distribution by forecast horizon



# Assessment of ECCC Wind Forecasting Model

*ECCC wind speed forecasts compared to observational data and reference forecast (RF) over 32-month period (June 2015 to Feb. 2018)*



Both ECCC and RF wind speed forecasts show average error of 20-30% compared to telemetry data

# Reference Forecast

*Reference commercial forecast used for comparison & model development*

## Comparison between ECC and Reference forecasts

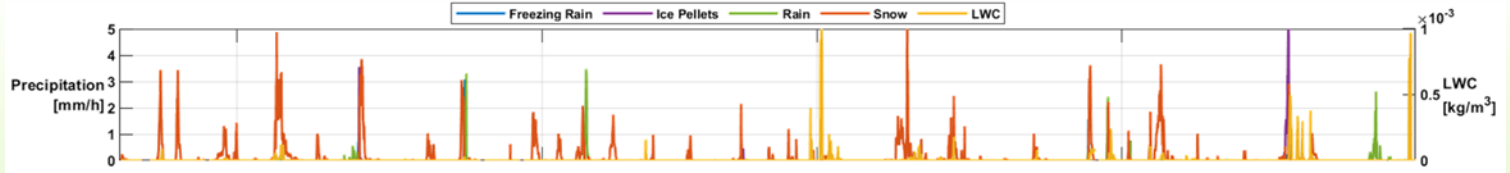
	EC forecasts	RF forecasts
<b>Look ahead time</b>	48 hours ahead	45 hours ahead
<b>Time resolution</b>	1 hour since 2014	15 minutes
<b>Delay</b>	6 hours ahead	Unknown
<b>Update hours</b>	4 times/day (00,06, 12,18)	5 times/day (05,11,15,17,23)
<b>Forecasts at wind farm locations</b>	No, only EC high resolution (2.5km) grid points. Interpolation needed	Yes
<b>Forecasts at hub heights</b>	No	Yes



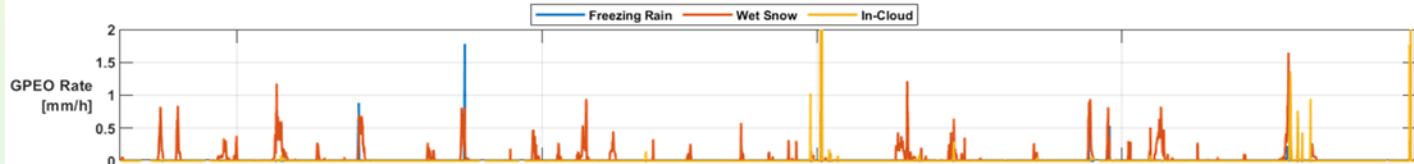


# GPEO Model Assessment

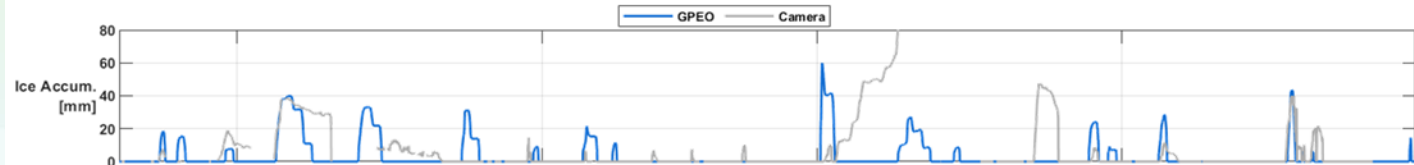
Precipitation rates from ECCC forecast



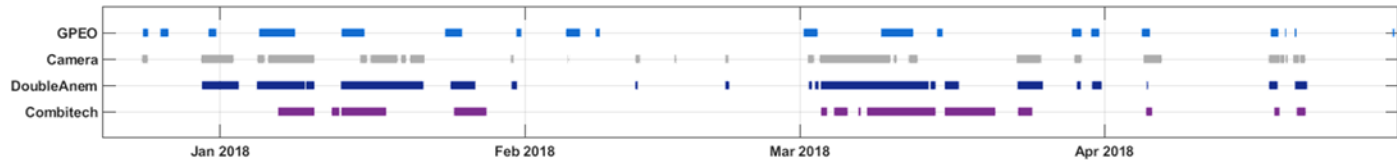
Modeled ice accretion rate (mm/h)



Modeled ice accumulation (mm)



Modeled predictions vs. observations



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