

A Guide to the Approval Process for Industrial Activities Under the *Environment Act* and Regulations

January 2007

Environment and Labour


NOVA SCOTIA

What is the Role of Department of Environment and Labour?

Protection of our environment and citizens by:

- Regulation

- Ensures compliance with *Environment Act* and Regulations

Environmental Monitoring & Compliance Division

- Processes applications
- Inspects and monitors approvals
- Conducts enforcement activities

How Do We Regulate?

Environment Act

framework that companies, individuals, and governments must follow in order to help manage and protect Nova Scotia's environment

Regulations

protect specific things in our environment, such as drinking water and air quality

Approvals

site specific document to regulate an activity

What is an Approval?

- Regulatory Document that is enforceable under the *Environment Act*
- Contains terms and conditions that the approval holder must follow to prevent adverse effects to the environment
- Ensures that an activity is environmentally acceptable, and/or the methods and materials used and wastes generated will not cause adverse environmental effects.

When Is An Approval Required?

Many activities must be approved in advance before they are allowed to proceed.

The Activities Designation Regulations specify what requires an Approval

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/envactiv.htm>

Examples may include

Altering a watercourse

Constructing a water treatment plant

Constructing/operating a pulp and paper plant

When Is An Approval Required?

Larger or more complex projects may first require an Environmental Assessment. These are listed in the Environmental Assessment Regulations

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/envassmt.htm>

How To Obtain An Approval?

Submit an application form and necessary information on the activity

Approval Application Information may include:

- Activity Details
- Environmental Protection Measures
- Public Consultation
- Rehabilitation
- Additional information can be requested from the applicant

How To Obtain An Approval?

Review of Application

- Assess potential environmental impacts
- Ensure the activity meets the *Environment Act*, Regulations and Guidelines
- Can request input from stakeholders and other agencies (ie: Medical Officer of Health)
- Minister can undertake additional studies

If the review determines the activity is environmentally acceptable, an Approval may be issued

Public Consultation

If public consultation is required by NSEL, approval applications must include a detailed summary of the consultation that took place

- Methods utilized (ie: public meetings)
- Groups/individuals engaged
- Feedback received
- How issues or concerns have been addressed

Public Consultation

Public consultation is directed to applicable stakeholders

- Local Community
- Other Government Agencies
- Interest Groups

What Happens After an Approval Has Been Issued?

- Inspections and audits by the Department
- Monitoring and reporting by the Approval Holder
- Compliance and enforcement actions by the Department
- Ability to appeal
 - A person can appeal a Departmental decision to issue or reject an approval

For Additional Information

For additional information on the approval process, please feel free to contact your local Department of Environment and Labour office

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/offices/emcoffices.asp>

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