



**Environment
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • www.novascotia.ca/nse

Our File number:
10700-40-54460
40100-30-273

MAR 29 2019

Bruce Chapman
General Manager
Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation
P. O. Box 549 Station Main,
New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E8

Dear Bruce Chapman:

**Re: Environmental Assessment – Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation
Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility Project, Pictou County, Nova Scotia**

The environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility Project (the Project) in Pictou County, Nova Scotia has been completed.

This letter is to advise that, pursuant to Section 13 (1)(c) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, I have determined that a review of the information indicates that to better understand the potential for adverse effects or significant environmental effects a focus report is required.

During the EA review, concerns were raised regarding the potential impacts of the Project on: fish and fish habitat, facility design, water resources, air quality, noise, flora and fauna, human health, archaeology, and Mi'kmaq land uses. These concerns were raised through public and Mi'kmaq submissions, as well as submissions by Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Health Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Nova Scotia Environment, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, Department of Lands and Forestry, Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and so on. A list of key information gaps is outlined in the Addendum to this letter below, with further details to follow in the Terms of Reference for the focus report. Please note that comments received from government departments, the Mi'kmaq and the public will be posted on our EA website.

The focus report shall examine potential impacts of the Project and include information on: the project description such as pipeline location; facility design, construction, operation and maintenance; water resources and sediment quality; air quality; fish and fish habitat; flora and fauna; human health; archaeology; Mi'kmaq land uses; and engagement with the public, Mi'kmaq and government. The EA Administrator will provide you with written Terms of Reference for the preparation of the focus report within 25 days. Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation will have up to one year to submit the required number of hard copies for distribution by the EA Branch, and an electronic copy of the focus report. The EA Branch will notify the public of the release of the focus report for review.

.../2

Bruce Chapman

Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Lynn Bowen, Director, Policy, Planning and Environmental Assessment, at (902) 424-2375 or via email at Lynn.Bowen@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,



Margaret Miller, MLA
Minister of Environment

Encl.

c: Lynn Bowen

ADDENDUM: The following is to inform the development of the Terms of Reference for the Focus Report, and is intended to summarize key deficiencies raised during the EA process

Project description

- Lacks characterization details of wastewater to inform potential contaminants of concern
- Alternative to the overland pipeline route needed given Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal does not permit the pipeline be placed in the shoulder of Highway 106
- Lacks marine geotechnical survey to understand the potential impacts of ice formation on the pipeline in the winter, and to confirm marine portion of the pipeline route

Facility design, construction, operation and maintenance

- Lacks information and data to confirm efficacy of treatment technology
- Lack effluent flow data to support the proposed peak treatment capacity of 85,000 m³ maximum flow of effluent per day
- Lacks information to assess size and design of spill basin
- Lacks details for pipeline leak detection and trench lining methodologies

Fish, plants, and animals

- Lacks baseline surveys for marine and freshwater fish and fish habitat
- Lacks baseline surveys for marine water quality and sediment quality
- Clarification and updates needed regarding the receiving water study for Caribou Harbour
- Lacks details of assessment and mitigation regarding potential impacts on fish and fish habitat
- Lacks baseline surveys for other flora and fauna such as plants and birds

Fresh water

- Lacks wetland baseline surveys along the pipeline route
- Lacks monitoring methodologies for sensitive areas at risk of pipeline leaks, such as Town of Pictou drinking water supply protection area, below water table, wetlands, and watercourse crossings, and others

Air quality

- Lacks full inventory of air contaminants
- Inadequate air dispersion modelling submitted

Human health

- Lacks adequate assessment on potential impacts on human health

Archaeology

- Lacks archaeological resource risk assessment for the marine environment

Mi'kmaq

- Lacks Mi'kmaq ecological knowledge study