NOVA SCOTIA CLASS I ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

NOVA SCOTIA

This checklist helps proponents to meet requirements outlined in the *Environment Act* and associated regulations. It lists the studies needed for a complete environmental assessment registration. It applies to all projects needing a Class I environmental assessment. Use the Notes section at the bottom to explain why a specific study may not apply to your project or is not completed yet. Visit our website for **sector-specific checklists** that may also apply to your project.

See also the ***2025 Proponent's Guide to Class I Environmental Assessment*** and contact our **Business Relationship Managers** or the **Environmental Assessment Branch** with any questions about the checklist, and for more information to support preparation for environmental assessment. Where there is a discrepancy between this list and the *Environment Act* and associated Regulations, the *Environment Act* and Regulations prevail.

COMPONENT	KEY INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN THE REGISTRATION DOCUMENT	COMPLETED	N/A
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	• Describe the proposed project and include the location, site access, nearest structures and residents, land ownership and Parcel Identification Numbers (PIDs), all associated infrastructure and proposed disturbance. • GIS Shape files for all project infrastructure and field work data		

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	KEY INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN THE REGISTRATION DOCUMENT	COMPLETED	N/A
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MI'KMAQ OF NOVA SCOTIA*	• Refer to Proponent's Guide to Mi'kmaq Engagement. • Explain how the Mi'kmaq have been engaged, the issues they raised, and how their input is included in project planning, mitigations or addressed in other ways. • Provide plans for ongoing engagement with the Mi'kmaq.		
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT*	• Provide a **map and plain language summary** of the project that can be posted on the government's website, including positive and negative environmental effects and mitigations.		
	• Refer to Proponent's Guide to Inclusive Engagement • Describe how the community was engaged, the issues raised, and how their input has been incorporated into project planning, mitigations, or addressed in other ways. • Outline any plans for ongoing engagement with the community. • Explain how equity and diversity were considered when planning engagement.		

* For privacy reasons, do not include personal information (e.g., names, addresses, or other identifying details) in the registration document.

VALUED COMPONENT	KEY INFORMATION / STUDIES TO INCLUDE IN THE REGISTRATION DOCUMENT	COMPLETED	N/A
AIR QUALITY	• Describe: the baseline/current air quality, the expected air emissions from project construction and operation; and potential impact on air quality.		
CLIMATE CHANGE	• Evaluate greenhouse gas emissions from the entire project, considering all phases and activities including both positive and negative effects.		
	• Explain how climate change might affect the project now and in the future.		
CONTINGENCY PLANNING/ RECLAMATION	• Explain approach to contingency planning, including emergency response, and release of substances. (More detailed contingency planning may be needed for large industrial projects)		
	• Describe how the site will be reclaimed.		
CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES	• Describe work done to assess cultural and heritage resources. • Include a summary of results and recommendations from the Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment. Do not describe any resources or their locations. See next item.		
	• Submit the Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment, conducted by a qualified professional, separately to your EA officer. Do not include it in the registration document. This keeps information about sensitive cultural resources private.[1]		
	• Assess Mi'kmaq heritage and cultural resources in the project area and conduct a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study, if needed.		
	• Explain contingency measures to be followed if any artifacts are discovered during construction, including notification of the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuagn Negotiation Office (KMKNO) Archaeology Research Division, Sipekne'katik First Nation, Millbrook First Nation and Membertou First Nation and the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.		

VALUED COMPONENT	KEY INFORMATION / STUDIES TO INCLUDE IN THE REGISTRATION DOCUMENT	COMPLETED	N/A
FISH AND FISH HABITAT	• Provide baseline information on fish and their habitats, including fish survey data and a description of habitat quality for each watercourse. • Describe potential effects on fish and their habitats, including impacts downstream.		
FLORA AND FAUNA	• Provide baseline field data collected by qualified professionals that describes existing habitat types, plants, animals and lichen. Do not include specific locations of species at risk in the Registration Document. Send this information separately to your EA Officer to protect sensitive species.		
	• Present field data collected, including methods, timing, transects and surveyor qualifications. Describe the expected changes to plants, animals, lichen, and habitats due to project construction and operation.		
	• Provide data from the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Center for the project area and delineate key habitats if present.		
	• Provide plans to avoid endangered and threatened species. • Describe how baseline information will be used to inform an adaptive Wildlife Management Plan.[2]		
GEOLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND SOILS	• Describe and map the geological setting and hazards.		
	• Describe soil conditions and potential changes to soil quality.		
GROUNDWATER	• Provide available baseline/background information on ground-water quantity and quality, including hydrogeological conditions. Include maps of all groundwater wells within 2 km and details on their current use. Identify if the project will involve activities below the water table.		
	• Describe planned and potential changes to groundwater quantity and quality for all project stages. Include details on groundwater dewatering, changes in flow direction, potential drawdown effects, leaching or migration of groundwater quality hazards.		
	• Describe how you will monitor the quality and quantity of groundwater during all project stages.		

VALUED COMPONENT	KEY INFORMATION / STUDIES TO INCLUDE IN THE REGISTRATION DOCUMENT	COMPLETED	N/A
HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY	• Describe potential effects on human health and safety.		
NOISE	• Describe predicted noise levels at all stages of the project and how they will meet the [Department of Environment and Climate Change Guidelines for Environmental Noise Measurement and Assessment (2023)]().		
PROTECTED AREAS AND CONSERVATION LANDS	• Map the location of protected areas or conservation lands near the project.		
	• Describe predicted effects on protected areas or conservation lands.		
SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS	• Describe the potential positive and negative effects (both local and provincial), including: • Jobs, economic opportunities and benefits to local areas, infrastructure businesses, and recreation & tourism. • contributions to priorities like affordability, renewable energy, climate change goals, housing, and health care. • potential effects on local homes or businesses.		
SURFACE WATER - WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY	• Delineate and map watercourses and watersheds within 2 km of project boundaries. Extend delineation farther if effects are predicted.		
	• Describe potential changes to surface water quality and quantity at all project stages, compliance criteria and how they will be monitored.		
	• Describe planned alterations to watercourses (technical details to be provided in subsequent watercourse alteration application)and any interaction between surface water, groundwater, and wetlands.		

VALUED COMPONENT	KEY INFORMATION / STUDIES TO INCLUDE IN THE REGISTRATION DOCUMENT	COMPLETED	N/A
WASTE	• Describe all waste (including wastewater) and outputs from the project along with the disposal methods		
WETLANDS	• Delineate and map wetlands within 2 km of project boundaries and describe any potential Wetlands of Special Significance. See the Department of Environment and Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol for Atlantic Canada. Extend delineation if needed.		
	• Provide functional assessments for all wetlands likely to be impacted using the Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol for Atlantic Canada (WESP-AC).		
	• Describe efforts to avoid wetlands and potential Wetlands of Special Significance in the project design. Include any planned wetland alterations and planned wetland compensation efforts (technical details to be provided in subsequent wetland alteration application).		
FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE	• Provide mitigations for predicted effects to any valued components or communities.		
	• Consider and describe any predicted cumulative effects in the area near or surrounding your project.		

[1.] Contact the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage (CCTH) early in the process to obtain the necessary permits to complete the Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment ARIA. The ARIA should be marked as DRAFT until CCTH approves it.

[2.] Most projects that receive EA approval will need a Wildlife Management Plan. Guidance on how to prepare this Plan is available from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables.

For any applicable checklist items not completed, please outline your plans to complete them. Explain how further study results will be used to mitigate any negative effects. If any items do not apply to your project, please explain why.

While this checklist outlines general requirements for environmental assessment applications, each project is unique and may require information not listed above in order to assess potential environmental effects.