



SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO IMPROVE NOVA SCOTIA'S INDUSTRIAL APPROVAL PROCESS FOR METAL MINING

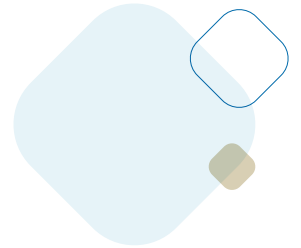
Nova Scotia has improved its Industrial Approval process for metal mining to make it **faster, clearer, and more efficient** – while continuing to protect the environment. The changes will help projects start sooner, reduce delays, and support responsible natural resource development in our province.

This improvement complements recent updates to the Environmental Assessment process and reflects our commitment to sustainable prosperity.

WHY:

Nova Scotia needs to act with urgency to meet its clean energy and economic goals. The mining sector is key to Nova Scotia's economic future and critical minerals like lithium and cobalt are in high demand for clean energy technologies. By streamlining the approval process, we're helping this sector respond to global demand and build a stronger, more resilient economy here at home.

These updates reduce red tape and uncertainty for the metal mining industry, create a more streamlined and clearer path for metal mining projects, and reflect an improved approach that supports sustainable development while maintaining our high environmental standards.



CHANGES

The changes, which are non-regulatory, are:

Phased Approach to Application Process

- A new phased approach to the application process will allow companies to move from planning to action faster while still upholding strong environmental safeguards. Applicants can focus on what is needed to receive an approval for a metal mine and satisfy additional requirements at later stages of their project. For example, some things, like erosion and sedimentation control plans no longer must be included with the initial application – they can be submitted after the project is approved but before construction on a site begins.

Clearer Guidance

- New plain-language guidance documents and website to help companies prepare and complete submissions more effectively, which speeds up the review process and reduces uncertainty for applicants; this new guidance also explains how to prepare water monitoring and surface water management plans.

Dedicated Review Team

- A specialized Large Industrial File Team will review all mining applications, supported by our Business Relationship Managers and staff in our Sustainability and Applied Science Division. The team includes staff with experience in mining projects and environmental compliance which will manage all mining applications to ensure timely, consistent decisions.

Using Canada's Best Practices

- The Department is requiring the industry to follow guidance on acid rock drainage through the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage program. This will help make sure mining projects in Nova Scotia meet national environmental guidance and follow the best available science.

BENEFITS

- ✓ supports sustainable development of Nova Scotia's natural resources
- ✓ reduces delays and uncertainty for companies by helping to ensure that applications are complete upon submission
- ✓ helps projects get started faster
- ✓ minimizes duplication in the regulatory pathway
- ✓ aligns with national standards and scientific best practices
- ✓ protects water quality and the environment

THE FACTS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

- Every metal mining project in Nova Scotia needs two approvals from the Department of Environment and Climate Change – an Environment Assessment and an Industrial Approval.
- An Industrial Approval, is a permit that allows the operation, construction, or reclamation of projects that fall under Division V of the Activities Designation Regulations. Industrial Approvals regulate the daily operations of projects or facilities and have terms and conditions that companies must comply with to safeguard the environment.
- Industrial Approvals for mining provide continuous regulatory oversight from the start of construction through operation, closure, and reclamation of a mine.
- These changes build on recent updates to the Environmental Assessment process, which were announced on May 8, 2025.

