



**Environment and Climate Change
Office of the Minister**

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File number: 40100-30-363
PNS-63933-K2F2L4

February 19, 2026

Johnny Johnson
Independent Energy System Operator – Nova Scotia
1791 Barrington Street, Suite 1010 Halifax, NS B3J 3K
Halifax, NS
c/o: community@ieso-ns.ca and colleen.rollings@ieso-ns.ca

Dear Johnny Johnson:

RE: Environmental Assessment – Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generating Project – Salt Springs, Pictou County

The environmental assessment of the proposed Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generating Facility Project in Salt Springs, Pictou County, Nova Scotia has been completed.

This letter is to advise that I have approved the above project in accordance with Section 40 of the Nova Scotia *Environment Act*, S.N.S., 1994-95 and subsection 13(1)(b) of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*, N.S. Reg. 348/2022, made under the Act. Following a review of the information provided by the Independent Energy System Operator (IESO) Nova Scotia., and all the comments received through the environmental assessment process, I am satisfied that any adverse effects or significant environmental effects of the undertaking can be adequately mitigated through compliance with the attached terms and conditions.

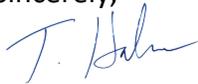
Please be advised that this project will require additional approvals under Part V of the *Environment Act*, including Industrial Approval and Water Withdrawal Approval. Both of these programs require specific assessment of water conservation and contingency planning. See the attached information sheet for a list of the types of information that will be required at the Industrial Approval application stage. Decisions regarding such approvals will be made based on the information provided at the time of application while applying the *Environment Act* and relevant regulations and with consideration of Mi'kmaq consultation obligations in relation to those approvals.

For questions related to any Part V Approvals and the information requirements for application, please contact your Business Relationship Manager, Paula Francis at Paula.Francis@novascotia.ca.

In your Environmental Assessment Registration Document, you identified Species at Risk and/or their habitat within the Study Area. It is important that you work with the Department of Natural Resources to address or mitigate impacts such that your project meets requirements under provincial and federal legislation related to Species at Risk.

If you have any questions regarding the approval of this project, please contact Bridget Tutty, Manager of Environmental Assessment, at (902) 452-7891 or via email at bridget.tutty@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Halman', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Honourable Timothy Halman, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Encl.

cc.

Bridget Tutty, Environment and Climate Change
Paula Francis, Environment and Climate Change

Requirements for Energy Generating Facility project after an environmental assessment approval is received.

In addition to an Environmental Assessment approval for power generating facilities, proponents will need multiple Approvals under the *Environment Act* including an Industrial Approval, as a minimum.

Components of an Industrial Approval application may include:

- Information on project design and environmental mitigations
- Human health and ecological risk assessment
- Baseline environmental conditions for surface water, groundwater and soils
- Operations Management Plan
- Environmental Management, Contingency and Emergency Response Management Plans
- Water/Wastewater Management Plan
- Chemical and fuel storage and containment plans
- Surface and Storm Water Management Plan
- Groundwater Management Plan
- Air Quality and Emissions Modelling
- Waste and Residual Management Plan
- A Rehabilitation Plan

Industrial Approvals for these facilities typically include conditions regarding:

- Protection and monitoring of surface water, groundwater and drinking water wells
- Public Complaint Response
- Records Management
- Storage Tank Systems
- Spill protection
- Noise and Air Quality Guidelines compliance
- Blasting (if applicable)
- Reporting

Proponents may also require other approvals from the Compliance Division of ECC, such as Water Withdrawal, Watercourse and/or Wetland Alteration and Wastewater Approvals, depending on site details. A Business Relationship Manager, together with your Environmental Assessment Officer, will reach out to schedule an environmental assessment follow up meeting. More Information on Business Relationship managers can be found here: [Business Relationship Managers brochure - Government of Nova Scotia](#), and you can contact them directly at:

Lynda Weatherby: Lynda.Weatherby@novascotia.ca 902-717-3170

Paula Francis: Paula.Francis@novascotia.ca 902-680-6168