

2015 Industrial Approval for Northern Pulp Nova Scotia - Summary

Northern Pulp Nova Scotia operates a bleached kraft mill at Abercrombie Point, Pictou County. The mill's 2011 industrial approval (operating license) expired on January 30, 2015, and mill operators applied for a new one.

The new industrial approval focuses on improvements in three areas — air emissions, water usage and wastewater emissions — and once implemented will be consistent with what is achieved by other similar mills in North America.

Feedback received from the public, Pictou Landing First Nations and the mill operators was considered.

Highlights as it relates to air issues

Significant reductions in particulate matter emissions are expected once the mill's new precipitator is operational in May 2015. The new industrial approval requires strict adherence to new tighter limits including:

- Reduction of total particulate matter in stack limits on the recovery boiler – from 375 mg/Rm³ to below 77 mg/Rm³
- Annual facility emission caps for particulate matter and sulphur dioxide, starting Jan. 1, 2016
- Stack testing of the recovery boiler and power boiler doubled to four times a year

Highlights as it relates to water usage

The mill is a large consumer of water, especially compared to other mills. The new approval restricts water use to a maximum limit of 63,000 m³ per day, which will result in a reduction of about 34.5 per cent by 2020. The mill will also be required to study the impact of water withdrawals on Middle River to determine if further reductions may be necessary. There were no limits on water use in the previous industrial approval.

Highlights as it relates to wastewater

The new industrial approval imposes a maximum limit on wastewater effluent of 67,500 m³ per day and will result in about a 25 per cent reduction in the volume of effluent flowing to the Boat Harbour Treatment Facility by 2020. In addition, the mill must develop a plan by 2017 to stop site storm water and run-off from flowing to the facility, and to cease using the facility as a secondary containment area for chemicals used in the pulping process by the end of the approval term. There were no limits on wastewater volumes in the previous industrial approval.