



**Environment  
Office of the Minister**

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Our File number:

23000-30-105  
10700-40-49764

February 8, 2016

Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation  
P.O. Box 549  
New Glasgow NS B2H 5E8

Attn: Ms. Terri Fraser  
Technical Manager

Dear Ms. Fraser:

**RE: FINAL APPEAL DECISION- Notice of Appeal Form Dated April 9, 2015 and Additional Information filed June 12, 2015 - Approval No. 2011-076657-A01.**

Further to the decision issued July 9, 2015 in response to Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation's Notice of Appeal to the above noted Industrial Approval, and after careful consideration of the technical information before me, as well as the purpose of the Environment Act as set out in Section 2, I hereby render my decision in accordance with Section 137 of the Environment Act and order the following changes be implemented to the terms and conditions of Approval 2011-076657-A01 in accordance with Section 137 (5):

Condition 1 (t) shall be amended to remove reference to the former stabilization lagoon as it is no longer used as an operating portion of the effluent treatment system to meet compliance. The amended definition shall read as follows:

(t) "Effluent Treatment System" means the facility also known as Boat Harbour Effluent Treatment Facility as depicted in Appendix B, containing two (2) settling basins, an aerated stabilization basin as well as dams and related appurtenances.

As the stabilization lagoon is a former portion of the effluent treatment system which has not yet been reclaimed and Northern Pulp Nova Scotia were the operator of the system, the stabilization lagoon shall be defined separately under a new condition, (ar), and shall read as follows:

(ar) "Stabilization lagoon" means the water body known as Boat Harbour which was formerly used as part of the effluent treatment system.

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The Province maintains authority over all water resources and as such, wishes to protect the resource from being used for a purpose which was not applied for or intended. As such a new condition, Condition 3 (t) shall be added and shall read as follows:

- (t) Water allowances designated by this Approval may only be used in the operation of a bleach kraft pulp facility under the Authority of this Approval. Water resources authorized for use by the Approval may not be sold, transferred or apportioned for any other use by the Approval Holder.

Having considered both a study undertaken by Internal Services as well as other current users of the water resource, the following changes shall be made to Condition 5 (d):

- (d) The Approval Holder shall achieve a maximum daily water consumption rate of 92,310 cubic metres per day by January 30, 2020.

Condition 5 (e) shall be amended to the following:

- (e) The Approval Holder shall not exceed the following daily average water consumption rates by the dates indicated:
  - i) by January 30, 2018  
80,000 cubic metres per day\*
  - ii) by January 30, 2020  
70,000 cubic metres per day\*

\*A daily average calculated on an annual basis with the 1 day maximum not to exceed the volume outlined in Condition 5 d) by January 30, 2020.  
NOTE: Shut down days shall not be utilized in the averaging calculation.

As Conditions 5 (f) and 5 (g) refer to a maximum sustainable yield study which has already been conducted and submitted by Internal Services, these Conditions shall be deleted.

The requirement to submit projects which was previously contained within Condition 5 (e) will now be required under a new Condition 5 (f) and shall read as follows:

- (f) The Approval Holder shall submit a list of proposed capital water reduction projects 1 year (12 months) prior to proposed implementation of the project(s). Following a review, the Department may require submission of the detailed engineering plans for projects.

Condition 5 (h) required modelling of water reduction milestones in Condition 5 (e). These milestones no longer exist, therefore this condition shall be re-lettered to reflect deletions as well as amended to read as follows:

- (g) The Approval Holder shall retain the services of a qualified third party Professional Engineer, licensed to practice in the Province of Nova Scotia, to determine the impacts of water reduction projects on the quality of the effluent entering and being discharged from Effluent Treatment System. This shall include but not be limited to modeling of the predicted effluent concentrations as a result of reduced water volume as well as impacts to both chemical and physical parameters. Modeling of the predicted water quality shall be included with all projects submitted under Condition 5(f). Modeling shall be verified and validated to the satisfaction of the Department.

Condition 6 (a) refers to a maximum effluent flow while Condition 6 (b) refers to effluent flow reductions to be completed over the term of the Approval. Both of these Conditions shall be deleted as regulation of the water usage will control the volume of effluent being discharged to the effluent treatment system.

Condition 8 (d) and Condition 8 (e) shall be reversed, Condition 8 (e) shall be re-lettered to (d) and Condition 8 (d) shall be re-lettered to (e). To ensure clarity of the requirements of these Conditions, the revised wording of Condition 8 (d) shall be as follows:

- (d) The Approval Holder shall conduct an assessment of total reduced sulphur levels in wastewater which compares current emissions to the performance objectives established in Condition 8 (e). This assessment shall be submitted to the Department by June 15, 2016. Monitoring of total reduced sulphur in wastewater shall be conducted in accordance with Table 6 of Appendix A of this Approval. The Approval Holder shall submit an annual report of wastewater total reduced sulphur loading results for the previous year to the Department by June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

Furthermore, Condition 8 (e) shall be clarified by the following revised wording:

- (e) The performance objectives for total reduced sulphur compounds in the effluent entering the effluent treatment system are as follows:
  - (i) 0.98 kilograms of total reduced sulphur compounds per air dried unbleached metric tonnes of pulp (kg/adubmt) by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017;
  - (ii) 0.658 kilograms of total reduced sulphur compounds per air dried unbleached metric tonnes of pulp (kg/adubmt) by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018; and
  - (iii) 0.335 kilograms of total reduced sulphur compounds per air dried unbleached metric tonnes of pulp (kg/adubmt) by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Additionally, to ensure Northern Pulp is clear on acceptance and implementation of a plan to reduce total reduced sulphur, a new Condition, 8 (g), shall be added as follows:

- (g) Once the Department deems the technically feasible plan, submitted under Condition 8 (f), to be satisfactory, the Approval Holder shall implement the plan in accordance with the satisfactory schedule for implementation.

Please note, these changes are in addition to those which were implemented under the July 9, 2015 decision. All other “grounds of appeal” which have been filed by Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation are dismissed.

Pursuant to Section 138 of the *Environment Act*, you have thirty (30) days to appeal my decision to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

Margaret Miller, MLA  
Minister of Environment