

# Draft Industrial Approval for NORTHERN PULP NOVA SCOTIA

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is an Industrial Approval?**

Before certain industrial activities can begin in Nova Scotia, such as the operation of a pulp mill, owners must have an industrial approval from Nova Scotia Environment. An industrial approval addresses environmental issues such as water usage, wastewater effluent, hazardous waste, air emissions, etc.

Once an application has been accepted by Nova Scotia Environment as complete, the application form and supporting documentation undergo a technical review and an evaluation. This is to determine if the activity being proposed meets the minimum standards, policies, guidelines, procedures and regulations that are administered by the department. Any resulting approval will list the terms and conditions aimed at mitigating risks to the environment that the applicant must satisfy.

### **Why is the department planning to issue a new industrial approval to the mill, if the mill isn't meeting the terms and conditions of the existing industrial approval?**

The mill continues to meet federal wastewater standards, however, it is not in compliance with the air emission limits as outlined in the mill's existing industrial approval. These limits are performance-based, not health-based.

As such, the department issued a Ministerial Control Order to the mill requiring operators to address problems (e.g. precipitator) that are preventing the mill from being in compliance with its industrial approval. The mill must meet the requirements and deadlines outlined in the Ministerial Control Order or the department will suspend or cancel the approval that allows them to operate in our province. To date, the company is adhering to the terms and conditions of the Ministerial Control Order.

The mill's existing industrial approval expires January 30, 2015. The draft industrial approval now available for public comment is what the department is proposing as a replacement. The draft approval contains tighter limits for water usage, wastewater effluent and air emissions.

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### **Why are you asking for public input? How will they change the conditions the mill operates under?**

The mill's environmental impact on the area is of significant public interest, and the department is providing the public with an opportunity to provide feedback. Comments via written submissions on the draft approval will be accepted until and including January 5, 2015. The email and mail addresses are provided in the summary document on the department's website. The department is also consulting with Pictou Landing First Nations and mill operators. All written submissions received will be reviewed and considered by staff before they finalize the industrial approval.

### **What is in the draft industrial approval?**

The draft industrial approval focuses on tighter limits in three areas: air emissions, water usage and wastewater effluent. Once the terms and conditions of the approval are met, the mill's wastewater effluent, water usage and air emissions will be consistent with what is achieved by other mills in North America. For more details, please review the summary and draft industrial approval that are on the department's website.

### **The draft IA is being made available to the public. Will a final draft and, then, the actual approval be made available to the public?**

The final industrial approval will be posted online on its effective date of January 30, 2015.

### **What if the mill does not agree to the terms and conditions?**

Northern Pulp has the option to appeal the terms and conditions of the industrial approval within 30-days of its effective date. Should that happen the Minister of Environment has 60 days to make a decision. If Northern Pulp does not agree with the Minister's decision, mill operators can appeal it to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. If there is an appeal to the Minister or the court, the industrial approval in place as of January 30, 2015 will remain effective until the Minister's decision or a court ruling is known.

### **What if members of the public do not agree to the terms and conditions?**

A person who is aggrieved by a decision of an administrator may appeal to the Minister within 30-days of the decision. Should that happen the Minister of Environment has 60 days to make a decision. If the person making the appeal does not agree with the Minister's decision, that person can appeal it to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. If there is an appeal to the Minister or the court, the industrial approval in place as of January 30, 2015 will remain effective until the Minister's decision or a court ruling is known.