

# Environment and Climate Change

# OPERATIONAL APPROVALS

Many projects, ranging from watercourse and wetland alterations to large industrial facilities, must receive authorization from the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) before construction and/or start of operations. This process evaluates and restricts the impact that methods and materials used, and waste generated can have on the environment.



The types of projects or activities that require approvals are listed in the [Activities Designation Regulations \(ADR\)](#).



Some activities can use notification, a simplified process that follows rules in Standards that a professional must follow.

The requirements for making application to ECC are in the [Approval and Notification Procedures Regulations](#) and on our application [forms](#).

## The Approval Process

Applications are reviewed by the [Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement](#) staff and subject-matter experts, when required, to evaluate the potential of any adverse impacts to the environment as a result of the activity. Sometimes a review is requested from other provincial/federal agencies. See [Process Diagram](#).



If more information is needed to complete the review, the applicant is notified.



An Administrator, delegated by the Minister, makes the decision as to whether an approval will be granted.



An issued approval has conditions that must be followed to help prevent adverse effects and comply with the law.



Audits determine compliance with all the approval requirements. An initial risk assessment and any instances of noncompliance determine the auditing schedule.



Larger projects that receive an *Environmental Assessment (EA)* approval typically also require an Operational approval. Find out more about [EA approvals](#).

## Public and Indigenous Engagement

Meaningful engagement of projects supports clearer communication, more efficient and improved decision-making, and lasting outcomes that benefit all Nova Scotians. Click for more information on [consultation](#) and the [Crown's duty to consult](#).