

# Department of Energy

## **Sustainable and Renewable Energy**

The Sustainable and Renewable Energy Branch provides leadership on renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy affordability and equity, and sustainable transportation, as well as the transformation of the energy sector to promote greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, energy diversity, security and sustainability.

The branch is responsible for the COMFIT program, Low Income Energy Efficiency programming, solar energy programming, the Sustainable Transportation Strategy and the Marine Renewable Energy Strategy and collaborates with the executive team on implementation of Nova Scotia's Electricity Plan.

The branch provides oversight and direction of programs, initiatives and measures that drive efforts to achieve greater efficiency in energy use, as well as to promote the development and use of cost-effective, clean and renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and marine renewable energy.

The branch leads the Energy effort to reduce GHG emissions across the electricity, buildings and transportation sub-sectors, as well as acting to engage both the Federal as well as Municipal governments in these activities – in direct support of Nova Scotia's climate change commitments. The group also works closely with the Business Development and Corporate Services Branch to provide a consistent and flexible operating framework for planning activities across economic development in the energy sector.

The Department of Energy has an ambitious agenda to transform Nova Scotia's energy use to be more efficient and to rely on a more diverse supply of sustainable and renewable energy.

## **Business Development and Corporate Services**

The Business Development and Corporate Services Branch provides leadership in the areas of industry and supply chain development, financial management, policy development, strategic planning, and corporate operations.

The branch is responsible for coordination with Executive Council and its committees; guidance and support to all branches on policy and regulatory development and implementation; oversight of the federal-provincial joint management regime for offshore petroleum activities; coordination with Intergovernmental Affairs and

engagement on intergovernmental energy regulatory initiatives; Aboriginal consultation and engagement and coordination with the Office of Aboriginal Affairs; liaising with Legal Services and Information Access and Privacy Services; and records and information management.

The branch is responsible for the financial management of the Department, including forecasting and monitoring of financial results, fiscal implications, and economic impacts of energy activity in Nova Scotia. In addition, the branch administers the royalty regulations and agreements, including performing audits, assessing royalties from petroleum projects, and providing recommendations on the royalty regime in the province.

Business development functions are retained within this branch, and include activities aimed at promotion of the energy sector, both domestically and internationally. These include marketing opportunities for partnership and growth, monitoring industrial benefits, and managing programs that encourage the pursuit of energy-related careers to help meet growing demand for skilled workers (e.g. Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Energy Scholarship Program and Energy Training Program).

## **Petroleum**

The Petroleum Branch provides leadership and strategic direction for the development and delivery of program initiatives and measures that support responsible petroleum resource exploration. This work is intended to capitalize on innovation and the opportunity to promote and expand investments both offshore and onshore oil and natural gas exploration, development, production and distribution.

The branch leads consultations and strategic dialogue with policy partners and stakeholders in support of efforts to advance and strengthen the province's petroleum industry sector, ensuring its long-term viability and strengthening the provincial economy.

The branch is responsible for organizing and managing the assessment of the onshore and offshore hydrocarbon resources (discovered and undiscovered) of Nova Scotia and managing the petroleum resource aspects of regulating of the development of onshore petroleum resources. In addition, the branch is responsible for leading national and international promotion and marketing efforts to attract oil and gas exploration and investment for these resources, including preparation for and execution of new petroleum geoscience research and analysis work associated with the multi-year Offshore Growth Strategy (OGS). The branch directly markets to

supermajor oil and gas companies as well as National Oil Companies (NOC's) of the annual offshore Calls for Bids. In addition, the branch performs collaborative research with the Geological Survey of Canada for offshore Nova Scotia.

The branch provides technical and market advice related to both onshore and offshore oil and gas policy development throughout the life cycle of the industry from upstream to downstream project development and market intelligence. This involves collaborating on a regional basis on access to natural gas and its influence on industrial development. The branch develops policy and the regulatory framework to ensure that oil and gas exploration and development, storage in underground formations, pipelines, natural gas distribution, and liquefied natural gas projects are done responsibly.

This Branch works closely with the Business Development and Corporate Services Branch to develop policy options in terms of promoting and advancing economic development and enhancing the ability of Nova Scotia's petroleum resource industries to compete for international work.

## **Communications**

The Communications Branch is responsible for the coordination and release of external information produced by the department. The branch helps to inform Nova Scotians about department activities and increase Nova Scotians'

understanding of energy use and development. Through a variety of delivery methods, it provides Nova Scotians with information about energy matters so that they can make informed decisions about issues affecting their lives.

The Communications Branch is also responsible for helping to meet the priorities in the business plan. It supports the department in:

- program announcements
- conferences
- trade missions
- stakeholder consultation
- FOI/POPs
- media relations and monitoring
- social media, and
- issues management.

## **Acts Administered by Department of Energy**

*Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act*  
*Clothesline Act*  
*Electricity Act*  
*Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Restructuring (2014) Act*  
*Electricity Plan Implementation Act*  
*Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation Act*  
*Energy-efficient Appliances Act*  
*Energy Resources Conservation Act*  
*Gas Distribution Act*  
*Marine Renewable Energy Act*  
*Maritime Link Act*  
*Offshore Petroleum Royalty Act*  
*Petroleum Resources Act*  
*Petroleum Resources Removal Permit Act*  
*Pipeline Act*  
*Underground Hydrocarbons Storage Act*

## **Other — Acts/Regulations, Administered by Other Departments, with Impacts on the Department of Energy**

*Electrical Installation and Inspection Act*  
*Environment Act*  
*Environmental Assessment Regulations*  
*Fuel Safety Regulation (Amendment)*  
*Gasfitter Trade Regulations*  
*Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Assessment Regulations*  
*Personal Property Security Act*  
*Oil Refineries and LNG Plants Municipal Taxation Act*  
*Gas Distribution System Municipal Taxation Act*  
*Wind Turbine Facilities Municipal Taxation Act (SNSMR)*  
*Public Utilities Act*

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Administrative update: **December 20, 2017**

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