



**Environment
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • www.novascotia.ca/nse

Our File number:
10700-40-53475

AUG 22 2018

Linda Townsend and Ronnie Heighton
northumberlandfishermen@gmail.com

Dear Linda Townsend and Ronnie Heighton:

Thank you for your July 25, 2018, email requesting information associated with the new proposed effluent treatment plant for the Northern Pulp mill. I appreciate you taking the time to inquire about the proposed project.

The following responses are in the same order as the June 4, 2018 letter that was attached to your July 25, 2018 email:

1. The development of a terms of reference, or a scoping document, is not part of the Class I EA process. In addition, Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation (NPNS) has not registered for an environmental assessment (EA). Once this project is registered for EA with the Department of Environment, it will be examined by several provincial and federal government experts, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada. More information about the EA process can be found at <https://novascotia.ca/nse/ea/docs/EA.RegistrationTimeFrames.pdf>.

Public input is a key component in decision making. Once Northern Pulp has submitted its application for an EA, there will be a 30 day period for public input and I encourage you and anyone who is interested to make your voices heard. This input will be considered when decisions are made. You can sign up to be notified of the 30 day public comment period at <https://novascotia.ca/nse/ea/joinlist.asp>.

2. We are unaware of any open house sessions before the registration of the EA, however, we encourage you to contact NPNS directly to address this question.
3. 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 10., 11., 12., 14., 15.d., 16., 19. g., and j.
Any member of the public can apply to receive this information through the process which is required by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act. This provides access to most records while protecting the privacy of individuals who do not want their personal information made public. Details regarding the process can be found at: <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/dept/foipop.asp>. Application information for FOIPOP requests can be found at: <https://novascotia.ca/is/programs-and-services/information-access-and-privacy.asp>. In addition, you can contact 1-844-424-2985 or (902) 424-2985, or email: IAPServices@novascotia.ca for help with a FOIPOP request.

9. Please refer to response #1.

13. Please see list below of environmental incidents at the Northern Pulp mill:

January 7, 2014 – Rainbow trout LC50 failed, however, daphnia magna LC50 passed at Point C, Boat Harbour.

June 10, 2014 – Release of untreated effluent into East River Estuary.

June 10, 2014 – Release of power boiler ash slurry into Pictou Harbour.

February 22, 2017 – Chemical oxygen demand (COD) exceeded benchmark concentration at Point A, Boat Harbour.

February 9, 2018 – Release of power boiler ash slurry into Pictou Harbour.

April 5, 2018 – COD exceeded benchmark concentration at Point A, Boat Harbour.

15. a., b. Sediment sampling/testing is not required under Northern Pulp's industrial approval, however, it is associated with the Boat Harbour clean-up project. Information regarding the Boat Harbour cleanup project can be found at: <https://novascotia.ca/boatharbour/>.

c. Any requirements regarding sediment quality testing will be determined once the project registers for environmental assessment.

17. This question will be addressed during the EA process.

18. Sewage treated by the current effluent treatment facility has been taken into account during the development of Northern Pulp's current industrial approval.

19. e., f. According to our records, the current clay-lined landfill was originally designed and approved by engineer/s in 1989. Engineers subsequently amended/approved the design in 2016.

h., i. The leachate is collected by piping and directed to the current effluent treatment facility for treatment. This information has been taken into account during the development of the current industrial approval and past industrial approvals.

If you have further questions about the EA process, please feel free to contact Helen MacPhail in our Halifax EA Branch at (902) 483-2696. If you have further questions about Boat Harbour or the Northern Pulp mill site, please don't hesitate to contact Tanya MacKenzie, District Manager of NSE's Granton office at (902) 396-4194.

Sincerely,



Margaret Miller, MLA
Minister of Environment

c: Helen MacPhail, NSE
Tanya MacKenzie, NSE