

# How does the Minister decide?

## Options - The Minister can decide:

(a) that a review of the focus report indicates that, within the limits of the focus report terms of reference, there are no adverse effects or significant environmental effects which may be caused by the undertaking or that such effects are mitigable and the undertaking is approved subject to specified terms and conditions and any other approvals required by statute or regulation;

(b) that a review of the focus report indicates that there may be adverse effects or significant environmental effects which may be caused by the undertaking and an environmental assessment report is required; or

(c) that a review of the focus report indicates that there is a likelihood that the undertaking will cause adverse effects or significant environmental effects which are unacceptable and the undertaking is rejected.

The most likely options are (a) and (c): approval of the project with conditions, or rejection of the project.

## Last opportunity for public comment

This is probably the last time the public will be able to comment on this project. It is very important to include any evidence that the project is likely to cause adverse effects or environmental effects that cannot be mitigated.

**“Adverse effect”** is an effect that impairs or damages the environment or changes the environment in a manner that negatively affects ... human health

**“Environmental effect”** is any effect on socio-economic conditions, environmental health or other effects including on physical and cultural heritage

## “Significant effect” considers:

- magnitude, geographic extent, duration, frequency, degree of reversibility, and possibility of effect occurring

**“Mitigate”** means to eliminate, reduce, or control the adverse effects or the significant environmental effects of an undertaking. Mitigation can include restitution through replacement, restoration, compensation or any other means.



Send your submission to [ea@novascotia.ca](mailto:ea@novascotia.ca) by Friday, November 8, 11:59 pm.

Brief comments can be submitted on-line at <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/comments.asp>

Visit [friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca](http://friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca) for our 10 Step Guide to writing a fact-based response to Northern Pulp's Focus Report for a proposed Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility.