



**Environment
Office of the Minister**

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

Our File number:
10700-40-52928

MAR 27 2018

Jill Graham-Scanlan
sgslaw@ns.sympatico.ca

Dear Ms. Graham-Scanlan:

This letter is in response to your letter dated March 2 ,2018, regarding the new effluent treatment facility planned for the Northern Pulp mill. It is encouraging to hear that people are interested in this important project.

The *Boat Harbour Act* stipulates that the use of Boat Harbour for the reception and treatment of effluent from the pulp mill in Abercrombie must cease by January 31, 2020. Therefore, we have committed to ensuring the Boat Harbour facility closes by 2020 and is replaced by a treatment option that better protects the environment.

The Northern Pulp facility is an undertaking under Schedule A of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*. Since Northern Pulp is an existing facility looking to modify, Nova Scotia Environment has determined a Class I EA is required, which will be adequate to assess this modification proposal. If you would like more information on the Environmental Assessment Report process, it's available on p. 25 of *A Proponent's Guide to Environmental Assessment*: <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/docs/EA.Guide-Proponents.pdf>.

Over the past year there has been a significant amount of work conducted to obtain up-to-date information and gain a better understanding of the effects that a new effluent treatment facility would have on the receiving water environment. There is still a significant amount of work remaining before a decision can be made regarding the new effluent treatment facility. Moving forward, the project will be heavily scrutinized by government, industry and legal experts.

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>.

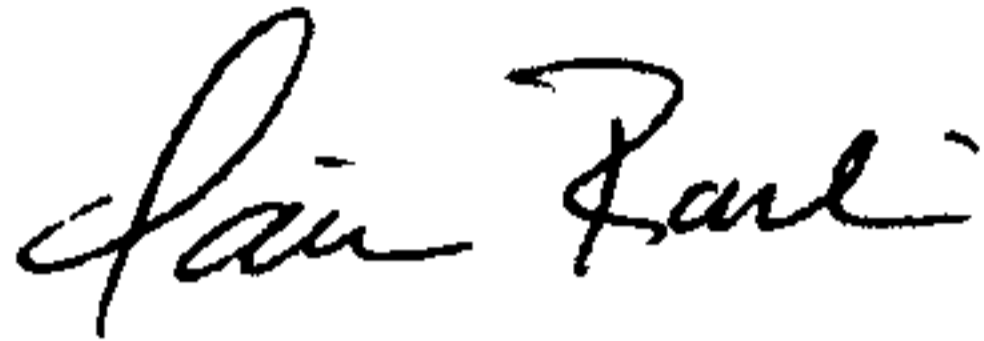
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Jill Graham-Scanlan

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Currently, our EA Branch in Halifax is the main contact for questions regarding the environmental assessment process. You can reach Helen MacPhail in the EA Branch by calling (902) 483-2696.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iain Rankin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Iain" and the last name "Rankin" clearly distinguishable.

Iain Rankin, MLA
Minister of Environment

c: Helen MacPhail
