



Environment
Office of the Minister

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

Our File number:
10700-40-52688

JAN 16 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is in response to your email dated December 20, 2017, regarding the new effluent treatment facility planned for the Northern Pulp mill. Premier McNeil has asked me to respond on his behalf, in my capacity as Minister of Environment. I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns.

I am sure you are aware that effluent from the pulp mill has been treated by the Boat Harbour effluent treatment facility and then discharged into the Northumberland Strait for the last 50 years. Another treatment option is needed to ensure that the Boat Harbour facility will close by 2020.

I want to assure you that protecting the environment is my first priority. It is still early in the process. Once this project is registered for environmental assessment (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>.

If you have further question about the EA process, please feel free to contact Helen MacPhail in our Halifax EA Branch at (902) 483-2696.

Sincerely,

Iain Rankin, MLA
Minister of Environment

c: Premier Stephen McNeil
Helen MacPhail