



**Environment
Office of the Minister**

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Our File number:
10700-40-55145

October 17, 2019

Ronnie LeBlanc
Warden Municipality of Clare
1185 Highway 1
Little Brook NS B0W 1Z0

Dear Ronnie LeBlanc:

On behalf of Premier McNeil, I am responding to your letter of September 19, 2019, regarding the future of Northern Pulp and the closing of Boat Harbour.

Protecting the environment is my first priority. Northern Pulp registered the Effluent Treatment Facility Project for Class I Environmental Assessment (EA) on February 7, 2019, as required under the EA Regulations. On March 29, 2019, Margaret Miller, Minister of Environment at the time, released a decision concerning this review. The Minister determined that the registration information was insufficient to make a decision on the project, and that a focus report was required.

EA is a planning tool used to promote sustainable development by evaluating the potential environmental effects of major developments before they proceed. Through the EA process a careful review is conducted of all the information provided, including public comments, input from the Mi'kmaq, science, and expert government review to determine potential environmental impacts related to the proposed project.

On October 2, 2019, Nova Scotia Environment received the Focus Report for the Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility Project. Copies of the Focus Report may be examined at the following locations:

- Pictou Library, 40 Water Street, Pictou, NS
- New Glasgow Library, 182 Dalhousie Street, New Glasgow NS
- EA website at <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea>

The public is invited to submit written comments to:

Environmental Assessment Branch
Nova Scotia Environment
P.O. Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2P8

on or before November 8, 2019, or contact the Department via Fax at (902) 424-6925 or e-mail at EA@novascotia.ca. Please note that all comments received from the public consultation will be posted on the department's website for public viewing. In the case of an individual, the address, email and contact information will be removed before being placed on the website. By submitting your comments, you are consenting to the posting of your comments on the department's website.

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Ronnie LeBlanc
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Thank you for bringing your views forward. I appreciate your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gordon" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Wilson".

Gordon Wilson, MLA
Minister of Environment

c: Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier