

July 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Government of Nova Scotia has approved changes to the how construction and demolition (C&D) debris is managed in Nova Scotia. These new measures will help to ensure that C&D debris disposal sites do not cause adverse environmental impacts and that businesses storing, transferring or processing C&D debris are regulated. You can find the regulatory update here: https://novascotia.ca/exec_council/oic/19855

Environment and Climate Change (ECC) completed a review of C&D debris management in response to fires and groundwater impacts that occurred at existing C&D debris disposal facilities, and in response to community concerns about businesses that store, transfer or process these materials. The review included targeted stakeholder consultation with municipalities, the construction industry, industry/professional associations, and provincial government departments.

Amendments to the Activities Designation Regulations and the Solid Waste Resource Management Regulations mean that, starting on July 5, 2023, chemically treated timbers will no longer be accepted for disposal at C&D debris facilities. Instead, these materials can be reused or can be disposed of in municipal solid waste landfills. In addition, businesses storing, transferring, or processing C&D debris will now require an operating approval from ECC. Previously, only C&D debris disposal facilities required an approval.

Several other enhancements will also be included within updated departmental guidelines for C&D debris management facilities, along with the development of new or revised terms and conditions for operating approvals. While work to update these documents is ongoing, changes are expected to include enhanced water and leachate analysis, additional site selection criteria, and stockpiling/cell construction requirements. These changes are based on previous consultation and are being made to protect the environment, particularly groundwater and surface water, and to decrease the risk of fires at these facilities. Prior to finalizing the guidelines, we will reach out to you for your input.

Current approval holders will receive amended approvals while facilities dedicated for the purpose of storing, transfer and processing will require an approval. If you have any questions about this initiative contact Don MacQueen at Donald.macqueen@novascotia.ca or (902) 499-3271.

Sincerely,



Maylia K. Parker, P.Geo.
Director
Air Quality & Resource Management

/MP

c: Don MacQueen