

Who We Are

The Environmental Monitoring and Compliance (EMC) division is responsible for field operations related to environmental protection. Staff are located in regional and district offices around the province. Requests for environmental assistance, approvals, complaints and investigations are handled at these offices.

EMC staff protect our environment and our health by enforcing Nova Scotia's environmental regulations, which impact industry, municipalities, other government departments, and citizens.



Environmental inspector specialists are often the first people you talk to when you are considering an activity that may fall under environmental regulations. They respond to complaints, issue approvals and conduct inspections. Inspectors are also peace officers and can issue tickets or warnings for non-compliance.

Engineers and hydrogeologists review applications for larger activities and provide advice to inspectors and clients. Compliance inspection coordinators help provide training and guidance to inspectors, and they coordinate enforcement action through the Nova Scotia legal system when necessary.

Contact your Local Environment Office

Area	Office	Phone #
Halifax Co. Hants Co.	Bedford	902 424-7773
Kings Co. Annapolis Co.	Kentville	902 679-6086
Digby Co. Yarmouth Co. Shelburne Co.	Yarmouth	902 742-8985
Lunenburg Co. Queens Co.	Bridgewater	902 543-4685
Colchester Co.	Truro	902 893-5880
Cumberland Co.	Amherst	902 667-6205
Pictou Co. Antigonish Co. Guysborough Co.	Pictou Antigonish	902 396-4194 902 863-7401
Richmond Co. Southern Inverness Co.	Port Hawkesbury	902 625-0791
Northern Inverness Co. Victoria Co. Cape Breton Co.	Sydney	902 563-2100

Emergency Response

Nova Scotia Environment provides 24-hour emergency response. To report an environmental emergency (oil spill, etc.), call: 1 800 565-1633

Your call will be forwarded to the appropriate Department.



www.gov.ns.ca/nse

When to Call Nova Scotia Environment



What homeowners need to know about the Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Division

Know when to call

Some activities require a permit or approval from Nova Scotia Environment, even on your own land, while other activities are not permitted at all. Knowing when to call your local Environment office can save you time and prevent you from unknowingly breaking the law.

Call us before you:

- Withdraw large amounts of water from a watercourse or well
- Install a septic system
- Dig or drill a well
- Dispose of material containing asbestos
- Work in or around freshwater or wetlands
- Excavate material containing sulphide
- Deal with hazardous waste
- Have pesticides applied to your property
- Undertake any other activities identified in the Activities Designation Regulations. To view these regulations, visit: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/envactiv.htm>

Do your part

You can help protect the environment and your health by calling your local office if you suspect:

- A malfunctioning septic system
- An oil spill (ie: leaking oil tank)
- An activity that may affect a watercourse or wetland
- An illegal dump
- Burning of illegal materials (tires, asphalt shingles, railway ties, rubber or plastic, etc.)
- The release of an ozone depleting substance (CFCs or HCFCs)

It is also important for each of us to take care of our own property. Do your part by:

- Maintaining your fuel oil tank and septic system
- Cleaning up any old dumps on your property
- Decommissioning old water wells



Hire a Certified Professional:

Environment regulations require that you hire certified professionals for certain jobs, such as:

- Well drillers, diggers and pump installers
- Septic system installers and cleaners
- Pesticide applicators and retailers
- Petroleum storage tank installers

Lists of professionals in your area can be found on our website or by contacting your local office.

Nova Scotia Environment also certifies other professionals such as wastewater treatment facility operators and public drinking supply operators. Standards of certification ensure that Nova Scotians receive a consistent, high level of service and that the environment is properly protected.

