

Draft Scope

Review of hydraulic fracturing in shale gas operations in Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia government has announced a joint review by the departments of Energy and Environment to examine the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing in shale gas operations in the province.

The team of senior technical and policy staff will work collaboratively to identify potential environmental issues, determine how they are managed in other jurisdictions and identify industry best practices. The team will look at the ongoing technical reviews of other jurisdictions across Canada and in the United States and bring in outside experts in certain subject areas as required. The team will also review the Province's existing regulations and practices and make recommendations to the Ministers to ensure industry and regulatory best practice is being employed in the province.

The scope is focused primarily on issues about water. The proposed scope will examine the following potential environmental issues:

- effects on groundwater;
- use and effects on surface water;
- impacts on land, such as potential soil contamination;
- waste management, including surface ponds of produced waters;
- identification and management of additives (including volatility and fate in the environment) in hydraulic fracturing fluids;
- site restoration; and
- financial security / insurance that operators are required to provide prior to conducting activity in the province.