

**APPLICATION
REQUIREMENTS FOR
WATER WITHDRAWAL
APPROVALS**

PROCEDURE

Approved by: _____ Gerard MacLellan _____

_____ Robert Langdon _____

Effective: _____ May 7, 2004 _____

Version Control: This is a new procedure
Latest revision: July 21, 2005 - Administrative Amendments

1. Background

The Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (NSEL) approval program for water withdrawals requires that all activities requiring approval be carried out in accordance with all acts, regulations, policies, and guidelines administered by NSEL. These requirements are continually updated by NSEL, as environmental standards are modified to reflect changes and needs. As these requirements are updated, the information required to demonstrate compliance with them may change. In recognition of this, NSEL intends to periodically update this information to reflect the most current requirements.

2. Procedure

Under the *Environment Act*, the *Activities Designation Regulations* (Division I) require a water withdrawal approval ("Water Approval") if a surface or groundwater withdrawal exceeds 23,000 litres per day. In order to obtain a withdrawal approval, a completed application form and supporting documentation must be submitted to NSEL.

The guides for groundwater and surface water withdrawal approvals outline the recommended submission requirements for supporting documentation to a water withdrawal application, and are online at www.gov.ns.ca/enla/water/withdrawalApproval.asp. Each guide is self-contained and includes:

- introduction and background to the water allocation process
- supporting documentation requirements
- submission checklist for supporting documentation

The guides have been developed to provide guidance to the applicant and staff evaluating the application. Site-specific conditions should be considered in establishing the minimum submission requirements for an individual application.

3. Authority for Supporting Documentation Requirements

The *Approvals Procedure Regulations* require that:

1. an application be accompanied by extensive information (see Section 5(1)); and
2. an applicant respond to any supplementary information requested by the Administrator (see Section 7).

The Administrator may refuse to process an application if the applicant does not provide the minimum supporting documentation requested by NSEL. All communication with the applicant is to be directed through the District Managers.

Date: May 7, 2004

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