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# Developments That Require Environmental Assessment

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Developments required to undergo an environmental assessment are called undertakings and are divided into two classes, Class 1 and Class 2. An undertaking can be any enterprise, activity, project, structure, work or proposal. The Minister may also decide that a policy, plan or program that has an adverse effect or environmental effect is an undertaking, as well as a modification, extension, abandonment, demolition or rehabilitation of an undertaking.<sup>1</sup>

Schedule "A" of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*, lists those undertakings which are required to register for environmental assessment.<sup>2</sup>

Contact the Environmental Assessment Branch to obtain official clarification that a proposed project is considered an undertaking under the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*.

## **CLASS 1 UNDERTAKINGS**

### **A. Industrial Facilities:**

1. A facility engaged in the production, wholesale storage or wholesale distribution of dangerous goods.
2. A storage facility with a total capacity of over 5000 m<sup>3</sup> intended to hold liquid or gaseous substances including, but not limited to, hydrocarbons or chemicals, but excluding water.
3. A facility for the manufacture of wood products that are pressure treated with chemical products.
4. A facility engaged in producing fish meal.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the *Environmental Assessment Regulations* for the official definition of "undertaking".

<sup>2</sup> This document is a guide only. Where the following information differs from the regulations, the regulations shall prevail.

## Undertakings That Require Environmental Assessment

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5. A rendering plant.
6. An onshore pipeline 5 km or more in length excluding a pipeline of any length carrying natural gas with a maximum operating pressure below 500 psig (3450 kPa), water, steam or domestic wastewater.

### **B. Mining:**

1. A facility engaged in the extraction or processing of metallic and non-metallic minerals, coal, peat moss, gypsum, limestone, bituminous shale or oil shale.
2. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a pit or quarry in excess of 4 ha in area primarily engaged in the extraction of ordinary stone, building or construction stone, sand, gravel or ordinary soil.  
(2) (a) The Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Communications shall ensure that all pits and quarries established solely to provide fill or aggregate for road building or maintenance contracts with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Communications are operated in accordance with all applicable guidelines and regulations.  
(b) Pits and quarries described by and operated in accordance with clause (2)(a) are not subject to the requirements of this regulation.

### **C. Transportation:**

1. The construction of a common and public highway or associated structures which is more than 2 km and less than 10 km in length and is designed for 4 or more lanes of traffic.

### **D. Energy:**

1. A transformer station having an energy capacity greater than 230 kilovolts.
2. An electric generating facility which has a production rating of 2 megawatts or more derived from wind energy.

### **E. Waste Management:**

1. A permanent commercial facility for the handling of waste dangerous goods.

### **F. Other:**

1. A project which involves the transfer of water between drainage basins where the drainage area to be diverted is greater than 1 km<sup>2</sup>.

2. An enterprise, activity, project, structure or work which disrupts a total of 2 ha or more of any wetland.
3. Such other undertaking as the Minister may from time to time determine.

## **CLASS 2 UNDERTAKINGS**

### **A. Industrial Facilities:**

1. A facility for the manufacture, processing or reprocessing of radioactive materials.
2. A heavy water plant, pulp mill, paper mill, pulp and paper mill, petrochemical plant, cement plant, oil refinery, metal smelter, lead and battery plant, ferro-alloy plant or non-ferrous metal smelter.

### **B. Transportation:**

1. The construction of a common or public highway, or associated structures, which is 10 km or more in length and is designed for 4 or more lanes of traffic.

### **C. Energy:**

1. An electric generating facility with a production rating of 10 megawatts or more, including a hydroelectric generating facility when the cumulative power generation capacity on any single river system equals or exceeds 10 megawatts but excluding an electric generating facility of any production rating which uses wind energy as its sole power source.
2. A water reservoir where the designed storage capacity exceeds the mean volume of the natural water body by 10,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> or more.
3. A corridor for one or more electric power transmission lines with a cumulative voltage rating which equals or exceeds 345 kilovolts.

### **D. Waste Management:**

1. A facility for the incineration of municipal solid waste.

### **E. Other:**

1. Such other undertaking as the Minister may from time to time determine.