



**Environment and Climate Change  
Office of the Minister**

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January 10, 2023

Eleanor Roulston, Warden  
East Hants Council  
[eroulston@easthants.ca](mailto:eroulston@easthants.ca)

Dear Warden Roulston:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2022, regarding the concerns of East Hants Council with the ban on disposal of treated wood at construction and demolition (C&D) debris disposal facilities.

Nova Scotians want to know that ongoing action is happening that better protects our environment and public health. We are making some changes to how we manage C&D debris in Nova Scotia to enhance protection of surface water and groundwater, our wells, lakes and streams, and to reduce the risk of fires. The ban on treated wood is specifically intended to enhance groundwater protection. When volumes of treated wood are disposed underground, the heavy metals and chemicals that were added to the wood to prevent decomposition can leach into groundwater and may impact drinking water wells. We are banning treated wood from disposal at C&D debris disposal facilities, consistent with what is done in most other provinces, and instead requiring its disposal at municipal solid waste landfills because these facilities are better designed to accept this material.

We appreciate that this is a change, and we are proposing additional time to adapt. While the ban on treated wood disposal at C&D debris disposal facilities comes into effect in July 2023, we proposed during recent engagement on updates to the C&D guidelines, that compliance in the first year (until July 2024) will be focused on education and awareness. Over time, we anticipate the impact of the change will be reduced by improving sorting at the site of generation, increasing processing for reuse or repurposing, and stockpiling at transfer locations to make trucking more efficient. Keeping treated wood separate from non-treated wood will also increase the potential re-use and repurposing of the non-treated wood stream as well – a step in the right direction for growing our circular economy. Treating C&D debris as a resource, rather than a waste, will also help reduce the risk of illegal dumping.

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Eleanor Roulston, Warden

Page 2

While my focus is protection of the environment and public health, the financial impact to our partners, stakeholders and Nova Scotians of any legislative, regulatory or policy change is always an important consideration. Our goal is to better protect our environment at minimal cost impact to Nova Scotians, including our municipal partners. I understand that each individual C&D debris facility has individual design parameters and operating conditions that affect waste management costs. Allowing time for the facilities to educate their residents and haulers, along with establishing a ban compliance limit, enables individual C&D facilities to determine how they can best implement the treated wood ban to minimize the fiscal impact of the regulation.

We appreciate the feedback you have provided and will consider it along with other feedback received during the recent consultation .If there are additional questions regarding the changes to C&D debris management, please contact Maylia Parker ([maylia.parker@novascotia.ca](mailto:maylia.parker@novascotia.ca)) Director, Air Quality and Resource Management Branch , Environment and Climate Change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Halman', is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Honourable Timothy Halman, MLA  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

- c: Maylia Parker, Director, Air Quality and Resources Management, Environment and Climate Change
- Honourable John Lohr, MLA Kings-North, Minister of Municipal Affairs
- Honourable Brad Johns, MLA Sackville, Uniacke
- Melissa Sheehy-Richards, MLA Hants West
- John A. MacDonald, MLA Hants East