

Guideline for the Screening of Projects in a Drainage Area of Concern Adjacent to Parlee Beach

Background

The water quality at Parlee Beach has been identified as an issue of concern, and New Brunswickers have asked for government to take action. Parlee Beach is a classic/unique beach barrier bar depositional tidal lagoon setting. This is a very recent, in geological terms, post glacial coastal environmental feature in New Brunswick. In the case of Parlee Beach, it has an unusual distinctive physical attribute (i.e. topography that prevents adequate flushing).

On May 10, 2017 the provincial government announced (as part of a larger initiative), that it considers Parlee Beach to be a unique feature of the environment under item “u” of Schedule A of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, Clean Environment Act*. This means that proposed development/activities within the area of concern will be screened using the criteria listed below to determine if an Environmental Impact Assessment registration and review is required.

The purpose of this document is to clarify the EIA requirements related to development in the area of concern. The following criteria have been established with the intent to capture projects that have a significant impact pathway of concern.

Screening Criteria for EIA Trigger

As part of the 24 items listed under SCHEDULE A (see Appendix 2 below); item “u” stipulates that all enterprises, activities, projects, structures, works or programs or modification to them that are located **within the area of concern** (see Appendix 1), **and affecting the water quality at Parlee Beach** which has been declared as a unique feature of the environment, must be registered with the Department of Environment & Local Government (DELG), and undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The following screening criteria will be used to determine if a project/activity must be registered:

Any projects that potentially affect Parlee Beach, including, but not limited to, projects that:

- would result in a significant net increase in impervious area;
- would be serviced by a new sewage system (not connected to a municipal system); or
- would require any ground/vegetation disturbing activities within 30 meters of a mapped or unmapped watercourse, or mapped or unmapped wetland; or
- are a new campground or an expansion to an existing campground.

The following will be excluded from any EIA requirement under item “u.” of Schedule A in the said area of concern:

- any projects associated with the ordinary maintenance of a residential property;
- any projects associated with previously approved single family residential lots; and
- any projects for which a building permit has already been issued.

Process Steps

- The first step is to determine if the property/project/activity is located in the area of concern. For more information, please review the map in Appendix 1, or contact the Environmental Assessment (EA) Section, DELG (see contact info below);
- For all projects that are:
 - located in the area of concern, and
 - meet the above screening criteria,
- The project proponent must submit a written project description to the EA Section, DELG;
- The project description will be “screened” by DELG to determine if an EIA registration and review are required as per the *EIA Regulation, Schedule A*, item u;
- For projects that must be registered, the registration fee for item “u” is \$1,100. This fee does not include the cost of carrying out an EIA (i.e. consultant fees etc.);
- Once a complete registration document has been submitted to DELG, a Technical Review Committee will be established consisting of technical experts from federal, provincial and local government agencies;

Note that the EIA review process typically requires 90-120 days to complete, and all EIA reviews require proponent-sponsored public consultation (including First Nations where applicable).

Contact Information:

Environmental Assessment Section at (506) 444-5382

Government's Environmental Impact Assessment website can be accessed by visiting www.gnb.ca and following the links to "Departments" > "Environment and Local Government" > "Environmental Impact Assessment".

Written Project Descriptions:

Written project descriptions should be submitted by mail, Email or courier to:

E-mail:

Environmental Assessment Section: EIA-EIE@gnb.ca

Mail:

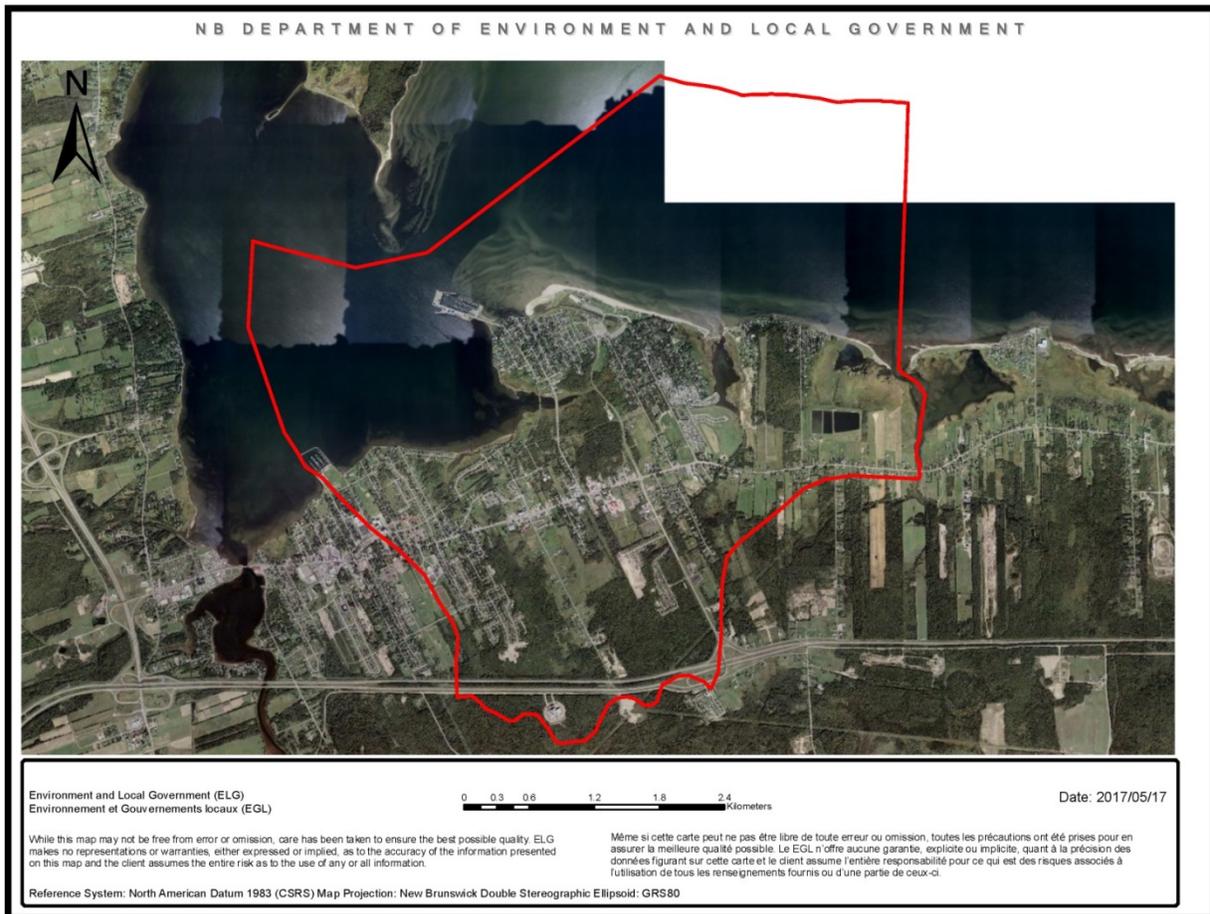
Environment and Local Government
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

Courier:

Environment and Local Government
20 McGloin St.
Fredericton, NB,
E3A 5T8

APPENDIX 1: Map of the Area of Concern Near Parlee Beach

The area of concern is defined as the watershed from which all surface water drains towards the portion of Shediac Bay immediately adjacent to Parlee Beach.



APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE A

The enterprises, activities, projects, structures, works or programs specified in Schedule A (below) and any modification, extension, abandonment, demolition or rehabilitation of them are undertakings for the purposes of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation* and must be registered with the Sustainable Development, Planning and Impact Evaluation Branch, Department of Environment and Local Government

- (a) all commercial extraction or processing of a mineral as defined in the Mining Act;
- (b) all electric power generating facilities with a production rating of three megawatts or more;
- (c) all water reservoirs with a storage capacity of more than ten million cubic metres;
- (d) all electric power transmission lines exceeding sixty-nine thousand volts in capacity or five kilometres in length;
- (e) all linear communications transmission systems exceeding five kilometres in length;
- (f) all commercial extraction or processing of combustible energy-yielding materials, except fuelwood;
- (g) all offshore drilling for, or extraction of, oil, natural gas or minerals;
- (h) all pipelines exceeding five kilometres in length, except
 - (i) water, steam or domestic wastewater pipelines, and
 - (ii) pipelines or pipe lines that are the subject of an application under the Gas Distribution Act or the Pipe Line Act;
- (i) all causeways and multiple-span bridges;
- (j) all major highway projects involving either a significant length of new highway alignment or a major upgrading or widening of an existing highway resulting in a change in its intended use or classification;
- (k) all facilities for the commercial processing or treatment of timber resources other than fuelwood, except maple sugaries, shingle mills and sawmills producing less than one hundred thousand foot board measure annually;
- (l) all programs or commercial ventures involving the introduction into New Brunswick of plant or animal species which are not indigenous to New Brunswick;
- (m) all waste disposal facilities or systems;

- (m.1) all disposal, destruction, recycling, reprocessing or storage of waste that originates outside New Brunswick and all facilities or systems for the disposal, destruction, recycling, reprocessing or storage of such waste;
- (n) all sewage disposal or sewage treatment facilities, other than domestic, on-site facilities
 - (o) all provincial or national parks;
 - (p) all major recreational or tourism developments, including developments which consist of changing the use of land so that it is used for recreational or tourism purposes;
 - (q) all ports, harbours, railroads or airports;
 - (r) all projects involving the transfer of water between drainage basins;
 - (s) all waterworks with a capacity greater than fifty cubic metres of water daily;
 - (t) all major residential developments outside incorporated areas;
 - (u) all enterprises, activities, projects, structures, works or programs affecting any unique, rare or endangered feature of the environment;
 - (v) all enterprises, activities, projects, structures, works or programs affecting two hectares or more of bog, marsh, swamp or other wetland;
 - (w) all facilities for the processing of radioactive materials.