

**FINAL SUMMARY
OF ISSUES AND RESPONSES**

**Relating to the Class 1 Air Quality Operating Approval for
NORTHERN ENERGY SOLUTIONS LTD.
Wood Pellet Production Facility
Miramichi, N.B.**

**Prepared by:
Authorizations Branch
Department of Environment and Local Government
April 2019**

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Public Participation Process under the *Clean Air Act*, the Department of Environment and Local Government is required to prepare a "Final Summary of Issues and Responses". This document marks the 150th day of a public review process and is available on the Internet Site or through any regional Environment office.

The department's Project Management Team is responsible for summarizing the comments (including questions) made to the department by the public to date and for providing, where possible, responses to those comments. In addition to the Final Summary Report of Issues and Responses, the draft Approval, which was made available in January 2019, as well as the intended Approval, are now available to the public. Please note that all issues and responses identified in the Interim Summary Report dated January 2019, are included in this Final Summary.

Where applicable, the responses in the Final Summary refer to conditions in the intended Approval. In this way, the public has the opportunity to view the department's recommended action by the approval holder to address various concerns through the Approval itself. Other responses would outline how issues are, or can be addressed through other means, including administratively, by improving operating practices, or by using pollution prevention or pollution control techniques. There may also be responses that address issues, which may not be significant in terms of environmental protection or public health, but that are considered in the overall review of a facility's operational activities.

ABOUT THE FACILITY

Northern Energy Solutions Limited (NES) is proposing to construct a wood pellet manufacturing facility in the City of Miramichi, New Brunswick (NB). The plant will be situated on a brownfield site at the former UPM Kymmene pulp and paper location. The plant, once fully operational, will have a target production of 275,000 tonnes of wood pellets annually, with a potential to produce up to 315,000 tonnes depending on a variety of operating conditions. The production from the plant is intended for export to the market in Europe.

The plant will produce wood pellets that will be used primarily in power plants to displace coal to produce renewable electricity. The facility will have a workforce of approximately 65 persons, and include onsite amenities (safety, parking, sanitation) consistent with provincial regulations and good industry practice.

As required under the *Air Quality Regulation - Clean Air Act*, the wood pellet plant must conduct their operations according to conditions outlined in an Approval to Operate issued under that Regulation. The Approval to Operate specifies conditions to prevent unfavorable air quality conditions. The conditions are generally wide-ranging and include such requirements as limitations on operational parameters, requirements for testing and monitoring, requirements to operate air pollution control equipment, limits on emissions that are released to the atmosphere, provisions for equipment upgrade and/or maintenance, requirements for environmental emergency and/or compliance reporting and a variety of other conditions aimed at minimizing the facilities impact on

the environment. The Regulation provides for approvals to be issued by the Minister of Environment and Local Government for a specified period, not to exceed five years.

For more detailed information on the wood pellet plant, please see the Facility Profile, available on the department's Public Information Access Internet Site or through any office of the department. Information is also available by contacting Northern Energy Solution Ltd. directly. (The contact information and Internet site address appear at the end of this Summary)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUMMARY

This Final Summary includes comments received up to and including March 28th, 2019, which was the closing date for public comments in the 120-day public review period.

It is important to note that while the Interim Summary reflects all relevant public comment received by the Department of Environment and Local Government, the names of specific individuals or groups who commented are not identified.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AND RESPONSES PROVIDED

As of March 28th, 2019, there have been no comments, questions or inquiries received from the public by the Department regarding the Miramichi wood pellet plant or the Air Quality Approval to Operate.

MINISTER'S DECISION

The Minister has concluded that NORTHERN ENERGY SOLUTIONS LTD. will be issued a five year Approval to Operate, effective May 29th, 2019. The new Approval with identification number I-10362, will take effect on that date.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information on the operation of the Miramichi Wood Pellet Production Facility, please contact:

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For further information on this document, or on environmental regulations relating to air quality, please contact:

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NB Department of Environment and Local Government Public Information Access Site (Internet Address):

<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0355/0005/index-e.asp>