

## Sample letter to Gordon Wilson, Minister of Environment

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Dear Minister

I am writing to you about the Alton Gas project, the recent Nova Scotia Supreme Court Ruling (Sipekne'katik vs Nova Scotia Environment), and the Notice of Intent released by Environment and Climate Change Canada on February 25 2019.

The March 24 2020, Nova Scotia Supreme Court Ruling made it clear that the consultation with Sipekne'katik was not adequate and gave direction to restart that process. As Nova Scotians and Mi'kmaq, we expect that the government fulfill their legal duties. In this case that did not happen. Currently there is also an on-going legal case involving Indigenous Rights before the courts which involve Mi'kmaq Grandmothers.

On February 25 2019, Environment and Climate Change Canada notified the public of serious regulatory issues with the Alton Gas project - issues that should have been addressed before the industrial approval was granted by the province.

To date, Alton Gas has not been granted any regulated industry status and currently the ECCC file regarding Alton Gas has not been advanced by the federal government.

Our regulating bodies such as Nova Scotia Environment have legal obligations. In the case of the Alton Gas industrial approval there have been two serious issues brought forward both by the Supreme Court of

Nova Scotia and the Federal Government. Both have given clear instructions that there are legal and regulatory issues with the industrial approval that Nova Scotia Environment issued. For these reasons we have two clear questions.

1. Can NSE formally suspend the Alton Gas industrial approval until:

(A) NSE has completed its legal obligation to Sipekne'katik.

(B) All court cases which involve Mi'kmaq Rights and Alton Gas have been ruled upon by the courts?

(C) Alton Gas can provide documentation that they have regulated industry statues from ECCC allowing the brine discharge?

2. Can NSE provide the decision to suspend the industrial approval in writing and provide public updates on if/when the industry approval is reinstated?

This is the right way forward and can help to restore public trust in Nova Scotia Environment. It is in line with the mandate of the department and consistent with the provincial Environment Act.

Sincerely,