



1 May 2019

The Honourable Catherine McKenna,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H3

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Minister McKenna;

East Coast Environmental Law and the Ecology Action Centre have recently learned of the Notice of Intent from Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding the development of a regulation under subsection 36(5) of the *Fisheries Act* to govern the deposit of brine from natural gas storage cavern development activities at the Alton Natural Gas Storage Project site in Nova Scotia.

We understand that this is the first time an effluent regulation under the *Fisheries Act* has been created for a single industrial operator.

As you are aware, the proposal by AltaGas to release salt brine into the Shubenacadie River is fraught with controversy. Mi'kmaw communities and non-Indigenous allies have been standing together to protect this river since 2014 and consistently express their concern over the proposed project and its potential impact.

We note from the Forward Regulatory Plan that "consultations with Indigenous Groups, the public and the Province of Nova Scotia are ongoing and will continue throughout the regulatory development process." We are not aware of a pre-publication consultation plan. Given the significant public concern together with the unique nature of this regulation, we are seeking confirmation that Environment and Climate Change Canada will hold pre-publication consultation and engagement on this proposed regulation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Mitchell".

Lisa Mitchell
Executive Director
East Coast Environmental Law

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sadie Beaton".

Sadie Beaton, Community Conservation
Research Coordinator
Ecology Action Centre