



**Department of  
Environment & Labour**

PO Box 697  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2T8

*Our File Number:*  
10700-40  
40100-30-80

Office of the Minister

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November 12, 2004

Mr. Brian Stonehouse  
Deputy Minister  
NS Dept. of Transportation and Public Works  
P.O. Box 186  
1672 Granville St., 2nd Floor Johnson Building  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2N2

Dear Mr. Stonehouse:

**Re: Environmental Assessment - Highway 113**

The environmental assessment of the proposed Highway 113, Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia, has been completed.

This letter is to advise that, pursuant to Section 13 (1)(c) of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*, I have determined that a review of the information indicates that the adverse effects or significant environmental effects which may be caused by the undertaking are limited and that a focus report is required.

The focus report shall examine how the proposed Highway 113 fits within the context of the current Halifax Regional Municipality's regional planning efforts, including but not limited to, consideration of parks and natural areas, recreational land-use, transportation corridors and private development.

Please be advised that a number of issues which will need to be addressed by Transportation and Public Works were raised during the review, including the need for a number of surveys and studies that may be required closer to the time of construction, if approval is granted for the project.

Many public comments were submitted during the review concerning the distribution and abundance of moose in the Chebucto Peninsula. Department of Natural Resources staff responded that their records and surveys do not support claims that there continues to be a moose population in the Blue Mountain Crown land block. The occasional sighting has been reported in the area but these animals are felt to be transient. If Highway 113 receives approval, an adaptive management strategy may be required for moose in the area closer to the time of construction.

The Environmental Assessment Administrator will provide a written terms of reference for the preparation of the focus report within 25 days. TPW will have up to one year to submit the required number of hard copies and an electronic copy of the focus report. The Environmental Assessment Branch will notify the public of the release of the focus report for review and distribute the report. There will be a 30 day public review period once the focus report has been released to the public.

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If you have any questions regarding the approval of this project, please contact the Manager, Environmental Assessment Branch, Mr. Chris Daly at (902) 424-4936.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By

Kerry Morash  
Minister