

From: [Katie McIntyre Mills](#)
Sent: April 16, 2024 12:18:27 PM
To: [Ministre / Minister \(ECCC\); information@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](#)
Cc: <email address removed>
Subject: Impact Assessment Request for Dartmouth Cove
Sensitivity: Normal

Good Morning,

I'm writing to formally request an impact assessment be started for a proposed infill project that has been approved by Transport Canada for Dartmouth Cove.

Project Proponent:

Bruce Wood, CEO, 4197847 Nova Scotia Limited
Tom Hickey, CEO, Atlantic Road Construction and Paving

Project Description:

The Project Area, a privately owned, pre-Confederation lot in Dartmouth Cove, will be infilled with approximately 99,700 cubic metres (m3) of material, including approximately 41,900 m3 of sulphide-bearing material (i.e., pyritic slate) from local excavation projects and approximately 57,800 m3 of non-acidic quarry rock. Fill is to be dumped via dump trucks which will be brought in via a road that is to be constructed.

Project Location:

The work will be carried out in Dartmouth Cove, approximately at 44° 39' 51.01" N, 63° 33' 29.01" W. The lot extends approximately 90-100m from the current shoreline.

Potential Adverse Effects and Federal Concerns:

Environmental Impact Assessment: The potential environmental consequences of infilling, such as water quality degradation, disturbance of marine ecosystems, and impacts on wildlife habitat, fall under federal jurisdiction, particularly under the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The Cove has historically been used for other industrial purposes and there are also concerns that infilling activity may stir up sediments that could be harmful to the surrounding fish habitats and residents of the area.

Protection of Species at Risk: Dartmouth Cove is known to support diverse wildlife, including species listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure the protection of these species and their habitats. Species that have been spotted in the harbour and surrounding areas include but are not limited to the following:

Atlantic Canada Piping Plover
Peregrine Falcon
Roseate Tern
Common Tern
Atlantic Cod
Atlantic Salmon
American Eel
Atlantic Wolffish

Navigation and Marine Safety: Infilling activities may affect navigation routes and pose risks to marine safety, which are regulated by federal authorities, including Transport Canada. The research facility for COVE close by frequently uses Dartmouth Cove for research and submitted formal feedback to Transport Canada along with the Municipality.

Additional Compliance Concerns with Federal Regulations: The infilling project may impact regulations related to water management, marine pollution prevention, and habitat conservation. The federal government is responsible for enforcing these regulations and ensuring compliance with environmental laws.

Additional Information:

The project, which is current under review by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is scheduled to start September of this year. The proposal put in front of Transport Canada can be [reviewed here](#). Bruce Wood, CEO of unnamed company, 4197847 Nova Scotia Limited, is proposing to dump construction debris/pyritic slate into a privately owned pre-Confederation waterlot in Dartmouth Cove. The Cove is surrounded by a residential area, and a walking trail. This infill activity is scheduled to last a minimum of 2-years and has no long term development proposal aside from disposing of construction debris.

This area is used not only by the public as a park and walking trail as well as an entry point into the harbour for kayakers, stand up paddle boarders and other pleasurecraft. In Transport Canada's [own response](#), there are also mentions of Archaeological Assessments that need to be actioned by the project proponents. This area has ties to the local Mi'kmaq community and long standing historical significance.

I am requesting that this project be put through an Impact Assessment given the scale of the infilling activity and the proximity to the nearby residential community and walking trail. If you need any other information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kind regards,
Katie McIntyre Mills
<personal information removed>
Dartmouth NS
<personal information removed>