



**Environment and Climate Change
Office of the Minister**

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April 14, 2023

Warden Eddie Nickerson
enickerson@barringtonmunicipality.com

Dear Warden Nickerson:

Thank you for your letter of March 1, 2023, regarding the concerns of the Municipality of Barrington Council with respect to the new regulations for construction and demolition debris management, and in particular the ban on disposal of treated wood at construction and demolition debris disposal facilities.

Environment and Climate Change (ECC) initiated its review of construction and demolition (C&D) debris because of several fires at C&D debris disposal facilities, adverse impacts on groundwater from C&D debris management, and growing concern about the siting of new C&D debris management facilities.

While treated wood can be used safely in construction, landfilling this material can create a concentrated source of these contaminants as the wood decays. C&D debris disposal facilities are designed for inert debris and these wastes are best managed at engineered landfills with leachate capture and treatment. Treated timber can also continue to be mulched and used as cover at municipal solid waste landfills or processed and repurposed in other ways.

This past summer, Environment and Climate Change staff met with stakeholders, including municipal facility managers and operators, about the changes to C&D management in Nova Scotia. Informed by the feedback we received we made amendments to address municipal concerns, and subsequently published an updated [Guidelines for Construction and Demolition Debris Storage, Transfer, Process and Disposal](#), which come into effect on July 5, 2023. It lays out a phased approach to compliance on the treated wood disposal ban, with the first year focused on education. In addition to the updated Guidelines, additional information on phased implementation of change to reduce the financial burden to municipalities was outlined in a "[What We Heard](#)" document.

Warden Eddie Nickerson

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Thank you for sharing your suggestion around extended producer responsibility (EPR) for treated wood or other C&D debris. In the [Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act](#) (EGCCRA) we committed to growing the circular economy in Nova Scotia, including expanding our EPR programs. We are currently working towards EPR for the material that goes into the residential blue bag system. This will alleviate a large financial and operational burden for municipalities. We have also committed to developing a plan to reduce our waste disposal rate from the current rate of about 400 kg/year/person to 300/kg/year/person by 2030. We will be engaging on that plan this year and I encourage you to participate. It will be a great opportunity to put forward your ideas.

If there are additional questions, please contact Andrew Murphy, Executive Director Sustainability and Applied Science at andrew.j.murphy@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,



Honourable Timothy Halman, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

- c: Debbie Mader, Executive Assistant, The Municipality of Barrington
- Donald MacQueen, Environmental Engineer, Environment and Climate Change
- Robert Kenney, Recycling Development Officer, Environment and Climate Change
- Andrew Murphy, Executive Director Sustainability and Applied Science