

20 January 2016



To: The Honourable Margaret Miller, Minister of Environment
Nova Scotia Environment
PO Box 442
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

From: Paul Stephenson
President
Striped Bass Association
stripedbassassociaton@gmail.com
paul.stephenson@acadiiau.ca

Re: Alton Natural Gas Storage, LP

The Executive committee of the Striped Bass Association is requesting a meeting with the Nova Scotia Minister of Environment, The Honourable Margaret Miller to discuss unresolved issues with the Alton Natural Gas Storage, LP project ("Alton Gas") on the Shubenacadie River as outlined below. It is our understanding that the Nova Scotia government plans to issue Industrial Approval for this project and issue permits for Alton Gas to begin final preparations and operations very soon.

I draw your attention to our email of 15 January 2016 and attached press release of 24 October 2014 reiterating and outlining our position on the Alton Gas project. In our press release, we outline significant issues with the proposed project. Now we make it clear that we do not want any salt or 'brine' dumped into the Shubenacadie River system by any means. Additionally, we add to our press release position with the following specific issues that have come to light with the latest monitoring plan received from Bob Rutherford on behalf of Alton Gas.

- 1) The mechanical or physical damage to aquatic organisms at the the pumping station intake area.
- 2) Long-term effects of salt accumulation in the Shubenacadie River.
- 3) The implicit endorsement for Alton Gas to alter permits at any time for any reason.
- 4) Lack of, or inadequate, long-term monitoring of salt accumulation, animal species (fishes and invertebrates) assemblages, and other biotic and abiotic factors, and public dissemination of any monitoring data for third-party review.
- 5) Lack of explicit penalties or pathways to altering operations if operations cause changes to animals or assemblages.
- 6) Lack of a tariff or trust paid into by Alton Gas for future river rehabilitation should operations affect this river system.

The Shubenacadie River system includes the Stewiacle River and combined is the largest river system in the province. It is the most diverse system in terms of species of fish and aquatic wildlife. The river system is a source of drinking water for the Nova Scotia corridor area and is home to a very large percentage of the human population of the province. More specifically to our concerns, it is the last known remaining spawning grounds in the Bay of Fundy for the endangered striped bass. This river is too important to the province to risk its health.

Sincerely,

Paul Stephenson

Copied to:

Stephen McNeil, Premier
Rufus Copage, Chief Sipekne'katik Band
Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture
Lloyd Hines, Minister of Natural Resources
Scott Brison, MP
Bill Casey, MP
Lenore Zann, MLA
Willie Courtney, President S.R.C.F.A.