



**Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Noise Guideline:**

**Stationary and Transportation Sources – Approval and Planning
Publication NPC-300**

**Air Practitioner's Group Meeting – Wednesday February 11, 2015
Laboratory Services Branch Auditorium**

Purpose

- ▶ Environmental Noise Guideline Stationary and Transportation Sources - Approval and Planning, Publication NPC-300
 - Summary of questions, clarifications and interpretations

Background

NPC-300, dated August 2013, is in effect and in use

- ▶ Released to the public for implementation on October 21, 2013 via a Policy Decision Posting on the Environmental Registry, number 011-0597: <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTEwNDAw&statusId=MTgwODA2&language=en>
 - ▶ Find it here: <https://dr6j45jk9xcmk.cloudfront.net/documents/1681/162-environmental-noise-guideline-en.pdf>
- or
- ▶ From MOE Public Information Centre 416-325-4000 / 1-800-565-4923 and ask for NPC-300 using the PIBS number: 8458e1

Support for Implementation

- ▶ Half-day information session for acoustical consultants
November 19, 2013
- ▶ Additional multi-stakeholder information sessions held in
November
- ▶ Email questions to: Alice.Verbaas@ontario.ca, answers
provided via return telephone call
- ▶ Noise Duty Officer service at Environmental Approvals
Branch: 416-314-8001 / 1-800-461-6290
- ▶ Pre-application consultation meetings

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#1: How to assess impulsive noise sources?

A#1: Assess the “predictable worst case” noise impact, i.e., assess both the impact of individual impulsive noise sources and the logarithmic average of all the impulsive noise sources and use the worst case.

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#2: What to do if Noise Control Measures have not achieved compliance and it's "not possible" to do anything more?

A#2: In situations where the proposed noise control measures are not sufficient to achieve full compliance, detailed specific information needs to be provided to justify why additional mitigation is not technically, economically or administratively feasible. The MOECC will include additional conditions in the ECA to ensure compliance is achieved in the long term.

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#3: Which outdoor living area (OLA) needs to be assessed in situations where there is more than one?

A#3: Assess and protect the location on the property most likely to be used as the OLA.

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#4: What if noise control measures are needed to achieve compliance at a vacant lot, but the lot development is not imminent?

A#4: The required noise control measures should be specified when the AAR is prepared. Implementation may be deferred until development proceeds.

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#5: What needs to be done to establish a “Class 4” area?

A#5: MOECC is not involved in designating Class 4 Areas.

Parts A, B and C of NPC-300 provide the general framework for creating a Class 4 area, at the discretion of the land use planning authority. It is the responsibility of the land use planning authority, developer and existing industry to work together to develop the necessary agreements for establishing a Class 4 area.

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#6: What are the requirements for self - assessment?

A#6: Same as NPC-205/232 – self-assessment required for facilities with PORs, such as hospitals, nursing homes, student residences, etc.

A dwelling located within the source property is not considered a POR

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#7: How are blank walls considered?

A#7: An existing or proposed blank wall without any external windows or doors would not be considered a POR for a assessing a stationary source or new development

Where future noise sensitive land use does not yet exist, NPC-300 B3.1 states: *“the assumption will be made that one or more windows associated with noise sensitive spaces are located on each floor level of any façade of a noise sensitive land use with a full or partial view (exposure) to a stationary source.”*

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#8: How to assess a cemetery or prison?

A#8: A place of worship located at a cemetery would be considered a POR, but the graves would not. Places of worship and detention centres are listed as examples of a “noise sensitive institutional purpose building”.

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#9: How does NPC-300 affect municipal noise control by-laws?

A#9: Municipalities may decide to update their by-laws to reflect NPC-300, or not. MOECC decision-making will be based on NPC-300.

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#10: What is an infrequent event?

A#10: NPC-300 states: “*Operations of equipment (stationary sources) that occur at least twice a month and emit noise for at least one half an hour on each occasion are considered planned and predictable, even if they are not occurring at precisely the same time on each occurrence, and are included in the predictable worst case scenario.*”

Therefore:

Anything occurring no more than once a month for half an hour or less would be considered infrequent and would not have to be assessed.

Questions, Clarifications & Interpretations

Q#11: How will you deal with non-compliance situations arising solely from the difference between a past practice and the application of NPC-300?

A#11: This is not expected to occur very often, but if it does, the MOECC will consider a Noise Abatement Action Plan (NAAP), developed in consultation with EAB and the District Office, to achieve compliance within a practical timeline.

Summary

- ▶ Since its release 16 months ago the implementation of NPC-300 has been successful.
- ▶ The process in place to address NPC-300 questions and provide clarifications is working well.
- ▶ The adoption of Class 4 areas has begun in urban municipalities.

Thank you