Re: Approval of French River Watershed Regulations

Thank you for your correspondence to Mr. Wilson regarding the application for Protected Water Area (PWA) designation and regulations for the French River Watershed (Tatamagouche water supply) as recently received from the Municipality of the County of Colchester. He has asked me to respond on his behalf in my role as Executive Director.

Section 106 of the Environment Act allows the Minister of Environment to designate an area surrounding a drinking water source as a Protected Water Area (PWA). This is an option available to water utilities or municipalities to manage their source water supplies for protection from potential threats by using a regulatory approach. These regulations are intended to be applied by water utilities or municipalities to activities that are known, or have the potential to, impair water quality and/or quantity.

In general, a formal request for designation includes a description of the PWA, the proposed associated regulations, and a summary of the public consultation. Once an application is received, there are several aspects to the approval process, including a review by Nova Scotia Environment to assess the appropriateness of the proposed regulations, the public consultation conducted, and a legal review by provincial solicitors.

The application and information is also reviewed by other provincial departments, including Aboriginal Affairs, Energy and Mines, and Lands and Forestry. Timeframes for the review process are variable depending on the nature of the water supply, the range and scope of regulations proposed, and the extent of public consultation conducted.

Again, we thank you for your interest in the French River Watershed as the source water supply for the Village of Tatamagouche.

Sincerely,

Andrew Murphy
Executive Director
Sustainability & Applied Science