

Resolution 4C

STRICTER REGULATIONS FOR PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION (C&D) SITES ON STOCKPILING OF MATERIALS (PASSED)

⇒ County of Pictou

WHEREAS there are 22 Construction and Demolition (C & D) Sites in the province of Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS since 1995, the province of Nova Scotia has allowed private C & D sites to operate; and

WHEREAS private C & D sites are only subject to guidelines, rather than the strict operating permits and regulations that municipally-owned C & D sites must abide by; and

WHEREAS private C & D sites are not subject to the same inspection frequency that municipal site are subjected to; and

WHEREAS the guidelines do not specifically address the issue of stockpiling of materials on the site;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Minister of Environment to impose regulations on private C & D sites across the province that prohibits the stockpiling of materials and provide for adequate inspection of the private sites.

Background:

In August 2010, a fire broke out at a private C & D site, for which a permit was issued by the Department of Environment in 2007. The site had a stockpile of debris estimated to be in excess of 7 stories high. Between August 5 and August 16, 2010, local volunteer fire departments were called to the scene of the ongoing fire every day. Eleven fire departments were involved, and in this time period 2 million gallons of water was pumped onto the massive pile.

The fire is speculated to have been caused by spontaneous combustion, demonstrating the risk of the stockpiling practices. Residents have provided pictures of banned materials that are contained or stockpiled on the site since the fire; however, the Department of Environment has stated that the activities have not been viewed during their inspections. The materials are buried and out of sight.

The Municipally owned site is inspected on an annual basis; however, the private C & D sites are inspected once every three years.

Forwarded to:
Minister of the Department of Environment

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your November 21, 2011, letter regarding the Resolution passed at the recent Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' (UNSM) Annual Fall Conference. I offer the following response:

NSE recognizes the challenges related to effective management of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste and has identified C&D waste management as a priority in the renewed provincial solid waste resource management strategy, "Our Path Forward." This document includes a plan for action to ensure Nova Scotia's regulations support C&D waste prevention and diversion. Please note that both municipal and private C&D sites are managed in a consistent manner.

Thank you for forwarding this resolution for my consideration.

The Honourable Sterling Belliveau

Minister

January 5, 2012