

The Nova Scotia Watercourse Alteration program is changing to streamline the process, standardize requirements externally, and decrease internal strain on employees. As of October 2016, a certified installer will now have to be on site to conduct or supervise all watercourse notifications and approvals. Additionally, internal procedures on watercourse identification will be made publicly available. Alterations of a watercourse, water resource or a wetland or obstructions to water flow in these water bodies requires approval unless eligible for a notification or exempt. There are five main categories that can be considered for notification depending on specified thresholds: fish habitat improvements, culverts, bridges and open bottom structures, bank alterations, and maintenance. In order to submit notifications for culverts on a watercourse slope below or equal to 0.5% or bridges, the structure must now be planned by a Watercourse Alteration Sizer or Professional Engineer.