

May 27, 2025

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF HANTS WEST

PO BOX 3000

WINDSOR NS B0N2T0

Dear Landowner,

I am writing to inform you about recent changes to uranium exploration in Nova Scotia and to outline your rights as a landowner near Millet Brook, which is an area where exploration is likely to take place.

The provincial government recently repealed legislation that previously banned uranium exploration and mining in Nova Scotia. This change allows us to do research that increases our knowledge about uranium in the province. This will help us develop potential economic opportunities that will bring jobs and investment to Nova Scotia. It will also help people manage their health and safety in terms of well water and radon gas in homes and buildings.

There are three areas of the province where we know there is a greater presence of uranium (Millet Brook, Hants County; Louisville, Pictou County; and East Dalhousie, Annapolis County). We have launched a request for proposals to seek experienced professionals to conduct research and exploration activities in these areas. We will only give exploration licences to companies that show they will do the work safely and maintain environmental excellence.

We want to inform you that your property falls completely or partially within one of these areas. As a property owner, it is important that you understand your rights:

1. **Permission:** Companies that have mineral rights (exploration license) must seek your permission before exploring on your land.
2. **Negotiated Agreements:** If you are willing to allow exploration, you and the company can negotiate an agreement outlining conditions and compensation. The vast majority of these agreements are reached independently between landowners and companies.

3. **Surface Rights vs. Mineral Rights:** Land ownership (surface rights) in Nova Scotia does not include the mineral rights below the surface – they are owned by the Crown.
4. **Exploration Activities:** If you agree to exploration on your property, it might start with activities that do not disturb the land – like walking the land to examine rocks and soil or collecting hand samples. Any activities that disturb the land (such as drilling) require additional permits from the government.
5. **Land Remediation:** Companies are required to remediate any disturbance they make to your land. That means restoring it to the state it was in before exploration started.

This request for proposals is not our usual process. We are taking this approach to make sure only qualified companies with proper experience in uranium are granted licenses to explore. In the rest of the province, we are using our standard licensing process. We are hopeful that Nova Scotians will consider the economic and health benefits of exploration as they consider the request of a company.

For more information about the request for proposals, please visit:

<https://novascotia.ca/uranium-exploration-request-for-proposals/> . You can also contact the Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles at 902-424-4068 or Novaroc@novascotia.ca if you need more information.

Finally, because you own property in an area where we know there is uranium, we encourage you to use the following resources for your health and safety:

- Well water testing: <https://novascotia.ca/well-water-testing/>
- Radon gas: <https://novascotia.ca/make-sense-of-radon/>

Sincerely,

Janice Zinck

Executive Director, Geoscience and Mines Branch