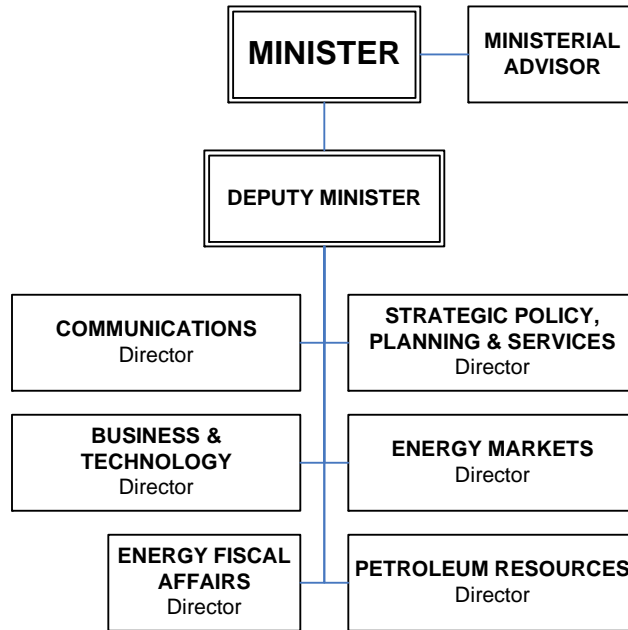


Department of Energy



Responsibilities

The Nova Scotia Department of Energy was created in June 2002 to serve as the government's focal point in the development of the province's energy resources, as outlined in the Energy Strategy. The department is a consolidation of the Nova Scotia Petroleum Directorate and the energy-related activities of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

Mission

The Energy Department's mission is to help maximize economic, social, and environmental benefits from the energy sector by creating partnerships with governments, industry, other provincial departments and local communities to develop, establish and manage the province's energy policies.

Petroleum Resources

The Petroleum Resources group of the division is responsible for expert advice in the development of policy, legislation, and regulations for the exploration and development of the Province's offshore and onshore petroleum resources.

Onshore, this group administers the granting of petroleum rights and co-ordinates the regulation of exploration and development activity.

While the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board regulates day-to-day offshore petroleum activity, the Resource Assessment group, as stewards of onshore and offshore geological knowledge, actively promotes and markets Nova Scotia's onshore and offshore petroleum potential to global oil and gas companies interested in new investment opportunities.

Fiscal Affairs

The Fiscal Affairs division is responsible for advice, policy and management related to royalties and other fiscal matters related to energy resources. More particularly it:

- forecasts and monitors the financial results and fiscal implications of petroleum exploration and development
- administers, audits and assesses royalties from petroleum projects
- undertakes fiscal policy research and analysis and provides related recommendations
- performs a central role in fiscal negotiations when required.

Business and Technology

The Department of Energy has a legislated responsibility to represent the interests of the Province in the negotiation and implementation of benefits plans. As with other international offshore jurisdictions, this process builds the local capacity and capabilities that are critical to attracting future investment. The process ensures Nova Scotians are able to compete on a best value basis for local business and employment opportunities related to the development of a Nova Scotian non-renewable resource.

Working with energy sector stakeholders, the department promotes investment in the energy-related capabilities of Nova Scotia. It provides opportunities for local companies to meet potential joint venture partners and participate in investment missions abroad. It helps maximize business opportunities for local supplies of goods and services and identify areas of labour demand and possible skills shortages to develop strategic approaches to ensuring maximum participation of Nova Scotians in major energy projects and undertake partnerships in training projects and initiatives.

The department identifies and supports opportunities for Nova Scotian firms competing within the energy sector to benefit from the transfer of technology critical for expanding business opportunities within the sector.

The department also leverages federal and private sector investment in state-of-the-art energy-related educational and training infrastructure in Nova Scotia's post-secondary educational institutions. It has also worked to ensure Nova Scotia's energy-related educational training modules and standards meet employer needs.

The Department of Energy ensures that research priorities are identified, supported and enhanced through partnerships and leverage opportunities that ensure best value.

Energy Markets

Energy Markets is a new division inside the Department of Energy. With the creation of Conserve Nova Scotia, the responsibilities for energy management, with respect to conservation and efficiency, were transferred to this new agency. Climate change responsibilities were also transferred to the Department of Environment.

This division within the Department of Energy provides expert advice on the development and implementation of policies and programs dealing with

- natural gas transmission, distribution and use
- electricity generation, transmission, distribution and use
- refined petroleum products
- renewables.

The Department of Energy operates in a multi-stakeholder policy environment. The division has the mandate to ensure that Canadian energy policy development supports and reflects the interests of Nova Scotia. The division has responsibility for coordinating relations with other governments in areas of its responsibility.

Strategic Policy, Planning and Services

The division is responsible for the coordination of energy policies, strategies, plans, and services. It gathers information on Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions' experiences, policies and activities as well as the general business climate for energy investments and analyses them for effectiveness and implications for meeting public policy objectives and relevance to Nova Scotia's energy sector. In carrying out its responsibilities, the division works closely with other divisions in the department.

The division is responsible for the coordination of general regulatory development and corporate initiatives such as Better Regulation. This commitment includes the goal of reducing administrative paper burden through electronic registries and services delivery. The division also works closely with the federal government and other jurisdictions, industry and key stakeholders to develop an efficient and effective

regulatory regime for offshore and onshore petroleum resources.

Nova Scotia Energy works with partners in the province's energy research community to help build the knowledge required to resolve energy challenges and close the knowledge gaps that are barriers to our success. These partners include federal research organizations such as the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), the Centre for Offshore Oil and Gas Environmental Research and general research groups such as Petroleum Research Atlantic Canada.

The Strategy Policy, Planning and Services division is also responsible for supporting the two research associations, the Offshore Energy Technical Research (OETR) Association and the Offshore Energy and Environment Research (OEER) Association, which are helping to remove some of the barriers to sustaining prosperity from our offshore energy resources.

The Strategic Policy, Planning and Services division also coordinates corporate activities related to business planning, budgeting, financial management and control, human resources, procurement, records management, information management, submissions to Executive Council and reporting.

Communications

The Communications division is responsible for the coordination and release of internal and external information produced by the department. The division helps to inform Nova Scotians about department activities and increase Nova Scotians understanding about energy use and development. Through a variety of delivery methods, it provides Nova Scotians with information about energy matters so that they can make informed decisions about issues that affect their lives.

The Communications division is also responsible for helping to meet the priorities in the business plan. It is involved in

- public education programs
- conferences
- development of communications and marketing materials for major initiatives
- trade missions
- scholarship programs
- stakeholder consultation sessions
- building of new economic opportunities for Nova Scotia's renewable and non-renewable energy sector.

Acts Administered

See <www.gov.ns.ca/energy/> for a detailed listing.

Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act

Electricity Act

Energy-efficient Appliances Act

Energy Resources Conservation Act

Gas Distribution Act

Offshore Petroleum Royalty Act

Petroleum Resources Act

Petroleum Resources Removal Permit Act

Pipeline Act

Underground Hydrocarbons Storage Act

Other

Environmental Assessment Regulations

Fuel Safety Regulation (Amendment)

Gas Fitter Trade Regulations

Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Assessment Regulations

