



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2014

Since 1997, Atlantic Regulators from each of the provincial government departments of environment and a few years later Environment Canada, have worked closely with regional stakeholders from the petroleum industry and environmental engineering firms, to develop workable guidelines and science-based analytical tools for the management and remediation of petroleum hydrocarbons impacted sites and brownfields.

In 2014, Atlantic PIRI (**P**artners In **R**BCA Implementation) members met face-to-face in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick to supplement monthly teleconferences and to carry out a number of work plan objectives. Members also participated in issue-focused working groups (i.e. Task Groups). These regional meetings assist Atlantic PIRI in fulfilling its mandate and overall objectives as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding. Concurrent at these regional meetings, Atlantic PIRI Regulator and Industry Co-Chairs continued to meet as needed, with provincial departments of environment executives of the host jurisdiction to explore additional areas of mutual benefit and potential collaboration between Atlantic PIRI and each jurisdiction.

The year was marked by some notable milestones as the partnership continues to be guided by four core values: science-based decision-making; continuous improvement; collaboration between stakeholders; and regional harmonization. Atlantic PIRI was successful in all four areas:

Science-based decision-making:

Atlantic PIRI continues to provide Regulators, industry, environmental consultants and other key stakeholders with regulatory and scientific information as a basis for making sound decisions. By adopting Atlantic RBCA (Risk Based Corrective Action) in provincial guidelines or regulations, Regulator members provide responsible parties with an efficient site remedial option and scientifically supportable tools. In 2014, its use resulted in the closing of 298 impacted site files in our region. Since 1997, the Atlantic RBCA toolkit has been successfully used to assess or remediate petroleum impacted sites and facilitate regulatory file closures for over 6,700 sites in Atlantic Canada, readying a number of them for potential brownfield redevelopment opportunities.

By providing web-based training of the *Introduction to Atlantic RBCA* training course and *Ecological Screening Protocol for Petroleum Impacted Sites* module, stakeholders acquire knowledge of the basic principles and concepts of Atlantic RBCA. During the year, 22 people registered for the introductory training which brings the total number of participants to 134 since web-based training was introduced and 16 participants enhanced their introductory training with the supplemental module.

Continuous improvement:

Building from its ongoing success as a collaborative forum, Atlantic PIRI held a 5 year strategic planning session for 2015-2020. Members were fully engaged in the partnership's strategic planning process and demonstrated their ongoing commitment to excellence in the areas of impacted site management and brownfield remediation in Atlantic Canada. The strategic plan refreshes our purpose and objectives as continued **Partners In RBCA Implementation** and facilitates our goal achievement by tracking five key performance indicators.

The Atlantic RBCA website is a valuable resource for users of Atlantic RBCA across the region. Following an online survey among its subscribers and evaluating website modernization options and feasibility, Atlantic PIRI successfully completed a phased approach to redesigning its website. The newly redesigned website has been well received by stakeholders and continues to be an effective mean for disseminating technical and provincial information to the public.

Atlantic PIRI progressed with development efforts to produce additional technical user guidance for other common site contaminants and for vapor screening levels.

Collaboration between stakeholders:

Atlantic PIRI, in cooperation with Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), participated in an ecological risk assessment of sediments at a harbor site in Atlantic Canada. Specifically, Atlantic PIRI contributed to the project by funding the benthic enumeration and analysis portion of the study. Although a final report from DFO is only expected in 2015, Atlantic PIRI stands to benefit from the scientific data collected as part of an upcoming review of the Atlantic RBCA Tier I Ecological Screening Levels.

Having successfully worked with various Corresponding Members since 2010, Atlantic PIRI welcomed AMEC Earth & Infrastructure with their recent interest in becoming a full time regional environmental consultant member at Atlantic PIRI. The Partnership continues to benefit from the active participation of other Corresponding Members most recently, in conjunction with the ongoing development of a chlorinated solvents user guidance.

Members of Atlantic PIRI made presentations to the Canadian Brownfield Network and the Canadian Land Reclamation Association's *Atlantic Reclamation* conferences as well as the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment CCME's Soil Quality Guidelines Task Group annual meeting. The scope and worldwide exposure of these conferences make it an appropriate venue for technical, scientific and regulatory exchanges related to emerging trends in impacted sites management and sustainable development issues.

Regional harmonization:

The Atlantic PIRI forum enables Regulators, industry and environmental consultants to work together in identifying barriers and issues that arise due to jurisdictional processes. The forum also enables provincial jurisdictions to agree on harmonized guiding principles and approaches, while policy requirements can be underpinned through regulatory discretion.

Guided by these principles for recommending a more cohesive approach for our region, Atlantic PIRI completed with the assistance of a consultant, an analysis of publicly accessible information on impacted sites. The report analyzed the outcomes of previous literature and jurisdictional research as well as from internal workshop discussions while considering the protection of human health and the environment, a balance in level of service and information access and privacy. The report offered four broad recommendations of support, three overarching recommendations on a development approach and six selected practical recommendations. Atlantic PIRI expects to release the report in 2015.

Recognizing the importance of demonstrating value returned to our sponsors and affected stakeholders, Atlantic PIRI hired a consultant who completed an economic impact analysis of remediated sites using the Atlantic RBCA approach between 2008 and 2013. The consultant's report presents an analysis using an input-output model and focuses on sales generated; employment generated; contribution to gross domestic product (GDP), and increased revenues for provincial and federal governments in Atlantic Canada. The economic impact analysis will also serve as the basis for Atlantic PIRI to complete a regional benefits analysis which is intended to look at social and governance benefits.

Atlantic PIRI stays informed of petroleum impacted site and brownfield initiatives across Canada, through periodic reviews and updates on provincial guidelines and regulations.

In the coming year, Atlantic PIRI will continue to strive toward goal achievement in each of these core value areas. Some noteworthy milestones for the coming year include:

- Implementing a 5 year Strategic Plan
- Completing an analysis of another key regional harmonization opportunity
- Continuing work on a Regional Benefits Analysis
- Updating Atlantic RBCA User Guidance

Atlantic PIRI:

The Atlantic PIRI team includes: Paul Currie and Dan Hemsworth (Nova Scotia); Michel Poirier and Danny Stymiest (New Brunswick); Barry Jackson (Prince Edward Island); Christa Curnew (Newfoundland and Labrador); Rita Mroz (Environment Canada); Bill Simpkins (Canadian Fuels Association); Corinne Osborne-Fraser (Imperial); Kathy Barker (Irving Oil/Cobalt Properties); Normand Benoit (Suncor); Ulysses Klee and Tania Noble (Stantec Consulting); Jeff Earle (Dillon Consulting); Roger Poirier (Conestoga-Rovers & Associates), and Susan Barfoot (AMEC Foster Wheeler).

For more information, please visit www.atlanticrbca.com or contact us at:

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