



## **Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2015**

### **Forward:**

This year has marked 18 years of regional cooperation between the four Atlantic provincial Departments of Environment and industry stakeholders in a unique partnership known as Atlantic PIRI (**P**artners **I**n **R**isk Based Corrective Action **I**mplementation). This partnership evolved and strengthened harmonized technical and regulatory approaches within the region to foster cost effective remediation and redevelopment of petroleum impacted sites.

By incorporating harmonized risk based corrective action within provincial guidelines or regulations for all four provinces, provincial government members provide our industry partners with the certainty, flexibility and consistency needed to do business while leveraging individual provincial contributions for a greater common regional goal.

Creating these conditions for regulatory certainty related to cleanup and redevelopment of impacted properties across all four provinces is simultaneously good for business, the economy, and the environment. We believe this partnership made and maintained in Atlantic Canada is a best in class approach for regulatory excellence in our region

In recent years, the federal government through Environment Canada has joined the partnership and now provides invaluable federal expertise and insight to our efforts.

This unique partnership continues to evolve and improve as we move into our 19<sup>th</sup> year in 2016 and approach our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017. We are proud of our achievements and are grateful for continued provincial and industry support through our existing Memorandum of Understanding from which we operate.

### **Summary of 2015 Activities:**

In 2015, Atlantic PIRI members met face-to-face in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador 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 with these regional meetings, Atlantic PIRI Regulator and Industry Co-Chairs met with executives from the provincial department of environment of the host jurisdiction to explore additional areas of mutual benefit and potential collaboration between Atlantic PIRI and the host 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
- regional harmonization

Atlantic PIRI was successful in all four areas as described below:

### **Science-based decision-making:**

*Successfully closed another 545 impacted site files in our region.*

Atlantic PIRI provides Regulators and business stakeholders the harmonized science based tools needed to address issues, navigate regulatory processes, and ultimately provide the confidence needed to make sound decisions for repurposing or redeveloping properties. This has the net effect of providing social, economic and environmental value for our communities. In 2015, Atlantic PIRI products resulted in the closing of 545 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 7,250 sites in Atlantic Canada. There are a number of notable examples of successful redevelopment projects over this time in the region that have benefitted from Atlantic PIRI. Atlantic PIRI and RBCA works by readying these properties 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, 14 people registered for the introductory training which brings the total number of participants to 148 since web-based training was introduced in 2008 and 13 participants enhanced their introductory training with the supplemental module.

### **Continuous Improvement:**

*A new strategic plan and communications road map will help us deliver on our mandate.*

Following a successful year in 2014 with the development of a 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, Atlantic PIRI embarked on the 5 year journey towards achieving our strategic goals. Although it refreshed our purpose and objectives as **Partners In RBCA Implementation**, the partnership focused on the development of a companion Communications Plan piece during the Strategic Plan's inaugural year. The Communication Plan will provide members with a more cohesive and effective roadmap for informing and engaging stakeholders.

The Atlantic RBCA website continued to be a valuable resource for users of Atlantic RBCA across the region. The recently redesigned website provided Atlantic PIRI members with a more effective means for disseminating information and a more intuitive platform for users seeking information about Atlantic RBCA and regulatory processes across our region.

Atlantic PIRI made significant progress with development efforts to produce additional technical user guidance for other common site contaminants and for vapour screening levels. Although these projects were nearing completion towards year end, Atlantic PIRI agreed to carry this work forward into 2016 and give its Corresponding Members and public stakeholders an opportunity to review the draft documentation and provide input for Atlantic PIRI consideration prior to their release.

### **Collaboration between stakeholders:**

*Strengthening our outreach and learning opportunities in the region and across the country.*

Having worked with various Corresponding Members since 2010, Atlantic PIRI continues to benefit from the active participation of other Corresponding Members and anticipates future engagement opportunities as the number of Corresponding Members increase.

Members of Atlantic PIRI made presentations to the Canadian Brownfield Network, the Canadian Land Reclamation Association's *Atlantic Reclamation* and RemEast conferences and various other stakeholder events. 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 remediation. .

### **Regional harmonization:**

*Working together for more certainty across the region is good for the environment and the economy.*

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 released an analysis of publicly accessible information on impacted sites. The report analyzed the outcomes of previous literature, jurisdictional research, and information from internal workshop discussions. It considered 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.

Recognizing the importance of demonstrating value returned to our sponsors and affected stakeholders, Atlantic PIRI completed an economic impact analysis of remediated sites using the Atlantic RBCA approach between 2008 and 2013. The consultant's report presented an analysis using an input-output model and focused 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 serve as the basis for Atlantic PIRI to complete in the future, a companion social and governance benefits analysis.

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

## **The Year Ahead:**

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:

### Introducing:

- new Communication Plan
- new technical tools and criteria for implementation
- updated technical guidance for implementation

### Participating:

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Conference in Ottawa
- 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Remediation in Montreal
- Canadian Brownfields Network Conference in Toronto

### Initiating:

- Analysis of another key regional harmonization opportunity
- Regional Benefits Analysis (Social and Governance)

### Developing:

- Professional development event

### Exploring:

PIRI membership structure and engaging stakeholders to provide value in an evolving industry landscape

## **Atlantic PIRI:**

The Atlantic PIRI team is comprised of the following individuals and organizations;

### **Government representatives:**

Danny Stymiest (New Brunswick)  
Michel Poirier (New Brunswick)  
Barry Jackson (Prince Edward Island)  
Christa Curnew (Newfoundland and Labrador)  
Jonathan Kay (Nova Scotia)  
Paul Currie (Nova Scotia, Co-Chair)  
Rita Mroz (representing Environment Canada & Climate Change, Atlantic Region)

### **Industry Representatives:**

Bill Simpkins (Canadian Fuels Association, Co- Chair)  
Corinne Osborne-Fraser (Imperial Oil Limited)  
Kathy Barker (Irving Oil)  
Kenneth Tedder (Suncor)

### **Regional Consulting Representatives:**

Ulysses Klee (Stantec Consulting)  
Tania Noble (Stantec Consulting)  
Jeff Earle (Dillon Consulting)  
Roger Poirier (GHD Limited)  
Susan Barfoot (Amec Foster Wheeler)

For more information, please visit [www.atlanticrbca.com](http://www.atlanticrbca.com) or contact us at:

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