



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2016

Forward:

This past year has marked 19 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).

As we enter our 20th Anniversary in 2017, we are grateful for continued provincial and industry support through our existing Memorandum of Understanding from which we operate.

We believe Atlantic PIRI has been a regional success through our unique partnership that has harmonized risk based approaches for all four provinces. This has provided 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 are pleased to provide a summary of Atlantic PIRI's 2016 activities and accomplishments.

Summary of 2016 Activities:

In 2016, Atlantic PIRI members held three face-to-face 2 day meetings in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick along with monthly teleconferences as part of advancing our workplan. 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 on several occasions to discuss strategic initiatives and general administration of the committee.

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

Science-based decision-making:

Successfully closed another 575 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 2016, Atlantic PIRI products resulted in the closing of 575 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 7,825 sites in Atlantic Canada. There are several 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. Enrollment has diminished in the past several years and as such, Atlantic PIRI is evaluating the continuance of web based training.

Continuous Improvement:

Implementing our strategic plan

Atlantic PIRI's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan lays out a 5-year journey toward achieving our strategic goals. In 2016 we achieved success in relation to several strategic goals, including improving the Atlantic RBCA process and advances in risk assessment, by the launch of revised guidance for vapour intrusion assessment in December of 2016.

This product was developed by Atlantic PIRI and will contribute greatly to the management of risks at contaminated sites in Atlantic Canada by providing current science based approaches across the region. Communication with stakeholders was a key component of this work, which resulted in a product that was reflective and inclusive of stakeholder concerns and comments.

During 2016 Atlantic PIRI also reflected on the committee structure and makeup to ensure we strategically orient in the face of an evolving regulatory and industry landscape within the region as we move toward 2020.

Collaboration between stakeholders:

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

Atlantic PIRI continued to be recognized both regionally and nationally for leadership and technical excellence in 2016. Atlantic PIRI presented at several national and regional workshops related to managing contaminated sites and brownfields and fostered relationships for mutual collaboration, including the Canadian Brownfields Network in Toronto and a Sustainable Remediation conference in Montreal.

The scope and worldwide exposure of these conferences result in PIRI members having the opportunity for valuable technical, scientific and regulatory exchanges related to emerging trends in impacted sites management and sustainable remediation.

The Canadian Brownfields Network (CBN) sought input from Atlantic PIRI around the development of Guiding principles for CBN for their continued presence and impact across Canada.

In 2016 Atlantic PIRI strengthened our approach to stakeholder engagement by holding one on one meetings between technical representatives and specific stakeholders related to our technical guidance for vapour intrusion. Seeking and incorporating such input and providing feedback and response to stakeholders strengthened our products and relationships with key regional stakeholders, such as the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the Canadian Oil Heat Association

Regional harmonization:

Working together for harmonization 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 maintains a matrix of potential opportunities for harmonization beyond the existing technical tool for risk based corrective action. In 2016 Atlantic PIRI identified and developed project scopes for two harmonization projects that can benefit the region and support government and stakeholders.

One project involves assessing requirements for recognizing site professional qualifications for performing work in the region. The other project is concerning the development of harmonized screening levels for contaminants other than petroleum hydrocarbon based on work already completed in Nova Scotia.

The Year Ahead:

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

- Finalizing a revised Terms of Reference for Atlantic PIRI membership to strategically orient the committee in the years to come
- Complete a harmonization project related to assessing site professional qualifications in the region
- Finalizing a scope of work and proposal for developing harmonized screening levels for contaminants of concern in the region other than petroleum hydrocarbon
- Organizing and hosting a regional workshop for stakeholders as part of our communication and outreach planning
- Making changes to the existing toolkit to support petroleum hydrocarbon assessments and assessing it to ensure future investments are technically and financially sound
- Determining a path forward for implementing Atlantic PIRI developed screening levels using the toolkit for chlorinated solvent contaminants in the region

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)
Kathy Barker (Irving Oil)
Steve Dutaud (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 or contact us:

Sincerely,



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