



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2017

Forward:

This past year has marked 20 years of regional cooperation among 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).

The purpose of Atlantic PIRI is to facilitate the adoption of a harmonized, risk-based approach for managing impacted sites in the Atlantic region using an ASTM tool known as Risk Based Corrective Action (RBCA). Atlantic RBCA is specific to Atlantic Canada's needs and is equal to, or better than, Canada-wide Standards (CWS) developed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).

Atlantic PIRI continues to serve this purpose as a regional stakeholder partnership that maintains Atlantic RBCA and creates a forum for identification and discussion of issues, develops standards and processes, and provides recommendations for continued technical and regulatory harmonization across all four Atlantic Provinces.

As we entered our 20th Anniversary in 2017, we were grateful for continued provincial and industry support through our existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that guides how we operate. The MOU has been periodically renewed to establish PIRI's continuing mandate to support regional brownfield and impacted site management, harmonization efforts, and maintaining the Atlantic RBCA technical and scientific tools. PIRI delivers upon the objectives set out by the MOU in accordance with its core strengths and areas of expertise, principally related to scientific, technical and related regulatory issues.

We believe Atlantic PIRI has been a regional success through our unique partnership that has harmonized risk based approaches for all four Atlantic Provinces. Creating conditions for regulatory certainty related to remediation and redevelopment of impacted sites across all four Atlantic Provinces is beneficial for the environment, the economy and for business.

We are pleased to provide a summary of Atlantic PIRI's 2017 activities and accomplishments.

Summary of 2017 Activities:

In 2017, Atlantic PIRI members held three, face-to-face, two-day meetings in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador along with monthly teleconferences as part of advancing our work plan. 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 MOU. 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.

This 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 454 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 2017, Atlantic PIRI actions resulted in the closing of 454 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 8,279 sites in Atlantic Canada. Atlantic PIRI and RBCA works by readying these properties for potential brownfield redevelopment opportunities.

After 10 years of providing web-based Atlantic RBCA training, Atlantic PIRI has evaluated the usefulness of web-based training as we move forward. Enrollment has diminished in the past several years and although 148 participants registered for web-based training since the launch in 2008, Atlantic PIRI has decided to discontinue offering web-based training. Alternative approaches are being considered for disseminating technical information to the site professional community for training purposes. Atlantic PIRI wishes to thank its service provider and all participants.

Continuous Improvement:

Renewing Atlantic PIRI Terms of Reference

During 2017 Atlantic PIRI renewed its Terms of Reference (TOR) which outlines committee structure, operating processes, and makeup. This initiative ensures strategic positioning in an evolving regulatory and industry landscape within the region. This five-year review provided an opportunity to improve upon the 2008 TOR, apply lessons learned, and make strategic adjustments to meet the changing needs in the Atlantic region.

The purpose of Atlantic PIRI, its core values and functions were renewed and the partnership's representation and structure were modified to meet the current and near future needs of the committee. Roles and responsibilities, committee representation and expectations, meetings and committee work, reporting, accountability, decisions and documentation were all renewed, clarified or introduced to improve Atlantic PIRI's operation.

The updated Terms of Reference have been published on the Atlantic RBCA website www.atlanticrbc.com

Collaboration Among 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 2017. Atlantic PIRI presented at national and regional workshops related to managing impacted sites and brownfields, and fostered relationships for mutual collaboration, including interactions with the Canadian Brownfields Network.

The Canadian Brownfields Network (CBN) continued to seek input from Atlantic PIRI regarding development of CBN guiding principles and continued presence and impact across Canada.

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

Facilitating professional development and collaboration across the region.

In 2017, Atlantic PIRI successfully organized and hosted a one day regional seminar for stakeholders on November 9th in Halifax, Nova Scotia as part of our communication and outreach planning.

The event was sold out. Two hundred registrants from across Atlantic Canada attended the one day professional development seminar titled "*The Evolution of Remediation and Redevelopment in Atlantic Canada*". The seminar, through a mix of presentations, case studies and robust question and answer sessions focused on the exchange of technical, scientific, and regulatory information specific to the region.

The seminar was opened with an address by the Nova Scotia Deputy Minister of the Environment, Frances Martin. Keynote speaker was Radha D. Curpen, an Environmental, Aboriginal and Regulatory lawyer with Bennett Jones.

Other scientific, technical, legal, insurance, and financial presenters included:

- Carole Chan, McInnes Cooper
- Robert Turner, GHD Limited
- Maylia K. Parker, Stantec Consulting
- James Evans, Royal Bank of Canada
- Andy Williams, AMG Claims Inc.
- Petro Oh, Maxxam Analytics
- Guillaume Couillard, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Andrew Thalheimer, Dillon Consulting
- Rita Mroz, Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Brian Drover, Environment and and Climate Change Canada
- Susan Barfoot, Wood PLC

Attendees from the region represented a broad range of stakeholders from government, consulting, industry, legal, financial, insurance, service providers and other key sectors. Feedback from participants was very positive and encourages Atlantic PIRI to host more professional development events in the future.

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 to identify 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 2017, Atlantic PIRI identified and developed project scopes for two harmonization projects that can benefit the region and support government and stakeholders. Both projects were initiated and significant progress has been made throughout the year delivering on key milestones.

The first project creates a new harmonization opportunity which will enable the Atlantic RBCA Technical User Guidance to meet the needs of a wider range of stakeholders throughout the region. The scope of the “Environmental Quality Standards” Project is to harmonize criteria throughout Atlantic Canada. The numerical standards will include all relevant media including: soil, surface water (fresh and marine), groundwater and sediment.

The 2013 environmental quality standards from Nova Scotia Environment will form the basis of this project. This is a significant undertaking for Atlantic PIRI involving most of the committee members and some external partners and contractors. A final report is anticipated in the next year.

The second project titled “Site Professional Experience Requirements” is to develop a standard set of experience requirements for site professionals across Atlantic Canada. This project will lead to increased public/regulator confidence in site professionals and improved harmonization between jurisdictions. It is anticipated the findings will be compiled in a final report in 2018. The report will outline recommended principles for harmonization.

The Year Ahead:

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

- 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.
- Reviewing the Atlantic RBCA website and refreshing its content.

Atlantic PIRI:

The Atlantic PIRI team is composed of the following individuals and organizations:

Government Representatives:

- Barry Jackson, Prince Edward Island, Co-chair
- Christa Curnew, Newfoundland and Labrador, in-coming Co-chair
- Jonathan Kay, Nova Scotia
- Brent Cox, Nova Scotia
- Michel Poirier, New Brunswick
- Rita Mroz, Environment & Climate Change Canada

Industry Representatives:

- Bill Simpkins, Canadian Fuels Association, Co-chair
- Diana Rumman, Imperial Oil
- Kathy Barker, Irving Oil (Kathleen Riecken in-coming representative)
- Steve Dutaud Suncor

Regional Environmental Consulting Representatives:

- Kelly Johnson, Stantec Consulting
- Jeff Earle, Dillon Consulting
- Roger Poirier, GHD Limited
- Susan Barfoot, Wood PLC

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

Sincerely,



Barry Jackson
Regulator Co-chair
bajackson@gov.pe.ca
(902)368-5173



William (Bill) Simpkins
Industry Co-chair
billsimpkins@canadianfuels.ca
(902) 465-7776