



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2013

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 contaminated sites and brownfields.

In 2013, Atlantic PIRI members met face-to-face in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador to supplement monthly teleconferences and to carry out a number of work plan objectives. Committee 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 met 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: By adopting Atlantic RBCA in provincial guidelines or regulations, Regulator members provide responsible parties with an efficient site cleanup option and scientifically supportable risk assessment toolkit. In 2013, its use resulted in the closing of at least 352 petroleum contaminated site files in our region. Since 1997, the Atlantic RBCA toolkit has been successfully used to assess or clean-up petroleum impacted sites and facilitate regulatory file closures for over 6,400 sites to date in Atlantic Canada, readying a number of them for potential brownfield redevelopment opportunities.

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.

Since 2008, the *Introduction to Atlantic RBCA* training course has been web-based and in 2013, was updated to Version 3 and supplemented with a new module for *Ecological Screening Protocol for Petroleum Impacted Sites*. These online training options provide stakeholders with the knowledge of the basic principles and concepts of Atlantic RBCA. During the year, 47 people registered for Version 3 training which brings the total number of participants to 115 since training was converted to web-based and another 17 people registered to supplement their introductory training with the new module.

Continuous improvement: At the *Canadian Urban Institute's* Annual Brownie Awards, which recognizes leadership, innovation and environmental sustainability in brownfields redevelopment across Canada, both Atlantic PIRI and Nova Scotia Department of Environment were finalists in the category-specific awards program: *Category 1 – Legislation, Policy and Program Development* for Atlantic RBCA Version 3 and a new provincial Contaminated Sites Remediation Regulation respectively.

Atlantic PIRI continues with development efforts to produce additional Atlantic RBCA user guidance for other common site contaminants. A Chlorinated Solvent User Guidance Task Group was formed collaboratively between Atlantic PIRI and select Corresponding Members. With a scope of work and agreement on the terms of reference, the Task Group undertook a jurisdictional scan and literature search for best management practices that would form the basis of draft user guidance in the upcoming year.

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 initiated a phased approach to redesigning its website as an effective mean for disseminating technical and provincial information to the public. Final design considerations and launch of the new website are expected in 2014.

Collaboration between stakeholders: In response to the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council's (ITRC) Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Team Co-Lead inquiry, Atlantic PIRI provided ITRC with Atlantic RBCA User Guidance for Soil Vapour and Indoor Air Monitoring Assessments. The partnership also took advantage of this exchange to inform the Vapor Intrusion Team Co-Lead that in 2014, Atlantic PIRI intends to undertake a comprehensive review of its soil vapour user guidance and incorporate where appropriate, current literature and petroleum vapour intrusion guidance from key jurisdictions.

Atlantic PIRI was invited to provide the Department of National Defence (DND) with comments concerning *A Management Framework for LNAPL Sites at 5 Wing Goose Bay in Newfoundland and Labrador*. One of Atlantic PIRI's work plan objectives is to monitor sustainable remediation and emerging risk management approaches and with this in mind, Atlantic PIRI communicated its interest in learning more about the framework's site management model, multiple lines of evidence approach and management considerations beyond the science.

In the coming year, Atlantic PIRI will be hosting representatives of DND and their environmental consultant for an information exchange opportunity and to obtain more details of their supporting *Technical Guidance for the Assessment of the Mobility of Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL)/Free Product and Associated Dissolved Phase Plumes*.

In addition, members of Atlantic PIRI made presentations to the Canadian Urban Institute's *Canadian Brownfields* conference, International Environmental Technology Trade Show and *Americana* conference, Real Property Institute of Canada's *Federal Contaminated Sites* workshop, the Canadian Land Reclamation Association's *Atlantic Reclamation* conference, the *40th Aquatic Toxicity* workshop and CCME's Soil Quality Guidelines Task Group annual meeting. The scope and worldwide exposure of *Canadian Brownfields* and *Americana* conferences make it an appropriate venue for technical, scientific and regulatory exchanges related to emerging trends in contaminated 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. Atlantic PIRI also enables provincial jurisdictions to agree on harmonized guiding principles and approaches, while policy requirements can be underpinned through regulatory discretion.

After agreeing to guiding principles, Atlantic PIRI established a work plan and development process which includes a jurisdictional survey and literature search from select Canadian, North American and International jurisdictions. Atlantic PIRI has begun the process of analyzing the contaminated site and brownfield information repository work plan item and in the upcoming year, plans to make strategic recommendations for a more cohesive approach for our region.

Atlantic PIRI continues to collect economic data in preparation for a Regional Benefits Analysis project. This project is intended to demonstrate value returned to stakeholders for using Atlantic RBCA compared to previous contaminated site management approaches. The initiative will provide a "first glance" at the economic, social and regulatory process benefits.

Atlantic PIRI stays informed of petroleum contaminated site and brownfield initiatives across Canada, through periodic reviews and updates on provincial guidelines and regulations. As knowledgeable leaders in petroleum contaminated site management, Atlantic PIRI interacted with Nova Scotia in anticipation of their new Contaminated Sites Remediation regulation and with New Brunswick regarding its proposed changes to their Contaminated Sites Remediation program.

In the coming year, Atlantic PIRI will continue to strive toward their goal of achieving success in these four core value areas. Some noteworthy milestones for the coming year will include the following:

- Holding a 5 year Strategic Planning Session
- Releasing a redesigned Atlantic RBCA website
- Completing an analysis of a key regional harmonization opportunity
- Continuing work on a Regional Benefits Analysis
- Drafting Chlorinated Solvent User Guidance
- Reviewing Soil Vapour User Guidance for Petroleum Hydrocarbons

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