



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2018

Forward:

In its 21st year of regional cooperation among the four Atlantic Provincial Departments of Environment and industry stakeholders, Atlantic PIRI (**P**artners **i**n **R**isk Based Corrective Action **I**mplementation) continues to be recognized for its unique partnership.

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.

We are 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 meets 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 2018 activities and accomplishments.

Summary of 2018 Activities:

In 2018, Atlantic PIRI members held two, face-to-face, two-day meetings in Nova Scotia and in New Brunswick along with regular 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.

The Partnership's members were asked to renew their commitment to Atlantic PIRI during the past year. A commitment form was used to emphasize the substantial involvement and active participation needed from members in upholding the ideals of Atlantic PIRI. All members unanimously signed the commitment forms which reinforced a cohesive support system for Atlantic PIRI in carrying out its regional mandate.

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 among stakeholders
- regional harmonization

Science-Based Decision-Making:

Successfully closed another 479 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 2018, Atlantic PIRI actions resulted in the closing of 479 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 more than 8758 sites in Atlantic Canada. The Atlantic RBCA toolkit works by readying these properties for potential brownfield redevelopment opportunities.

Continuous Improvement:

Making information more readily accessible for our stakeholders.

Atlantic PIRI recognizes the importance of informing various private sector stakeholders and the public. In 2018, the Atlantic RBCA website was reviewed and its content was refreshed. The Atlantic PIRI Website Project Team focused on making relevant provincial and technical information more easily accessible, concise and consistent. Most of the information on the Atlantic RBCA website is available in both official languages. Atlantic PIRI would like to thank its members for their contributions and third-party contractors, Joe Oliver (Inspiration Designs); Mary-lou Rossiter (Atlantic Resources Company Inc.); and Christine Jackson for their support in completing this project.

Keeping up with changes in science by improving technical guidance.

In late 2018, Atlantic PIRI undertook a review of its Guidance for Vapour Intrusion Assessments. Through a series of revisions, notable modifications were made to the biodegradation factor and vapour intrusion screening levels for residential/agricultural land uses in response to changes in science. Additional changes are expected in 2019 and Atlantic PIRI expects to release the revised guidance documentation early in the year.

Collaboration Among Stakeholders:

Fostering relationships to better serve Atlantic Canadians.

In the fall, Atlantic PIRI met with representatives of the Canadian Independent Petroleum Marketers Association (CIPMA). Strategic discussions between Atlantic PIRI and the fuel distribution industry helps facilitate the implementation of Atlantic RBCA throughout the region.

Regional Harmonization:

Working together for harmonization across the region is good for the environment and the economy.

Two years ago, Atlantic PIRI commissioned a study in support of the development of consistent harmonized requirements for qualifying site professionals in Atlantic Canada. As part of the study, environmental regulators across the country were asked what the important factors were for determining the qualifications of site professionals.

While the provinces within Atlantic Canada apply separate and distinct approaches to qualifying site professionals, the Partnership considers relevant experience to be an important factor for demonstrating ability and to include in qualifications requirements.

In turn, Atlantic PIRI pursued the development of a standard set of experience requirements, which will safeguard confidence in site professionals and enhance harmonization within Atlantic Canada.

Released in 2018, the *Guideline on Site Professional Experience Requirements in Atlantic Canada* provides a harmonized approach that outlines consistent relevant expectations for qualifying site professionals in Atlantic Canada, while acknowledging that each jurisdiction will define the qualification requirements applicable within their own province.

Publishing a more comprehensive set of environmental standards.

Throughout 2018, Atlantic PIRI continued making progress with a key harmonization opportunity which will drive 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.

Once completed, Atlantic PIRI will publish the final report on the Atlantic RBCA website.

Establishing a forum for discussion, collaboration and harmonization.

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.

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 RBCA toolkit (Version 4).
- Completing the development of screening levels using the RBCA toolkit for chlorinated solvent contaminants in the region.
- Planning for a Professional Development session in 2020.

Atlantic PIRI:

Atlantic PIRI wishes to thank Roger Poirier (GHD), Kathy Barker, (Irving Oil), Diana Rumman (Imperial), Steve Dutaud (Suncor) and Michelle Paul Elias (Irving Oil) for their commitment to Atlantic PIRI throughout the years and welcomes its newest members, Steve Little (Irving Oil), Justin Ly (Imperial Oil) and Mark Twist (Suncor).

The Atlantic PIRI team for 2019 is composed of the following individuals and organizations:

Government Representatives:

- Christa Curnew (Newfoundland and Labrador, Co-Chair)
- Barry Jackson (Prince Edward Island)
- 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)
- Justin Ly (Imperial Oil)
- Steve Little (Irving Oil)
- Mark Twist (Suncor)

Regional Consulting Representatives:

- Jeff Earle (Dillon Consulting)
- Susan Barfoot (Wood PLC)
- Jamie O'Neill (GHD)
- Kelly Johnson (CBCL Limited)

Communications Consulting Representative:

- Mary-lou Rossiter (Atlantic Resources Company Inc.)

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

Sincerely,



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