



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2021

Forward

Atlantic PIRI (**P**artners in **R**isk Based Corrective Action **I**mplementation) is in its 24th year of regional cooperation among the four Atlantic provincial departments of environment and industry stakeholders. This unique partnership has harmonized risk-based management of impacted sites in the Atlantic region and created conditions for regulatory certainty related to remediation and redevelopment in the Atlantic Provinces.

The purpose of Atlantic PIRI is to facilitate the ongoing use of a harmonized, risk-based approach for managing impacted sites in the Atlantic region using an ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) 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).

The Atlantic PIRI partnership maintains Atlantic RBCA and creates a forum to identify and discuss emerging issues, develop standards and processes, and provide recommendations for continued technical and regulatory harmonization across the four Atlantic provinces. Atlantic PIRI has been recognized as a regional success, benefitting human health, the environment, and the economy across the region.

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.

In 2022 Atlantic PIRI will celebrate its 25th year of regional collaboration and New Brunswick will once again take on the leadership role of regulator co-chair for Atlantic PIRI. As we continue to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic we hope to return to face-to-face meetings in 2022.

We are pleased to provide a summary of Atlantic PIRI's 2021 activities and accomplishments.

Summary of 2021 Activities

The Atlantic PIRI partnership, like many groups across the world in 2021, continued to make some notable changes to its operational practices in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Atlantic PIRI did not hold any regional face-to-face meetings in 2021 instead we opted to conduct work through virtual meetings and remote work settings to advance projects and the overall work plan. Regular virtual project meetings assisted Atlantic PIRI in fulfilling its mandate and overall objectives as set out in the MOU. Concurrent with project meetings, Atlantic PIRI regulators and the regulator/industry co-chairs continued to discuss strategic initiatives, manage budgets, and undertake general administration of the committee from remote work settings.

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 326 impacted site files in 2021*

Atlantic PIRI provides regulators and regional stakeholders with the harmonized science-based tools needed to address issues, navigate regulatory processes, and ultimately provide the confidence needed to make sound decisions for managing impacted sites. This has the net effect of providing social, economic, and environmental value for our communities.

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 **9726** sites in Atlantic Canada. The Atlantic RBCA toolkit works by readying these properties for potential redevelopment opportunities.

Continuous Improvement:

Keeping up with changes in science by improving technical guidance

Deeply rooted in Atlantic PIRI, is its desire to continuously improve the Atlantic RBCA process. In 2021, Atlantic PIRI completed a significant Atlantic RBCA Toolkit update to ensure it provides equivalent, or better protection than CCME Canada Wide Standards for soil and incorporates appropriate advances in risk assessment for impacted sites. The updated version is available in both French and English and includes expanded subsurface volatilization modelling and earthen floor modelling options. Biodegradation and earthen floors allow stakeholders to assess potential exposure risks from petroleum hydrocarbons for a broader range of scenarios common to our region.

*Represents reporting from NL, NS, NB for 2021

Collaboration Among Stakeholders:

Fostering relationships to better serve Atlantic Canadians

Atlantic Regulators, have established a strong relationship over the years and throughout 2021 continued with regular virtual meetings (as needed) sharing regulatory experience, seeking jurisdictional insight, and making progress on important project milestones.

Regional Harmonization:

Publishing a more comprehensive set of environmental standards

In 2021, Atlantic PIRI finalized a key harmonization opportunity which drives the Atlantic RBCA Technical User Guidance to meet the needs of a wider range of stakeholders throughout the region. Rebranded, the Tier 1 Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) and Tier 2 Pathway Specific Standards (PSS) for soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment for the Atlantic Provinces. This project showcases another significant harmonization achievement for the region.

Atlantic regulators released an implementation plan that strikes a balance between transition from the previous to the newer version and provides opportunities to benefit from the updated science to close more files in a timely manner.

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 achieving its goals in line with its core values of respect, cooperation, collaboration, consensus, and transparency. Some noteworthy initiatives for the coming year include:

- Establishing Tier I Environmental Quality Standards and Tier II Pathway Specific Standards maintenance program.
- Creating regulatory checklists to review Atlantic RBCA modeling submissions.
- Updating vapour intrusion guidance.
- Exploring site professional membership additions.
- Strategic planning for the next five years.
- Celebrating 25 years of successful regional collaboration and achievement

Atlantic PIRI

Atlantic PIRI wishes to thank Barry Jackson (Prince Edward Island) for his commitment to Atlantic PIRI throughout the years and welcomes its newest members Mallory Gilliss (New Brunswick), Anna Roy-Smith (Newfoundland and Labrador), John Bertrand (Imperial Oil) and Donna Wojtanowski (Suncor).

Atlantic PIRI Members

Government Representatives:

- Brent Cox (Nova Scotia, co-chair)
- Jonathan Kay (Nova Scotia)
- Jennifer Strickland (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Anna Roy-Smith (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Vacancy (Prince Edward Island)
- Mallory Gilliss (New Brunswick)
- Michel Poirier (New Brunswick)
- Rita Mroz (Environment & Climate Change Canada)

Industry Representatives:

- Bill Simpkins (Canadian Fuels Association, co-chair)
- John Bertrand (Imperial Oil)
- Steve Little and Michelle Paul-Elias (Irving Oil)
- Donna Wojtanowski (Suncor)

Regional Consulting Representatives:

- Kelly Johnson (Stantec)
- Jeff Earle (Dillon Consulting)
- Jamie O'Neill (GHD)
- Annick St-Amand (Stantec)

Communications/IT Representatives:

- Mary-lou Rossiter (Atlantic Resources Company Inc.)
- Joe Oliver (Inspiration Design)

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

Sincerely,



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