



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2023

Forward

Atlantic PIRI (**P**artners in **R**isk Based Corrective Action **I**mplementation) is in its 26th 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 Atlantic PIRI's continuing mandate to support regional brownfield and impacted site management, harmonization efforts, and maintaining the Atlantic RBCA technical and scientific tools. Atlantic 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 are pleased to provide a summary of Atlantic PIRI's 2023 activities and accomplishments, including recognition of closing more than 10,000 sites in Atlantic Canada using a risk-based approach.

Summary of 2023 Activities

In 2023, the Atlantic PIRI partnership continued to conduct its work through a combination of virtual meetings and face-to-face meetings to advance projects and the overall workplan. These meetings assisted Atlantic PIRI in fulfilling its mandate and overall objectives as set out in the MOU. In 2023, Atlantic PIRI advanced work on an update to the vapour intrusion guidance document and a project to maintain the Environmental Quality Standards and Pathway Specific Standards. In addition, Atlantic PIRI regulators and the regulator/industry co-chairs continued to discuss strategic initiatives, manage budgets, and undertake general operational tasks 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 Among Stakeholders**
- **Regional Harmonization**

Science-Based Decision Making:

Successfully closed another 386 impacted site files in Atlantic Canada in 2023

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 **10,497** 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 2023, Atlantic PIRI advanced work on an update to the Guidance for Vapour Intrusion Assessments, to incorporate the latest science and information. The updated guidance is expected to be released in 2024. The committee also worked on a project that developed a framework to maintain the Environmental Quality Standards and Pathway Specific Standards, including a schedule for regular updates of the standards, balancing updated science against regulatory certainty. Finally, the committee continued work on a project to evaluate future concepts and/or alternatives to the Atlantic RBCA toolkit.

Collaboration Among Stakeholders:

Fostering relationships to better serve Atlantic Canadians

Atlantic Regulators have established a strong relationship over the years and throughout 2023 continued with regular virtual and in-person 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 2023, Atlantic PIRI continued to advance work on updates to technical guidance, including the Guidance for Vapour Intrusion Assessments and establishing a framework for maintaining the Environmental Quality Standards and Pathway Specific Standards. These projects continue to showcase the harmonization achievements for the region.

Atlantic regulators evaluated a wide range of potential future projects that would support and benefit all the Atlantic provinces in the management of contaminated sites.

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:

- Release an updated Guidance for Vapour Intrusion Assessments.
- Maintain the Environmental Quality Standards and Pathway Specific Standards.
- Initiate Project Charters for development of soil re-use guidance and background condition guidance.
- Continue to evaluate future concepts and/or alternatives to the Atlantic RBCA toolkit.
- Continue strategic planning for the next five years.

Atlantic PIRI

Atlantic PIRI Members 2023

Government Representatives:

- Brent Cox (Nova Scotia, co-chair)
- Jonathan Kay (Nova Scotia)
- Jennifer Simms (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Hannah Jenkins (Prince Edward Island)
- Mallory Gilliss (New Brunswick)
- André Fortin (New Brunswick)
- Zachary Bartlett (Environment & Climate Change Canada)

Industry Representatives:

- Bill Simpkins (Canadian Fuels Association, co-chair)
- Jeff Newman (Imperial Oil)
- Steve Little (Irving Oil)
- Stephen D'Abadie (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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