



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2024

Forward

Atlantic PIRI (**P**artners in **R**isk Based Corrective Action **I**mplementation) is in its 27th 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 2024 activities and accomplishments, including recognition of closing another 454 sites in Atlantic Canada using a risk-based approach.

Summary of 2024 Activities

In 2024, 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 and Strategic Plan. 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 454 impacted site files in Atlantic Canada in 2024

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 process has been successfully used to assess or remediate impacted sites and facilitate regulatory file closures for more than 10,951 sites in Atlantic Canada. The Atlantic RBCA process 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 May 2024, Atlantic PIRI successfully released the updated Guidance for Vapour Intrusion Assessments which incorporates the latest scientific and technical information. This multi-year project required dedicated technical expertise and scientific knowledge available through the Atlantic PIRI committee. The committee also worked on several more projects throughout 2024:

- Development of a maintenance framework for Environmental Quality Standards and Pathway Specific Standards, including a schedule for regular reviews of the standards, balancing updated science with regulatory certainty.

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- Development of a new document collaboration tool to enhance the PIRI committee's internal website and improve efficiency when developing and reviewing scientific and technical documents.
 - Development of Soil Re-Use Guidance for Atlantic Canada to help safeguard regulator/public confidence in the reuse of soil
 - Development of Background Conditions Guidance for Atlantic Canada to enhance scientific consistency and jurisdictional harmonization efforts in the region.
 - 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 2024 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

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

As referenced previously, in 2024, Atlantic PIRI updated the Guidance for Vapour Intrusion Assessments and worked on establishing a framework for maintaining Environmental Quality Standards and Pathway Specific Standards. These projects, in particular, showcase the harmonization achievements for the Atlantic region.

Establishing a forum for discussion, collaboration, and harmonization

The Atlantic PIRI committee enables regulators, industry, and environmental consultants to work together to identify barriers and issues that arise due to jurisdictional processes. The committee also enables provincial jurisdictions to agree on harmonized guiding principles and approaches, while policy requirements can be underpinned through regulatory discretion in each province.

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.

Bill Simpkins, long-time Canadian Fuels Association representative on the Atlantic PIRI committee and Industry co-chair for more than 20 years, is retiring and stepping down from his role as co-chair. His leadership, steady stewardship, and unwavering commitment to Atlantic PIRI has been instrumental in maintaining a strong and successful partnership among regulators, industry, and environmental professionals within the Atlantic region.

Helen Bennett, from the Canadian Fuels Association will be joining Atlantic PIRI in 2025 and serving as Industry co-chair. Helen brings a wealth of environmental expertise to the Committee and we look forward to her leadership in continuing this important work.

Some noteworthy initiatives for 2025:

- Finalize and adopt the maintenance framework for Environmental Quality Standards and Pathway Specific Standards
- Continue the development the Soil Re-Use and Background Condition Guidance
- Complete project screening for Ground Water Restriction/Exclusion Zone Guidance
- Complete project screening for update to ecological sediment quality numbers
- Complete project screening for the inclusion of ethanol in EQS/PSS.
- Strategic review and evaluation of the Atlantic RBCA toolkit
- Initiate the strategic planning process for Atlantic PIRI's next five-year strategic plan

Atlantic PIRI

Atlantic PIRI Members 2024

Government Representatives:

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

Industry Representatives:

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

Regional Consulting Representatives:

- Kelly Johnson, WSP Canada Inc.
- Jeff Earle, Dillon Consulting
- Jamie O'Neill, GHD
- Annick St-Amand, Stantec

Communications and 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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