



Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2025

Forward

Atlantic PIRI (Partners in Risk-Based Corrective Action Implementation) is in its 28th year of collaboration among the four Atlantic provincial environment departments and industry stakeholders. This partnership has successfully harmonized the risk-based management of impacted sites across the region, supporting regulatory certainty for remediation and redevelopment in Atlantic Canada.

Atlantic PIRI operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that confirms the collective commitment of all four Atlantic provinces to actively support and sustain the PIRI partnership, alongside provincial and industry partners. The MOU sets out a unified mandate to deliver consistent and effective management of impacted sites, advance regional harmonization, and maintain the essential technical tools required to support sound regulatory decision-making across the Atlantic region.

Atlantic PIRI's mandate is to advance a consistent, risk-based approach to site management using the ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) framework. The Atlantic RBCA model is a version tailored to regional conditions and meets or exceeds Canada-Wide Standards established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).

Through using the Atlantic RBCA model and providing a forum for collaboration, Atlantic PIRI identifies emerging issues, develops technical guidance, and supports regulatory alignment across the four Atlantic provinces. The partnership delivers measurable benefits to human health, the environment, and the regional economy.

In 2025, Atlantic PIRI closed an additional **413 sites** across the four Atlantic provinces using its risk-based approach to site management.

Summary of 2025 Activities

In 2025, Atlantic PIRI advanced its workplan through a combination of virtual and in-person working sessions. These sessions are important for in-depth scientific and technical collaboration that support key projects and enable the PIRI committee to deliver on its mandate as outlined in the MOU and Strategic Plan.

Regulators and the PIRI co-chairs, guide strategic initiatives, oversee budgets, and manage the committee's ongoing regulatory, technical and scientific projects.

The year was marked by some noteworthy projects as the partnership continues to be guided by four core values:

- **Science-Based Decision Making**
- **Continuous Improvement**
- **Collaboration Among Regulators and Stakeholders**
- **Regional Harmonization**

Science-Based Decision Making:

Successfully closed another 413 impacted sites in Atlantic Canada in 2025

Since 1997, the Atlantic RBCA process has been used to successfully assess or remediate impacted sites and facilitate regulatory file closures for **11,364 sites** in Atlantic Canada. The Atlantic RBCA process works by readying these properties for potential redevelopment opportunities.

Through the Atlantic RBCA process, Atlantic PIRI provides the provincial regulators, industry partners, and regional environmental consultants with harmonized science-based tools needed to address issues and navigate regulatory processes. This enables evidence-based decision-making for the management of impacted sites with the net effect of providing social, economic, and environmental values for communities across Atlantic Canada.

Continuous Improvement:

Improving regulatory outcomes through sound technical and scientific guidance

The committee worked on several projects throughout 2025:

- Finalization of a maintenance framework for Environmental Quality Standards and Pathway Specific Standards, (EQS/PSS) including a schedule for regular reviews of the standards, balancing updated science with regulatory certainty.
- Updated EQS/PSS standards with rationale and implementation plan that will be ready for release in 2026.

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- Review of organization structure and terms of reference, as part of the Strategic Plan update.
 - Review and evaluation of the Atlantic RBCA toolkit and its role in the management of impacted sites.
 - Finalization of Soil Re-Use Guidance for Atlantic Canada to help safeguard regulator/public confidence in the reuse of soil.
 - Finalization of Background Conditions Guidance for Atlantic Canada to enhance scientific consistency and jurisdictional harmonization efforts in the region.

Collaboration Among Regulators and Stakeholders: *Fostering relationships to better serve Atlantic Canadians*

The regulators from *Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador* have established a strong working relationship over the years. Throughout 2025 the provincial regulators continued with virtual planning meetings, sharing regulatory experience, seeking jurisdictional insight, and making progress on important PIRI projects.

Enabling practical, cross-jurisdictional solutions and stakeholder collaboration

Atlantic PIRI provides a structured forum for regulators, industry, and environmental consultants to identify challenges in contaminated site management across provincial jurisdictions. This partnership supports effective policy implementation that delivers risk-based impacted site management and advances opportunities for successful site closures.

Regional Harmonization: *Advancing consistent, science-based standards across jurisdictions*

Atlantic PIRI drives regional regulatory alignment by identifying and advancing priority projects that benefit all four provinces in the management of impacted sites. These initiatives demonstrate measurable progress toward consistent, science-based standards that support regulatory clarity and reduce duplication across jurisdictions.

Through the PIRI committee, provinces can align on core principles and harmonized approaches, while maintaining flexibility to apply regulatory discretion within their respective frameworks.

The Year Ahead

In 2026, Atlantic PIRI will advance a focused program of work aligned with its mandate and guided by its core values of respect, cooperation, collaboration, consensus, and transparency.

Key 2026 Deliverables:

- Complete and release updated EQS/ PSS standards with Rationale and Implementation Plan
- Complete and release Soil Re-Use Guidance
- Finalize Background Conditions Guidance
- Complete the review of the Atlantic RBCA toolkit
- Develop and adopt Atlantic PIRI's next five-year Strategic Plan

Atlantic PIRI

Atlantic PIRI Members 2025

Government Representatives:

- Brent Cox, Government of Nova Scotia
- Jonathan Kay, Government of Nova Scotia
- Jennifer Simms, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Hannah Jenkins, (Jan. – June) Government of Prince Edward Island
- Barry Jackson, (July – Oct.) Government of Prince Edward Island
- Nigel Ogle, (Nov. onward) Government of Prince Edward Island
- Mallory Gilliss, Government of New Brunswick
- André Fortin, Government of New Brunswick, *Regulator co-chair*
- Nathalie Gaudreau, Environment Canada

Industry Representatives:

- Helen Bennett, 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 (Jan – Aug.) and (Erin Smith Sept., onward) 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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