

Appendix H

Public Correspondence

Project Overview Sent to Local Organizations

Boat Harbour Remediation Project

OVERVIEW



April 2017

The Boat Harbour Project at a Glance

The project involves cleaning up Boat Harbour and returning it to a tidal estuary.

Boat Harbour is where the effluent treatment facility is located for the Northern Pulp Mill. The facility has been in existence since 1967, and while mostly used by the Mill, on occasion in the early years, other commercial and manufacturing companies in the area used the facility to treat their waste by-products.

Before 1967, Boat Harbour was a tidal lagoon next to Pictou Landing First Nation. This lagoon covered 350 acres, with a narrow entrance to the Northumberland Strait just east of the Pictou Landing First Nation community. Since 1967, Boat Harbour has been dammed off from the ocean and turned into a freshwater lake. This lake is part of the treatment facility, which includes the pipeline from the Northern Pulp Mill, settling ponds and an aerated stabilization basin. After 50 years of use, the entire treatment facility, including some adjacent areas, is contaminated. The contaminants are the source of some of the bad odours that are sometimes experienced around the Pictou Landing area.

The Boat Harbour Act

In 2015, Nova Scotia enacted the Boat Harbour Act, which legislates that the Northern Pulp Mill must stop using the Boat Harbour Effluent Treatment Facility by January 31, 2020.

The timeline provides about a three-year window to carry out remediation planning efforts, and, once the effluent stops flowing in 2020, about another four years to clean up the contamination.

Previous studies are being reviewed, and where necessary, additional studies will be undertaken to bridge the research gaps. This is to ensure there is detailed and current information about the Boat Harbour environment and the contaminants to help make sure design and implementation efforts will be successful, and Boat Harbour can once again become a tidal estuary.

How long will it take to return Boat Harbour to a tidal estuary?

Cleanup cannot begin until the Boat Harbour effluent treatment facility shuts down at the end of January 2020. After that, it is expected to take about four years before the area is clean and ready to be returned to tidal.

Returning to tidal involves replacement of box culverts with a new bridge and removal of the dam structure.

We will ensure that we understand, manage, and mitigate all impacts to wildlife and the environment to the best of our ability.

When Boat Harbour is returned to Tidal, how will it impact other animals and migration?

A number of studies are required before Boat Harbour can be returned to tidal. The studies will look at the animal life surrounding Boat Harbour and aquatic life presently existing in and around the area.

Study results will help to better plan our next steps to move us closer to returning Boat Harbour to tidal. Some of the questions that the studies will help us answer include:

- Do we need to remove any unhealthy organisms such as fish from Boat Harbour?
- How much time – and when is the best time – to capture and relocate beavers currently living in Boat Harbour, and where should they go?
- What do we need to monitor in the future to ensure Boat Harbour is returning to its previous healthy tidal environment?
- How big and how far has the contamination spread?

What are the contaminants in Boat Harbour?

Several chemical contaminants have been found in Boat Harbour. They form a layer on top of the natural harbour bottom. They include metals (zinc, mercury, cadmium), PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), and dioxins and furans.

Are fish and seafood currently at risk from the contaminants in Boat Harbour?

We are working closely with DFO, NSE and Environment Canada to meet strict regulatory controls and do our utmost to reduce the chance of Boat Harbour impacting human, marine, and/or environmental health. We cannot return Boat Harbour to tidal until the contaminants are removed.

How will we know if it is "truly "cleaned up?"

We are studying other waters close to Boat Harbour, including Little Harbour and Chance Harbour, to get some idea of what Boat Harbour might have been in its "clean" stage before it became part of the effluent treatment facility. A larger number of samples will need to be taken from the Harbour during the cleanup to try to make sure that it is restored completely to that "clean" stage.

In addition, a design engineer will evaluate various technical options to remove, treat, and dispose of contaminants from Boat Harbour and, in the process, will develop a detailed project description and associated environmental plans. These descriptions and plans will be the subject of an extensive environmental assessment process.

Before we can allow Boat Harbour to become tidal and open to the sea, the contractor doing the work will have to meet all criteria that ensures Boat Harbour is clean. All samples taken during the cleanup will also be made public. The criteria are regulated by government agencies such as Nova Scotia Environment, Environment Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Once all criteria have been determined, this list will be made public.

Public Engagement

The Province is committed to having open and regular engagement with the various groups concerned about or impacted by the contaminants in Boat Harbour.

There is regular and ongoing interaction and engagement with Pictou Landing First Nation. Pictou Landing residents were recently provided with a project briefing and will form part of a citizens' advisory group, to be formed in the future, specifically related to Boat Harbour.

Further engagement opportunities will be arranged as the project advances.

"Maw-Lukutinej Waqama'tuk A'se'k"

"Let us work together and clean up Boat Harbour"

Copies of Hard Comments Received from Open House #1



COMMENT FORM

Boat Harbour Remediation Project

Public Open House – August 1, 2019

Name: _____
Address: _____ Telephone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____
Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

Concerns on the long term containment of the gas tubes. The plan is to build on the existing area. With the added weight over time, will there be a threat to water table under Pictou Landing (Mordie Cox)?

Currently, the odours from boat harbour over night force us to close windows or get sick. Summer time with high temperatures makes it difficult without open windows. Will this get worse?

Please submit comments by August 16, 2019:

Submit a comment on the website
boatharbour@novascotia.ca

Email Us
boatharbour@novascotia.ca

Mail Us
Nova Scotia Lands
PO Box 186, Halifax, NS B3J 2N2



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Boat Harbour Remediation Project

Public Open House – August 1, 2019

Name: _____
Address: _____ Telephone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____

Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

I am encouraged with the information I saw here and with the knowledge of the presenters. It is a complex cleanup. I am looking forward to a clean Boat Harbor which ~~is~~ ^{was} a beautiful lagoon.

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COMMENT FORM

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Name:

[Redacted Name]

Address:

[Redacted Address]

Telephone:

E-mail Address:

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____

Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

Will this Plan be needed again in
50 yrs to clean up the Strait from
Anson to Cape George??

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E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____
Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

BOAT HARBOUR IS A GOOD THING CLEANUP
UP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE COMMUNITIES SURROUNDING IT
~~IT IS A~~ I MUST BE CLEANED UP IT CANNOT BE
LEFT LAYING THERE
THANK YOU

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E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other News/Letter
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Comments:

*Shut it down on time and ship all the
sludge to Lunenburg municipality and also
Lunenburg Inverness municipality*

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the website**
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COMMENT FORM

Boat Harbour Remediation Project Public Open House – August 1, 2019

Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted] Telephone: [Redacted]
E-mail Address: [Redacted]

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____

Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

We have 2700' of pipeline on our property. When Boat Harbour closes down, what will happen to the pipe line?

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COMMENT FORM

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Address: _____ Telephone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____
Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

ALL PIPES - SHOULD BE REMOVED.
ALTERNATIVE 3 - COMPLETE REMOVAL

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Address: _____ Telephone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other F.B.

Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

Honour the closure of Boat Harbour.

Still bad it has to be stored on site (sludge) and monitor forever. (not good)

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COMMENT FORM
Boat Harbour Remediation Project
Public Open House – August 1, 2019

Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted] Telephone: [Redacted]
E-mail Address: [Redacted]

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____
Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

It was informative but still not enough information to evaluate the total cost of the project.

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COMMENT FORM

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Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted] Telephone: [Redacted]
E-mail Address: [Redacted]

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other FB

Please add me to the Project contact list Friends of the Northumberland

Comments:

Very informative, spoke to NS Lands and GHA. They seem to have their plans well in hand.

Boat Harbours must close on time even if the ~~SEA~~ is not complete.

Funds must be provided for future monitoring of the Sludge.

Honor the Boat Harbour Act.

Thank you,

[Redacted Signature]

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Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted] Telephone: [Redacted]
E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____
Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

Issue: Pipelines when it enters the East River on the Abercrombie side, has "concrete weights" on top of the pipelines to seemingly hold the pipe in place. From a recreational boater's point of view, these concrete weights pose a hazard to boaters which if left there for the long term should be removed.

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Address: _____ Telephone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other *facebook*
Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

I am very concerned about the impact of dredging up the toxic sludge will have on the environment & groundwater. This I am skeptical it will be cleaned up to human/animal safe levels of environmental sustainability. I am hoping for the best... please don't let this community down

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Address: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other Radio

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Comments: Very thorough info. Hopefully the harbour can be restored to a fully functioning ecosystem.

We must trust the best science & best engineering to get this right.

Cost?

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COMMENT FORM

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Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted] Telephone: [Redacted]
E-mail Address: [Redacted]

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other *Online/Facebook*
Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

I am very pleased that Boat Harbour is going to be cleaned up and brought back to a tidal estuary that it once was.

My main concern is the containment cell on site. How safe will this be in the long term future of the area?

Regards,

[Redacted Signature]

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Name:

[Redacted]

Address:

[Redacted]

Telephone:

[Redacted]

E-mail Address:

[Redacted]

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____

Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

land based + water based pipe remediation
- consider complete removal as the project has the funds available to complete this ~~use~~ work now.
- leaving in place should not be considered

Please submit comments by August 16, 2019:

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Address: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about this event? Letter/E-mail Local newspaper Other _____

Please add me to the Project contact list

Comments:

What is the water treatment process tested during pilot scale.

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Remediation of Boat Harbour /meeting
Date: Thursday, September 05, 2019 2:04:45 PM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 30, 2019 11:14 AM
To: Swain, Ken <Ken.Swain@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Remediation of Boat Harbour /meeting

Hi Ken

First, i apologize for taking so long to get back to you. It has been a very busy summer as i am sure it has been for you as well.

I met up with you early August at the public meeting in the Pictou Landing Firehouse. That afternoon, you were very kind to take the time to sit down with me and discuss some of the details involved in the remediation of BH as outlined in the poster presentation. I cannot emphasize enough how refreshing it was to have someone be open to responding to my questions as well as to explaining truthfully, ie admitting to the good and the bad, involved in the various stepping stones being carried out in trying to make right this environmental disaster called Boat Harbour.

At the time we spoke we discussed the studies done in Moodie Cove in summer 2018 and you said you would be happy to send me copies of both the final report as well as the student's thesis presented at Acadia. Being a resident of the Cove for 77 years i am most interested in the conclusions of this study. I spoke at length with both students involved in the survey last summer and would love to read the finished product.

Another question you said you could answer for me was who now owns the Lighthouse Beach. Since ownership of approx 90% of this once beautiful beach was in my family until the early 1970s, given up with the promise by the government that it would be placed with, protected and conserved the then Department of Conservation, i would be interested to know ownership still remains with them.

You also mentioned you would be able to forward to me a copy of the power point slides used in the poster presentation. I was unable to see many of them in the time frame I had that afternoon, so would greatly appreciate reading through all of them. In doing so, i may have more questions for you.

Thank you again -so very much - for your time, patience and sharing of your expertise with me that afternoon. I look forward to hearing from you on my requests when you have time.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

This e-mail has been scanned for viruses