



Communities,  
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Communautés,  
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Environnement



Office of the Minister  
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown  
Prince Edward Island  
Canada C1A 7N8

Bureau du ministre  
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown  
Île-du-Prince-Édouard  
Canada C1A 7N8

May 18, 2018

Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard  
Gatineau QC, K1A 0H3

R. Brown  
24.5.18  
EM

Dear Minister McKenna:

**RE: Northern Pulp Facility, Pictou, Nova Scotia**

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight an issue which continues to concern the coastal communities and residents of our province; specifically, Northern Pulp's plans for a new effluent treatment facility for its Pictou County mill and extension of a new outfall into Northumberland Strait.

Northumberland Strait is one of the more sensitive areas within the Gulf of St Lawrence with unique tidal and water circulation patterns. The federal government has committed to maintaining, enhancing protection for all marine species, habitat and sensitive ecosystems in the Gulf. Therefore, should not Northern Pulp's proposal to deposit 75,000 cubic metres of waste daily (3.5 times the volume of any single discharge from Prince Edward Island) into this ecosystems trigger an Environmental Assessment by your Department?

Given the potential impact to Island Fisheries which supports thousands of families, I would ask your Department to take a lead role in the assessment and ensure that the review is comprehensive in nature. I would also ask that the review take into account all users of the Strait, and ensures that their concerns are considered and addressed based on complete and sound science after a thorough review by federal experts.

I look forward to your response to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Brown  
Minister