



January 23, 2018

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Premier Stephen McNeil
Government of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 726
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

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PREMIER
24.5.18
CMA

Dear Minister McKenna and Premier McNeil;

I am writing you today regarding Northern Pulp's plans for a new effluent treatment facility for its Pictou County mill.

Specifically, I share the concerns of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island fishers that an outflow pipe placed into the Northumberland Strait could have unintended consequences for our commercial fishery and aquaculture industries.

The Northumberland Strait has 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 increasing and enhancing protection for all marine species, habitat and sensitive ecosystems in the Gulf through the development of Marine Protected Area Networks.

An effluent pipe that would allow as much as 75,000 cubic metres of fresh warm water to be directed daily into the Northumberland Strait is not a project that our government will support as proposed.

I understand that a Level 1 environmental assessment will be conducted this summer. I ask that a more comprehensive assessment take place and that the impact on Island fisheries is taken into consideration as part of this work.

I am confident that we all agree that any development that risks the habitat and reproductive cycle of species such as lobster or that threatens the livelihood of thousands of families dependent on the fisheries in the Northumberland Strait cannot proceed.

I am confident our shared commitment to both our environment, and the jobs and economic impact associated with the fishery, will prevail and that a decision will be made based on sound science and the input of all partners.

I look forward to discussing this environmentally sensitive matter in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wade MacLauchlan'.

Wade MacLauchlan
Premier of Prince Edward Island

Cc: Hon. Richard Brown, Minister of Communities, Land & Environment
Hon. Robert Henderson, Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries



THE PREMIER
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

April 5, 2018

Honourable Wade MacLauchlan
Premier of Prince Edward Island
95 Rochford Street, PO Box 200
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Premier *Wade* MacLauchlan:

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2018, in which you express your concerns about Northern Pulp's proposed effluent treatment facility and its potential effects on fish and fish habitat. The existing effluent treatment facility located at Boat Harbour is required to cease operation by January 31, 2020 as per the *Boat Harbour Act* and an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required for the proposed new facility. In your letter, you also raise concerns about the Class I EA process required for this proposal.

The EA process is a planning tool used to promote sustainable development by evaluating the potential environmental effects of major developments before they proceed. Through the EA process careful review is conducted of all the information provided, including public comments, science, and expert government review to determine potential environmental impacts related to the proposed project. It is through this process that concerns, such as those you expressed regarding fish and fish habitat, are assessed in relation to a proposed project, and experts from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and other partner departments and/or regulators, are consulted.

This proposal has been determined to require a Class I EA in accordance with Sections 3(2) and 11(3)(b) of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*. I can assure you the Class I EA is a robust process that provides a variety of tools to allow for additional assessment when needed, including, but not limited to the following: request for additional information; requiring a focus report that provides more in depth information/analysis on a specific area; requiring an EA report that meets terms of reference and may be referred to a panel.

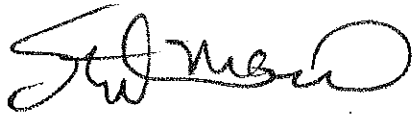
Public input is an important component of the EA process, and we encourage the Government of Prince Edward Island to provide input during the 30-day public comment period that is required by Nova Scotia Environment's EA process once the EA is registered. Information regarding the 30-day public comment period will be available once the project formally registers and you can sign up to receive notifications of EA registrations and decisions by joining our listserv at <https://novascotia.ca/nse/ea/joinlist.asp>.

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Honourable Wade MacLauchlan
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Should you have any further questions regarding the EA process, please contact Lorrie Roberts, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Environment at (902) 483-2696 or Helen.MacPhail@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. McNeil", written in a cursive style.

Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier of Nova Scotia

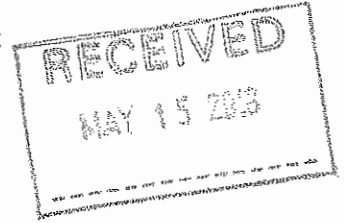
Copy to: Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
 Honourable Richard Brown, Minister of Communities, Land & Environment
 Honourable Robert Henderson, Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries
 Honourable Iain Rankin, Minister of Environment

Ministre de l'Environnement et
du Changement climatique



Minister of Environment
and Climate Change

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3



MAY 09 2018

The Honourable Wade MacLauchlan, MLA
Premier
Government of Prince Edward Island
P.O. Box 2000
95 Rochford Street
Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8

Wade

Dear Premier MacLauchlan:

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2018, concerning the proposed effluent treatment plant for the Northern Pulp Mill in Pictou, Nova Scotia and your concern that the Project be subject to a more comprehensive assessment than the provincial Class 1 Environmental Assessment.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency recently received a request that I designate the Project for a federal environmental assessment under section 14 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012). The Agency is currently assessing the applicability of CEAA 2012 to the Project and is seeking input from other federal government departments, provinces, stakeholder organizations and Indigenous groups on whether the Project should be designated under CEAA 2012. The Agency will reflect the input received in its advice for my consideration on whether or not to designate the Project.

I trust that you will find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Catherine McKenna

*Thanks for
your letter of
concern.*

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

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Agriculture et
des Pêches



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Canada C1A 7N8

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

November 14, 2017

Honourable Keith Colwell
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
1800 Argyle St., 6th Floor
PO Box 2223
Halifax, NS B3J 3C4

Dear Minister Colwell:

Re: Northern Pulp facility and plans to replace their use of the Boat Harbour treatment facility

I am writing you today concerning the Northern Pulp facility located in Pictou County, Nova Scotia. I recently met with representatives of the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association in which they strongly expressed their concerns over reports that consideration is being given to building an outflow pipe into the Northumberland Strait to deal with waste water from the pulp mill operations.

I understand that by 2020 Northern Pulp will be required to cease the use of the Boat Harbour Treatment Facility and discussions are underway about remediating this area to its natural state which would be a wonderful environmental accomplishment. I am aware of the concerns that have been well documented by area residents and the Pictou Landing First Nations.

While no concrete plans have been presented by Northern Pulp, I understand that the Nova Scotia government has provided assistance to engage consulting services to develop plans for a new treatment facility close to the existing Abercrombie Point mill location. It is perhaps this work which has led to speculation that there would be an outflow pipe placed into the Northumberland Strait.

In your capacity as Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture for Nova Scotia, I do not have to make you aware of the importance of the commercial fishery and aquaculture industries to our provincial economies. Any industrial development that would risk the habitat and reproductive cycle of such species as lobster or threaten the livelihood of thousands of families dependent on the fisheries in the Northumberland Strait is something that I believe we can agree need not happen.

The Northumberland Strait has 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 increasing and enhancing protection for all marine species, habitat and sensitive ecosystems in the Gulf through the development of Marine Protected Area Networks.

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