

## Comments on the Focus Report for the Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility for Northern Pulp

I am a homeowner on Caribou Island. I regard myself as extremely privileged to have the good fortune to look out at the Strait. This is where the proposed Northern Pulp pipeline is to be installed. It saddens me to my soul, about the idea of effluent from the pulp mill flowing into these waters. The bizarre idea that moving the effluent from one body of water to another to solve a problem, is ridiculous. I strongly oppose this pipeline

I have watched through the seasons, the varied wildlife that frequent these waters and shorelines. Wildlife and fishers depend on these waters and shorelines to be effluent free. This area has shallow water and warms up considerably in the summer months. Many enjoy recreation in this area of Caribou Island, wading through the warm summer waters and enjoying the beaches. Pouring hot effluent water, treated or not into this area is not a good plan and unacceptable. The area receives wild storms and with them, changing shorelines and sea beds. Dredging for the ferries is required. Will this pipeline be damaged by dredging, and the storms?

The reports on the birds in this area is lacking. I have taken photos from my yard on Caribou Island of gannets, terns, sandpipers, bufflehead ducks, red tailed hawks, and others. What about the winter birds? The snow bunting, the snowy owl? I'm not a bird expert, but a 10 minute look around is not much of a study of the situation. I can forward photos if requested. Shellfish (oysters, mussels, razor clams, crabs, clams and quahogs are abundant in our bay. What happens to these creatures with changes in the waters?

This proposed pipe would be delivering fresh water into salt water. Millions of litres per day. How could this not effect the saltwater species that live in this shallow harbour and strait?

Furthermore; the plans to build the effluent treatment plant on grounds where previous owners buried volumes of mercury is incredibly irresponsible. The journalist, Joan Baxter explains about this extensively in her book "The Mill: Fifty Years of Pulp and Protest" Think long and hard on what could go wrong here.

Northern Pulp does not have a good track record with spills and air quality. Why would someone going for a walk be the one to notice a spill. It appears their monitoring systems are quite rubbish. How can we trust them? Who in their right mind would consider this proposed pipeline to cross over their watershed area.

Take a walk on the shore near the exhaust from Boat Harbour. Check out the dark tea coloured treated water effluent ending up in the Strait. Check out the brown bubbles on the shoreline. Take a nice deep breath. Smell good? No. This is the harmless effluent that was promised to the Pictou Landing residents. This is unacceptable. These people have been treated like second class citizens. This mess is unacceptable, and should not move from one body of water, Boat Harbour, to another in Northumberland Strait.

If the effluent water is so safe, why is it too corrosive to use in a closed loop system.

If the water is so corrosive, why is this water okay to pour into the strait near Caribou Island?

Regarding Caribou Harbour, A quote from Harbour Authority of Caribou states “Northern Pulp’s current proposal (section 8.11.2.4) confirms that there has been no testing completed with respect to the water composition of Caribou Harbour. Instead Pictou Harbour was used as a proxy for Caribou Harbour with respect to water quality. There is no explanation as to why water quality data for Caribou Harbour was “unavailable “. The Authority views such an assumption on water composition as entirely inadequate. There are major distinctions between the two harbours which makes such an assumption tenuous at best” This quote cements my non confidence with Northern Pulp’s attention to extremely important information that should have been included in their report. This verifies the sloppiness of their reports, and lack of important details. I do not trust any recommendations they make.

The conclusions of Northern Pulp’s assessments of the wastewater are based on disbursements into pristine waters. The Strait is not pristine, and has areas which the waters have dead zones. Why would the government think pulp effluent added to this already fragile eco environment be okay. Is it because so much government money has been poured into this facility, they feel obligated to continue on, rather than proceed forward responsibly, with respect for the environment. It is time, it is past time to act responsibly for this planet.

I have not heard of a guarantee of good will from North Pulp, that this treated effluent will be harmless. They have never put their money on the line. They should be paying for it, and they should be paying for any damages, not the taxpayers of Nova Scotia or the Canadian government. No more handouts. No more extensions.

Reality is that this project should have had a federal assessment. The provincial government has too much invested in this pulp mill to be unbiased. Since this is not happening, we have to hope the province is not just in this for the money, and will instead protect and preserve the people, the landscape, the wildlife and the waterways of this province.

Respectfully,  
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Caribou Island