



MEDIA ADVISORY

July 4, 2018

Northern Pulp's failed pipe route not a surprise

Pictou, Nova Scotia: Fishermen and concerned citizens in Pictou County were not surprised yesterday when Northern Pulp revealed that their controversial proposed route to pipe pulp effluent into the Northumberland Strait would not work and must be altered.

“We are not surprised by this announcement,” said Ronnie Heighton, President of the Northumberland Fishermen’s Association. “We have told Northern Pulp all along that their plan would not work. We told them that the waters in the area were too shallow, and that there was ice scouring. They did not listen.”

“Northern Pulp now says they need to find a new route. We say no, Northern Pulp needs to find a new solution,” stated Heighton. “This is the time for Northern Pulp to go back to the drawing board and come up with a completely different solution that would not involve discharging pulp effluent into the Northumberland Strait.”

Jill Graham-Scanlan, President of Friends of the Northumberland Strait (FONS) agrees. She says the NOPIPE Land and Sea Rally planned for Friday is now more important than ever. “Friday’s rally will be a time to make clear that many eyes are watching Northern Pulp and the Provincial government, and that people are not prepared to risk the fisheries or the clean waters of the Strait,” Graham-Scanlan says.

Friends of the Northumberland Strait is also calling on Northern Pulp to make their new plans public immediately. “Northern Pulp is still saying that they intend to pipe treated pulp effluent into the Strait but they are leaving us in the dark about where,” Graham-Scanlan points out. The company says they are looking for “a new best route” with discharge at “a new, deeper outfall location.”

“We have been hearing rumours that the proposed route was not going to work for several weeks now,” Graham-Scanlan notes. “We have also heard another rumour, a rumour that Northern Pulp plans to pipe effluent over land to the ferry terminal and

Caribou Wharf and run the pipe into the Strait in that area. Northern Pulp needs to come clean about their new plans, and they need to do it now.”

Both groups say that Northern Pulp is demonstrating that they did not do their homework on something as simple as the route for the pipe. The groups also believe that Northern Pulp, and the provincial government, have not done their homework about the damage pulp effluent could do to the fisheries if it is released into the Northumberland Strait.

“Our experts have looked at the science and looked at the potential damage to marine life and clean waters,” says Heighton. “That’s why we have said from Day 1 that there will be no pipe in the Strait.” Graham-Scanlan points out that while Northern Pulp’s spokesperson says meeting the January 2020 deadline will be tight, Northern Pulp has known they needed an alternative to Boat Harbour since 2014. The company’s proposed plan was filed with the government in September 2017. She says she cannot understand why it has taken four years to complete such basic studies.

Friday’s major NOPIPE Land and Sea Rally in Pictou is expected to draw large numbers of fishing boats, pleasure boats, and people from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Pictou Landing First Nation. “This is our day to stand strong and united, to make it clear to the province and the company that we will not allow effluent to be piped into the Strait,” Graham-Scanlan says. “We expect Northern Pulp’s newest announcement will raise even greater concerns and will draw even more people to the Rally.”

-30-

link to Northern Pulp’s announcement to find new route:

<http://www.ngnews.ca/news/local/northern-pulp-must-find-new-route-for-treated-effluent-pipe-223400/>