

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to you this evening on a matter that is vitally important to all of us.

My name is Jill Graham-Scanlan and I am here on behalf of a group of concerned citizens which I belong to called, "Friends of the Northumberland Strait".

I want to start by telling you a little about myself.

I grew up in Scotsburn and have lived in Pictou County my entire life. I am a lawyer in Pictou running my own firm.

I am married to a commercial fisherman. He comes from a long line of hardworking fishers who made their living working on the Northumberland Strait.

I am the mother of two children who are in university. My wish is for them to return to Pictou County and to live and work and be part of a thriving and healthy community.

I am part of a family who owns a cottage along the Northumberland Strait. Since I was a young child, my family has gathered at the cottage each summer to enjoy the shore. Swimming, kayaking, boating, beach combing, bonfires, walks on the beach - that's the best part of the year for all of us.

I am an active community volunteer. Among other things, I am on the Board of Directors and am treasurer of the Northumberland Fisheries Museum and Heritage Association. One of our goals is to preserve and celebrate the fishing industry along the Northumberland Strait. The museum is an important tourist attraction along the waterfront in Pictou.

Small business, the fishery, leisure, tourism, the economy, social well being - for me, these are all connected to the Northumberland Strait. And I am not unique. In this area, a healthy and protected Northumberland Strait is vital for all of us.

We are here tonight to ask Council to pass three resolutions:

1. That Council request the Nova Scotia Minister of Environment to require an Environmental Assessment Report as part of the Environmental Assessment process of Northern Pulps proposed new effluent treatment facility.
2. That Council contact the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and request that DFO conduct a full assessment of Northern Pulp's proposed effluent treatment plan, and copy that to the federal and provincial Ministers of Environment.
3. That Council adopt a position that they will not support any effluent treatment plan that puts the fisheries, other industries, or communities at risk.

**1. That Council request the Nova Scotia Minister of Environment to require an Environmental Assessment Report.**

The environmental assessment of Northern Pulp's proposed new effluent treatment facility has been fast tracked by the Minister of Environment. He has already determined that he would be going forward with a Class 1 assessment only. This is wrong.

Class 2 assessments are typically larger in scale and are used when the project has the potential to cause significant environmental impacts and concern for the public. I guess the minister thought this was not such a project. Class 2 assessments automatically require an Environmental Assessment Report and formal public review which may include hearings.

A Class 1 assessment, which is the one the Minister deemed appropriate in this case, is much less onerous and is completed in a much shorter time frame - 50 days for a Class 1 vs. almost one year for a Class 2. Within a Class 1 assessment, the minister has options. He can choose to fast track the process, which is what he has done. Or he can require that the company provide more detailed information and ensure more time for public input, by requiring an Environmental Assessment Report.

Because an Environmental Assessment Report is not a mandatory part of a Class 1 assessment, we are asking Council to ask the Minister of Environment to require one.

It is important that those 3 words are used - "Environmental Assessment Report".

Northern Pulp and the province will likely be telling you that they are doing an environmental assessment, but that is much different than an Environmental Assessment Report which is much more detailed and scientifically rigorous. We deserve as much scientific review as is possible before a decision is made to put an effluent pipe into the Northumberland Strait.

Asking the Minister of Environment to require an Environmental Assessment Report means asking that the public have an opportunity to give input into the scope of the review, to make sure that all relevant issues will be covered. The present process chosen by the minister does not provide for that. Requiring an Environment Assessment Report would also mean that the company would be required to provide more detailed information to the public as part of the review process. And it would provide more time for public input and more time to gather evidence from independent experts.

We all know about the environmental devastation which has taken place only a few kilometers from here at Boat Harbour, where we were assured that nothing would go wrong. There is no question that things went badly wrong.

We urge you to call on the Nova Scotia Minister of Environment to require an environmental assessment report of Northern Pulp's new effluent treatment facility.

- 2. That Council contact the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and request that DFO conduct a full assessment of Northern Pulp's proposed effluent treatment plan, and copy that to the federal and provincial Ministers of Environment.**

Our second ask is that Council contact the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and request that DFO conduct a full assessment of Northern Pulp's proposed effluent treatment plan, and then that a copy of that full assessment be given to both the federal and provincial ministers of environment and made public.

As odd as it may seem, we understand that it is no longer automatic that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans becomes involved in this approval process. At one time, DFO's involvement would have been automatic, and in fact, DFO's involvement was responsible for past proposals, similar to this one, not going ahead.

DFO has the fisheries' scientists and expertise to evaluate Northern Pulp's proposal, and they have the responsibility to protect the fisheries and oceans. There needs to be federal involvement. This is why we are asking Council to contact the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to request that DFO conduct a full assessment of Northern Pulp's proposed effluent pipe into the Northumberland Strait.

- 3. That Council adopt a position that they will not support any effluent treatment proposal that puts the fisheries, other industries, or communities at risk.**

Our third ask is that Council adopt a position that they will not support any effluent treatment facility that puts the fisheries, other industries, or communities at risk.

We have been advised by a specialist in environmental law that the voice of municipal council is important and will be considered - at both the provincial and federal levels, and we agree. Your support is very important to us.

You, as our municipal government, have a role in looking after all the citizens of this area. At stake is the most important industry of the area - the fisheries - as well as a second major industry - tourism - and the quality of life of residents.

This issue will impact the regional economy, it will impact property values and whether people choose to move here and whether present residents choose to stay.

We are asking Council to help protect and build on the things that draw people to Pictou County and make it their home.

We are not a one industry county. We urge you to look at actual employment figures. Look beyond the spin.

Northern Pulp has a choice. They can make a commitment to Pictou County and change their

process and have a closed loop system for their effluent. Other pulp mills use peroxide for bleaching and have closed loop systems. Peroxide is non corrosive and can be recycled back into the system. A closed loop system can be done here.

Northern Pulp will say that the effluent will be treated before entering the strait. The term, "treated effluent" does not mean that all harmful substances have been removed. The wastewater would still contain toxic chemicals and traces of heavy metals would accumulate at the outflow location in the strait.

There are many, many concerns that we have with this proposed project. Unfortunately, time does not permit me to go over each and every one. However, we did provide you with a hand out we prepared called, "What you should know about Northern Pulp's Proposed New Treatment Facility". It addresses many of the issues.

We also have a Facebook page called "Friends of the Northumberland Strait" where, although still under construction, we will continue to post helpful information so that we can all become better informed and organized so we can continue to fight this proposed effluent pipeline.

There are also various online and other resources. Particularly, I draw your attention to a recent article by free-lance journalist and author Linda Pannozzo. In her article, called "Dirty Dealing", Ms. Pannozzo discusses such things as the history of the mill, closed loop systems and a section she calls the "Sorry History of Betrayal", where she discusses the recent Auditor General's report and his concerning findings regarding the Nova Scotia Department of Environment's issuing and monitoring of environmental assessments. We provided an article on the Auditor General's report to you for your review.

We also recommend the recently released book, "The Mill: Fifty Years of Pulp and Protest" by author and investigative journalist Joan Baxter which, as stated by Linda Pannozzo, "explores the power that the Abercrombie Mill has wielded in the province for decades".

Well, we are here to ask you for your help and support to take back our power and to see that the proposed effluent pipe does not go ahead.

Please carefully consider our request and pass the three resolutions we have proposed. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Graham-Scanlan  
on behalf of Friends of the Northumberland Strait