

Dear Premier Stephen McNeil and Minister for the Environment Gordon Wilson,

My name is Elaine MacLean and I've lived in Antigonish County for over 40 years. My son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons live in Pictou County. I am very concerned about Northern Pulp's Effluent Treatment Facility Proposal.

I believe that Northern Pulp's plan to pump up to 85 million litres (31 Billion Litres per year) of effluent into the Northumberland Strait is a bad idea. I do not believe the Northumberland Strait and its marine life, which is already under a lot of stress, can withstand this incredible influx of effluent.

In addition to what it would do to the marine environment, I worry about the potential risk that this poses to our fisheries. The livelihood of our fishers is being threatened by both the make up of the effluent as well as the temperature.

Oceans absorb CO2 from the atmosphere and the colder the seawater, the more effective the process.

Premier Stephen McNeil stated that it would be wrong to move one disaster into a new location when he referenced Northern Pulp's ETF proposal. Of course that wasn't a statement on whether Northern Pulp's project was a disaster, simply that it would be wrong for the province to approve a project that could be characterized as creating a new disaster.

Mr. McNeil also rightfully stated many times over that the company was given 5 years to come up with a plan and that was more than enough time. Not only did the 5 year plan give ample time to Northern Pulp but this wasn't an 'arbitrary date' picked out of thin air. The Jan 31, 2020 Boat Harbour closure date in the Boat Harbour Act also falls on the last day of Northern Pulp's current Industrial Approval.

Northern Pulp were slow to get moving on their attempt to complete the project. When they filed their EARD in February, they stated that they would need an extension 'until they built their ETF or they would have to shut down'.

That ask is for an indefinite extension as Northern Pulp's plan to build an ETF that pumps effluent described by their own technical engineer as being worse than what comes out of Boat Harbour, would set up the risk to move the disaster that is Boat Harbour and make it the disaster in the Northumberland Strait.

They cannot be given an extension. That would break the deal that was made in good faith and written into law between the PLFN and the province that saved Northern Pulp from having to close in 2014. They also cannot be given an extension because they don't have a sound plan for a new ETF so it may never be built. Northern Pulp cannot be given an indefinite extension.

Northern Pulp have been given ample opportunity over their time owning the mill to ensure it runs properly. At some point you have to admit it can't be done.

It's time for NS to find new ways to use the forests, other than for biomass and pulp. Let's use our tax dollars to have those in the forestry industry supported to grow new mixed forests to sequester carbon and be grown and harvested for uses that are good for our environment. Climate change is here. Let's be smarter.

Finally, I want to emphasize that I stand with the Mi'kmaq of Pictou Harbour First Nation. The effluent must stop on January 31, 2020. No extension. We are all treaty people. It time for us to honour our commitments.

Elaine MacLean