



Save Our Seas and Shores, PEI
81 Prince St.,
Charlottetown PE
C1A 4R3

May 25, 2018

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

Dear Minister McKenna,

Re: Request for Designation for CEAA Federal Assessment - Northern Pulp Effluent Treatment Facility"

I am writing on behalf of the group, Save our Seas and Shores PEI, to express our support of the request by fishermen's organizations from Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick and Pictou Landing First Nation to have Northern Pulp's Effluent Treatment Project designated a project for Federal Environmental Assessment under Section 14 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) 2012.

As a community-based organization whose purpose is to protect our offshore and coastal areas from pollution, we are quite concerned about the potential impacts of the effluent that would enter the Northumberland Strait from the proposed treatment facility. This is a relatively confined body of water, already vulnerable to pollution as a result of intensive land-based activities in three provinces.

Despite our best efforts to find out exactly what chemicals would be in the effluent especially dioxins and other toxic substances, we have received no clear answers from the company. Even when they were asked by our elected officials (at a Legislative Committee meeting in PEI) company representatives would not provide an answer to this question. It seems clear to us that a federal environmental assessment is required in order that the public receives complete answers to these and other questions.

We are very concerned that marine mammals, fish and other aquatic organisms along with their critical habitat could be harmed as a result of the discharge of between 70 and 90 million litres of treated bleached kraft mill effluent, every day, through a 10.5k pipe into the prime fishing grounds of the Northumberland Strait.

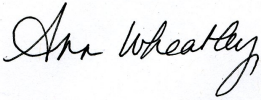
Owner-operator fishermen are an important part of our regional economies. Fishermen generate many jobs in our communities. They buy their supplies locally, and they spend their profits locally.

Thousands of families from all three provinces, including First Nation communities in those provinces, make their living from these fisheries. The health of the Northumberland Strait is essential to the wellbeing of our economies and our communities.

We firmly believe this project requires a more rigorous review than it will receive under Nova Scotia's environmental assessment process, which is more limited in scope, particularly around the time allowed for public consultation.

We would like to see a strong, science based review of this project with adequate time given for the public to participate in a meaningful way. In other words, and to repeat, it is essential that Northern Pulp's Effluent Treatment Project is designated a project for Federal Environmental Assessment under Section 14 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Wheatley".

Ann Wheatley
Save our Seas and Shores PEI

About Save Our Seas and Shores PEI: Save Our Seas and Shores PEI (SOSS PEI) is a coalition of fishing organizations, environmental and tourism groups, coastal landowners, First Nations organizations and individuals, and citizens who are dedicated to defending the Gulf of St. Lawrence from offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling. We are concerned that this ecologically rich and diverse area, home to over 2,200 marine species, is particularly sensitive to any disturbance caused by exploration and drilling.