



For Immediate Release
Jan 6, 2019

NORTHERN PULP'S RESPONSE TO LEAK QUESTIONS RAISES EVEN MORE QUESTIONS

Pictou, NS: In response to a press release issued yesterday by Friends of the Northumberland Strait (FONS) pointing to the many unanswered questions about Northern Pulp's effluent leak in October, 2018, Northern Pulp issued a statement.

Kathy Cloutier, spokesperson for Northern Pulp, said in the statement that the October 2018 leak was at a fibreglass joint, the technology of the day in the 1960s, and the proposed new treatment system will have fusion welded joints that "are leak proof and as strong as the pipeline itself."

Included here is a photo of the patched pipe provided by Northern Pulp to media and printed by CBC on October 23, 2018. The caption under the photo reads, *'The underground pipe that leaked paper mill effluent into a wooded area near Pictou Landing First Nation in Nova Scotia has been repaired, said a spokesperson for Northern Pulp/Paper Excellence Canada. (Kathy Cloutier/Paper Excellence Canada)'* <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/northern-pulp-leak-pictou-landing-first-nation-1.4874669>



“The community is being asked to trust Northern Pulp with a pipe pumping more than 70 million litres of treated effluent daily into the Northumberland Strait,” says Jill Graham-Scanlan, President of Friends of the Northumberland Strait. “We hope Ms. Cloutier could give some additional clarification, as the patch shown in this photograph does not appear to be at a joint.”

Ms. Cloutier is also quoted as saying the leak was “very small in size.” A FONS member visited the leak site at the invitation of the landowner on October 27, six days after the leak. At the time, pumper trucks were still continuously vacuuming up liquid, and a Department of Environment employee was checking on the clean-up operations. FONS also received reports from nearby residents that pumper trucks continued to regularly enter and leave the road leading to the leak site for at least another four days, Graham-Scanlan said.

“We would also like to point out that while Ms. Cloutier stated that ‘no effluent reached the Middle River,’ the effluent leak was located nowhere near the Middle River. Ms. Cloutier did not address whether the effluent reached the East River, which is the body of water only a few feet from the sandbags placed in response to the effluent leak,” Graham-Scanlan added.

