

Barry Randle and Camille Davidson
Owners: Stone Soup Café and Catering
P.O.Box 524, Pictou, N.S.
B0K 1H0
June 7th 2018

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

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

I am writing to support the request from 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.

Honourable Minister,

We have operated a small café and catering company in the town of Pictou for the past seven years. We are located with a view of the waterfront directly across Pictou harbour from the Northern Pulp mill in Abercrombie, N.S. Over the years we have watched the mill go through many changes including its repair of its non-functioning electro-static precipitator, which resulted in a vast improvement in the air quality in the local area. We also were here when their effluent pipe burst resulting in a significant spill of effluent into the harbour and the huge concerns that raised.

It is with great concern that we watch this latest chapter in their story unfold. The closure of the boat harbour facility in 2020 is an absolute necessity as mistakes were made and promises were broken when that was set up. This has necessitated a replacement effluent treatment system to be developed. There are many options for such a system, as I am sure you are aware however the company has elected to go with only one, the discharge of treated effluent into Northumberland Strait. The company has reverted to using the slogan no pipe= no mill thus threatening to pull out of the plant if they do not get their way, this is very heavy handed and has massively divided the local community to the extent of pitting family members against each other.

The greatest problem with their proposed system is that the proposed discharge system could have a huge and negative impact on the local lobster fishing industry as the affected area is one of the lobster spawning grounds. This is in violation of the federal fisheries act as we understand it. This is also being conducted with only a minimal provincial review and as we understand it no federal review.

Considering the enormous potential impact of this proposal, and the conflict that is stirring in the community we hereby ask that a federal review, under the fisheries act, be conducted as would only be prudent in this case.

Yours sincerely
Barry Randle and Camille Davidson.