

Pictou June 6th 2018

Dear Minister:

Re: Request for Designation for CEEA 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.

As a local realtor I am very concerned about the harm that could result from Northern Pulp's proposal to discharge 70-90 million litres of treated effluent from a bleached kraft mill every day through a 10.5k pipe into the prime fishing grounds of the Northumberland Strait. I feel like it would devalue properties, re sell would be difficult which could lead to home owners losing their homes and foreclosures. In 2017 we noticed a change in real estate sales in Pictou County, we had families and early retirees relocating from Ontario, BC, and many other parts of our country along with cottage buyers from the US and Europe to our beautiful part on the province which will help our economy to grow. I am very concerned that we would not be able to attract any new comers and also loose local citizen.

I am also concerned about the continued health of the Northumberland Strait, which attracts thousands of tourists, visitors and summer residents who fish, dive, swim and boat in its beautiful waters. The Northumberland Strait is a key part of life and the economy of Pictou County and draws people to our area.

Many families make their living from these fisheries. Many fishermen come from families which have fished for generations. They have made changes to help keep our waters clean, so that their children and grandchildren can fish also. Owner-operator fishermen are also 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.

I am further concerned about the health of people living close to Northern Pulp. For decades air emissions from the mill have been a problem affecting residents' health and local businesses. I only too often hear that potential home buyers would love to move to the town of Pictou but are not willing to move this close to the mill and that they could not stand the smell of Northern Pulp which has frequently failed stack emission tests. The new treatment proposal would add additional air emissions to an already bad situation.

I believe this project requires a more rigorous review than it will receive from the province of Nova Scotia, which has decided to require only a Class 1, 50-day review, including only 30 days for public comment.

The government's past handling of effluent from this mill has resulted in one of the most contaminated sites in Canada, Boat Harbour. I want to see a strong, science based review of this project which will protect the present and future health of our Strait and the economy which depends on healthy waters.

Sincerely

Your local Realtor