

November 7, 2010

Gordon Wilson  
Minister of the Environment  
Government of Nova Scotia

Dear Minister Wilson;

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed plan by Northern Pulp to dump up to 85 million litres of warm toxic effluent into the Northumberland Strait. There is nothing in the Northern Pulp's Focus Report to satisfy my concerns.

I grew up in the town of Pictou. My husband and I own property in Caribou River and spend part of the year there. We swim and fish in beaches and waters along that coast and harvest shellfish in beautiful Caribou Harbour.

Caribou Harbour is a sensitive ecosystem and it is teeming with life. Its muddy bottom holds nutrients which nourish the shellfish and small baitfish. The seabirds, such as the Blue Heron, feed on the small fish at low tide and the Eagles and other birds of prey scoop up larger fish, all parts of the amazing, natural circle of life. Should Northern Pulp plan come to fruition, it is evident that the high tides will bring chemical toxins into Caribou Harbour and deposit them in the muddy bottom when the tide retreats poisoning the ecosystem that I have known and loved. The foamy toxic sludge which we now see as a slick in Pictou Harbour or washed up along the beaches inside Pictou Harbour will now be deposited along the beaches in Caribou, Caribou Island and Caribou River. The toxins will be spread over a lucrative lobster fishing grounds, and even if the lobster survive, their tissue will be unsafe for human consumption. This cannot be allowed to happen.

The pulp mill in Pictou has been poisoning our water, air and soil since I was a little girl. Organisms that live in Pictou Harbour are deformed and/or toxic. The VOCs emitted in his smokestacks from the pulp mill are hazardous to human health (see Linda Pannozzo, Halifax Examiner, March 7, 2019 ). *( I know a woman whose lung condition deteriorated while living in Pictou and since leaving, has not had a single flare-up.)* People who live in parts of Pictou County affected by the pulp mill have woken up and will not stand for this kind of poisoning any longer. The proposed treatment facility will not significantly detoxify the effluent. And, as a member of Pictou Landing First Nations stated in the film, *There Is Something in the Water*, directed by Ellen Page, we cannot simply take the problem from their backyard, Boat Harbour, and put it in their/our front yard, the Northumberland Strait.

Minister, frankly it is time for the pulp to close and for your government to invest in sustainable and environmentally sound industries. I hope that your attachment to the forestry industry stemming from your former occupation as a forestry technician will not cloud your decision making process.

Sincerely,

Colette Poirier