

November 4, 2019

The Honourable [Gordon Wilson](#), Minister of Environment

Dear Minister,

I am writing in response to Northern Pulp's Focus Report for a proposed Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility. I have moved to Nova Scotia in 2003 and work as the Director of Palliative Care at the Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow NS. Since moving here to this Province, I have lived in Pictou County under the plume of Northern Pulp. From a personal perspective this has affected my own health in various circumstances, and from a professional perspective I have witnessed the exceeding proportion of respiratory and cancer related illness's in this community.

Based on my own observations, I have noticed the air quality in emissions has surpassed allowable levels on more occasions than it has reached the proper limits. The marine life in the Northumberland Strait has vastly diminished in the years since we moved here, there were too numerous to count species of crab and sand dollars several years ago to a rare finding in the past years. Our forestry services have denigrated to practices of clearcutting with no consideration of sustainable renewable forestry.

I am not an expert in these matters, yet, clearly these changes are occurring at an alarming rate that one can feel the environmental degradation in just a decade.

I would like to reflect specifically to Appendix 9.2 Human Health Risk Assessment in the Focus Report. After reading this, and especially after a history of non-compliance in the past, I am not convinced that the health of humans and the marine biosphere will not be harmed.

A simple search led me to a report from the US-EPA [https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?Lab=NHEERL&dirEntryID=51649] where it is clearly written, that “even effluents receiving good treatment may exhibit sporadic and dynamic increases in toxicity (due in part to spills or dumping of spent pulping chemicals)”

I am utterly flabbergasted that we are even considering such a potentially disastrous proposition in this day and age of Climate Change and Ocean Conservation efforts.

Our billion dollar fishing industry is at risk of suffering huge losses at the mere thought of potential polluted sea life. What convincing data have we received that the treated effluent will not cause harm to our sea life. Let alone, the effects of the higher water temperatures and the dilution of the water. The data is not reassuring that this will not change the biodiversity of our sea life. In addition the amount of heavy metals leaching into our mollusks and shell fish is unacceptable. The facts and figures for this in the health literature is overwhelming on the great risks this presents.

The potential irreversible destruction and health hazards implicated in this venture should no longer be acceptable .

Sincerely yours,

Anne Kwasnik-Krawczyk

a very concerned citizen and health care provider.