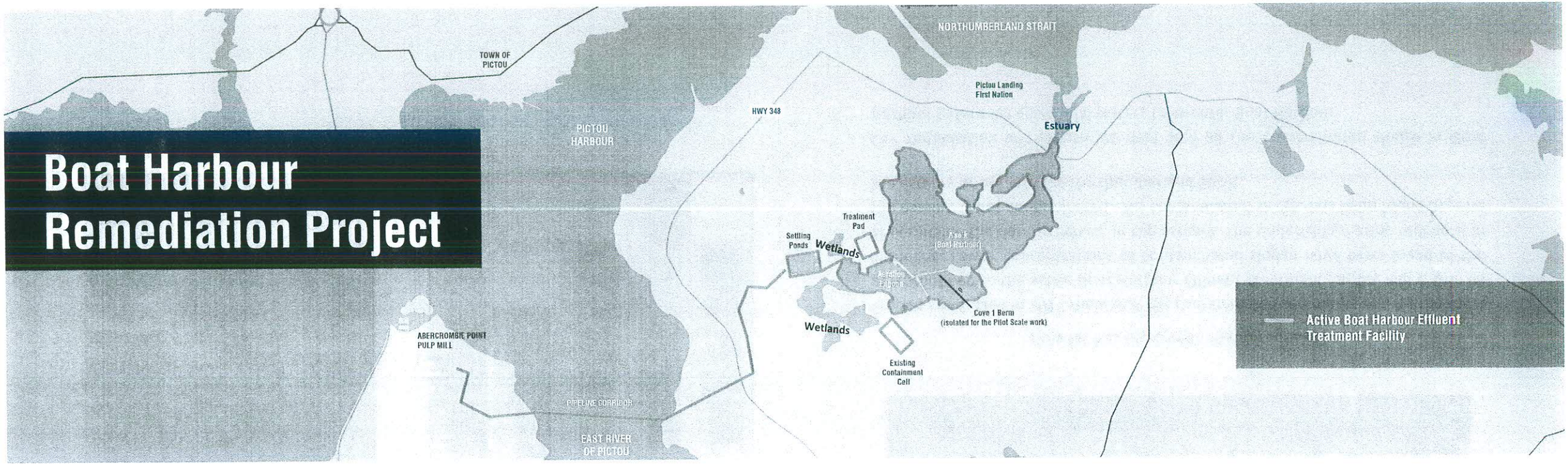
Boat Harbour Remediation Project



Boat Harbour Sludge – Our Problem

What contaminants are in Boat Harbour?

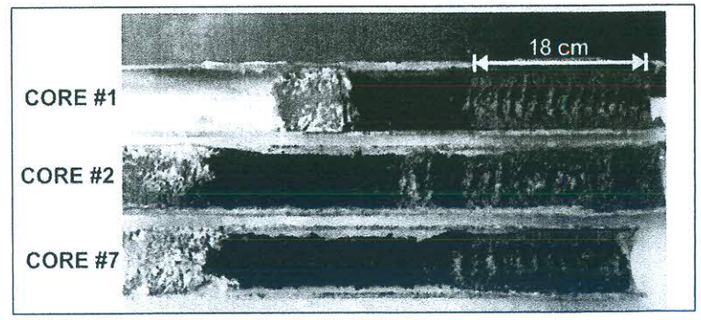
A layer of contaminated sludge has settled on top of the Boat Harbour bottom. This sludge has been accumulating since 1967. It has been sampled many times over the years. A full suite of testing was completed in 2017 which has confirmed the contaminants in the sludge. Over time, the contaminants have not changed.

We know the sludge contains:

- Dioxins and furans, the principal contaminants of concern are carcinogens which are residues of industrial processes
- Metals such as mercury, cadmium and zinc, which are residues of industrial processes
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which can be produced by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels in engines and boilers or from forest fires
- Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), a term used for any mixture of hydrocarbons that are found in crude oil and petroleum products
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), include human made residues from industrial processes and naturally occurring chemical compounds.

The contaminated sludge is generally less than a foot, or 30 centimeters, thick and is black in colour while the underlying marine sediment is brownish gray and is not contaminated.

The wetlands above Boat Harbour have also been impacted from the early years of Mill operations and contains contaminated sediments.



This image shows several core samples taken from Boat Harbour, the black contaminated sludge is clearly visible; the brownish gray is the clean Pre-industrial marine sediment and, the bentonite is a clay product put in the core during sampling as a plug - **Note:** The figure shows from left to right bentonite plug, black contaminated sludge, brownish gray pre-industrial marine sediment