

# Current Status

Northern Pulp and owner Paper Excellence look forward to establishing a new positive environmental legacy that supports the provinces' vital forest industry while continuing to exist with area fisheries.

In March (2019) Nova Scotia Environment Minister released a decision that additional project information was required via a Focus Report. Nova Scotia Environment Assessment Department issued Northern Pulp, Paper Excellence the Focus Report Terms of Reference on April 23, 2019.

Since April, Northern Pulp and Paper Excellence continue to work diligently with all attention on the Focus Report additional information request. With over 90% of the field work (data gathering, etc) now complete, the company is on track to file the Focus Report which will meet requirements established by the Terms of Reference towards the end of September.

Once the focus report is submitted to government, a 30-day public consultation process will begin. We encourage you to provide your input to government during this phase. It is our expectation that once the public consult process is complete we will achieve an approval to our project allowing construction to begin.

Northern Pulp, Paper Excellence is confident in this wastewater treatment project and by the science used to support this state of the art facility.

Regardless of next steps, an extension to the Boat Harbour Act deadline is necessary to maintain continued operations while providing the time required to complete the environmental assessment, construction and commissioning of the new facility that will see only treated wastewater leave Northern Pulp's site.

## UPDATED

# We've been working diligently on a new effluent treatment facility. Here is a timeline of the steps taken so far:

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## 2014 - 2015

**June 2014** - Province and Pictou Landing First Nations (PLFN) sign Agreement in Principle to develop plan to stop flow of effluent into Boat Harbour (BH)

**January 2015** – NP's new Industrial Approval (IA) issued by NSE. Supreme Court appeal filed in April

**May 2015** - BH Act (BHA) became law which ceased use of Boat Harbour Effluent Treatment Facility (BHETF) for effluent treatment on January 31, 2020. BHA reduces lease by 10 years and 11 months earlier than Lease Extension Agreement deadline (2030)

**June-December 2015** - Northern Pulp (NP) could not start design of replacement effluent treatment system (ETF) until Supreme Court appeal with regards to IA was known. IA included unachievable conditions to design alternative system (expert opinion) and 77% reduction in Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) that was impossible to meet, both constituted significant threats to continued mill operation

[paperexcellence.com/focus-report](http://paperexcellence.com/focus-report)



**AUGUST 2019**

# 2016 - 2017

**February 2016** - Final decision letter from Minister to settle IA was received- conditions of particular concern were removed - Supreme Court appeal ended

**September 2016** - Request for proposal for delivery of engineering studies (determine best proven technology to replace BHETF) issued, in partnership with the Province

**January 2017** - Project engineering studies with KSH Consultants (Evaluation of Options and Costs) and Stantec Consultants (Receiving Water Study) kicked off

**Phase 1** considered all aspects of effluent generation, available treatment technologies, optimum technical treatment approach along with location for diffused outfall

**Phase 2** included development of cost estimates for construction of new ETF

**August 2017** - KSH and Stantec completed work for Pictou Road location in Strait

**October 2017** - Environmental Assessment process with Dillon Consultants commenced

**December 2017** - Public consultation meetings held where Pictou Road identified as proposed diffuser location

# 2018

**January** - Next project phase for Detailed Engineering with KSH on preferred design commenced

**March** - Contract signed with Veolia Water Technologies for ETF major equipment supply and engineering

**April** - Marine survey work commenced after ice breakup. Some resistance from fishermen resulted in several days of survey delays

**May** - Sonar marine studies were expanded to evaluate outfall extension of several km to deeper waters due to ice scour. Three extensions of route into Pictou Road location were evaluated

**June** - Investigation of new route off Caribou Harbour in Strait, along with new Receiving Water Study commenced due to ice scouring at Pictou Road location

**September to October** - Caribou Channel was determined to be preferred location for diffuser. Input was sought from PLFN and Fishers working group on 2 outfall options in area

**Late October to November** - Survey boat to map pipeline route attempted to commence work. Fishermen block every attempt made by survey boat to carry out required activities

**December** - NP files an injunction to remove blockade so survey crew can carry out required work- interim injunction granted on the 18th

# 2019 - Present

**January** - Northern Pulp, Paper Excellence submitted the official effluent treatment facility (ETF) project registration document to Nova Scotia Environmental Assessment Department on January 31, 2019.

**February** - The effluent treatment facility project was officially registered by Nova Scotia's Environment Department on February 7, 2019 which initiated the government's process including public consultation.

**March** - On March 29, 2019 Nova Scotia Environment Minister (then Margaret Miller) released her decision that additional project information was required via a Focus Report.

**April** - Nova Scotia Environment Assessment Department issued Northern Pulp, Paper Excellence the Focus Report Terms of Reference on April 23, 2019.

April/to-date, Northern Pulp and Paper Excellence continue to work diligently with all attention on the Focus Report additional information request. With over 90% of the field work (data gathering, etc) now complete, the company is on track to file the Focus Report which will meet requirements established by the Terms of Reference towards the end of September 2019.