

## Category 1 - Policy and Program Development

### Policy/Program Name: Atlantic Partnership in Risk-Based Corrective Action Implementation (Atlantic PIRI)

#### History of the policy or program:

A decade ago, the remediation and redevelopment of brownfields and contaminated sites in Atlantic Canada was inhibited by inconsistencies and lack of clarity in the regulatory guidelines. In 1996, a group of Atlantic Canadian regulators, members of the consulting community and the petroleum industry came together to develop more effective and efficient management processes. Atlantic PIRI has created a highly successful regional multi-stakeholder forum of provincial and federal regulators, the petroleum industry and environmental consultants. This group works cooperatively to develop user-friendly, science-based tools and policy recommendations that address brownfield and contaminated site issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect that fosters advancement of environmental improvements.

#### How the policy or program matches/relates to the Brownfield Site Definition in the Competition Guidelines:

Atlantic RBCA is a toolkit of regionally harmonized analytical tools, guidelines and processes for management of contaminated sites, including brownfields. Since the 2003 release of the NRTEE *National Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy for Canada*, Atlantic PIRI has focussed on the application of Atlantic RBCA in brownfields and development of tools to address brownfield issues.

#### 1. Atlantic PIRI removes barriers or otherwise facilitate brownfield development



**Harmonization.** Atlantic PIRI developed and released Atlantic RBCA software in 1998 – the first science-based risk-assessment and management tool in Canada. Customized for conditions in Atlantic Canada and satisfying Health Canada principles, it is a version of the American RBCA process. Through discussions in the Atlantic PIRI forum, each of the four Atlantic Provinces has developed regionally-harmonized, clear and consistent tools for management of brownfields and contaminated sites, such as management guidelines and limited remedial action processes. In 2003, the Atlantic RBCA toolkit was upgraded to meet the objectives of the CCME Canada-Wide Standards for Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Soil. Currently, Atlantic PIRI is developing a standardized Atlantic Canada Site Closure Report Template. **Consistency.** The Atlantic RBCA tools provide a repeatable scientific methodology and a uniform approach to contamination issues in the Atlantic provinces. Atlantic RBCA has increased certainty for site professionals and property developers, shortened time for remediation approvals and reduced regulatory case backlogs, all of which promote brownfield redevelopment.

#### 2. Atlantic PIRI is a model of excellence that can be applied or replicated:

Atlantic PIRI is the people and the process that have created the Atlantic RBCA philosophy and tools. **Information Sharing** Atlantic PIRI functions by sharing information, discussing issues and cooperative problem-solving that engages the regulators in the four Atlantic Provinces supported by expertise of national petroleum industry representatives and environmental consulting companies. **Values** Respect and consensus are determining principles in Atlantic PIRI decision-making. Solutions are put forward that allow all parties to find reason and benefit in the outcomes. This promotes continuing the efforts to find realistic solutions to common problems. **Win-win** The Atlantic PIRI approach encourages the use of best-available technologies to be applied in regulatory climates that ensure the best results for the public at reasonable expenditure of limited financial resources. These principles are applied universally for all participants. Similarly, by working together, the four Provinces have made better use of their limited human and financial resources and brownfield and contaminated site processes have progressed farther than any Province would have accomplished alone, while also gaining depth and flexibility. It is a win-win process that enhances and strengthens the efforts of each regulator with the backing of the other regulators and industry expertise. **Integrity** In addition to

management approaches, Atlantic PIRI updates the Atlantic RBCA software on a regular basis to maintain its scientific integrity. Over the past decade, the Atlantic PIRI process has built a strong national network of current and past members that can be called upon to contribute ideas and expertise. Atlantic PIRI has made a commitment to developing a well-educated community of site professionals, and provides training opportunities with the Atlantic RBCA software for site professionals in all four Provinces. Atlantic PIRI also maintains a web site library of regional documentation (at [www.atlanticrbca.com](http://www.atlanticrbca.com)) and hosted regional brownfield and contaminated site conferences in 2002, 2003 and 2004. **Best Practices.** The Atlantic PIRI process was presented a Regulatory Best Practices Award by the Community of Federal Regulators at the Atlantic Regional Workshop in July 2006.



3. **Atlantic PIRI is judged to be effective in initiating new brownfield projects:**

**Effective and Efficient** One of the key requirements to facilitate brownfield redevelopment identified by the *National Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy for Canada* (NRTEE, 2003) is effective and efficient risk assessment processes, supported by strong and appropriately flexible guidelines and regulations. The Atlantic RBCA tools meet this criteria. The processes were “beta-tested” as they were being developed, with a number of brownfield projects in Atlantic Canada, most notably, the Brownie award-winning Canada Lands Company *Moncton Shops Project*. Since 1999, Atlantic RBCA has facilitated remediation of over 600 sites in Atlantic Canada, none of which have been re-opened. These have included redevelopment of significant private and public brownfield sites, such as *Bishops Landing* in the port area of Halifax, *Abe Zakem House*, a former City public works garage in Charlottetown PEI and the former US military base in *Argentia*, Newfoundland. **Proactive** Atlantic PIRI sponsored a review of relevant legislation in all four Atlantic Provinces, to identify gaps and barriers to brownfield redevelopment and opportunities to make regulation more supportive of this key economic opportunity. Participation in a successful multi-stakeholder group for 10 years has enhanced the credibility of regulators engaged in the Atlantic PIRI process, which is proving extremely valuable in making inter-connections with Provincial Departments (such as Finance and Economic Development) to increase understanding of, and advance, brownfield initiatives. Specifically, Atlantic PIRI hosted a brownfield conference in Halifax (2003), supported New Brunswick PIRI regulators in establishing a stakeholder group on Brownfield liability issues (2004-2006); and participated in Nova Scotia’s Science Forum on Brownfield Redevelopment (2006). **Connected** Atlantic PIRI promotes brownfield redevelopment nationally, through member participation in the Canadian Brownfield Network Advisory Panel, Health Canada Contaminated Sites Advisory Group and CCME Technical Task Groups. Information about Atlantic RBCA and promotion of brownfield redevelopment are shared with the world through the Atlantic RBCA web site, where last year users visited 78,000 pages and downloaded 34,000 documents.



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