



# NEWS #4 February 2003

## I. Update on Atlantic RBCA Implementation

In its' annual report to the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Atlantic PIRI Committee reported that the use of the RBCA approach has resulted in the remediation of over 120 sites in the Atlantic Region.

Prior to the introduction of Atlantic RBCA, it was difficult for a property to be remediated and released from its designation as a contaminated site. For example, in PEI, only 16 of 67 sites identified as contaminated were released in the eight years from 1991 to 1998. However between 1999 and 2002, an additional 18 sites were released using the risk assessment and management process. Similarly, a total of 111 sites in Newfoundland and Labrador have been assessed under either Tier I or Tier II and 74% of these have been released.

These results reflect the fact that less complicated contamination situations can be managed reasonably quickly, which is advantageous to everyone involved. A shorter management timeline also releases regulators to begin addressing the backlog of more complex sites. This trend of increased efficiency should continue in the coming years, even though more sites are expected to be identified across the region.

Starting in 2003, Atlantic PIRI is also planning to provide non-technical stakeholders with more information about Atlantic RBCA, so they gain a better understanding of RBCA and its benefits for property owners and communities.

## II. Atlantic RBCA software V.2.0

The modifications to update the Atlantic RBCA software will be finalized in the very near future. The updated software harmonizes the Atlantic regional approach with the Canada-wide standards for petroleum hydrocarbons in soil (PHC-CWS). To ensure complete understanding of the new model and the values it generates, the PIRI Committee has pursued two paths:

1. A sensitivity analysis that identified the factors that influence values the new model generates; and
2. A comparison of V.2.0 default values with CCME CWS values and default values from other provinces.

Some parameters of the Atlantic RBCA V.2.0 model have no comparative values in either the Canada-Wide Standards or other provincial processes. This is because Atlantic RBCA assesses more exposure pathways than many other processes, for example groundwater and indoor air exposures. The User Guidance Documentation for the software is also being updated to alert users to the unique aspects of the new model and will be released with the new version of the software.

Atlantic PIRI is negotiating with the software developers, GSI Inc to provide training. The training will once again be done in collaboration with the regional environmental industry associations.

Atlantic PIRI will be announcing the release of the updated software and documentation and the dates for training through this newsletter and information posted on the Atlantic RBCA web site, <http://www.atlanticrbc.com>.

## III. Contaminated Properties Conference

The first annual Contaminated Properties Conference, held in Moncton NB in October 2002, was a success for all. Over 200 participants learned about the origins of the RBCA process and Atlantic RBCA, discussed financial, legal and insurance liabilities and explored new directions for risk assessment and management. Presentations from the conference can be viewed or downloaded on the Atlantic RBCA web site. The second regional conference is scheduled for **October 21-22 2003** in Halifax.

## IV. News from the Provincial Regulators

- New Brunswick held a successful workshop on Limited Remedial Action in early November. Over 20 site professionals attended the half-day session. The Province plans to hold other workshops on focused topics in the future.
- Nova Scotia has released its Domestic Fuel Oil Spill Policy, available in the Provincial Documents section at [www.atlanticrbc.com](http://www.atlanticrbc.com). In line with that policy, the Department has contracted the Nova Scotia Environmental Industry Association to train and certify cleanup contractors and develop a registry of Site Professionals in that province. For details of the training and registry visit [www.nseia.ns.ca](http://www.nseia.ns.ca)
- Mr. Brian Drover is the new contact person for the Newfoundland and Labrador Pollution Prevention Division. He can be reached at (709) 729-1621. The division is reviewing comments from stakeholders and continues to move forward with its' updated Contaminated Sites Management document. Options for a contaminated sites registry are being considered. The Province's home heating tank regulation and information, including a list of installers, is now available in the Provincial Documents section at [www.atlanticrbc.com](http://www.atlanticrbc.com).
- In 2002 Prince Edward Island recorded the lowest number of home heat spills since statistics were first collected in 1990. In a survey of 400 homes after the first year of the Province's Home Heating Tank program, more tanks met Provincial installation standards and more tanks were installed indoors or were protected from possible damage when outdoors.

## V. Contact Atlantic PIRI

You can ask questions or contact regulators by e-mail to [info@atlanticrbc.com](mailto:info@atlanticrbc.com). If you would you like to be notified directly when the updated software is available, or when new information about Atlantic RBCA and provincial processes are available, subscribe to our e-mail notification service. Visit the Subscribe section at <http://www.atlanticrbc.com> or send an e-mail with subject line "Subscribe" to [info@atlanticrbc.com](mailto:info@atlanticrbc.com).