

Cross-Country Checkup: Nova Scotia

CANADIAN BROWNFIELDS NETWORK CONFERENCE
JUNE 12, 2019



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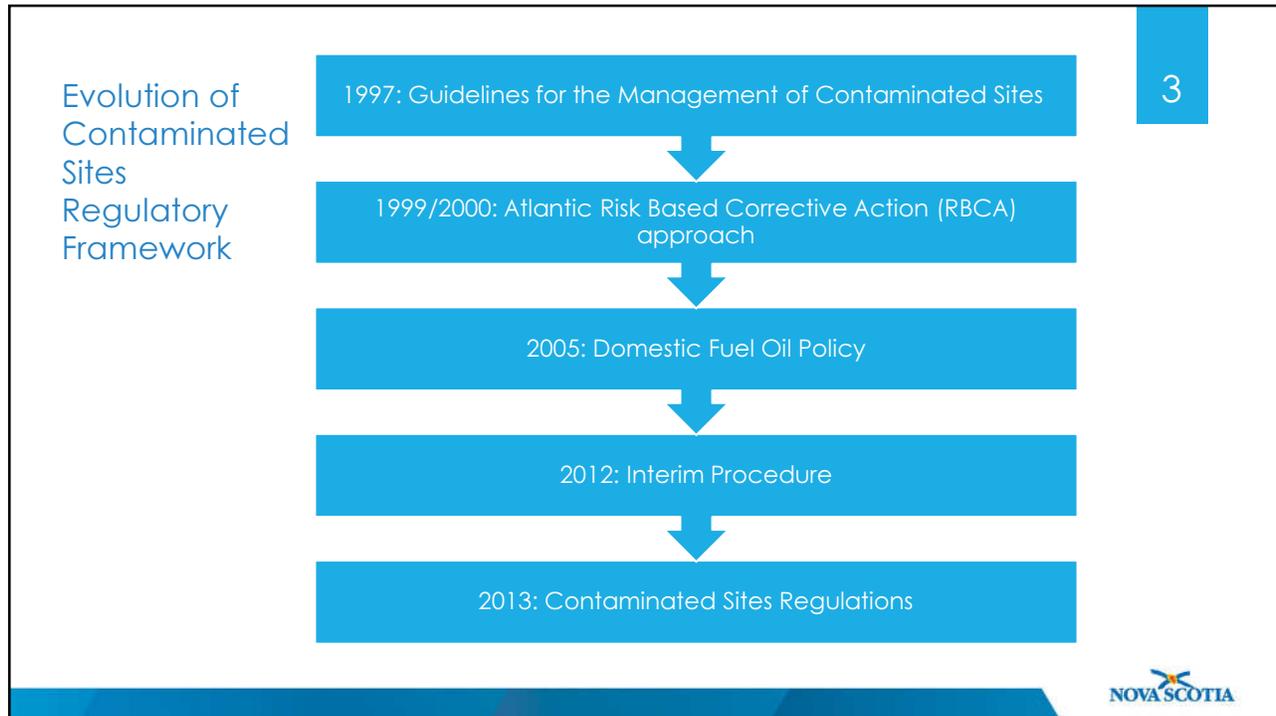
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Cross-Country Checkup: Nova Scotia

- ▶ Contaminated Sites Regulations have been in effect since 2013
 - 5 years with no significant changes
 - 2018-2019: Program evaluation
- ▶ Atlantic PIRI (Partnership In Risk-Based Corrective Action Implementation)
 - A collaborative, multi-stakeholder group that oversees the maintenance and implementation of Atlantic Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) in Atlantic Canada
 - 2018: Guideline on Site Professional Experience Requirements in Atlantic Canada
 - 2018-2019: Environmental Quality Standards Harmonization in Atlantic Canada



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Regulatory Framework

Regulations:

- ▶ Define Site Professional (person qualified to remediate contaminated sites)
- ▶ When must NS Environment be notified
- ▶ Responsibilities of property owner or person responsible
- ▶ Different options for assessment and remediation and timelines

Seven Ministerial Protocols:

- ▶ Exemptions
- ▶ Requirements under different remedial pathways
- ▶ Environmental Quality Standards) / Pathway Specific Standards
- ▶ Checklists / Forms

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Program Evaluation

Objectives:

- ▶ Fulfill Auditor General recommendation
- ▶ Determine whether the program is functioning as designed/intended
- ▶ Provide a framework for monitoring and continuous improvement



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Program Evaluation

Define program goals:

- ▶ Encourage prevention of contaminated sites
- ▶ NS Environment is notified of contaminated sites
- ▶ Contaminated sites are remediated and closed in accordance with Contaminated Sites Regulations & Protocols
 - Protect human health and environment
 - Provide consistent and credible process for industry to remediate and redevelop contaminated properties
 - Increase brownfield redevelopment by reducing environmental/regulatory liability



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Program Evaluation Methodology

- ▶ Internal consultation
 - Inspectorate
- ▶ External consultation
 - Site Professionals
- ▶ File review
 - 10% of files closed in 2016-17
- ▶ Document review
 - Activity Tracking System reports
 - CSP_Engagement@novascotia.ca
 - Technical Tuesdays
 - Terms and Conditions of approvals under Activities Designation Regulations
 - Program Needs Inventory

Program Evaluation Results

Program functioning well, but some tweaks needed

- ▶ Some are in progress
 - Improved file management and tracking, data collection/analysis
 - Risk-based auditing
 - Update Environmental Quality Standards
- ▶ And many more being considered...
 - Addressing backlog files
 - Barriers raised regarding brownfield redevelopment
 - Site Professionals – education, outreach, accountability

Atlantic PIRI

Guideline on Site Professional Experience Requirements in Atlantic Canada (Nov 2018)

- ▶ Experience determined to be most important factor in qualifying Site Professionals
- ▶ Experience requirements:
 - 5 years of relevant work experience at a *qualifying level* (1,000 hours/calendar year)
- ▶ Qualifying level - primary responsibility under the supervision of a Site Professional
- ▶ Self-Evaluation and Self-Designation
- ▶ Reporting and Documentation
 - Audit by regulator

<https://atlanticrbca.com/document/guideline-on-site-professional-experience-requirements-in-atlantic-canada/>

Atlantic PIRI

Environmental Quality Standards Harmonization (In Progress)

- ▶ Ensure consistency in the selection/application of guidelines at contaminated sites for parameters other than petroleum hydrocarbon
- ▶ Updating environmental quality standards previously developed and published by Nova Scotia
 - assessment/determination of Chemicals of Concern that should be added or removed
 - assessment/determination of hierarchy of sources for the selection/adoption of values for human health and ecological exposure pathways

Discussion. Questions?

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