

Date: November 30, 2017

Location: Northern Pulp

Attendees: NPNS Executive; CLC Committee Chair; NPNS Employee Representative; Representatives from Pictou, Pictou Landing and Pictou Landing First Nation

Regrets: Greenhill, Abercrombie

Introductions & welcome members

Environment

- Reviewed Greenhouse Gas Emissions, SO₂, NO₂, TPM and PM_{2.5} charts.
- Town of Pictou and Pictou Landing show significant improvement to PM 2.5 after precipitator was installed.
- There was an inspection of the effluent pipe during the October shut down. It was flushed out and there were no repairs needed.
- Ambient air monitoring has been added to the Northern Pulp website and a link to Nova Scotia Environment plus results from our own air stations.
- Power Boiler/Recovery boiler regulatory results are now on Northern Pulp website.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

- Discussed the preliminary layout of the new effluent treatment facility (ETF).
- Oxygen delignification is an in mill project that will support the effluent treatment facility. Process sits between brown stock and bleach plant. It reduces CLO₂ bleach chemicals by 30-40%, corresponding reduction in effluent organic loading for BOD, COD and AOX. Reduces effluent color, reduces wood losses, increases liquor recovery (reduction in carbon footprint) and reduces energy consumption by reducing aeration requirements in the new ETF (reduction in carbon footprint).
- Cooling towers is another in mill project to support the ETF. Need to run cooling towers in the summer months to recycle cooling water.
- Reviewed Project Website. The website went live November 26th and will be updated as more information becomes available.
- Common themed questions received about the project will be added to the frequently asked questions section of the website.
- We are currently in Phase 1 of the EA. Formal EA registration will happen in June 2018. The 30 day public engagement starts next summer. Prior to the registration there will be two rounds of public information centres (PIC) including sessions with PLFN community. Two online surveys will be published in conjunction with the PIC events which will be used as a feedback mechanism which is an alternative to participation in formal public meetings.
- Northern Pulp will maintain regular contact with key stakeholders (local government, First Nations and fishery groups).

- The Minister of Environment has more say in a class 1 assessment, a class 2 has a panel who also weighs in on the decision.
- There is a misconception in the public that the federal government isn't involved; Northern Pulp has been working with many federal agencies since spring/summer.
- Construction of the new effluent treatment plan will not start until we have an approved EA.
- Public Consultations will start on December 5th & 6th.
- Any concerns that come out of public consultations may result in further studies
- There has been ongoing studies done on wetlands and rare plants completed, noise survey is ongoing, archeological small dig will be in December and a Mi'kmaq ecological knowledge study which has not begun yet, early bird study April 2018, late bird survey June 2018 and marine geotechnical and ROV Spring 2018.
- The new effluent pipe will lay on a mattress and have a rock cover. The cover over the line will likely create habitat for lobsters.
- Question raised by CLC regarding impact to existing fisheries during construction of outfall pipe. Action item: Will provide response Spring 2018 session.
- Suggestion made to add glossary of terms regarding environmental assessment process. Action Item: Will update on location of glossary of terms.

Continuous Improvement

- Northern Pulp has a program where employees submit ideas for mill improvements. We have had \$500,000 in savings in 2016 (130 ideas).
- PEC has a recognition program for continuous improvement (LEAN) initiatives
- The 2017 goal is 250 ideas.

Communications

- Northern Pulp will be holding a fundraiser for the food bank called "Fill the Can" where the public, retirees and employees make donations on December 11-13th

Next meeting: Spring 2018