



**Communities,
Culture & Heritage**

1741 Brunswick Street
3rd Floor
P.O. Box 456
Halifax, NS
B3J 2R5

Tel: (902) 424-6475
Fax: (902) 424-0560

September 26, 2019

Dr. Fred Schwarz
Stantec Consulting Inc.
102-40 Highfield Park Drive
Dartmouth, NS B3A 0A3

Dear Dr. Schwarz:

**RE: Heritage Research Permit Report
A2019NS063 – Northern Pulp Effluent Treatment Facility Marine ARIA**

We have received and reviewed your final report on work conducted under the terms of Heritage Research Permit A2019NS063 for an archaeological resource impact assessment of the marine portion of the Northern Pulp treatment facility in Pictou County.

The report details the ARIA of the proposed marine components associated with the NPNS Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility near Pictou and Caribou Harbours, Pictou County, by Stantec in the summer of 2019. The marine assessment included background and historical research, a review of Indigenous land use, a review of past archaeological work and assessments for the project area, and the completion of a series of vibracores to assist in the determination of preserved paleolandscapes. Archaeological reviews of geophysical data, sidescan sonar and local bathymetry from surveys of the marine study areas were also completed.

Based on the above, the reporter notes that none of the vibracores provided direct evidence of archaeological sites however a single core (VC-O2C), at the eastern edge of the study area may contain a preserved estuarine deposit. This potential deposit is west and at the same depth as two sidescan sonar targets that have been identified as potential caribou hunting structures. The reporter recommends avoidance of VC-02C and the two related sidescan sonar targets.

In addition, the reporter recommends avoidance of Target C-42 and the application of a 20 m buffer. If during the pre-inspection or construction phase submerged cultural resources are identified, all work should stop in this area and contact be made immediately with the Special Places Program. Avoidance of Targets C49 and C50 with the application of a 20 m buffer is also recommended. Both are located outside the study area but if the project work area expands, and avoidance is not feasible, further marine assessment may be required. The additional assessment could include seismic analysis, use of ROVs and divers, and/or additional core samples.

CCH staff finds the report and associated recommendations acceptable as submitted. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sean Weseloh McKeane
Coordinator, Special Places