

BRIEFING NOTE

Polluted Industrial Sites Briefing Location

Briefing Note

What:

Ocean Falls, Namu, and update on other Polluted sites.

Who:

The Honourable John Horgan, Premier

Eric Kristianson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Legislative Precinct

*Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Action
Secretariat*

Doug Caul, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

Executive Summary:

- *A portion of the contamination associated with a former pulp and paper mill were addressed in 2008/2009 by the Crown Contaminated Sites Program (CCSP).*
- *Additional contamination exists in the area although the extent and source of this contamination has not been determined. There are multiple potential sources due to industrial activities*

Background:

- Asbestos abatement and demolition of a former Crown owned pulp and paper mill was conducted in 2008/2009 under the CCSP program. Some waste was transported offsite for disposal (eg. Hazardous waste containing lead, PCBs, mercury). Waste including asbestos and demolition debris was disposed in onsite landfills. Periodic inspections of the landfills are conducted, the most recent in 2017.

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- In 2018, the Regional Operations Division – Coast Area, commissioned work to assess the hazards associated with the dilapidated wharf in Oceans Falls. Limited sampling near the wharf identified contamination of metals and hydrocarbons in the intertidal sediments. Biota typically associated with the marine intertidal zone were not observed. The source and extent of the contamination was not identified but is likely resultant from pulpmill operations. No other likely source of contamination were identified with the site.
- The contaminated intertidal area is overlain by a dilapidated wharf owned by the Province as part of the original pulpmill infrastructure. 2017 works by Regional Operations Division – Coast Area identified the cost to address the dilapidated wharf to be \$2.7 million.
- No further works are scheduled or planned by Regional Operations Division – Coast Area. The presence of contamination requires that any remediation project should address both wharf removal and contamination simultaneously. Regional Operations Division – Coast Area does not contain the expertise necessary to undertake remediation of contaminated sites.