

GLOSSARY / ACRONYMS

Absorption	Incorporation of a substance into a solid or liquid body
Acute Toxicity	Mortality or other toxic effects within a short period of time, usually 24-96 hours
Absorption	Process where organics adhere to the surface of solid, liquid or gas molecules, making them easier to separate and remove
AGRA	AGRA Earth and Environmental Limited (now AMEC)
ALARA	As Low As Reasonably Achievable
Algae	Simple one-celled or many-celled plants in aquatic ecosystems
AMEC	AMEC Earth and Environmental Limited (formerly AGRA)
AOC	Area of Concern (geographical area)
AST	Above ground Storage Tank
BAT	Best Available Practices
Bio-accumulation	Build up in the body
Biodiversity	Full range of variety and variability among living things in an ecosystem
Biomass	Total weight of organisms, usually expressed for a given area or volume
BTEX	benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene. (all are monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)
CBDC	Cape Breton Development Corporation (also referred to as Devco)
CBRM	Cape Breton Regional Municipality
CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
CEPA	Canadian Environmental Protection Act
CEPA Toxic	Substances on CEPA's Priority Substances List as harmful to the environment or constituting a danger to human health
Chronic toxicity	Toxicity marked by a long duration
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
Coke	Coal with VOCs removed, used as a fuel source and a carbon source in steelmaking
Coke breeze	Dust that results from burning coke
Contaminant	Any substance in air, soil or water at levels beyond normal natural background
COPC	Chemicals Of Potential Concern
CRA	Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, the Project Managers
CSO	Combined sewer overflow
Dangerous Goods	Products regulated under the <i>Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, Regulations</i> .
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (federal)
Dioxins	A group of approximately 75 toxic chlorinated synthetic compounds
DNAPL	
Domtar	Dominion Tar and Chemical Co. - established coal tar distillation plant next to Coke Ovens in 1903. Is now Domtar Inc. and no longer affiliated with site.
EC	Environment Canada
Ecosystem	An interacting system of groups of organisms and their physical environment
Effluent	waters discharged from facilities to sewage collection systems or to water ways
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (USA)
Exotic species	Species of organisms not native to an area, introduced intentionally or inadvertently
Friable	Dry material that can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand
GAC	Granular-Activated Carbon
Hazardous waste	Waste posing a human health or environment risk; requires special handling/disposal
HC	Health Canada
HSWG	Health Studies Working Group [of JAG]
HTTD	High Temperature Thermal Desorption
ICAC	Intergovernmental Communications Advisory Committee
ICC	Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee
In-situ	On-site [i.e. in-situ remediation occurs at the contaminated site]
Interim Separation Zones	Temporary boundaries to protect adjacent lands during clean-up activities
ISEE	In Situ Steam-Enhanced Extraction

ISV	In Situ Vitrification
ITAC	Intergovernmental Technical Advisory Committee
JAG	Joint Action Group. A community based group that works with the Government of Canada, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to seek solution to the environmental and health risks arising from contamination in the Muggah Creek Watershed.
Lime	Neutralizing agent, common name for calcium oxide
LTTD	Low Temperature Thermal Description
m ³ /d	Cubic meters per day
MAID Site	Municipal Ash Incinerator Disposal site (landfill)
mg/L	Milligram per litre = part per million (ppm)
MHASP	Master Health and Safety Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSL	Mean Sea Level
NAPL	
NSDEL	Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour
NSH	Nova Scotia Department of Health
NSTPW	Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works
Organic solvents	All carbon-based solvents; i.e. hydrocarbon, chlorinated and nitrogenated solvents.
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons. PAHs are formed by the incomplete burning of organic materials such as wood or fossil fuels.
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls: persistent organic chemicals which can bio-accumulate through the food chain, suspected carcinogen
PCDDs	PolyChlorinated Dibenzo-P Dioxins [or just 'dioxins']
PCDFs	PolyChlorinated DibenzoFurans [or just 'furans']
PEP	Public Education and Participation [working group of JAG]
Pathway	Where and how contaminants move away from the contamination source
Persistent Toxic Substance	Substances with a half-life longer than eight weeks which can cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, etc., in any organism.
pH	Measure of acidity or alkalinity in liquid. 0-14 scale with 7 being neutral, lower than 7 indicate acidic, higher than 7 indicates alkaline
PM _{2.5}	Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (mm) in diameter (2.5 millionths of metre)
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter less than 10 microns (µm) in diameter (10 millionths of metre)
PMC	Project Management Consultant (Conestoga-Rovers & Assoc.)
PWGSC	Public Works Government Services Canada
Receptor	The people, animals or plants at the end of a Pathway that are affected by contamination
Responsible Authority	Federal department responsibility for conducting a CEAA environmental assessment
RH	Relative Humidity
ROWG	Remedial Options Working Group [of JAG]
SERL	Sydney Environmental Resources Ltd. (NS Crown Corp.)
SERP	Steam-Enhanced Recovery Process
Source	The location and concentration of contaminants
Stakeholder	Any person who is affected by a situation, resource or process
STPA	Sydney Tar Ponds Agency
Sustainable development	Development that meets present needs without compromising future generations
SVOC	Semi-volatile Organic Compound
SYSCO	Sydney Steel Corporation
TCE	Trichlorethylene
TEFs	Toxicity Equivalence Factors
TOC	Total Organic Compounds, Total Organic Carbon
Toxicity	the state or degree to which a substance is harmful to an organism
TPH	Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons

Transite Siding	Asbestos-containing siding
Trichloroethylene	A chlorinated solvent commonly used for vapour de-greasing
TSP	Total Suspended Particulates
ug/mg/kg	Microgram per gram = part per million (ppm)
ug/kg	Microgram per kilogram = part per billion (ppb)
ug/L	Microgram per litre = part per billion (ppb)
UV	Ultraviolet
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
Volatile	Tendency of a chemical to vapourize. Smaller molecules have a higher volatility
Waste Dangerous Goods	Any substance that is no longer used for its original purposes as defined by the <i>Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations</i> .
Watershed	The zone from which a water body receives sediments or nutrients from surface or ground water