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Dear Mr. McKay:

Thank you for the opportunity to reassure you and the public that the cleanup of the Sydney Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites is being implemented in a way that meets its regulatory requirements and approvals, and is in keeping with its stringent environmental management plan.

Attached are answers to questions posed by residents of Intercolonial Street. The answers provided today are similar to answers provided by Sydney Tar Ponds Agency senior staff who attended a Wintering Harbour Neighbourhood Association community meeting held June 11th at the McConnell Library in Sydney with Intercolonial Street residents in attendance. In addition, the Agency provided a project tour to members of the Association on June 21st which again included Intercolonial Street residents. This is in keeping with the Agency's goal to update the community on a regular basis through open houses, a periodic newsletter, a comprehensive website, news releases, participating in community events, and a host of other communication efforts.

As you are aware, the cleanup is currently underway and is being implemented by the Sydney Tar ponds Agency. However, significant milestones were reached before construction began. In 2005, the work of a joint environmental review panel commenced. This involved a call for public comment and significant public involvement, financially supported by participant funding. During each step of the panel process, the public was invited to comment and participate. At the backbone of the panel's efforts was an Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Agency. The detailed document was closely scrutinized during three weeks of panel hearings held publicly in 2006. Following its efforts, the panel submitted its report, which concluded that "the project and the technically and economically feasible means of carrying out the project are unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental effects." The conclusion was based on the implementation of 55 recommendations, which the Agency has integrated into the project now underway. The panel's efforts were in addition to nearly 1,000 public meetings held in the community by the Joint Action Group, a community-driven process tasked with providing acceptable cleanup options for governments' consideration.

Given the importance of this project to the community, there is a significant amount of oversight built into the project framework. Although the Agency is the front line for the project, both the federal and provincial partners also have dedicated staff working on protecting the public's interest. There is also an Independent Engineer auditing each engineering design and construction effort, there are independent quality assurance and controls tied to all project

activities, a Remedial Monitoring Oversight Board tasked with assuring the public that the environmental regulators are functioning appropriately, an Environmental Monitoring Committee made up of project stakeholders who meet monthly, and a Community Liaison Committee to provide community feedback to governments.

The cleanup of the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens site is a significant project for the community. We can and will complete this project safely and effectively.

Sincerely,

Kevin MacDonald, P. Eng.
CEO/President Sydney Tar Ponds Agency