

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER (INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT)



# The use of a Performance Based Approach for the Environmental Remediation of the Former Moisie Royal Canadian Air Force Radar Station RemTech 2017



Construction de Défense Canada Defence Construction Canada



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# OUTLINE

- 1. Historical background
- 2. Initial soil and groundwater contamination
- Procurement process :
  Performance based approach
- 4. Selection of the Remediation Option
- 5. Preliminary Assumptions vs Actual Results
- 6. Conclusion





# **Historical background**

- CFS Moisie was a former radar station of the Royal Canadian Air Forces (PineTree Line)
- Located near Sept-Iles on the North Shore of the St-Lawrence Seaway, in the Quebec province
- In operation between 1953 and 1988
- Privately owned since 1989 with partial dismantling and remediation works







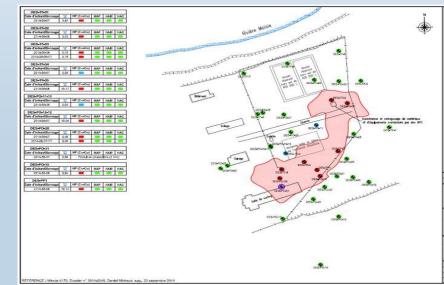
# Initial soil and groundwater contamination

The soil contamination originated from the leakage of two former above ground storage tanks which used to supply diesel fuel to the station's heating plant

Estimation of 10 600 m<sup>3</sup> of contaminated soil above the applicable criteria found between 4 and 10 m below ground surface

Groundwater contaminated by the presence of contaminated soils but no contaminated groundwater reached the Moisie River and the St-Lawrence Seaway







# Performance based approach

#### Reasons why and positive aspects of the approach

- Opens the contract to a wider industry
- Industry takes the risk of their technology
- Industry is responsible for all phases of the project : design, construction and operation
- Prevents arguments on responsibility between the different phases of the project
- Contract management is less time consuming



# Performance based approach

# **Good Option Since**

- Good knowledge of the site:
  - Contamination, hydrogeology numerous environmental site assessments, treatability studies
  - Former rehabilitation work:
    - Surface soils already treated
    - Free phase recovered using multi-phase extraction
- Many technologies applicable
  - Previous request for remediation plans: Industry proposed 3 different technologies at <u>comparable costs</u>
- Clear objectives
  - Reach of the applicable criteria, within a specific time frame



# Performance based approach - challenges

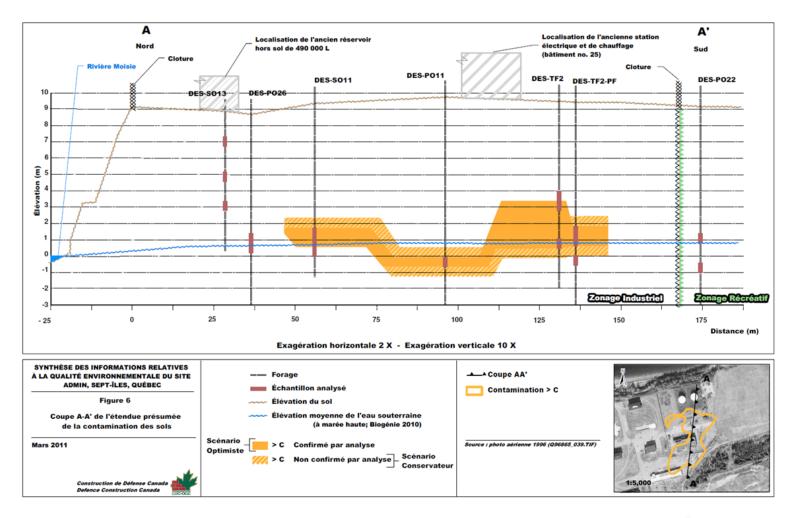
- Added complexity to contractual documents
  - Different confirmation sampling program to fit different possible technologies
  - Different terms of payments to fit different possible technologies
- Needed buy-in by the different owners and the environmental authorities
  - More planning upfront of the contract
- Contract security and Bonds
  - May reduce the number of proposals
  - May influence the proposed technology depending of the risk tolerance of the industry
- Environmental permits and authorization
  - Risk transferred to the industry
  - Depends on the selected technology



# **Performance based approach – outcome**

- Good answer from industry: Nine proposals
- Different proposed remediation options: In-Situ, Ex-Situ and a mix of both
- Contract awarded to: SNC-Lavalin

### Selection of the Remediation Option







# Selection of the Remediation Option – In-Situ

#### Site conditions were suitable for an In-Situ Approach:

- The contamination was deep (8-12 meters below ground level)
- The contamination spread under existing buildings
- Soil permeability was high (sandy material)
- Some contamination was below groundwater level
- Contamination was organic (petroleum hydrocarbons)

#### Although other factors rendered the option less favorable:

- The size of the contaminated area
- The level of contamination
- Difficulty to garantee the results





# Selection of the Remediation Option – Ex-Situ

#### Challenges with the Ex-Situ Remediation Option:

- Maintaining slope stability
- Presence of a building in the excavation zone
- Mass excavation of non-contaminated soil
- Lowering of groundwater level near a river
- Pumping & treatment of a large quantity of water in a short period of time
- Discharge of treated water in a sensitive environment
- Favorable bioremediation conditions?
- Neighbors close to site (disturbances)





### Overview (Drone)







Assumption 1: Dewatering of the excavation using Well Points

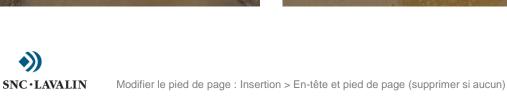




Assumption 2: Recovery of Liquid petroleulm Hydrocarbons (LNAPL)







Assumption 3: Filling retention reservoir







Assumption 4: Transfering water from one reservoir to another







#### Assumption 5: Using reservoir for water treatment







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Groundwater pumped in Northern excavation (August 2016):

- 160 well points were installed
- Expected quantities: Flow of 90 m<sup>3</sup>/h for 36 h for a total of 3240 m<sup>3</sup>
- Actual quantities: Flow of 88 m<sup>3</sup>/h for 58 h for a total of 5104 m<sup>3</sup>

#### Groundwater pumped in Southern excavation (September 2016):

- 230 well points were installed
- Expected quantities: Flow of 85 m<sup>3</sup>/h for 36 h for a total of 3060 m<sup>3</sup>
- Actual quantities: Flow of 235 m<sup>3</sup>/h for 16 h for a total of 3760 m<sup>3</sup>





#### **Quantity:**

Instead of the estimated 6300 m<sup>3</sup>, a total of 8864 m<sup>3</sup> of groundwater had to be pumped and treated

#### **Quality:**

Estimated time of treatment: 6 days

Actual treatment time: 2 days





#### Estimated Quantity (m<sup>3</sup>)

Non-Contaminated Soil: 108,000

Contaminated Soil: 10,600

Actual Quantity (m<sup>3</sup>)

Non-Contaminated Soil: 87,440

Contaminated Soil: 14,280







### Loading of the Biopile







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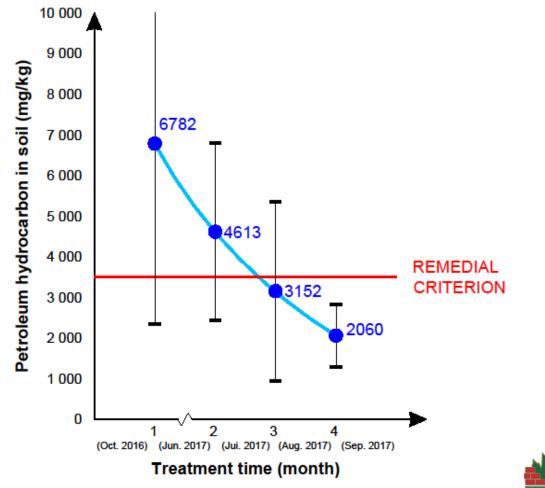






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Petroleum Hydrocarbon Reduction







## Conclusion

Expected Challenges	<b>Actual Challenges</b>
Presence of a building in the excavation zone	No
Slopes Stability	No
Large Quantity of water to manage	Yes
Bioremediation Conditions	No
Disturbance of the neighbourhood (noise, dust, e	etc) Yes





# Conclusion

#### **Unexpected Challenges**

- > Schedule changes due to unforseen work
- > Winter Conditions
- > Relations with the community







# 4- Conclusion

Project summary:

- Ex-Situ (treatment on-site) was a cost-efficient approach for this site and all objectives were met
- Initial assumptions turned out to be appropriate, but contingencies were necessary
- With a Performance-Based Contract, responsibility is transferred to the contractor



### Acknowledgements

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- City of Sept-îles and the Moisie community





## **QUESTIONS**?





