Conestoga-Rovers & Associates

Project Summary

SYDNEY TAR PONDS AND COKE OVEN SITE

SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA

CLIENT: GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
DURATION: 1998 TO 2014
SERVICES BUDGET: > $ 21 MILLION

KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Former Steel Mill and Coke Oven**
- **Phase I Environmental Site Assessment**
- **Phase II Environmental Site Assessment**
- **Phase III Environmental Site Assessment**
- **Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment**
- **Remedial Technology Evaluations**
- **Feasibility Study**
- **Air Monitoring**
- **Project Management**
- **Independent Engineer**

After nearly 100 years of coal and steel production, environmental contamination at these sites is extensive and complex. The Tar Ponds themselves are located immediately adjacent to the downtown area and with an area of 33 hectares, are reported to contain approximately 550,000 cubic metres of sediments contaminated with PAHs, PCBs, heavy metals, organic compounds and raw sewage. The source of much of the contaminated sediment is the Coke Ovens site, inoperative since 1988, located on a 90-hectare piece of property in the centre of a residential area.

Initially, CRA was retained by the Federal and Provincial governments to undertake a comprehensive Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) in association with another local firm. The Phase I ESA provided an in-depth understanding of the site, and involved the compilation and evaluation of various investigative and clean-up activities which were undertaken on the site in a disjointed fashion over the last decade, and also provided the direction and groundwork for future activities. The Phase I ESA was completed in September 1998.

CRA was subsequently retained to undertake the role of Project Management Consultant (PMC) commencing in early 2000 and ending in late 2003. CRA managed the implementation of a multi-million dollar Phase II/III ESA, risk assessments, the evaluation of potential remedial technologies, the development of a remedial program, an air monitoring program, closure of a landfill, installation of a sanitary sewer, development of “separation zones” around the site, and several demolition projects. CRA was also the prime peer reviewer for all the technical documents produced on the project and utilized its expertise in human and ecological risk assessment, air monitoring, and remedial technologies to ensure that all documents produced for the project were technically sound and defensible. CRA also provided liaison services between project team members and several active and often controversial community groups. In all CRA managed work with a value of $62 million. CRA’s selection as Project Management Consultant was based on our professional credibility to both the local community and the government stakeholders in working towards an effective solution.

In 2005, CRA was awarded a 10-year contract to provide Independent Engineering Services to validate technical and financial submissions during implementation of a remediation program.

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