Fort Chipewyan Port Facility

TC's Operations team from the region has been visiting the site frequently over the years.

Timeline Legend
- Environmental Studies
- Ports Divestiture – Port Divestiture Program (PDP)/Ports Asset Transfer Program (PATP)
- Engagement
- Port Operations
- Next Milestones

1997 — Phase I ESA

1998 — Phase II ESA

2005 — Phase I ESA

2013 — Phase I ESA Update

2013 — Letter sent to Nations
Availability of site for acquisition

2014 — Phase II ESA

2015 — PATP Launch
Four outreach emails sent

2016 — Signed LOIs
Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN) and Fort Chip Métis Local 125 (FCML125) signed Letters of Intent (LOI)

2016 — ESAs Shared
Shared 2013/14 ESAs with MFCN and FCML125 .

2017 — Phase III ESA / HHERA
HHERA (Human Health & Ecological Risk Assessment) and Remedial Options Analysis

2018 — ESA / HHERA Shared
Shared 2017 ESA /HHERA with MCFN

2018 — Signed LOI
Fort Chipewyan Marine Transport signed LOI and given 2017 ESA and HHERA

Site Details

Transport Canada owns a commercial port facility in Fort Chipewyan, AB on Lake Athabasca. The Port Facility is approximately 6 hectares in size and was constructed in 1925 by the Department of Public Works and transferred to Transport Canada in 1987. Since that time, it has been an active facility with multiple users and uses. The facility includes both an upland portion and a surrounding waterlot.

2017 Risk Assessment Conclusions

The Risk Assessment completed in 2017 concluded that the facility was not likely to pose any risks to human health. The 2017 Risk Assessment concluded that the site did not pose human health risks from swimming, boat launching, or other recreational activities. The study noted that due to the site being an active wharf, remediation of sediments at the site was not likely to result in long term environmental improvement and would have resulted in short term disruption of the existing ecosystem. Based on these results, TC was confident that the site was safe for the current uses by humans and wildlife.

Contaminants Present at the Site

The Phase III Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) completed for the Fort Chipewyan Port Facility in 2017 documents known contamination from multiple sources including:

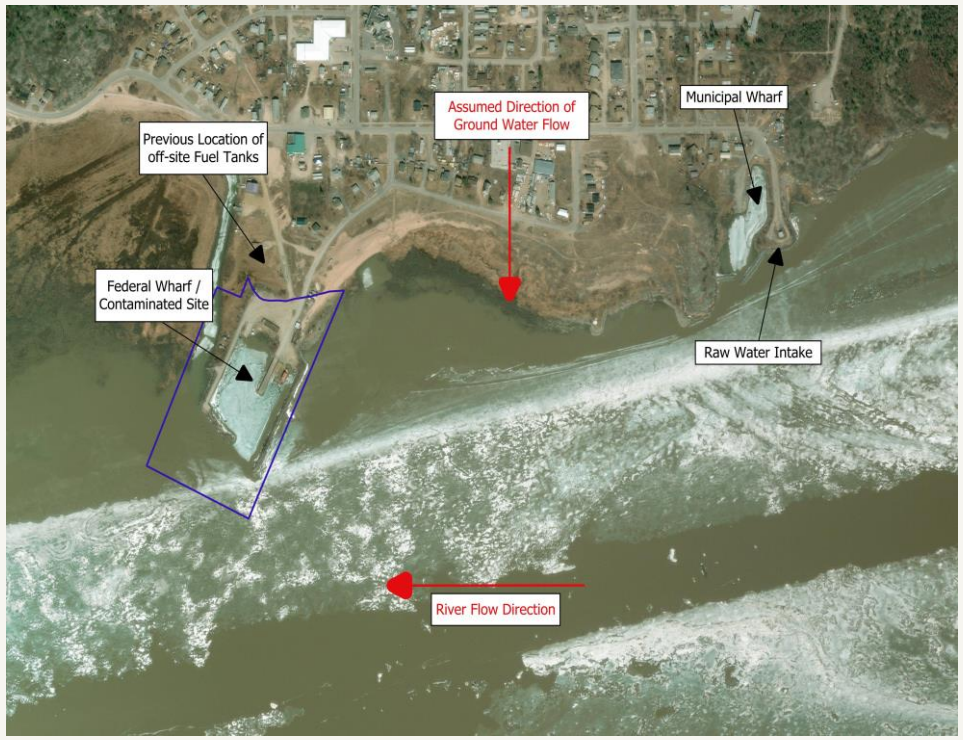
- creosote-treated lumber (in the Port Facility itself);
- historical use of off-site bulk fuel storage tanks coupled with fuel loading and unloading, which resulted in historical fuel spills off site.

As a result, the Port Facility, the off-site bulk fuel storage site and former fuel spill site were found to have petroleum hydrocarbons (PHCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that are considered chemicals of concern among other related contaminants.

The waterlot sediments may have been further impacted by boating activities over the years, including boat fueling operations, discharge of contaminated bilge water, reports of a sunken barge, and potential deposition of sediments from off-site sources.

Due to the design of the Port Facility, sediment from Lake Athabasca may also be deposited in the TC waterlot. Contamination in the waterlot consists of PAHs and metals in the sediment. The presence of contamination at the facility has been listed on the publicly accessible Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI) website since 2014.

The contamination identified at this site is typical of what can be found at commercial port facilities across the country with on-going activities and notably where a wharf is constructed with creosote-treated lumber and the property is used for fuel transfer/distribution.



Next Milestones

Dec 2024 — Engagement with Nations
Ongoing moving forward

March 2025 — Environmental Report
Deadline for completion of initial phase (review of historical reports and recommendations on next steps for investigations)

Spring 2025 — Field Work
Only if required to support environmental investigations

Summer 2025 — Environmental Investigations Anticipated Timeframe for Completion

Future Work — Contamination Management Plan
Develop concrete options to manage the contamination for both the uplands portion of the site and the waterlot

2022 — Met with Nations
TC met with ACFN, MCFN, FCML125, RMWB on potential divestiture of the wharf facility

June 15, 2022 — LOI sent to ACFN
TC provided ACFN LOI that was never signed

May 22, 2024 — Proposals and Plans
ACFN and TC met to discuss a dredging proposal. TC consulted ISC– Emergency Preparedness, confirming approved contingency plans for emergency evacuation if the airport and the port facility are unavailable

Aug 23, 2024
Letter sent from the Nations to the Minister of Transport re. contamination concerns.

Oct 18, 2024 — Updated Draft RDI Completed
Draft Routine Detailed Inspection (RDI) by Associated Engineering

Oct 22, 2024
RD of Programs emails Nations acknowledging letter to Min and requesting contact info.

Oct 25, 2024
Email from Nations to RD providing contact info and requesting a response to the letter to Mininster

Oct 31, 2024
Email from RD of Programs to nations sharing all environmental reports TC has on Fort Chipewyan.

Nov 6, 2024
Call between Minister Anand and the Nations regarding the contamination at the facility.

Nov 19, 2024 — Launch Environmental Investigations
TC retained consultant to review historical environmental reports and to help facilitate next steps.