

## **2022 Year in Review Summary** **Alton Community Liaison Committee (CLC)**

The following Project Update provides information on activity for 2022 regarding the Alton Natural Gas Storage Project (the Project).

- Overview
- Decommissioning Plan
- Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia
- Ongoing biological research re: the Shubenacadie River Estuary
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### **Overview**

Throughout 2022 the CLC continued to provide valuable feedback on Alton project activities.

Following regulatory approval for the project's Decommissioning Plan, activity moved forward to decommission the Alton project with construction mobilization taking place in November 2022. Decommissioning activity is divided into two phases, one taking place in the fall of 2022 and the second taking place in approximately the first six months of 2023. A [chart showing the expected activities in each phase](#) was shared with the CLC at its meeting in December 2022.

Looking ahead for 2023, it is expected that activities related to decommissioning will be the focus for the Project.

### **Decommissioning Plan**

On the Alton website, the public can easily access the Decommissioning Plan, Appendices and supporting materials at [www.altonnaturalgasstorage.ca](http://www.altonnaturalgasstorage.ca)

To share information about procurement opportunities related to decommissioning, the Project shared Requests for Proposals for wireline services and a service rig in June 2022 with the Maritimes Energy Association, which subsequently published the opportunities on June 8 and June 10, 2022 in its Daily Bulletin. The Association represented companies and organizations providing goods and services to the energy industry in Atlantic Canada.

In 2022, Project updates on decommissioning were shared with the public on [February 23](#), [August 26](#) and [November 3](#). The updates were posted to the Alton website and distributed to the members of the public who have registered for Alton Updates from the website.

### **Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia**

Alton Natural Gas Storage remains committed to ongoing, open dialogue with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia about the Project. We continue to be supportive of Mi'kmaw involvement in the Project during the decommissioning phase.

In 2022, Alton provided information regarding decommissioning to Sipekne'katik First Nation, Millbrook First Nation, the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative), the Native Council of Nova Scotia, the Mi'kmaq Conservation Group and the Atlantic Policy Congress.

### **Ongoing biological research re: the Shubenacadie River Estuary**

The river monitoring research led by Dalhousie University continued on a smaller scale in 2022 supported in part by earlier funding that the Project had provided. The research, ongoing since 2008, has contributed to a significant data bank of the seasonal and tidal variation in the estuary, and characteristics of the Striped bass nursery habitat. As part of the research and monitoring, the first Striped bass eggs of the season were identified on May 24, 2022. Monitoring in the upper estuary logged oxygen, temperature and salinity to better understand the cause of localized anoxia (low oxygen) in the water which can result in fish kills during dry summers.

### **Alton website**

The Alton website [www.altonnaturalgasstorage.ca](http://www.altonnaturalgasstorage.ca) was updated in 2022 with information on the Project decommissioning. Updates on the decommissioning process for the Project will continue to be shared with the public via the website.

In 2022, the [Funded Projects section of the website](#) was updated to include information regarding project support to Feed Nova Scotia and the Red Cross for Hurricane Fiona relief.

### **Community engagement activities**

Information regarding the activity of the CLC is shared on the Alton website, [www.altonnaturalgasstorage.ca](http://www.altonnaturalgasstorage.ca) in the Community section.

The CLC met three times in person in 2022, in July, October and December 2022, and updates were sent by email to CLC members during the year. Although the regulatory approval for Alton decommissioning does not require a continuance of the CLC, Alton continues to arrange meetings with the group to seek community feedback on project activities and will continue to gather that feedback from the group through the decommissioning process.

Members of the CLC have indicated they will continue to serve as volunteers on the committee through the decommissioning process. Engagement with the CLC is expected to continue until the completion of decommissioning.

In 2022, Alton representatives participated in activities organized by the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce and the Maritimes Energy Association. As well, Project updates from Alton are regularly shared by the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce in its newsletter to its ~ 500 member businesses in the Town of Truro and Colchester County.