



2025 Water & Wastewater Workshop

CBRM Wastewater Strategy

WSER Challenges in Atlantic Communities



March 25, 2025





Background

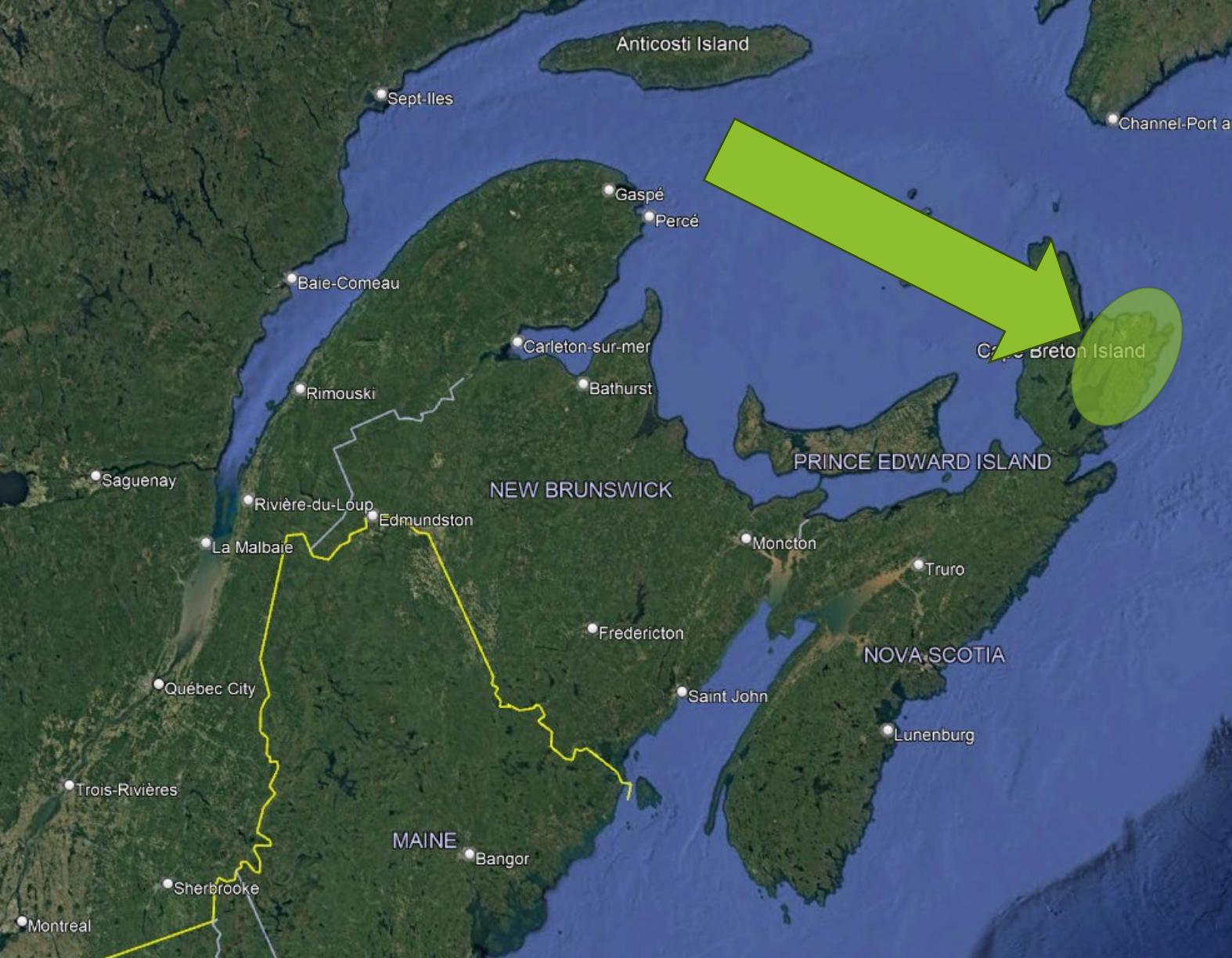
- Historical Perspective
- Strategy Development

Obstacles

- Declining Population
- Political Stability
- Competing Priorities

Progress

- Completed
- Construction / Design
- Future

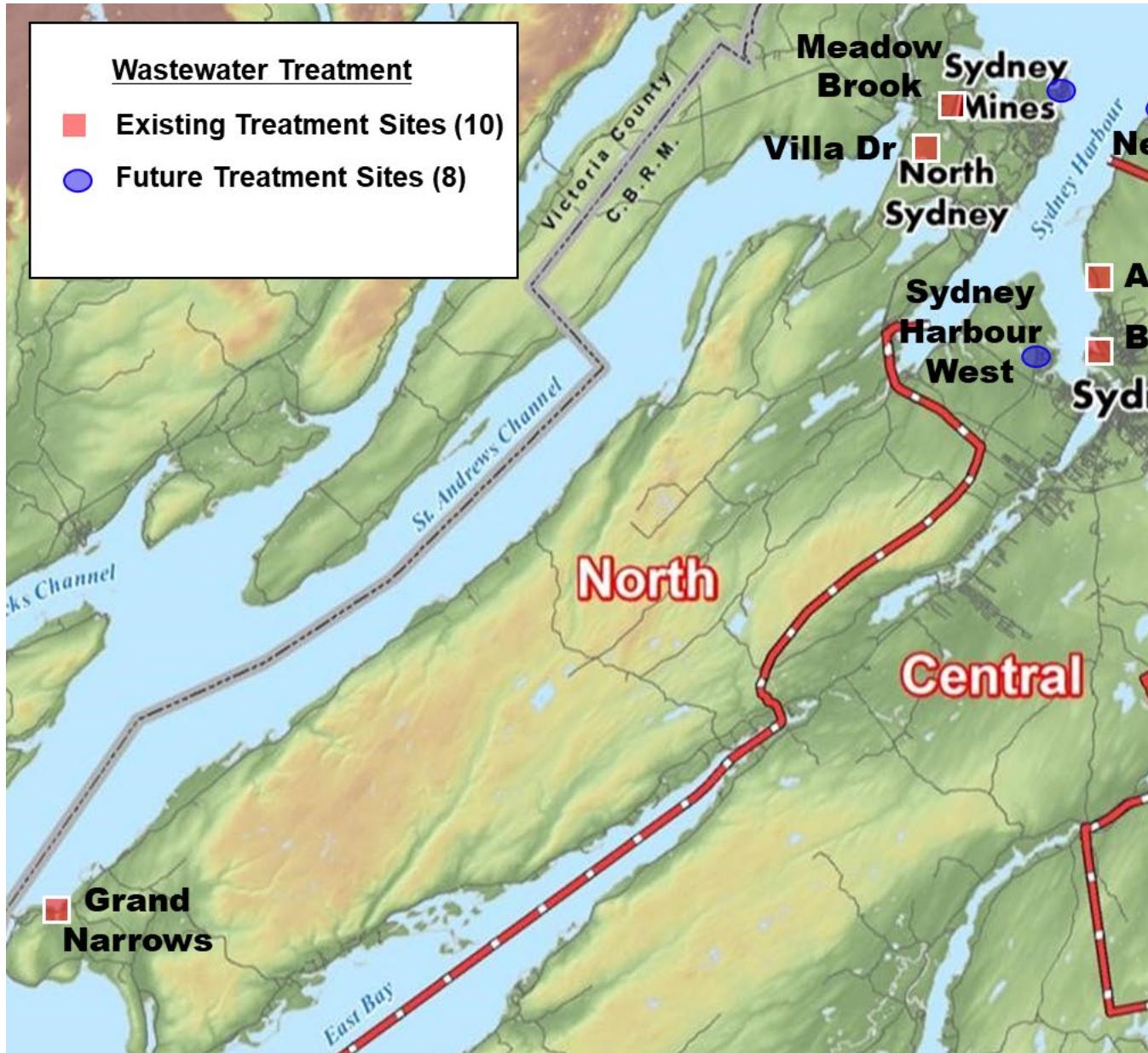


- Serviced Pop. > 80,000
- Currently 45,000 untreated, plus 28,000 non-compliant with NPS.
- Urban centers scattered across 2500 km².
 - Ottawa 2780 km²; 995,000
 - Winnipeg 465 km²; 850,000
- Public Works divided into 3 divisions:
 - North
 - Central
 - East



CBRM Pollution Control History





CBCL Treatment Study (1961)

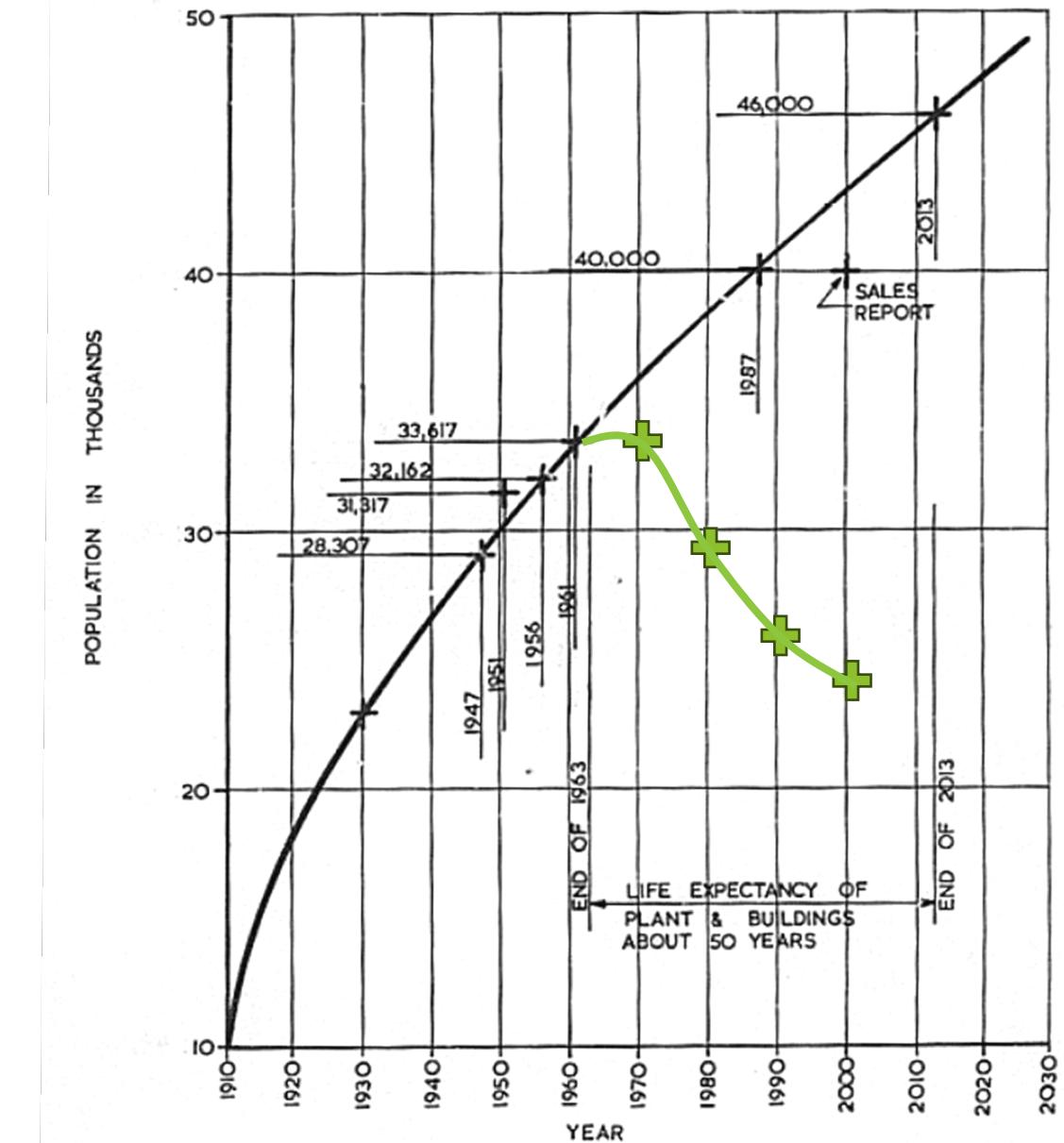
- Sydney Population Growth at 1.2%
 - 28,300 to 33,600 (1947 – 1961)
 - Design Population 40,000 for 25 yr, 46,000 for 50 yr.

Predictions vs Actual

- Steel Industry slowdown and ultimate closure by 1981
 - Sydney Population < 23,000 by 2006

Impact on Pollution Control

- Tax revenues decreasing
- Uncertain Future
 - Plant Design parameters ?
 - Good Place to invest ?



Industrial Cape Breton

- 8 Municipalities
 - Sydney (Inc. 1785)
 - Glace Bay (Inc. 1901)
 - Dominion (Inc. 1906)
 - North Sydney (Inc. 1885)
 - New Waterford (Inc. 1913)
 - Sydney Mines (Inc. 1889)
 - Louisbourg (Inc. 1901)
 - County of Cape Breton (1879)



CBRM Amalgamation (1996)

- Forced by the province
 - CBRM Population 115,000 (1996); 93,700 (2021)
 - 1995 - 8 Municipalities (77 Council members)
 - 1996 – 1 Municipality (22 Council members)
 - Currently 12 Councillors + Mayor
- Inherited Debt of > \$60 M
 - Debt grew to \$129 M by 2010



Obstacles -Competing Priorities





Progress – Port Morien WWTF





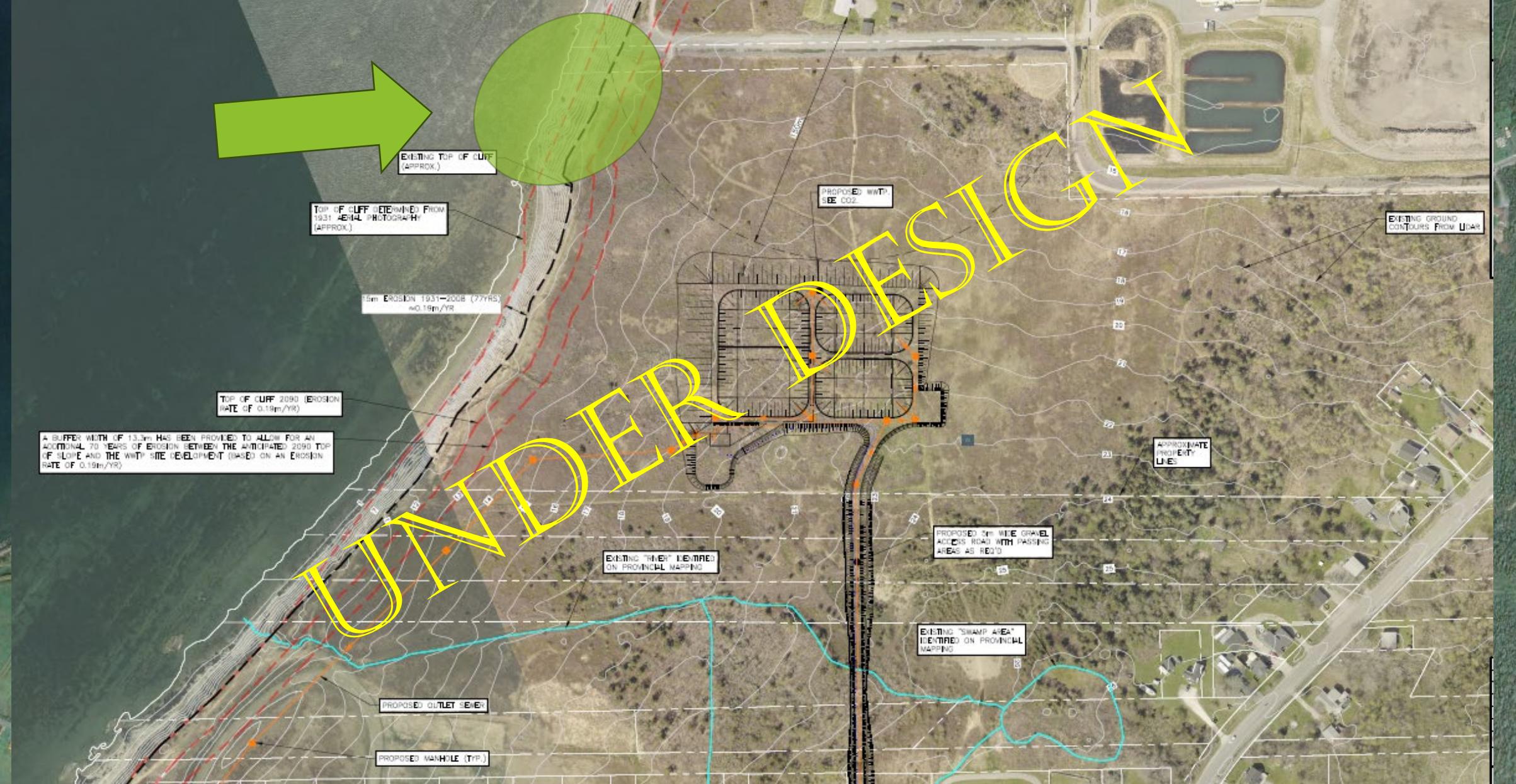
CBCL Progress - Sydney Harbour West WWTF

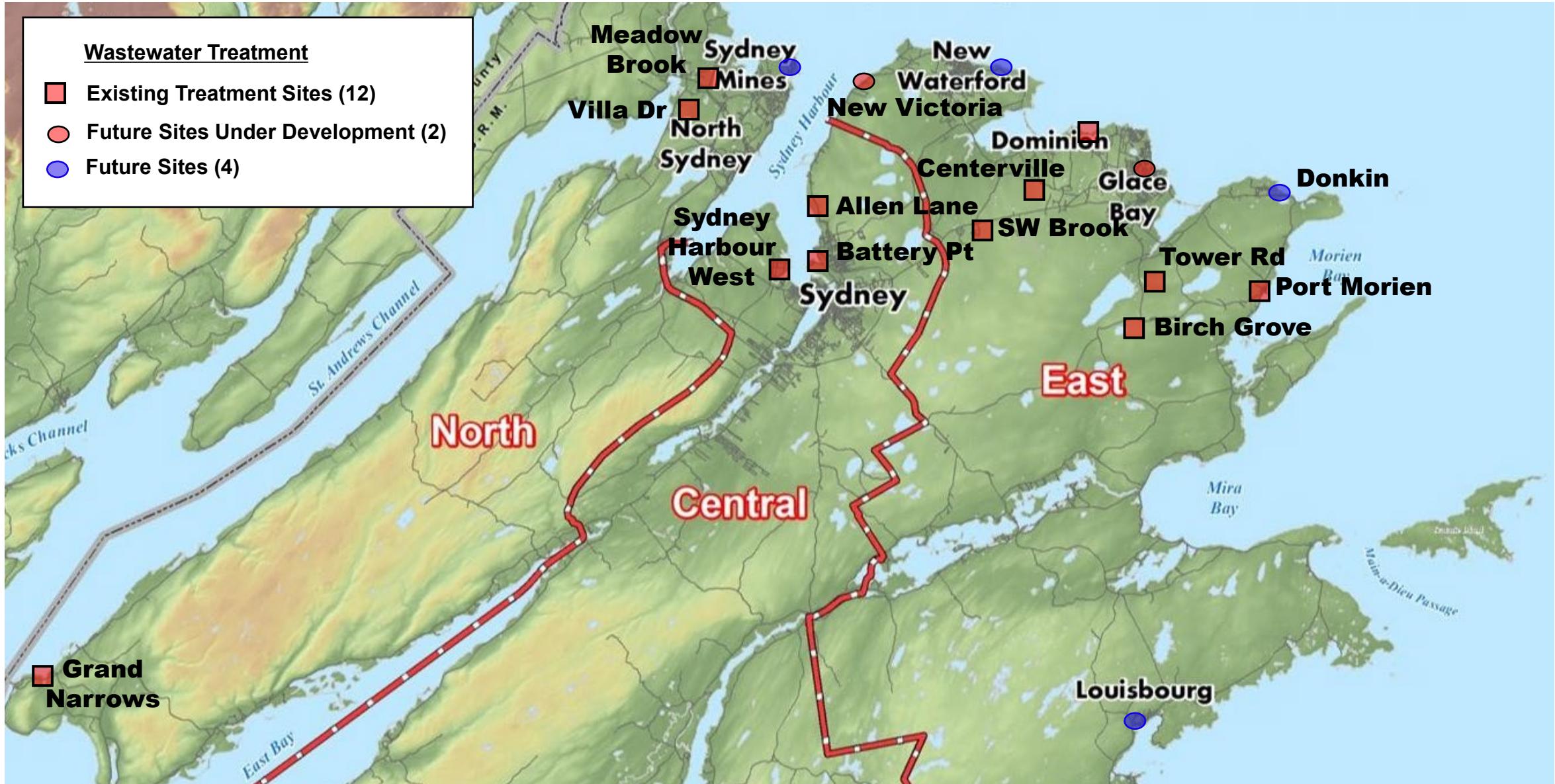




Progress - Glace Bay WWTF







Factors for Success

- Planning
 - Project Definition (Scope & Budget)
- Regulation
 - Difficult to prioritize Wastewater Treatment ahead of other competing projects without a regulatory driver.
- Political Will
 - Stability – Projects cycles typically cover one or two elections
 - High Priority (Drinking Water Treatment typically higher for coastal communities)
- Funding
 - Very few Atlantic municipalities can afford both the annual capital retirement and operating costs
- Time
 - Need to start planning up to 5 years before plant is required.





QUESTIONS ?

