



2025 Water & Wastewater Workshop

CBRM Wastewater Strategy

WSER Challenges in Atlantic Communities

Newfoundland
& Labrador
CANADA

CBCL

March 25, 2025

harbour
engineering
joint venture



CBRM
Wastewater
Operations



Background

Historical Perspective

Strategy Development

Obstacles

Declining Population

Political Stability

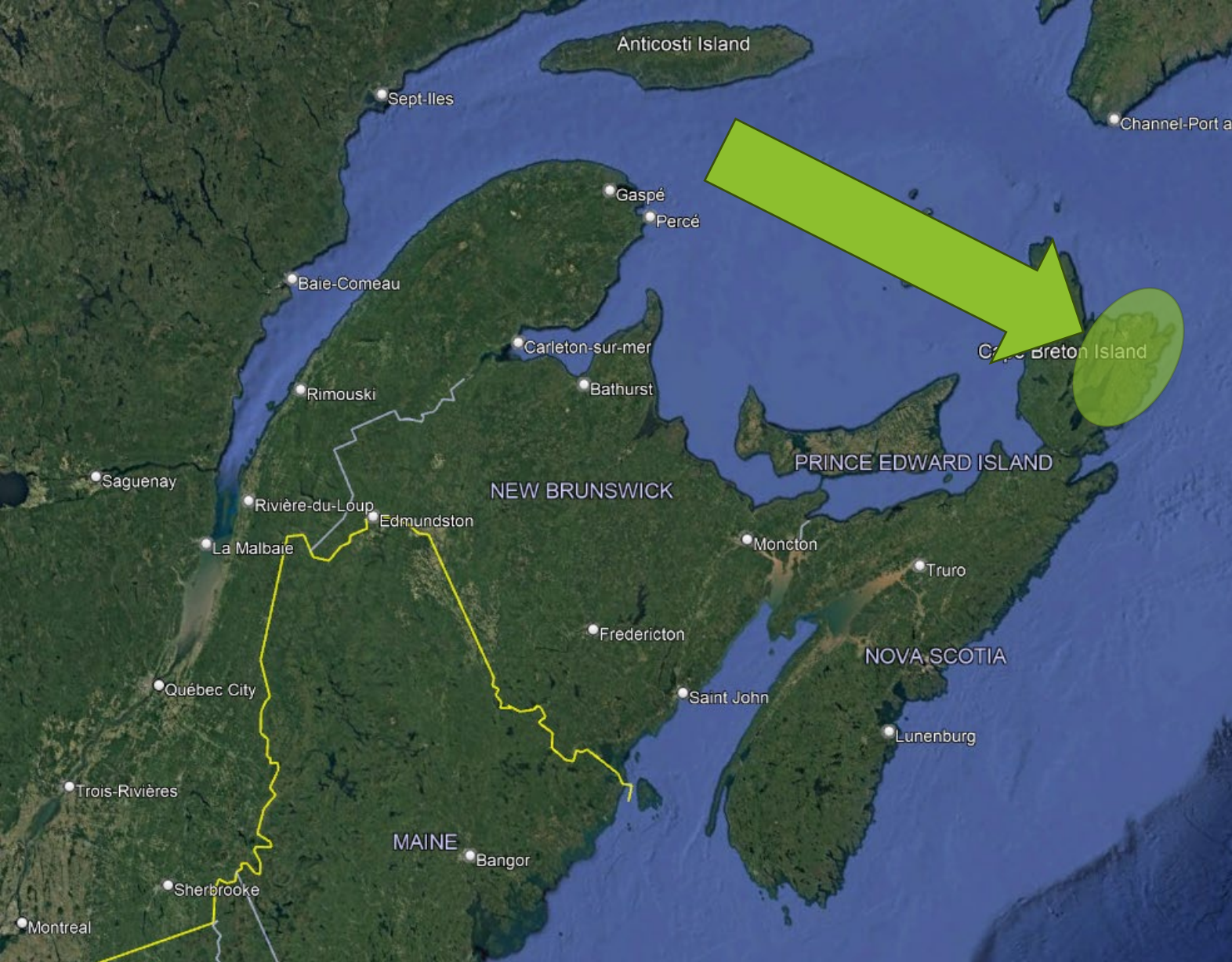
Competing Priorities

Progress

Completed

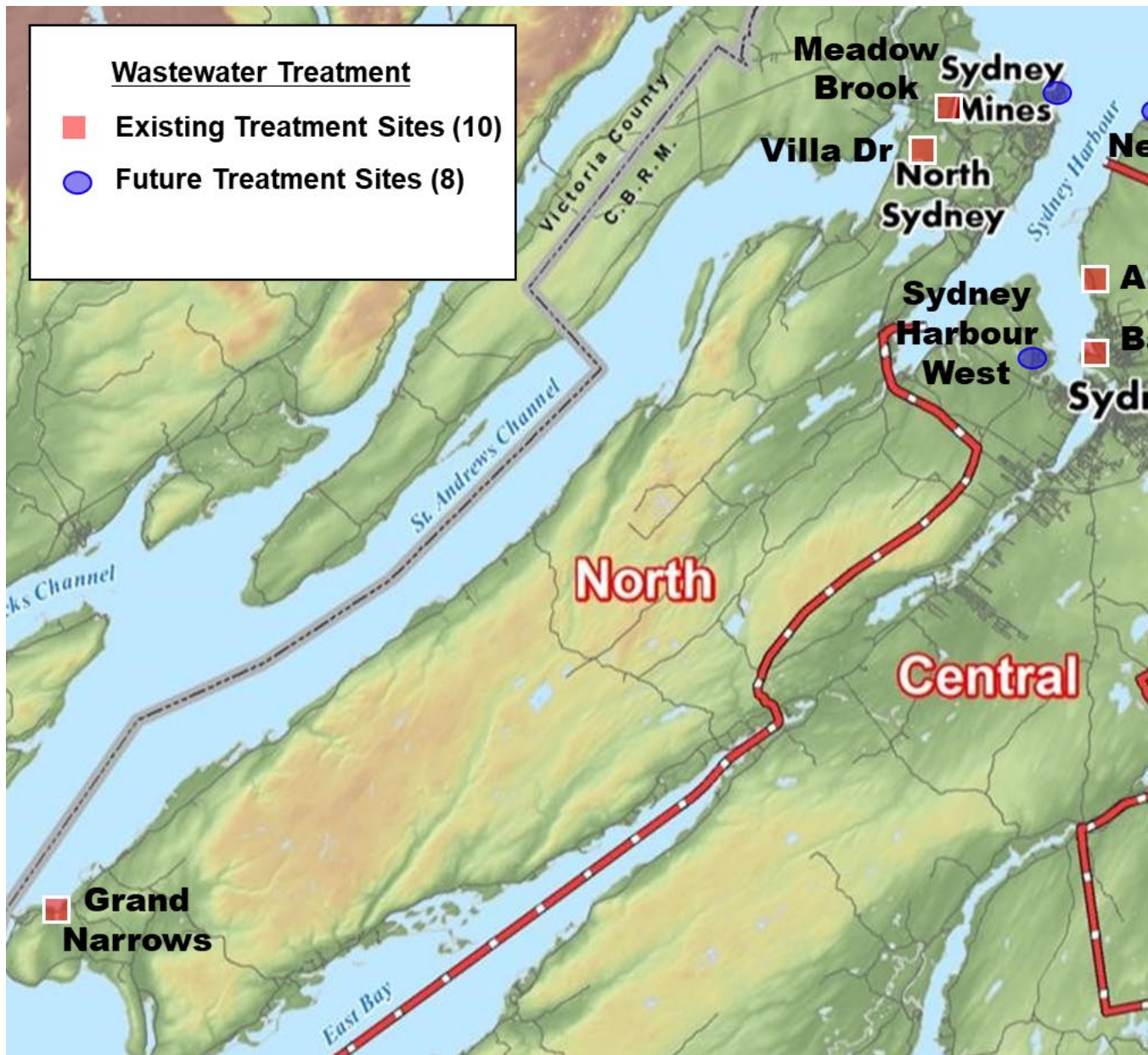
Construction / Design

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 Wastewater Strategy (2009)

CBCL Treatment Study (1961)

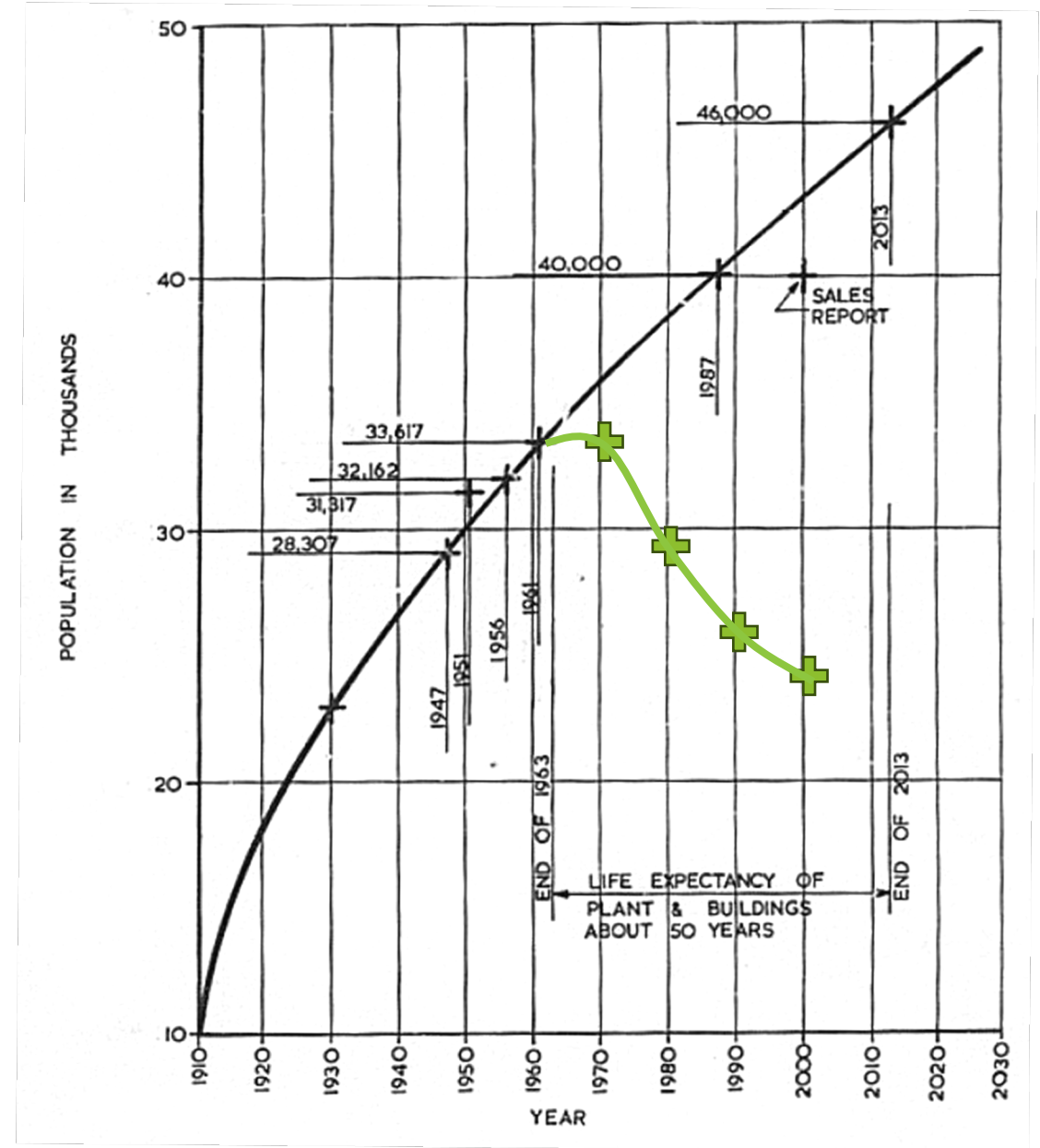
- Sydney Population Growth at 1.2%
 - 28,300 to 33,600 (1947 – 1961)
 - Design Population 40,000 for 25 yr, 46,000 for 50 yr.

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

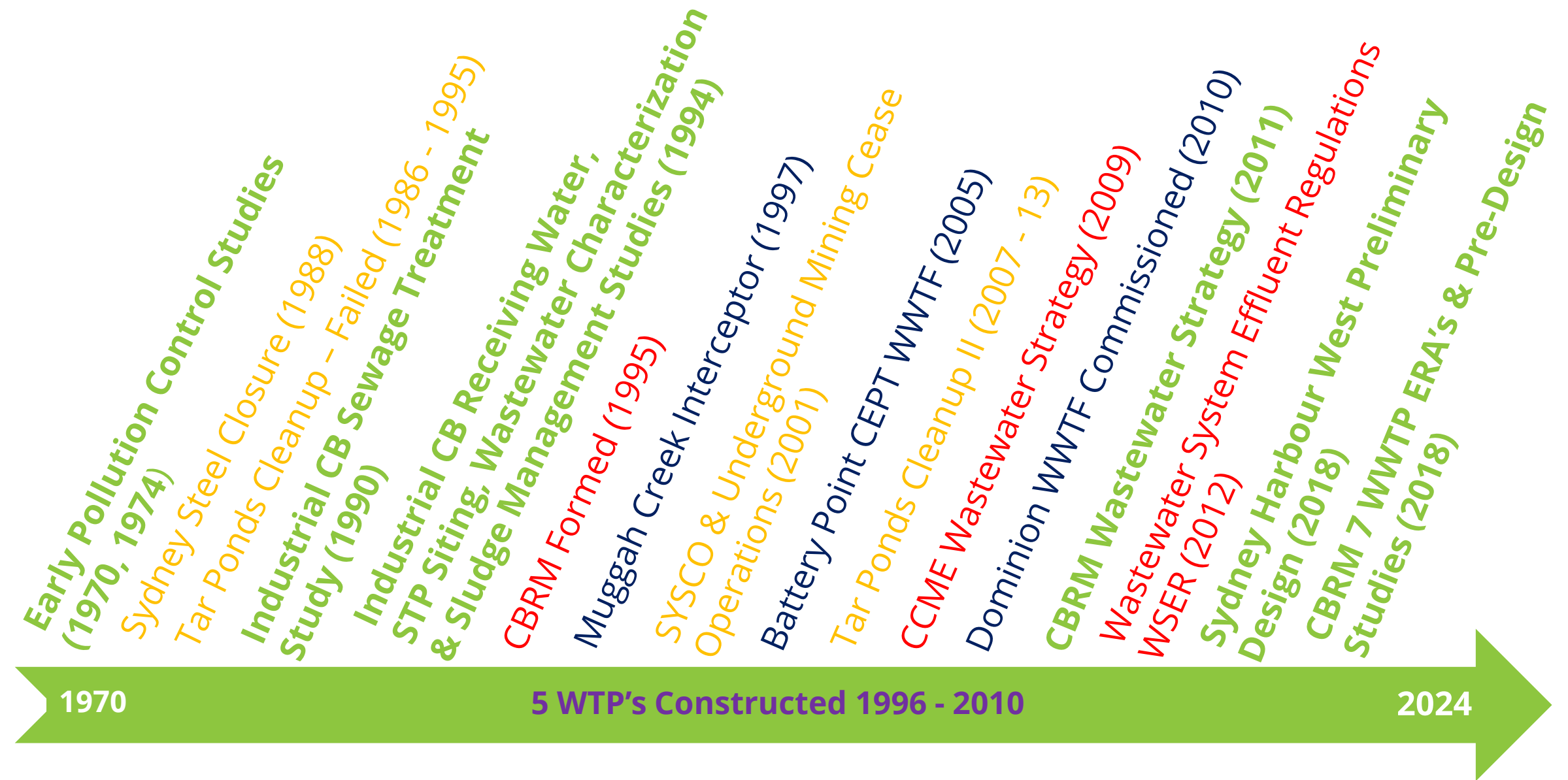
- 8 Municipalities

- 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)

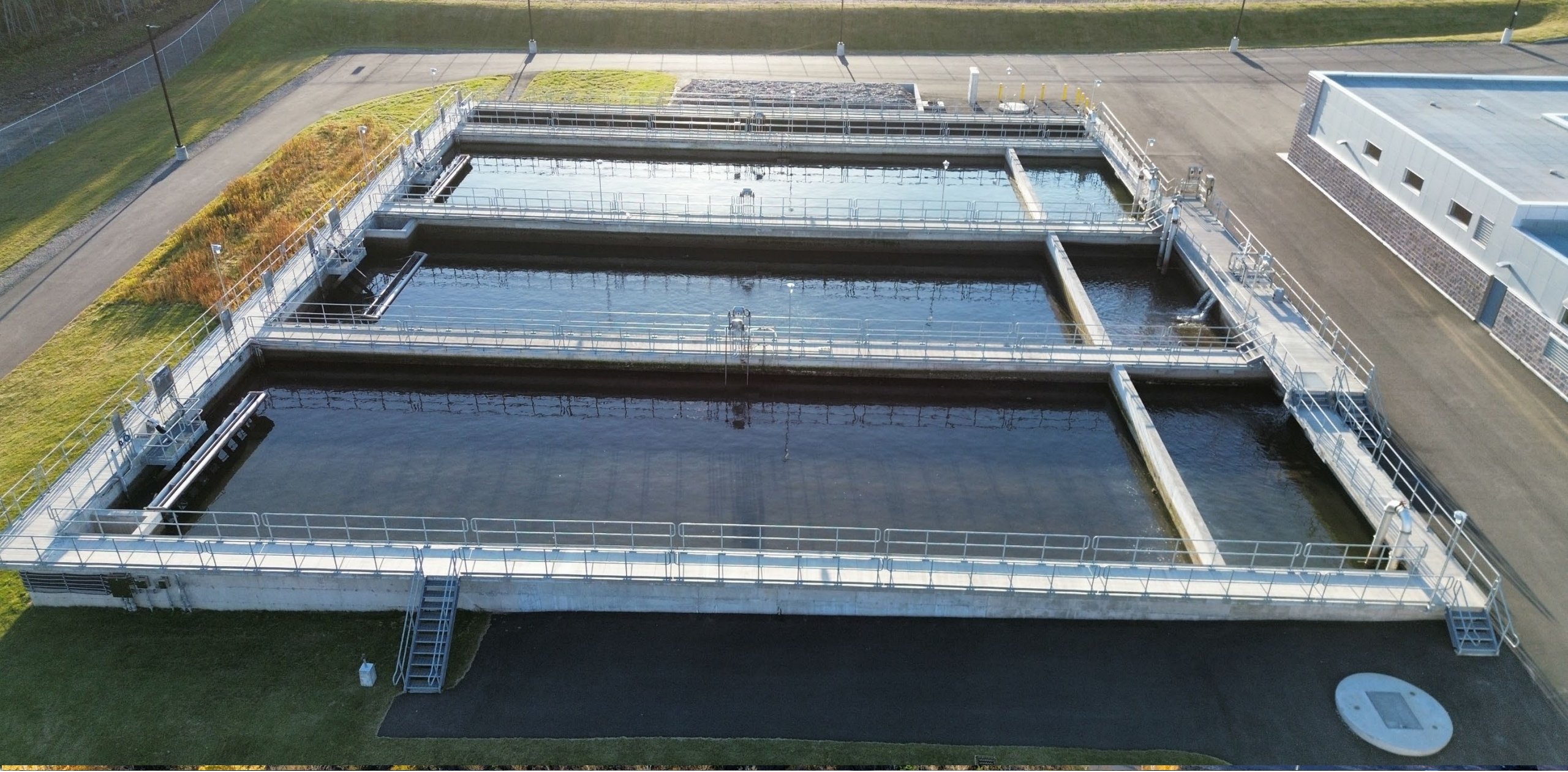
- Forced by the province
 - CBRM Population 115,000 (1996); 93,700 (2021)
 - 1995 - 8 Municipalities (77 Council members)
 - 1996 – 1 Municipality (22 Council members)
 - Currently 12 Councillors + Mayor
- Inherited Debt of > \$60 M
 - Debt grew to \$129 M by 2010



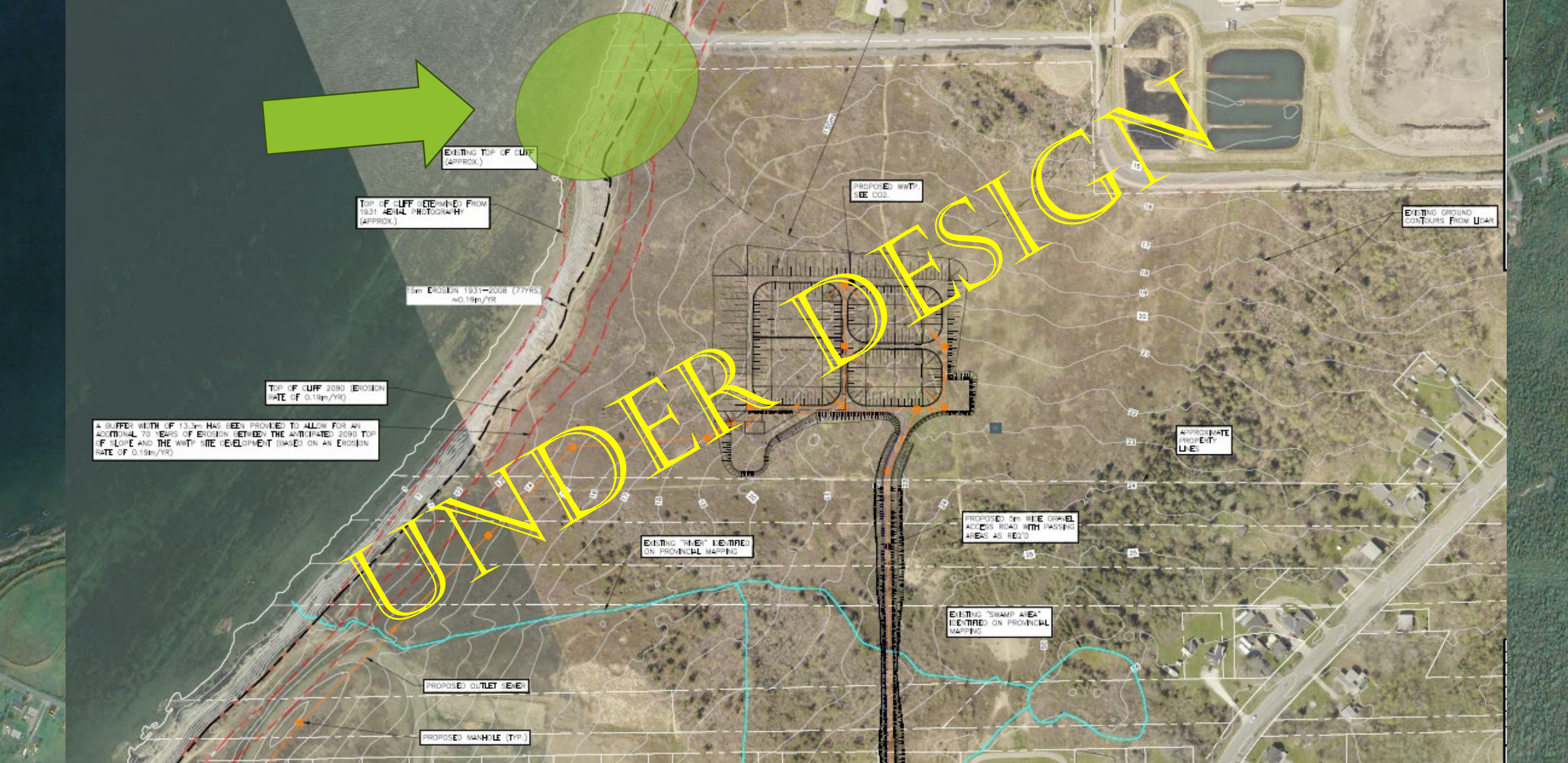


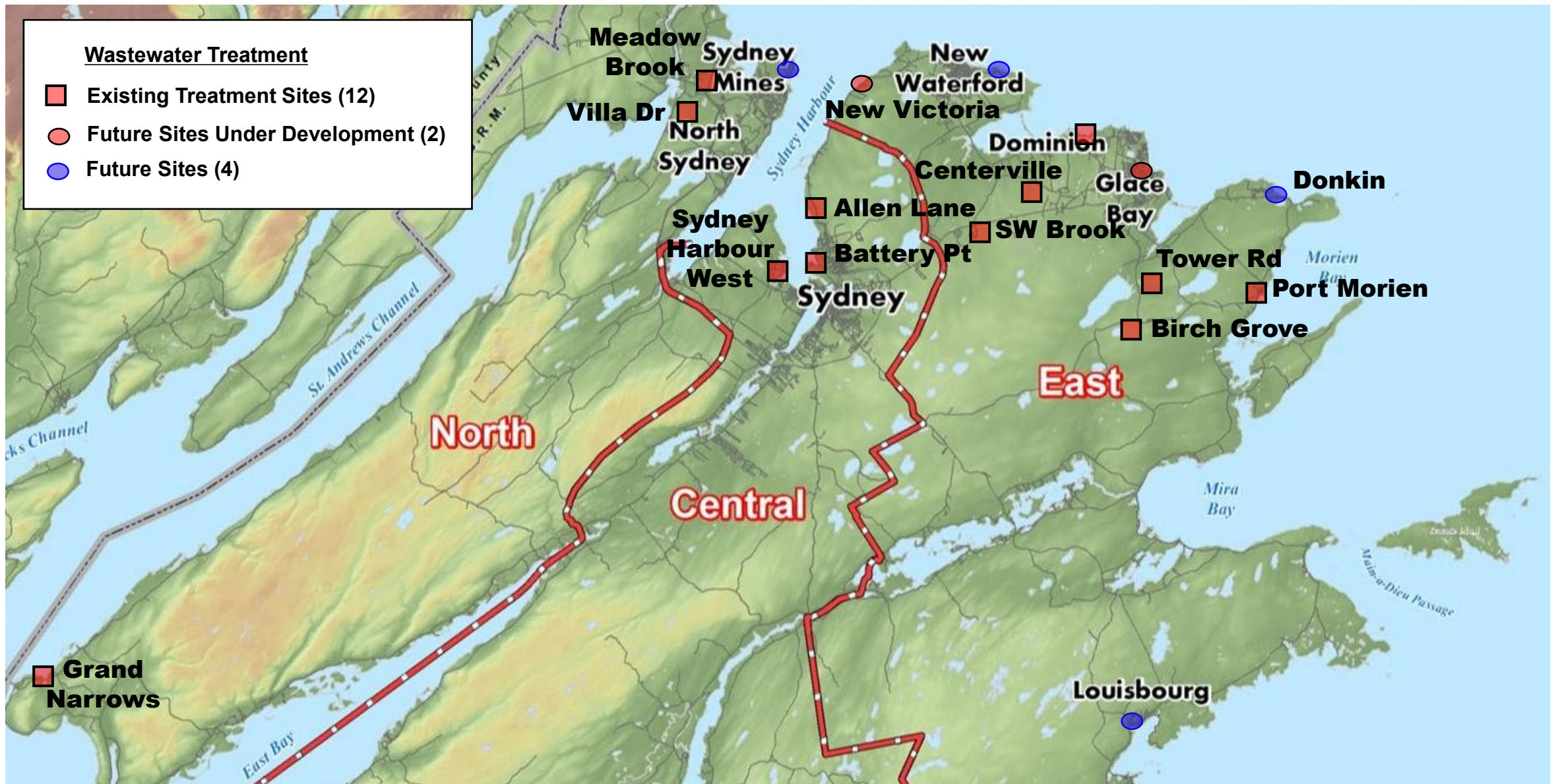
Obstacles -Competing Priorities











CBRM Progress Update (2025)

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.



