

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION, NORTHERN WOOD PRESERVER PROPERTY, THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO, CANADA



In 1990, the Ontario Ministry of Environment issued a Ministerial Order to the owner, CN Rail, and the tenant, Northern Wood Preserve (NWP), to undertake site assessment and remediation as appropriate. The facility had been operating since 1890 to treat and manufacture creosote rail ties, poles and bridge timbers. Subsequently, “penta” treatment facilities were added. Because of its location on the waterfront of Thunder Bay (Lake Superior), the site was identified by the International Joint Commission as a contaminant source to Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes.

As the property owner, CN Rail retained **OCL Group** to support the legal team in a defence before the Ontario Environmental Appeals Board and the Ontario Court of Appeal. CN Rail succeeded in its court defence and in forcing the tenant to undertake all government-ordered studies and site remediation. OCL Group also assisted CN Rail in evaluation of the current knowledge of the property and in development of a preliminary Remedial Action Plan and cost estimate.

Subsequently, CN Rail joined with the Ontario Ministry and Environment Canada to implement a remedial action plan. The aquatic component of the site and several potential sources of contamination were successfully remediated by 2003.

Client: CN Rail – Prairie Region