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Office of the Auditor General

Nova Scotia Chapter Highlights

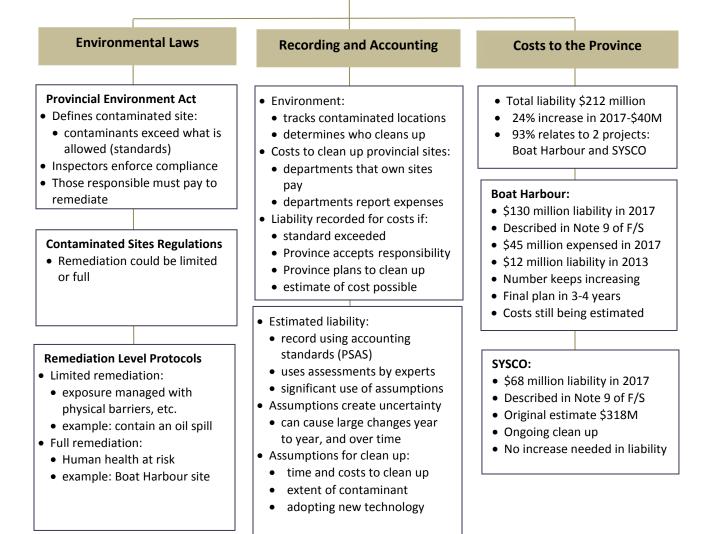
Chapter 1: Accounting for Contaminated Sites

Overview of Government's Recognition of Contaminated Site Costs:

- \$212 million liability recorded by the Province at March 31, 2017 as estimate of future costs of environmental cleanup
- Financial statements include future cleanup costs in accordance with accounting standards
- Significant use of professional judgment and assumptions contributes to the uncertainty in the \$212 million liability
- Remediation of contaminated sites governed by laws, regulations, and protocols

Contaminated sites are:

- throughout Nova Scotia
- created by chemicals, organics, etc., released into soil or water
- harbours, abandoned gold mines, land and buildings



5 Questions Nova Scotians may want to ask:

- 1. When will Boat Harbour be cleaned up?
- 2. Why is the final action plan to address Boat Harbour cleanup taking 3 to 4 years?
- 3. Who is responsible to cleanup contaminated sites at organizations like NSHA and IWK?
- 4. What is the role or responsibility of the Federal Government related to the contaminated sites in NS?
- 5. If the environmental standard changes through regulations, agreements, by-laws etc. for acceptable levels of contaminants, what is the impact to the Province's fiscal situation?