

Pyritic Slate Research Challenge

Port of Halifax Q & A

Last updated: January 13, 2026

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What is pyritic slate?

- Pyritic slate is a sulphide-bearing rock found in areas like the Halifax peninsula and parts of Dartmouth.
- When exposed to water and air during excavation, it reacts chemically to form sulphuric acid, which can damage ecosystems by acidifying local water sources.
- To protect the environment, excavated pyritic slate must be carefully sequestered, typically by placing underwater, which prevents oxygen exposure and neutralizes harmful effects.

How does the Port of Halifax use pyritic slate?

- The Port sequesters pyritic slate for marine industrial purposes. Sequestration sites have been integrated into the Port of Halifax's long-term environmental and operational planning.
- These controlled and environmentally monitored facilities help manage (currently and in the past) pyritic slate generated at construction and development sites in the Halifax area.
- The Port has an infill policy, which provides guidance for operations such as these.

Fairview Cove Sequestration Facility (FCSF)

- Status: Closed
- Within lands designated for industrial cargo operations
- [Halifax Port Authority Pier A-1 infilling project to start November 7 | Port of Halifax](#)

Ocean Terminals Sequestration Facility (OTSF)

- Status: Operational
- Within lands designated for industrial cargo operations
- Environmental Measures include: Installation of 260 artificial reefs (reef balls) for marine habitat compensation under DFO Fisheries Act Authorization, mandatory third-party environmental monitoring, which includes regular turbidity testing (a measure of water clarity) and review of mitigation measures, including the site's silt curtain, to ensure compliance.
- [Sequestration Facility | Port of Halifax](#)

Who approves pyritic slate infilling?

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Halifax Port Authority obtained the necessary approvals for its infilling projects.

What about Indigenous Rights Holders?

- Halifax Port Authority is committed to engagement and partnership with Indigenous communities. The Halifax Port Authority consulted with Indigenous communities regarding the port's sequestration facilities in accordance with Government of Canada consultation requirements.

What about infilling near Africville?

- The infill facility at Fairview Cove is now closed. We are committed to our ongoing relationship with the Africville Heritage Trust. See [New Marine Container Examination Facility Honours Africville Seasides | Port of Halifax](#).

What about infilling in Halifax's Northwest Arm?

- Infilling occurring in connection with private lots bordering the Northwest Arm is neither the responsibility of nor at the direction of Halifax Port Authority.

What about infilling in Dartmouth Cove?

- Infilling in Dartmouth Cove is neither the responsibility of nor at the direction of Halifax Port Authority.

Information & Resources

- [Port of Halifax – Pier A-1 Infilling Project News Release](#), November 3, 2022
- [Ocean Terminals Sequestration Facility](#), Port of Halifax website
- [2022-2023 Sustainability Report](#), Project at a Glance, Pyritic Slate Sequestration, pages 43-44
- [Port of Halifax 50-Year Plan](#), pages 33-35 in pdf