

Update on the Policy Framework for Contaminated Sites Management in Alberta



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Overview

- Competencies for Remediation and Reclamation Advisory Committee
- Remediation and Reclamation Sign Off Advisory Committee
- Contaminated Sites Stakeholder Advisory Committee' recommendations
- Amendments to *EPEA* Spring 2006
- Remediation Certificate Program




Competencies for Remediation and Reclamation

- Competencies for Remediation and Reclamation Advisory Committee
 - Formed in September 2005
 - Representatives from ACPA, AIA, APEGGA, ASET, ASPB, CAPF, CAPFT, ASRD, AHR&E, AENV



Competencies for Remediation and Reclamation

- Competency Committee
 - Discussed competencies for all types of sites requiring remediation and/or reclamation
 - Provided report to AENV's Executive in February 2006




Competency Tables

- Competency Tables are to be used in context:
 - Most reclamation and remediation work is multi-disciplinary and team-oriented
 - Individual or team that has all listed competencies
 - Majority of the sites do not require specialized approaches, but important to recognize the sites that do




Core Knowledge & Abilities

- Legislation, regulations, guidelines
- Information sources relevant to a site
- Report and document preparation
- Remediation & reclamation process and protocols
- Survey and map information
- Communication skills



Competency Tables

- Committee produced Competency Tables for activities such as Phase 2 ESAs, reclamation assessments
- List of tasks common to the majority of sites
- List of knowledge and experience needed to complete the tasks



Sign Off Advisory Committee

- Reclamation and Remediation Sign Off Advisory Committee (RRSAC) formed in April 2006
- Representatives from ACPA, AIA, APEGGA, ASET, ASPB, CAPF, CAPFT, ASRD, AHR&E, AENV



Sign Off Advisory Committee's Recommendations

- Professional Assurance Requirements
 - Professional practicing member in good standing with an organization that has professional legislation in Alberta that explicitly allows them to do that work:
 - Code of ethics
 - Disciplinary process
 - Professional development




Sign Off Advisory Committee's Recommendations

- Professional liability insurance (errors & omissions)
- Minimum of 5 years of verifiable experience in reclamation and/or remediation work relevant to the Competencies Table



Recommendations Report

- Submitted to AENV's Executive June 2006
- Changes to professional regulatory organizations' regulations being implemented by Alberta Human Resources & Employment



Professional Sign-Off

- Shared governance approach
- Based on Competency Committee and Sign Off Committee's work
- Provides assurance that work meets Alberta Environment's requirements for contamination assessment and remediation work
- AENV staff focus on high priority sites



Contaminated Sites Stakeholder Advisory Committee

■ Outcomes:

- Pollution prevention
- Health protection commensurate with risk
- Brownfields returned to productive use

■ Recommendations:

- Clarify requirements under EPEA
- Provide liability closure mechanism



Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act

- Bill 29 Amendment Spring 2006
- Municipal liability exemption for land acquired by dedication
- Reporting pre-1993 releases on sites issued a reclamation certificate
 - Discovery triggers action, rather than speculation
 - Remove requirements to speculate on unknowns



Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act

- Acknowledge “remediation” and “management” of adverse effect
 - As opposed to only “removal” and “disposal”
- Update Remediation Certificate provisions



Remediation Certificates

- Regulations being developed
- Provides closure of liability after 10 years
- Provides certainty for closure
- Issued on remediated area, not site
- Issued for remediated substances
- Closure based on compliance with Tier I and Tier II criteria



Remediation Certificates

- Sign-off required on remediation certificate applications
- Voluntary certificate
- Available late fall
- Initially available for petroleum storage tank sites
- Upstream oil and gas sites planned for future



Remediation Certificates

- Guideline and application form being developed
- More information will be available at www.gov.ab.ca/env on remediation certificate program



Summary

- Competencies developed for reclamation and remediation
- Professional Sign Off recommendations completed and regulatory changes underway
- Contaminated Sites Stakeholder Advisory Committee's recommendations being implemented
- Remediation Certificate Program being developed