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Working with Northerners and Aboriginal Peoples -Effective Consultation and Partnerships

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Presentation Outline

- TK and Western Science
- Involvement of Aboriginal Peoples
- Consultation and Communications
- Challenges & Benefits
- Upcoming CARD opportunities

Use of Traditional Knowledge-Similarities to Western Science

- Holistic = cumulative effects, inter-disciplinary
- Verifiable, repeatable, peer reviewed
- Experts require specialized education, have their own language, requires context
- Contradictions exist, knowledge evolves
- Requires resources \$, time, people
- Access Intellectual property rights
- Includes past, present and future
- Used for Survival

How can Aboriginal Peoples be involved in Remediation Projects?

Easy Answer - Monitoring



Establishing a Baseline

- Historical conditions oral history & traditional knowledge
- Present conditions
- Changing conditions
 - climate
 - Permafrost
 - Erosion patterns



Conducting Risk Assessments

- Select VECs, COCs and pathways
- Collect samples
- Develop risk scenarios



Site Assessment – Phase I

• Collect existing information

- Local records
- Oral Histories
- Photos
- Maps



Site Assessment – Phase II

- Site History
- Site characteristics
- Buried landfills
- Conduct sampling



Site Assessment - Phase III

- Collecting data
- Analyzing data



Remediation Plan Development

- Consult with communities, leaders, elders
- Include leaders in decision-making
- Use decision matrices
- Identify issues, goals and options

Identify Goals

- Future land use?
- What is important for local populations?
- Confirm assumptions



Identify Options

- Traditional knowledge can contribute to the design of options, e.g.
 - Wildlife corridors
 - Road, building design
 - Output locations
 - Revegetation considerations

Example - Comparison of Options for Hazardous Waste

Options Goals	Collect & landfill on site	Collect & landfill some on site; ship off some (PCB, Hg)	Collect & ship all off site
Safety	Low	Med	High
Minimize further env impact	Low	Med	Low (fuel, CO2)
Logistics	High	Med	Low
Walk- away	Low	High	High
A/P/NA	NA	Р	Α

Implementation

- Federal projects must adhere to land claim obligations, particularly related to procurement and contaminated sites
- CARD (Contaminants and Remediation Directorate) promotes giving priority to Aboriginal/Inuit joint ventures

Consultation and Communications

Consultation

- Consultation is more than communication
- Consultation indicates their input could influence your plans two way process
- Communication lets them know what you are doing – one way process

Working with Aboriginal communities

- Regulatory agencies must consider consultation for any activities that could impact traditional rights
- Talk with leaders, youth, elders, women - from the beginning, at all stages
- Allow time to absorb information, consult with others, make decisions

Communication Mode

• In order of preference:

- One-to-one
- Hands-on
- Small groups
- Workshop
- Video
- Layman's summaries
- Technical reports
- Web-site

Provide Site Tours



Meet in the communities



- With elders, youth, women, leaders



Timing is Everything!

- Check
 - Prime hunting seasons
 - Competing with cultural or community events
 - Other community priorities
- Choose
 - Time and location as suggested by community contacts
 - Break-up or freeze-up times
 - On-the-land locations

Interpretation

- Use interpreters who:
 - Know the terminologies
 - Are trusted by the community
- Provide presentations ahead of time
- Meet with interpreters prior to meeting
- Use two/language or take many breaks

During Meetings

- Use maps, photos, models
- Avoid acronyms, detailed graphs
- Silence does not indicate acceptance or understanding



Be Accurate

Example How Do Contaminants Get Into Wildlife?



Be respectful

- Relationships are very important
- Pay special respect to elders and leaders
- When you handle animals
- When you talk about your results
- Your key indicator may be their primary sustenance source

Challenges

Acknowledge uncertainties

- Science cannot answer or know everything
- We rely heavily on science, others are not so sure
- E.g. 40 years ago science said "PCBs are great, use them everywhere"; Now science says "they are very dangerous, get rid of them at any concentration"

Communities are busy

Go to them!



Benefits

Better Projects

- Uses all available knowledge
- More protective of the environment
- Smoother review and approvals
- Less expensive!

Long-term understanding of project

Upcoming Opportunities

- CARD will be remediating approx 20 sites and assessing approx. 100 sites over next five years
- Remediation includes construction of winter roads
- Annual budget is approx. \$54m
- Projects will be posted on MERX over the next six weeks

To contact us:

- WE NEED MORE CONSULTANTS!!
- Visit our booth
- Contact me at:

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Upcoming Opportunities

