

Environmental Monitoring—Alberta's Shifting Paradigm

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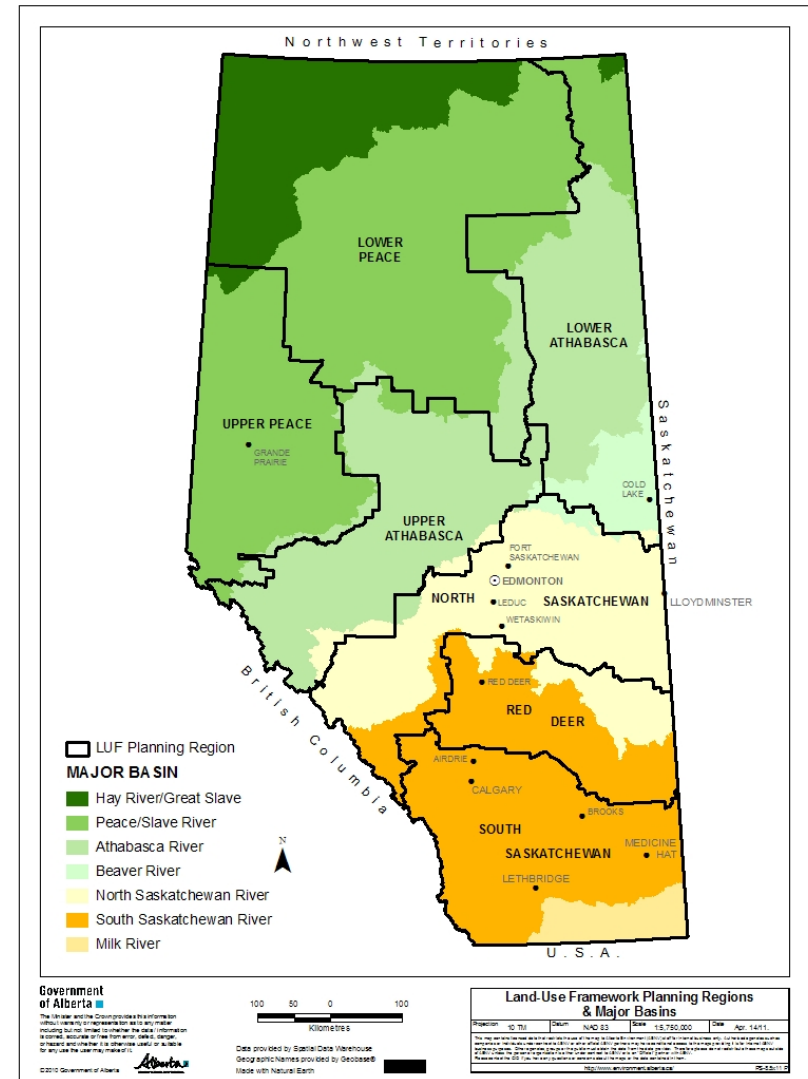
Environmental Monitoring

October 16, 2103

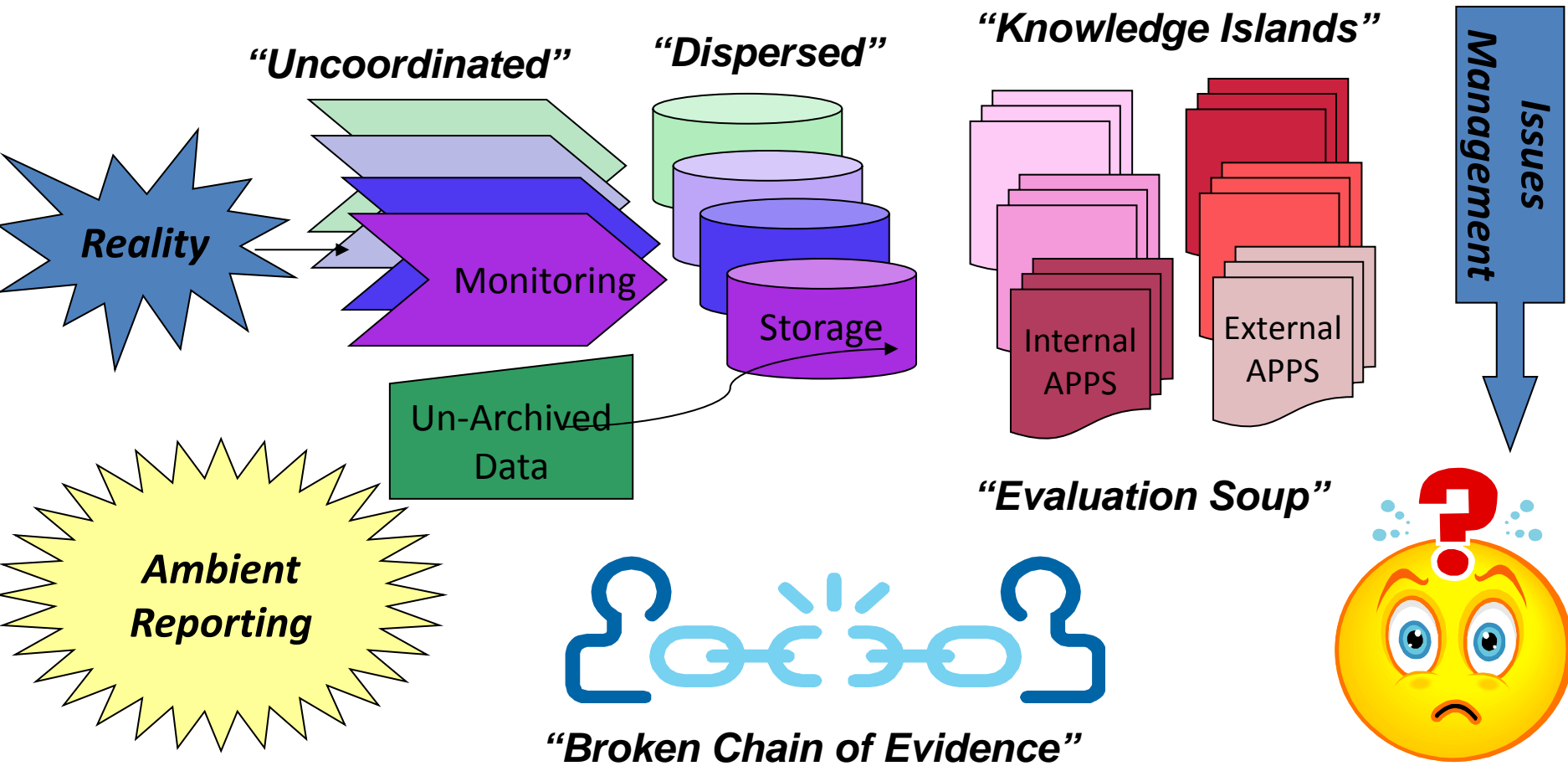
Remediation Technologies Symposium

The Government of Alberta's Integrated Natural Resource Management Framework

- Cumulative effects management focus through the Land Use Framework and development of regional plans.
- Issued the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) (2012).
- Moving to a single regulatory body for the upstream oil and gas industry.



Current Monitoring System



Environmental Monitoring— Government's Direction

- Government responds to “expert” advice – accepts recommendations
- Fundamental change in the monitoring system – “game changer”
- Public arms-length agency to lead the system
- Province wide system, beginning in the oil sands region

What is the new system desired?

- Centrally coordinated
- Integrated amongst media – air, land, water, bio-diversity
- Science based
- Open and transparent – data and information

The Agency's Role in IRMS

- The Agency will be accountable to the Minister of ESRD and responsible for the coordination of:
 - Baseline monitoring
 - Cumulative effects monitoring
 - Data evaluation and management
 - Ongoing SoE reporting in all regions of Alberta
- It will provide credible data, evaluation and reporting to inform policy and regulatory decision making

Actions Underway

- Management Board appointed to provide advice and guide efforts
- Legislation to create Agency – Fall 2013
- Initial focus - implement and operate the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program with Environment Canada
- Develop an enhanced reporting mechanism

Lower Athabasca Region - Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Plan

Joint Canada-Alberta Implementation Plan for Oil Sands Monitoring

New integrated and transparent environmental monitoring program:

- Improve understanding of the current state of the environment and enhance our ability to detect environmental change and manage cumulative effects
- Developed by scientists from Canada and Alberta governments
- Reflects the *Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan for the Oil Sands*

By the time the three-year plan is fully-implemented in 2015, there will be:

- More sampling sites over a larger area sampling more substances;
- Sampling will take place more often; and
- Sampling methods will be improved.

A highly transparent and rigorous monitoring program:

- External expert peer reviews
- Information shared with public in an open data management program

Thank You