

Oilfield Waste Characterization and Classification in Western Canada

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The management of oilfield waste is highly regulated across western Canada. Federal, provincial, and jurisdictional regulatory differences can impact decisions made regarding how waste can be appropriately managed. Improper management of waste can result in risks to worker health and safety and can potentially lead to adverse impacts to the environment.

Differences and similarities between Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan requirements will be discussed as well as how the Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations fit into the management of oilfield waste streams. Jurisdictional differences will be looked at including differences between Alberta Environment and Parks and the Alberta Energy Regulator, as well as differences between the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the BC Oil and Gas commission.

Waste characterization and appropriate classification is the first step and instrumental to proper management of wastes. Understanding this process and how it may differ across jurisdiction boundaries is an important tool in a waste manager's toolbox. The presentation will walk through the characterization and classification of common oilfield waste streams and highlight important differences across jurisdictions. The use of historical knowledge versus laboratory analytical will be discussed in relation to the classification of waste streams.

Ultimately the liability of waste management decisions lies with the waste generator, but waste transporters and receivers also have critical roles and responsibilities in the appropriate management of waste. Responsibilities for all roles will be reviewed in addition to how different consultant roles fit into the overall scheme of waste management.

Proper documentation and communication of the waste classification to waste transporters and waste receivers support a company's due diligence in their decision-making processes. Documentation allows everyone who manages waste streams to have access to the appropriate information for the management of that waste stream or in the event of an incident. The presentation will conclude by looking at examples of waste shipment documentation and common mistakes to avoid will be shared.

Sherry Kenneway

Sherry Kenneway is currently enjoying the exciting challenges of the ever evolving Oil and Gas Industry as a regulatory specialist with Canadian Natural Resources Limited. At Canadian Natural she works with the team responsible for ensuring Canadian Natural's landfills, caverns and disposal well facilities meet the company's environmental, sustainability and governance goals.

Prior to her current role at Canadian Natural Sherry gained 9 years of valuable regulatory experience as a team member of the Waste and Storage Section at the Alberta Energy Regulator.

Sherry loves to explore her passion for the regulatory aspects of waste management with anyone who will listen. This passion is currently shared with her Industry colleagues through her roles as co-chair of the IRP 28 and CAPP Waste Management Committees. Sherry has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Calgary and a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management from Niagara College.