



Tuesday, May 11, 2010 Stream C2 – Federal Guidelines

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

A Guide to Involving Aboriginal Peoples in the Management of Contaminated Sites

Julie Bernier
Health Canada

This presentation will be delivered in French.

The Health Canada's Guide to Involving Aboriginal Peoples in Contaminated Sites Management introduces managers of contaminated sites to the fundamentals of public involvement, the importance of Aboriginal involvement, and best practices for involving Aboriginal peoples in the management of contaminated sites. It provides information for site managers to consider, with a view to optimizing the involvement of Aboriginal peoples and reducing potential areas of conflict.

The Guide provides information on the demographics, hierarchy and customs of Aboriginal peoples. Understanding Aboriginal peoples and engaging them in the process not only improves relations, but also creates better project outcomes, owing to their input and knowledge.

Finally, the Guide outlines potential solutions to the challenges that may be encountered during the public involvement process, such as mistrust, socio-cultural differences, the political environment, understanding the contaminated-sites management process, the capacity/ability to participate, and identifying appropriate people/groups. It also suggests ways in which Aboriginal peoples can contribute to various site-management activities, and provides various tips and strategies to ensure successful public involvement.

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Federal Interim Groundwater Quality Guidelines

Ian Mitchell¹ and Marie-Louise Geadah²

¹Meridian Environmental Inc.

²Environment Canada, Contaminated Sites Division

Groundwater contamination is present at many federal contaminated sites – particularly those with relatively soluble contaminants and soil contamination extending to, or near, the water table. While the collection of groundwater samples and analyses for potential contaminants of concern is standard practice at contaminated sites, there have not been any national groundwater quality guidelines with which to

compare the results of groundwater analyses. As a result, a mix of different approaches has been applied for groundwater at federal contaminated sites, including the use of surface water guidelines, drinking water guidelines, and provincial guidelines.

In order to promote the consistent management of groundwater contamination at federal contaminated sites, Environment Canada conducted a study aimed at developing a federal approach that would be based on a review of existing approaches applied both in Canada and internationally. Meridian Environmental Inc. conducted such a review for Environment Canada in 2009, and recommended Federal Interim Groundwater Quality Guidelines that could be used at federal contaminated sites. Key features of the interim guidelines include a multi-tiered framework and the protection of a wide variety of receptors and exposure pathways. This paper provides the rationale and basis for the interim guidelines, and discusses the intended application of the guidelines at federal contaminated sites.

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

FCSAP Ecological Risk Assessment Guidance

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¹Environment Canada, Pacific and Yukon Region

²Environment Canada, Quebec Region

The Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) was developed to support federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations in reducing the risks to human health and the environment, as well as the financial liabilities, associated with federal contaminated sites. Under FCSAP, ecological risk assessments (ERAs) are commonly used as a site management tool at federal contaminated sites. The basic ERA framework is described in Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) guidelines (1996, 1997a). As a supplement to the ERA framework, Environment Canada is providing specific technical guidance to support federal custodians in conducting ecological risk assessments.

All presentations will be delivered in English, unless noted otherwise.