

British Columbia Jurisdictional Update September 2017



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Overview



- Change in BC Government
- Planned Enhancements to BC's Environmental Emergencies Program (EEP)
- Exercise Salish Sea
- Questions

Change in BC Government



- May 2017 Election
- Ministers appointed Mid-July
- New Democratic Party (NDP) now forms government
- The NDP majority in legislature depends upon support from the Green Party.
- Implications

British Columbia Environmental Emergency Program (EEP)



Part of the BC Ministry of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Mandate is to oversee and respond to
environmental emergencies

Program Composition:

- 19 Response officers in 9 regional offices
- 21 Victoria HQ staff (policy, plans, leadership)

Drivers for Spills Management Enhancements



- Several high profile spill incidents
- Multiple regulators
- Varying capabilities across sectors
- Projected increase in commodities movement
- Desire to increase public confidence
- Interest from communities & First Nations to be more involved

Enhancement Elements



- Strengthened legislation and regulations
- Additional EEP program staffing
- New IM/IT systems
- Enhanced First Nations participation

Environmental Management Act and Regulations



2016 EMA amendments & suite of new regulations

- Amendments create foundation for new regulatory framework
- EMA amendments have received royal assent. Must be brought into force with regulations.
- 3 phases of regulations anticipated
 - Phase I: 2017
 - Phase II: 2018
 - Phase III: 2019

EMA and Regulations cont.



Phase I regulations are drafted

- Awaiting approval and introduction
 - Spill preparedness, response and recovery
 - Spill reporting
 - Spill contingency planning

Phase II regulations

- Potential Priorities:
 - Response times
 - Responder qualifications
 - Geographic response plans

EEP Program Staffing



24 new EEP staff approved

- Response officers
- Policy staff
- Support staff

13 of 24 now hired.

Hiring continues in 2017/18 and 2018/19

IM/IT Systems



- Objectives: enhanced spill management, partner notification, public transparency, and business intelligence
- \$3.85 M project
- Preparing for 2018/19 system development work

First Nations Participation



Significant engagement to date during legislation and regulation development

Currently assessing opportunities for:

- Ongoing advisory body on spills emergency management
- Planning involvement (e.g. GRPs)
- Funding opportunities for direct involvement in spill response (e.g. training)

Next Steps



- Approval and implementation of Phase 1 spills regulations
- Seek government's direction on future regulatory priorities
- Consultation on second phase of regulations
- Continue to assess opportunities for increased First Nations engagement
- Prepare for IMIT development

Exercise Salish Sea



- Live marine exercise Oct. 24/25
- Leads: Canadian Coast Guard and Emergency Management BC
- Scenario: Explosion on a major ferry
- Location: Georgia Strait
- Impacts: injuries and vehicle deck sourced spill
- USCG is a participant.



Questions?