

## **Guidelines For an Environmental Work Plan**

In accordance with the *Onshore Petroleum Drilling Regulations*; Sections 5(2) c & 8(3) enables the Administrator of the drilling regulations to prepare policies and guidelines which aid in the administration of these regulations. It is important that we help industry and make the regulatory approvals more efficient. When seeking an approval through the Dept. of Environment it is important to understand what information they may require upfront to speed up their approval process in the field offices.

Below are some of the issues you should be prepared to answer for any environmental related approvals (if required).

### **Environmental Program**

#### **1.0 General Project Description**

- ie: location, size of wellsite, access road and surface access

#### **2.0 Specific Project Activities**

- construction (pre-site assessments are a good idea)
- drilling (borehole drilling & stimulation)
- completions
- abandonments, reclamation
- if impact wetland – it may go to the EA process

#### **3.0 Materials Handling Disposal & Clean Up**

- disposal of drilling muds & cuttings  
(chemistry of drilling muds and produced water)
- hazardous materials handling & storage
- waste management (*Environment Guidelines*)
- pit liners (if required)
- water withdrawal information from local sources (*Industrial approval application from Environment*)

#### **4.0 Monitoring**

- Pre & Post- Discharges
- Baseline CCME standards

#### **5.0 Environmental Emergencies**

- Spill Response/Fire/etc (exerts from Emergency Response Plan)

**Appendices:**

Copies of any permits/approvals/etc.

- land-owner or crown land access approval
- soil sampling (background samples)
- any residential water well tests results
- any preliminary sound surveys done for base levels

It is recommended by the Department of Energy for the operator to submit pre-construction photos of the well site for future reclamation work. This gives a base reference point to the area in question and supports industry if any questions down the road. Two copies of an environmental program are to be submitted to the Department of Energy and a copy will be distributed to the Dept. of Environment field agent for that region.

**Additional notes:**

- 1) Any modification or change to the planned activity must be approved by the Dept. of Energy
- 2) Financial security must be in place. This normally is the responsibility of the rights holder (designated representative) and no drilling authorizations are issued until this security is in place.

Please refer to this guideline for reference and if there are questions; please direct them to Kim Doane (902) 424-7146 or [doaneka@gov.ns.ca](mailto:doaneka@gov.ns.ca) at the Department of Energy.

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