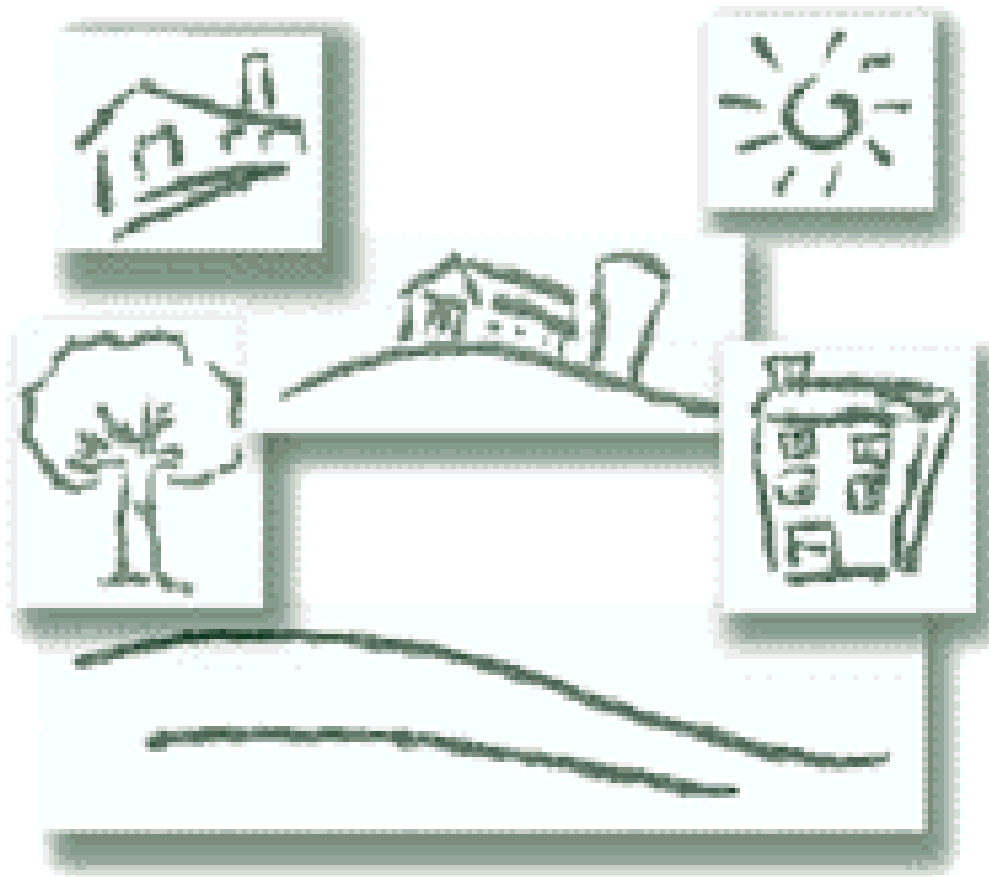


# Contaminated Sites Management Working Group

Annual Report 1999-2000



**Contaminated Sites**  
Management Working Group

## **A publication of the CSMWG - Printed December 2000**

The Contaminated Sites Management Working Group (CSMWG) is an interdepartmental committee established to investigate, propose and develop a common federal approach to the management of contaminated sites under federal custody.

Established under the auspices of the Federal Committee on Environmental Management System (FCEMS), the CSMWG also provides expert advice to the Environmental Accountability Partnership (EAP) sub-committee on contaminated sites.

The CSMWG is co-chaired by Fisheries and Oceans - Coast Guard and the Department of National Defense with secretariat services provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada, Environmental Services. Activities of the working group are cost-shared among participating members.

### **Participating Departments**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Canadian Heritage/Parks Canada  
Fisheries and Oceans  
National Defense  
Natural Resources Canada  
Revenue Canada  
Transport Canada

Environment Canada  
Department of Finance  
Health Canada  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Public Works and Government Services Canada  
Solicitor General/Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Treasury Board Secretariat

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## Foreword

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Each year, we take the time to summarize our accomplishments, reflect on our degree of success, and plan for our collective future in dealing with federal contaminated sites. Looking back over the 1999/2000 fiscal year, we realize that we have, in fact, built significantly on the knowledge base developed in past years, survived another year of fiscal restraint and collectively and individually been recognized for our steady achievements.

The Contaminated Sites Management Working Group remains the focal point for the federal government on contaminated sites issues. As such, we focused this year on the Treasury Board's inventory policy, elaborating on its application and eventual implementation. As well, considerable effort was directed at the Treasury Board's contaminated sites assessment initiative, which provides funds to departments to enhance their programs of site assessment. And, we continued our discussions and policy development on accounting for liabilities for contaminated sites.

As in the past, we continued to learn and improve the federal knowledge of contaminated sites. This year, we hosted a risk communications workshop and learned important skills in dealing with the public, establishing trust and credibility. In maintaining our commitment to share information, we also invited presentations from industry and many federal departments on issues related to contaminated site management.

And while we take personal satisfaction in a job well done, we appreciate the public recognition of our successes. This year, the CSMWG received the Real Property Institute of Canada Group Achievement Award for our work on the Federal Contaminated Sites Management Strategy. On an individual level, one of our members, Shantha DeSilva from Natural Resources Canada, received a departmental award for saving her department some \$3 million on a contaminated site project.

Dealing with contaminated sites is a large and complicated task, and one that we are chipping away at each year. Upon reflection, we are both proud of our combined accomplishments and overwhelmed by the path forward. In acknowledging that, we know that our best successes will continue to come from pooling our talents, resources and efforts. And that is our future.

Ginger Stones  
Co-Chair  
1999/2000

## 1.0 Introduction

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## 1.1 The Contaminated Sites Management Working Group

Established over five years ago, the Contaminated Sites Management Working Group (CSMWG) is an interdepartmental committee that was created to develop a common federal approach to the management of contaminated sites under federal custody. Activities of the Working Group are cost-shared by all participating departments, which in 1999/2000 included the following:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Canada Customs & Revenue Agency
Canadian Heritage/Parks Canada	Environment Canada
Department of Finance	Fisheries & Oceans/Coast Guard
Foreign Affairs and International Trade	Health Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	National Defence
Natural Resources Canada	Transport Canada
Public Works and Government Services Canada	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Treasury Board Secretariat	

Since its inception, the Working Group has identified needs and priorities for federal contaminated sites, and has worked towards the development of a consistent federal approach to the management of these sites. As a result of its success and longevity, the CSMWG is still recognized as a centre of expertise in the federal government. The Commissioner on Sustainable Development and Environment, Treasury Board and departmental deputy ministers continue to view this group as the source of information and action on contaminated sites. A list of members can be found in Appendix A.

## 1.2 Annual Reporting

Annual reporting first began in the 1996-97 fiscal year, and the CSMWG has continued the tradition of tracking and reporting on its activities. The purpose of reporting is threefold: to provide an historical account of the activities of the CSMWG to senior managers throughout government responsible for environmental programs; to serve as a repository of information for new members who would be joining the CSMWG, either as a replacement for an existing member, or as a new departmental representative; and, to help in planning activities for the following year. Copies of previous annual reports are available on the CSMWG web site at [www.ec.gc.ca/etad/csmwg/index\\_e.html](http://www.ec.gc.ca/etad/csmwg/index_e.html).

This report is intended to serve as a summary of the Working Group's activities, initiatives and accomplishments over the course of 1999/2000.

## 1.3 The Focus in 1999/2000

Over the course of this past year, the CSMWG has worked collaboratively and extensively with the Treasury Board Secretariat to develop and pilot an inventory and database program for the tracking and monitoring of federal contaminated sites. Still in its early stages, the completion of a central inventory will lead to an enhanced understanding of the state of federal real property and the progress on contaminated sites.

The CSMWG refined its efforts in developing a consistent approach to reporting and the management of contaminated sites by completing the document *A Federal Approach to Contaminated Sites*. In addition to its success in its inventory work, the Working Group continued the tradition of working cooperatively in the development of contaminated sites policy and continued to raise awareness and understanding of contaminated sites management in the federal family through a much improved web site.

## 2.0 1999/2000 Activities

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### 2.1 A Federal Approach to Contaminated Sites

*A Federal Approach to Contaminated Sites Management* is being developed to promote consistency in process for managing contaminated sites. It proposes a "step-by-step" approach for addressing contaminated sites, and incorporates a number of supporting tools. These tools include references to scientific documents for further information and generic statements of work to assist proponents in developing terms of reference for specific projects.

The Federal Approach will assist the CSMWG in serving its mandate in establishing a uniform and government-wide approach to the management of contaminated sites under federal custody.

The document entitled "A Federal Approach to Contaminated Sites" has been finalized and is currently being translated. The document will be available on the CSMWG's web site at [www.ec.gc.ca/etad/csmwg/index\\_e.html](http://www.ec.gc.ca/etad/csmwg/index_e.html).

### 2.2 Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory Policy

As the first phase in the development of a Contaminated Sites Management Framework, Treasury Board has approved a new policy – *The Federal Contaminated Sites and Solid Waste Landfills Inventory Policy*. This policy will lead to the development of a central inventory of known contaminated sites and will facilitate the process of contaminated site assessment. Further, it will lead to an enhanced understanding of the state of federal real property inventory. Related to this was the establishment of a two-year Federal Contaminated Sites Assessment initiative, which provides funds to departments to enhance their programs of site assessment. The data obtained in this initiative will feed into the central inventory.

- DFRP Contaminated Sites Inventory Training

In early November, 1999 the Real Property Management Division (RPM) of the Treasury Board Secretariat hosted a pilot 1.5 hour training session centred on an overview of the (then draft) *Contaminated Sites Inventory Policy* requirements including geo-coding (i.e. finding latitude and longitude), and hands-on training to the Directory of Federal Real Property (DRFP) Contaminated Sites Inventory module. The training was in anticipation of approval and implementation of Treasury Board's *The Federal Contaminated Sites and Solid Waste Landfill Inventory Policy*.

Comments from the participants suggested that there was a need for additional training of greater depth and duration. Accordingly, a survey was sent out to CSMWG members to determine the demand for contaminated sites inventory training in the regions and headquarters. The survey was also to assist the RPMD to quantify the demand for training and to focus future training sessions on topics identified by the Working Group. The survey indicated that there was not a significant requirement for another training session.

- Contaminated Sites Inventory Database

In November 1999, the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory began operation in “pilot mode” to test data input capabilities and to familiarize departments with the program. To this end, departments were encouraged to test the system. The report/query function for the inventory was still under development at that time and was not part of the pilot. For those departments with existing computer systems, a Microsoft Access format was created to facilitate bulk data exchange and thus avoid the costs of re-keying data to the new inventory. In addition, a discussion group was convened by the DFRP technical staff to explore the merits of "XML", an emerging internet-based software standard, as a potential vendor and platform independent data exchange format.

### **2.3 Treasury Board Draft *Policy on Accounting for Costs and Liabilities Related to Contaminated Sites***

For the preparation of the 1998-1999 Public Accounts, departments were asked to report to the Treasury Board Secretariat in accordance with the requirements of the draft *Policy on Accounting for Costs and Liabilities Related to Contaminated Sites*. This was the first time such a report has been requested. A summary of the data provided was made available to members of the working group. This summary indicates that considerable work is still required if we are to develop a reliable estimate of the existing liability to remediate contaminated sites.

Departments were asked to repeat the exercise by March 31, 2000, for the 1999-2000 Public Accounts and to provide their assessment of the draft policy based on two years of experience with the reporting mechanism. In the fall/winter of 2000, the policy will be modified to incorporate departmental comments and presented to the Minister of the Treasury Board for ratification.

The government will adopt full accrual accounting with the 2001-2002 fiscal year, and a reliable estimate of the liability will be required by that time. This estimate must stand the test of audit. Attempts will be made to make available some additional funding for the purpose of improving the quality of the liability figures.

A sub-committee of the Working Group will proceed to develop and promulgate a guideline on how best to implement the requirements of this policy for use by departments.



Departments are continuing their efforts to implement the policy and develop assessments of their contaminated sites.

## **2.4 Remediation Technology**

- PCBs in Paint Steering Committee and Working Group

The PCBs in Paint Steering Committee and Working Group, consisting of the Department of National Defence, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Environment Canada and Health Canada, have continued to work to provide a sound scientific basis for an amendment to the current polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) landfill ban. The amendment would permit the landfilling of demolition debris coated with PCB-amended paint.

The Steering Committee and Working Group held two national workshops (involving 61 participants); commissioned seven technical studies; reviewed dozens of related papers; examined the response to the issue from the United States, Australia and European countries; and, have held numerous meetings with leadership of the Inuvialuit and Nunavut regions.

Representatives of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Hazardous Waste Task Group from the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Environment Canada participated in the Second National PCB Paint Workshop held in July 1999. A consensus was reached at the workshop that it is technically and environmentally feasible to landfill demolition debris coated with PCB-amended paint.

## **2.5 Raising Awareness Among Federal Departments and Agencies**

To fulfill its commitment to raise awareness and understanding of contaminated sites across the federal public service, the CSMWG completed a number of important communications activities. A summary of these activities are provided below.

- Federal Workshop on Risk Communications

On March 30, 2000, the CSMWG sponsored a full-day workshop presented by Frontline Corporate Communications Inc. on risk communications. The workshop participants received a workbook and some case studies and participated in a discussions about the challenges and the value of risk communication, an examination of the techniques and skills required in effective risk communications, and understanding public perceptions of risk.

- CSMWG Web Site

During the past year, the administration of the web site was transferred to Environment Canada. The bilingual site has been redesigned, all the information including the links has been updated, all CSMWG publications and minutes have been retrieved and translated and new topics have been added. The web site is now fully operational and is located at the following address: [www.ec.gc.ca/etad/csmwg/index\\_e.html](http://www.ec.gc.ca/etad/csmwg/index_e.html).

As with the previous site, the new web site is divided into two sections: the main part of the site is available to the public through Environment Canada's Green Lane, and the "Members" section is accessible by federal government employees through *Publiservice*. This combination allows the CSMWG to post general information, which is of interest to a wide audience, and more specific information for use by federal employees.

All CSMWG publications are available including the recent additions of the *CSMWG 1998-1999 Annual Report* and the Windows version of the *CCME National Classification System*. A few links have also been added—such as provincial links leading to provincial regulations and policies related to contaminated sites.

The Members' page comprises an updated list of members, CSMWG meeting minutes, and a section called "Federal Legislation Related to Contaminated Sites", which includes a brief summary of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Fisheries Act*, the *Financial Administration Act*, and the *Federal Real Property Act*. Additional sections will be added during the next year with regards to the Central Inventory, Treasury Board policies, the Innovative Technology Workshop and the Federal Contaminated Sites Assessment Initiative.

- Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development

At the May 11, 1999 meeting of the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Auditor General and a number of departments were invited to provide a status report on their activities. The activities of CSMWG were mentioned several times. For more information, members are encouraged to read the transcript from the meeting of the Standing Committee.

## **2.6 Departmental Progress Reports**

In addition to their involvement in the CSMWG, federal departments continued to make progress on contaminated sites in their custody during the fiscal year 1999/2000. A summary of each departments' advancements can be found in Appendix C.

## **Appendices**

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**APPENDIX A**      The Contaminated Sites Management Working Group

**APPENDIX B**      *Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory Policy*

**APPENDIX C**      Departmental Progress Reports

## APPENDIX A

<b>Contaminated Sites Management Working Group</b>			
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Gordon Owen	Environment Canada	(819) 953-9364	gord.owen@ec.gc.ca
Ginger Stones	National Defence	995-8850	aa9911@issc.debbs.ndhq.dnd.ca
<b>Members</b>			
Guyline Barnes	Parks Canada	994-3242	Jill_Jensen@PCH.GC.CA
Colin Crance	Revenue Canada	954-0235	Colin.Crance@MS.RC.GC.CA
Peter Boyle	DIAND	953-6125	boylep@inac.gc.ca
Shantha DeSilva	Natural Resources Canada	996-6774	sdesilva@nrca.gc.ca
Steve Morgan	Agriculture and Agri-food Canada	759-6927	Morgans@em.agr.ca
Jaye Shuttleworth	Foreign Affairs & International Trade	994-0428	jaye.shuttleworth@dfait-maeci.gc.ca
John Horricks	Health Canada	957-1924	john_horricks@hc-sc.gc.ca
Glen Packman	Fisheries and Oceans	990-0207	packmang@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Brian Milne	PWGSC	956-1606	Brian.Milne@pwgsc.gc.ca
Connie Gaudet	Environment Canada	953-7919	connie.gaudet@ec.gc.ca
Heather Osborne	Transport Canada	993-7449	osbornh@tc.gc.ca
Mark Podolak	Treasury Board	957-0205	podolak.mark@tbs-sct.gc.ca
Mike McCormick	Treasury Board	957-9678	McCormick.Michael@tbs-sct.gc.ca
Jacqueline Hynes	Environment Canada	(819) 997-8959	jacqueline.hynes@ec.gc.ca
Gary Lynott	RCMP	993-3184	GarryLynott@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

<b>Other Contacts</b>			
Lynn Warner	Transport Canada	990-4472	warnerl@tc.gc.ca
Yam Sakkal	Parks Canada	994-4658	Yam_Sakkal@PCH.GC.CA
Mary-Ann Spicer	PWGSC	956-4082	spicerma@pwgsc.gc.ca
Kristine Taylor Lee	Treasury Board	957 - 0202	Taylor-Lee.Kristine@tbs-sct.gc.ca
Lorena Ligori	Health Canada	941-5750	Lorena_ligora@hc-sc.gc.ca
Terry Lee	DIAND	994-7459	leet@inac.gc.ca
Kathy Kitagawa	Fisheries and Oceans	990-2287	kitagawak@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Margaret Cross	Auditor General	952-0213 ext 5443	crossm@oag-bvg.gc.ca
Stephan Moushian	Fisheries and Oceans	990-2287	moushians@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Darrin McMullin	National Defence	992-6673	aa246@issc.debbs.ndhq.dnd.ca
Major F. Lauzon	National Defence	995-5152	Maj.F.Lauzon@ issc.debbs.ndhq.dnd.ca
Krista Campbell	Finance	992-4002	campbell.krista@fin.gc.ca
Lisa Keller	Environment Canada	(819) 953-9370	lisa.keller@ec.gc.ca
Kathie Adare	Environment Canada	(819) 953-6700	kathie.adare@ec.gc.ca
Jon Anderson	Parks Canada	997-9980	Jon_Anderson@PCH.GC.CA
David Hutchison	Environment Canada	(819) 953-5228	david.hutchinson@ec.gc.ca
<b>Committee Support</b>			
Angela Ebsworth	Crocodile Communications	233-6407	crocodile@cyberus.ca
Stephen Lee	PWGSC	956-0792	Stephen.Lee@PWGSC.GC.CA

## **Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC)**

### **Approach**

Activities related to the management of AAFC contaminated sites are carried out by Environmental Engineers from Assets Management and Capital Planning (AMCP) of the Corporate Services Branch (CSB). These activities consist of assessment, analysis and remediation of contaminated sites. To date all contaminated sites have been assessed using the CCME National Classification System for Contaminated Sites.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

AAFC has assessed all known waste disposal sites and inventoried all underground storage tanks. To date, all high risk sites have been remediated or are being risk managed. Funding has been allocated in the Department's long-term capital investment plan to address any unforeseen environmental situations that may arise.

### **Management Information**

All inventories of land holdings (acquisitions and disposals) and storage tanks (under and aboveground) are managed corporately by AMCP. A summary database of all contaminated sites was completed this fiscal year. The database automatically generates the data required by the Treasury Board's *Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory Policy*. It also contains other pertinent data required for managing the Department's inventory.

This information will be integrated with the Department's Environmental Management System (EMS).

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

AAFC is currently implementing its EMS in support of the Department's Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS).

## **Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA)**

### **Approach**

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) is custodian of 106 land border crossings across the country. The majority of the facilities are small and many are in remote locations. To make the best use of limited resources, the CCRA has prioritized its environmental issues and facilities (greatest potential liabilities generally related to the largest, busiest facilities). Implementation of the CCRA's Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) reflects this prioritization.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

A petroleum storage tank inventory and compliance assessment was completed for all 106 border crossings during 1999. Phase I Assessments have been completed for all sites in the Atlantic Region. These reports have been analyzed and priorities for further assessment and remediation have been set. Funding for these initiatives has been allocated for 2000/2001.

All assessments will be conducted in accordance with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) *National Classification System for Contaminated Sites*. Remediation will be performed in compliance with CCME guidelines or provincial guidelines where appropriate. The CCRA reports progress on SDS commitments through the Departmental Performance Reporting System.

A database of contaminated sites will be established in the CCRA's Corporate Administration System. The system will provide the information required for reporting Under the draft *Policy on Accounting for Costs and Liabilities Related to Contaminated Sites*. **(or do you mean the *Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory Policy*?)**

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency's SDS commits the Department to enhancing management of existing environmental liabilities and reducing the potential for future risks. Specifically, the CCRA has committed to develop and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) for contaminated sites by March 31, 2002.

## **Environment Canada (EC)**

### **Approach**

Environment Canada's facility inventory identifies sites through a listing approach, ranging from sites with no contamination suspected nor expected, to sites suspected or known to be contaminated. In the early years of the departmental program, a representative sample of facilities was initially assessed in order to evaluate the source and level of risk anticipated over the entire inventory. Facilities at highest risk have subsequently been assessed and remediated or risk managed.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

During the 1999/2000 fiscal year, Environment Canada has focused its efforts on assessing six sites, remediating 10 sites, assessing and remediating 81 sites, and risk managing two sites. These sites include: hydrometric stations, upper air stations, weather stations and laboratories.

### **Management Information**

Regular updates are provided to the Management, Administration and Policy Table (MAP), chaired by the Deputy Minister and comprising Regional Directors General and Assistant Deputy Ministers. The contaminated sites management program is integrated with the departmental management program. A yearly report is produced on the progress made in reducing contamination risks within Environment Canada facilities and sites.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

Environment Canada's EMS is organized around a set of 12 environmental aspects, with contaminated sites management identified as a priority among this set. A departmental working group was set up specifically for the management of contaminated sites. This working group has been tasked with developing environmental objectives and targets, performance indicators, action plans, and procedures to reach those targets. It is also required to measure and report on results using the indicators selected.



## **Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)**

### **Approach**

Presently, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) does not have a good indication of how many of its properties are contaminated, which specific sites are considered contaminated, nor the types and severity of contamination. Therefore, it is DFO's objective to assess and compile an inventory of its contaminated sites as quickly as possible, within the funding available, using a risk management approach for setting priorities and addressing the highest priorities first.

DFO's Contaminated Sites Assessment and Inventory Program is intended to enable the consistent national implementation of Phase I and Phase II Assessments, using common definitions and protocols. This approach will help to prepare DFO for implementation of future site remediation and monitoring efforts within the context of contaminated sites management plans.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

The Contaminated Sites Assessment and Inventory Program has been initiated and a departmental inventory of contaminated sites is being updated. A limited number of Phase I Environmental Site Assessments have been conducted and documented for DFO properties. Phase II Assessments have been considered where contamination is suspected and implemented based on an evaluation of the potential risk associated with each site.

In 1999/2000 remediation and risk management activities continued at a number of sites, with priority given to lightstations and other Canadian Coast Guard facilities.

### **Management Information**

A national real property database exists which includes environmental data fields, but it doesn't fit DFO's requirements to track and manage contaminated sites. Options are being explored regarding the development of a national contaminated sites database for use in the regions and headquarters.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

DFO has developed an Environmental Policy and an Environmental Management Framework (EMF), in support of the SDS, to focus departmental efforts on managing and improving its environmental performance. Over 20 significant environmental aspects have been identified and are being addressed on a risk priority basis within the EMF. One of the high priority aspects is the management of contaminated sites. DFO developed a draft Environmental Management Plan dealing with contaminated sites—similar in format with the core elements of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.

## **Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)**

### **Approach**

DFAIT will assess and compile an inventory in order to have a more reliable indication of the amount, type and severity of contamination of its properties as quickly as possible considering the resource requirements. DFAIT will develop a strategic risk-management approach to focus the direction of activities related to the management of its potentially contaminated sites.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

An Environmental Management Committee has been created. The Committee guides all of the environmental management issues including contaminated sites. During 1999/2000 efforts were focused on gathering environmental information from missions including storage tanks and contaminated sites data. In 2001 the information collected will help form the basis of a contaminated sites inventory for DFAIT.

### **Management Information**

The mission management plans are being amended to include an environmental section on 11 priority areas such as storage tanks and contaminated sites. Incorporation of environmental information will be effective in meeting DFAIT's requirement to track and manage contaminated sites. The information collected will be incorporated with the EMS.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

The sustainable development strategy has a section on greening government operations. The commitment towards implementing an EMS is an important portion.

## **Health Canada (HC)**

### **Approach**

All activities related to the management of Health Canada's contaminated sites are carried out according to the established framework for the management of fuel storage tank systems and fuel impacted sites in First Nation communities. In 1999/2000, the Department has continued with the characterization, remediation and risk management of its contaminated sites.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

Health Canada has completed the analysis of all aboveground and underground fuel storage tank systems and preliminary assessments of the associated sites on First Nations communities. The high priority sites for clean-up were identified in 1999/2000 and the development of the overall priority list is on-going. Three high priority sites were completely remediated. The priority list will be incorporated into the Department's action plan, creating a comprehensive risk management plan to address this issue.

### **Management Information**

Regular updates are provided to senior managers of the Department's Facilities Management and the responsible branch. A monthly report is produced on the progress made on remediation activities and reducing contamination risks.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

In its SDS, Health Canada included a commitment to incorporate existing sound environmental practices into a departmental environmental management system, which includes the management of underground and aboveground storage tanks. Within this context, the Department remains committed to identifying all contaminated sites and preparing a risk management plan by 2001.

## **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Indian and Inuit Affairs Program (IIAP)**

### **Approach**

In 1999/2000 the Indian and Inuit Affairs Program (IIAP) continued with its activities under its Environmental Issues Inventory and Remediation Plan (EIIRP) for inhabited reserves across the country. Based on the funds made available, the first priority was the completion of the remaining assessments, and the second priority was the completion of on-going remediation projects.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

The IIAP has completed the identification and documentation of some 3,800 environmental issues on reserves, of which over 2,300 relate to contamination. During 1999/2000, 145 assessments were completed and 187 remediation/risk management projects were underway.

### **Management Information**

The Environmental Issues Inventory System (EIIS), an automated national database, is used as a tool to identify and document the number of contamination issues on reserves. It provides regional and headquarters staff with baseline information and continued activity and funding data related to each contamination issue. In addition, these data can provide an historical record of what action has been taken to address each contamination issue.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

The identification, assessment and remediation of contaminated sites meets one of the objectives of the Department's SDS. Other steps or actions taken to reduce and minimize future contamination includes training and EMS development in First Nation communities.

## **Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) Northern Affairs Program (NAP)**

### **Approach**

The Northern Affairs Program (NAP) continues to address waste sites in the Canadian North on a priority basis. DIAND utilizes the Northern Environmental Risk Assessment Strategy (NERAS), developed in 1995, to ensure risk management and/or remediation takes place at sites that pose the most significant risk to human health, or where legal or land claim obligations exist.

The NAP Waste Program, in keeping with DIAND's commitments in *Gathering Strength*, continues to contribute in a positive manner towards building capacity among Northerners. Training is an integral part of the Department's waste management program and will continue to be a key component of future projects.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

The DIAND Waste Management Program is currently reviewing a draft policy on waste management that articulates our commitment to addressing, as a priority, waste sites where risks to human health, safety, the environment, or legal and land claim obligations exist. The sites will be managed using a variety of tools including the NERAS process and risk assessment and risk management.

To date, the Waste Program has inventoried approximately 2,000 waste sites across the Yukon, Northwest and Nunavut Territories. Of the 2,000 sites, 39% have been remediated/risk managed, 48% have been assessed and require no further action, 8% still require assessment, and 5% still require remediation/risk management. In the 1999/2000 fiscal year, DIAND's NAP Waste Program spent nearly \$12 million towards its goal of reducing the threat from contaminated sites.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

The Waste Program is committed to the principles of sustainable development and sound environmental management. The objectives of the program dovetail the DIAND Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) objectives to create a healthier environment and further the federal government's goal of improving overall environmental integrity.

## **National Defence (DND)**

### **Approach**

Consistent with its “Contaminated Sites Remediation Framework” (1996), the Department of National Defence (DND) continued to move forward with the characterization, remediation, and risk management of its contaminated sites, in fiscal year 1999/2000. This Framework will be updated and released late in 2000.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

This year, over 513 projects were undertaken to achieve the SDS 1997 departmental target of identifying and/or initiating remedial/risk management action plans for all DND properties. Of these 513 projects, 115 involved the final remediation of sites previously identified as being contaminated in excess of the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) Environmental Quality Guidelines, 221 included initial or supplementary site investigations, and 177 involved the preparation of risk management/monitoring plans. As of March 31, 2000, 379 of the remaining 805 known DND contaminated sites are being risk managed with active risk management plans.

Phase I, and in many cases Extended Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments have been conducted on all DND properties suspected of being contaminated by historical activities. Detailed investigations, remediation, and risk management plans will be implemented, with the aim of having all historical sites remediated or risk-managed by the end of 2003.

### **Management Information**

DND is using a contaminated sites database (Aladdin) to register its contaminated sites. Changes to the database design were initiated early in 2000 to allow direct linkage of DND data with the new Treasury Board Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory, as well as Treasury Board’s draft *Policy on Accounting for Costs and Liabilities Related to Contaminated Sites*. Further to this, DND is developing a protocol for the uniform implementation of the draft policy across its bases. This protocol is expected to be completed by February 2001.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

Work began in 1999 to draft the new SDS 2000 for the Department. SDS 2000 will continue to support the requirements to investigate and clean-up/manage DND’s contaminated sites. The new SDS will also consider plans for the assessment of effluents (liquid and atmospheric), as well as a target to support the Climate Change Program.

An ISO-14000 Environmental Management System (EMS) is being developed department-wide, as a tool to plan, implement, and regularly assess environmental performance, enabling DND to fulfill the commitments made in its SDS.

## **Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)**

### **Approach**

The Department of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) deals with its contaminated sites using a risk-based management approach. Potentially contaminated sites are assessed for the associated human health and environmental risks. Remedial actions are carried out in compliance with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) quality criteria and other applicable criteria. Site assessments are also conducted on an ongoing basis during operations or activities that involve storage tank removal/replacement or during property disposal.

All activities related to contaminated sites are managed by the staff of the Real Property, Environment and Security Branch of the Corporate Services Sector.

### **Progress Achieved**

Through a national survey in 1999, NRCan gathered information on the status of all its properties and is working toward estimating the liabilities associated with the identified sites. Under the Federal Contaminated Sites Assessment Initiative (FCSAI), NRCan received funding from the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) to help conduct the assessment projects.

To date, NRCan has assessed all sites identified as having a potential for contamination, including all underground petroleum storage tank sites. Remedial activities were undertaken at three sites and follow-up monitoring was conducted at these sites to ensure the effectiveness of remedial activities.

Based on preliminary assessment work conducted in 1995, one of the sites does not require an immediate clean-up due to the low risk it presents to the environment and safety and health of people. It will, however, require a considerable amount of money for clean-up at the time of disposal. Additional assessment is being carried out to estimate with greater precision the financial liability attached to this site.

### **Management Information**

NRCan's senior management is aware of the eventual need to clean-up the site when and if the property is disposed. Under the TBS draft *Policy on Accounting for Costs and Liabilities Related to Contaminated Sites*, funding requirements for the clean-up of this site will be reported as a contingent liability.

### **Policy Linkages**

The NRCan Environmental Policy, which is the basis of NRCan's Environmental Management System (EMS), commits the Department to conduct the assessment and rehabilitation of contaminated sites following a risk-based approach.

## **Parks Canada Agency**

### **Approach**

Parks Canada is a federal agency that reports to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Parks Canada continues to manage its contaminated sites (including all those formerly managed by the department of Canadian Heritage) in accordance with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) standards.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

As of May 2000, Canadian Heritage/Parks Canada had 320 actual and potential contaminated sites. Of these, 182 (56%) have been prioritized using the *National Classification System for Contaminated Sites* (NCS) developed by the CCME. For 222 of the 320 sites, Parks Canada had sole or shared responsibility for clean-up. These sites were presented in the Department's first contribution to Public Account's assessment of the federal government's environmental liability. Parks Canada known liability was estimated to be \$7.2 million, with a contingent liability of \$23 million.

Much of the contingent liabilities represent projected costs for remediating mercury contamination on the golf courses on Parks Canada land. In July 1999, a risk assessment of the problem concluded that the mercury accumulated from fungicide application on golf course greens and tees did not present an appreciable risk to humans or the environment. Parks Canada will remove these liabilities from its list, once due diligence guidelines for handling contaminated soil in both normal operations and golf course reconstruction are developed.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

Two new goals for contaminated sites in Parks Canada's EMS/SDS program include the CCME NCS classification of all sites by 2002, and the establishment of remediation/risk management plans according to timetables set by each field unit.



## **Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)**

### **Approach**

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) has continued to strive to accommodate the TBS policy requirements of identifying and managing their contaminated sites. This is being facilitated by following the RPS framework.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

Under the 1999/2000 contaminated sites program at PWGSC, there has been significant progress in the completion of environmental site assessment work. The number of sites that were assessed increased in 1999/2000. Of those sites assessed to date, 238 sites require no further action, including 26 sites that were remediated, 23 sites are known to be contaminated, 90 sites are known to have potential contamination, and 10 sites are being risk-managed. PWGSC continues to assess its real property inventory using sound integrated risk management principles.

### **Management Information**

The task of defining the number of contaminated sites owned by Public Works and Government Services is an ongoing challenge. Utilizing the CatchAll database has facilitated increased overall management and recording of vital site information as per the requirements of the Treasury Board Secretariat policy. In addition, our planning for further assessment work will continue to be present new and interesting challenges to our group.

### **EMS/SDS Linkages**

PWGSC has been utilizing Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to effectively manage their assets. This framework focuses on the management of buildings on a 3-5 year basis. Environmental report cards are produced detailing the EMS/SDS performance of each facility. By March 31, 2002, it is the goal of PWGSC to complete assessment of all sites for contamination and to define the extent of contamination. By March 31, 2003, plans to remediate or pursue risk management of PWGSC sites will be identified.

## **Transport Canada (TC)**

### **Approach**

Transport Canada (TC) divestiture activities continue to leave the Department with a smaller and smaller portfolio of property to manage. To balance the demands of the divestiture programs with the need for a contaminated sites inventory, the Department will continue to focus its efforts on the properties which will remain in its portfolio.

Transport Canada is preparing a program framework to implement policies and management approaches concerning contaminated sites. The Department continues to invest resources in the evaluation of suspected contaminated sites, and mitigative actions are initiated where adverse environmental effects are identified.

### **Progress Achieved/Status**

Transport Canada has approximately 610 contaminated sites. Out of the 610 sites, 571 sites have been assessed and 115 are suspected sites. TC spent approximately \$13 M last year remediating its contaminated sites and \$ 2.5 M undertaking environmental site assessments. TC has completed Environmental Baseline Studies/Environmental Site Assessments at the majority of properties to be transferred.

Contaminated site identification, classification and management continues to be carried out within the regions and related information is being recorded in the departmental contaminated site database.

TC classified 115 sites in 1999/2000 in accordance with the CCME *National Classification System*, and a further 89 sites will be classified in the upcoming year. Further, all future site assessment contracts are to contain a classification requirement.

### **Management Information**

TC has been revising its existing contaminated sites database to incorporate additional reporting requirements as a result of the Treasury Board policy and will be correlating its contaminated sites inventory with Treasury Board's Directory of Real Property (DFRP). The database will allow on-line data management and will integrate all of the Department's EMS databases.

### **EMS Linkages**

Contaminated site management is one of the key components of the departmental Environmental Management System (EMS). Transport Canada has committed to a specific management objective with measurable targets within its EMS concerning contaminated sites.

Target: identification and management of contamination by 2003.
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Transport Canada has established a baseline from which to measure its performance. Transport Canada is on track to achieving its target. Transport Canada will prioritize all of its contaminated sites on a national basis.