



NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

BC'S CONTAMINATED SITES MANAGEMENT PROCESS RECOGNIZED

VICTORIA – B.C.'s auditor general is recognizing the provincial government for taking action to responsibly manage contaminated sites around the province, announced Sustainable Resource Management Minister George Abbott today.

“British Columbians have inherited a legacy of contaminated sites from the days when environmental values were vastly different,” Abbott said. “Now, for the first time in the province’s history, there is clear leadership and definitive policy on managing and cleaning up contaminated sites on Crown land.”

In his 2002/03 Report on Managing Contaminated Sites on Provincial Lands, Auditor General Wayne Strelieff recommended the Province establish a clear, cross-government policy; improve the store of information on contaminated sites; and establish a meaningful way for ministries and agencies to report their progress in dealing with the risks and liabilities posed by contaminated sites.

In releasing his follow-up report today, Strelieff recognized that government has followed through on those recommendations, including establishing the Crown Contaminated Sites Program through the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.

“I am pleased that management has accepted our recommendations and has taken action to implement them,” said Strelieff.

“Implementing the auditor general’s recommendations demonstrates our commitment to effectively manage contaminated sites on Crown land,” said Abbott. “Improving how we manage these sites and getting them back into productive use is good for the environment, for the public and for economic development.”

The 2002/2003 Report on Managing Contaminated Sites on Provincial Land and the 2004/2005 Follow-up Report are available at <http://bcauditor.com/> online.

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