

The Site Registry

Contaminated sites provisions under the *Environmental Management Act* and Contaminated Sites Regulation require the ministry to provide public information about site investigations and cleanups. The provincial Site Registry meets this requirement.

What is the Site Registry?

The Site Registry documents milestones in the cleanup process of a site. The registry contains information on sites that have been investigated and cleaned up in BC since 1988 (when the ministry began recording this activity). All of the information is accessible to the public.

The Site Registry is *not* a registry solely of contaminated sites. Some sites in the registry are contaminated, but most are simply being investigated and require little, if any, cleanup or they have already been cleaned up to government standards.

Electronic and paper (print) records

Information from the Site Registry is available both in electronic form (online) and in print form.

- General information on site investigation and cleanups for all sites known to the ministry is available through the online registry.
- Detailed information is available from the ministry in print documents – those from which the electronic Site Registry information has been drawn.

What information does the online registry provide?

Both the *Environmental Management Act* (section 43 (2)) and the Contaminated Sites Regulation

(Part 3) list what information the ministry must provide in the Site Registry. The online registry currently presents information in five categories.

- 1) *General* – information on a site's location, fee category, overall cleanup status, and current site profile
- 2) *Notations* – information on legal events, such as issuance of pollution abatement, pollution prevention, and remediation orders, Certificates of Compliance, and Approvals in Principle; and administrative notations (for example, on site investigation and remediation reports)
- 3) *Participants* – information on people and organizations involved in a site and their roles
- 4) *Documents* – information on the existence of reports concerning a site
- 5) *Land Use* – information on the land use related to a site

Goals of the Site Registry

The Site Registry was created to provide information that stakeholder can use to:

- *minimize legal and site cleanup costs;*
- *minimize liability associated with sites;*
- *enhance business certainty* by being able to predict costs quickly and easily; and
- *ensure adequate protection* of human health, the environment, property, and utilities.

How can I access Site Registry information electronically?

To obtain information electronically on the Site Registry, go to BC OnLine. To set up an account, visit BC OnLine at www.bconline.gov.bc.ca or phone the Help Desk at (250) 953-8200 (Victoria) or toll-free at (800) 663-6102.

Another option is to request that the electronic Site Registry be searched for you. Call the Contaminated Sites Program, local Government Agent, or title or registry service company for advice and costs.

Given the diverse nature of site locations in BC, the electronic Site Registry lets you search for information in three ways:

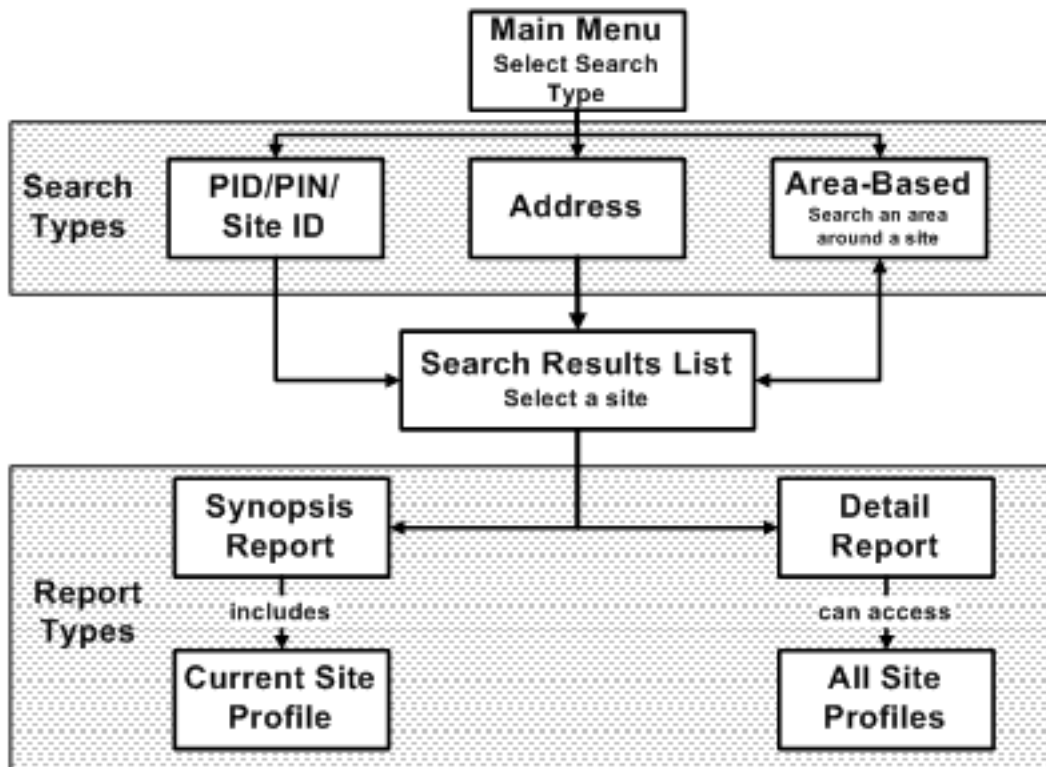
- 1) **numeric search** by Parcel Identifier (PID), Crown Lands Parcel Identification Number (PIN) or file number, or Site Identification Number (Site ID);
- 2) **civic address search** by specific or general address; or

- 3) **area-based search** by the latitude and longitude coordinates of a property (to search an area within a 0.5-km or 5.0-km radius of a particular site). You can even do an area-based search using a site's postal code.

The registry will present you with a search results list of sites. You can select the site you're interested in, request a synopsis or detailed report for that site, print the report, and then (if necessary) return to the search results list to repeat the process.

The chart below shows these different search method options and the reports available electronically.

Electronic Site Registry Search Options



What does it cost to search the Site Registry?

The cost of a Site Registry search varies with the method of search and the level of detail you want. Generally, the more detail you

require, the higher the fee will be. The following table lists fees by specific search activity.

Search Activity	Fee*
• Request a search by Land Titles Parcel Identifier (PID) number	\$25.00
• Request a search by Crown Lands Parcel Identification Number (PIN)	\$25.00
• Request a search by Crown Lands file number	\$25.00
• Request a search by ministry Site ID number	\$10.00
• Request a search by address	\$50.00
• Request a search within 0.5 kilometres of a site's latitude and longitude	\$50.00
• Request a search within 5.0 kilometres of a site's latitude and longitude	\$100.00
• Access the Synopsis Report for a site	\$25.00
• Access the Detailed Report for a site	\$50.00
Surcharge for government assistance in carrying out the search	\$10.00

* Note that a \$1.00 operator fee and 7% GST will be added. Also, for a "Nil Search" – a search that does not identify any sites matching the search criteria – you will still be charged at the full rate for the type of search used.

Are there other electronic Site Registry services?

In addition to the various types of Site Registry search activities listed above, the ministry can prepare custom reports of information from the electronic Site Registry. The fee for doing so is \$500, plus \$100 per hour for staff time required over three hours to prepare the information and respond to the request.

If a client wishes to receive a regular update of the information provided for a specific site, this can be done at a charge of \$200 per updated report.

Will the information about a site always be available on the Site Registry?

Sometimes information about a site will be in a "pending" state because the data for that site is under review or being updated. In this case, only a Synopsis Report will be available.

If you select the Detailed Report for a site with a pending status, the system will simply produce a Synopsis Report for you.

What if I still need additional information after an online search?

If you want more details even after using the electronic Site Registry, the "paper Site Registry" and other print records from various databases can be searched.

Responses to requests for information in paper records on a single site usually cost \$30 per hour for staff time and \$0.25 per page to copy more than 20 pages. Searches of other electronic databases on subjects such as hazardous waste registrations, waste discharge authorizations, and enforcement actions are charged at \$100 per database. Contact the Site Information Advisor at (250) 356-0334 to obtain a search application form and further instructions.

Note: This summary is solely for the convenience of the reader. The current legislation and regulations should be consulted for complete information.

For more information, contact the Environmental Management Branch at site@gov.bc.ca or the BC OnLine help desks at (250) 953-8200 (Victoria) or (800) 663-6102.