



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of
Environment and Labour
Pollution Prevention Division

Guidance Document

Title: Division of Responsibility with Respect to
Contaminated Sites

Prepared By: *D. Maddocks*
Derrick Maddocks, P.Eng., Director

Issue Date: January 22, 2001

Approved By: *D. Maddocks*
Derrick Maddocks, P.Eng., Director

**Contaminated Sites Responsibility
GD-PPD-007**

1.0 SUBJECT:

Division of Responsibilities between the Pollution Prevention Division and the Government Service Centre with respect to Contaminated Sites

2.0 OBJECTIVE:

To ensure:

- (i) Staff are aware of their specific roles and responsibilities with respect to environmental site assessment and remediation of contaminated sites.
- (ii) The public can be provided with the efficient delivery of departmental assessment, comments and position on environmental site assessment and compliance from a regulatory point of view.

3.0 BACKGROUND:

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Environment and Labour (DOEL) and the Department of Government Services and Lands (GSC) dated May 1998 outlines each Department's roles and responsibilities in general terms.

It states in the preamble that "with the establishment of the Government Service Centre on April 1, 1995, some front line, field functions for the Environment Branch of the Department of Environment and Labour such as:

- (i) responding to complaints
- (ii) processing applications
- (iii) responding to spills
- (iv) conducting and reporting on investigations and inspections

have been transferred to that agency. The Department of Environment and Labour retains overall policy and legislative responsibility for all mandated activities under the Province's environmental legislation."

4.0 POLICY:

Based on the above, GSC:

- responds to a spill or report of a contaminated site
- takes samples or requires samples to be taken
- determines site sensitivities
- responds to environmental emergency situations
- communicates with consultants, property owners and impacted neighbours

- inspects site and cleanup activity
- reviews reports from consultants and advises on technical assessment and regulatory provisions
- in cases of cleanup to criteria-based standards makes final determination of acceptability of cleanup plans/remedial action plans
- in cases of cleanup to risk based standards provides site specific written input and advice to DOEL
- ensures cleanup is conducted as per approved report
- issues release letter
- forwards specific questions with summary of pertinent information to DOEL

DOEL:

- reviews risk based reports and related advice from GSC
- provides direction to GSC on these reports
- responds to specific questions from GSC
- may assume full/ lead/ additional responsibility for sites such as:
 - military sites
 - sites involved in government land transfers agreements and reversion/agreements,
 - industrial sites
 - sites involving corporate mergers, takeovers, bankruptcies, where corporate property assessment involves sites in various regions of the province

In these cases, specific responsibilities will be agreed to by DOEL and GSC . This will be confirmed in an ADM to ADM letter.