

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Statement of Cooperation on

PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

Between

The State of Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game, and Natural Resources

And

The Province of British Columbia Ministries of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources

Goal

The goal of this communication plan is to enhance transparent communication related to watersheds and marine waters in the Transboundary Region, including the Alsek, Stikine, Taku and Unuk watersheds and marine waters. This plan will describe how the parties to the Statement of Cooperation (SoC), will enhance communication with all interested parties in the region.

Objectives

1. Establish and maintain transparent and accessible communication tools.
2. Collaborate on external communications to the extent possible before public release.
3. Provide access to timely and relevant information stemming from the established SoC.
4. Ensure stakeholders understand their opportunities to participate in both proposed and ongoing projects in the Transboundary Region.

Audience

- Nisga'a Nation
- First Nations
- Alaska Tribes
- Federal and local governments
- Natural resource-based industries
- Non-Government Organizations
- Alaska and B.C. citizens

Communication Tools

The following five communication tools will be utilized to ensure timely and relevant information is shared between the Province of British Columbia (B.C.) and the State of Alaska (SOA).

| Tools | Feature Highlight | Frequency |
|---|--|---|
| Bilateral Working Group on the Protection of Transboundary Waters ¹ | Meeting summaries posted online | After meetings by both SOA and B.C. |
| Province of British Columbia: Transboundary Website State of Alaska: Transboundary Website | 1. Copies of MOU, SoC and attachments 2. Project-level information related to mineral activities in the transboundary region. | Updated monthly by both SOA and B.C. |
| Transboundary Newsletter | Updates on relevant emerging transboundary topics | At least annually. |
| External Communications | Discussions of transboundary topics with various stakeholders | Conducted by both SOA and B.C., as necessary. |

Province of British Columbia: Transboundary Website State of Alaska: Transboundary Website

This tool will be used to educate stakeholders on the MOU and SoC, provide transparent information on active projects in the Transboundary Region and communicate projects entering into environmental assessment. This platform may also be leveraged to provide notification of relevant and emerging issues in the region. This tool will serve as a central source of information, linking to other relevant B.C. or Alaska on-line resources where appropriate.

| Topic | Content | Objective | Deliverable |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SOA and B.C. Coordination | | | |
| SOA-B.C. MOU and SoC | What is it? Why is it important? | Transparency and informational | On-line content and documents |
| Bilateral Working Group | Role and who they are Meeting summaries | Transparency | On-line content and documents |
| Technical Working Group on Monitoring | Role and who they are. Monitoring plan Monitoring reports | Transparency and informational | On-line content and documents |

¹ Refer to *Statement of Cooperation* for details on Bilateral Working Group (BWG)

| Topic | Content | Objective | Deliverable |
|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Active Projects | | | |
| Mining activities in the transboundary region | Mine project information Annual mine reports Regional maps | Informational | On-line content, documents and interactive maps |
| Highlights of Projects Entering EA | EA overview Public Comment Periods Process diagram Projects and updates | Informational Transparency | Links from SOA and B.C. websites to B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) |
| Compliance | Compliance Reports Inspection Reports | Transparency and informational | Links from SOA and B.C. websites to B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) |
| Proposed Projects | | | |
| Proposed Projects | Profiles on proposed mine sites Regional maps | Informational | On-line content, documents, maps, and links to B.C. EAO |
| Permitting Process | Process overview Process diagram Project updates | Informational Transparency | On-line content, diagram(s) and links B.C. EMLI and EAO |

Province of British Columbia: The Transboundary Newsletter

B.C. and SOA will collaborate on content for the Newsletter. B.C. will produce the Newsletter.

| Topic | Content | Objective | Deliverable |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Transboundary Newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varies based on the interests of B.C. and SOA and prevailing transboundary topics. | Transparency and informational | Newsletter in pdf format |

External Communications

The SOA and B.C. will engage in external communications with various stakeholders in their respective jurisdictions on an as-needed basis. To the extent practicable, B.C. and SOA will maintain communications with one another to ensure accuracy, and appropriate situational awareness, of information being shared publicly through such external communications.

Public Inquiries and Communications

The Province of British Columbia will manage inquiries and communication with citizens and stakeholders of B.C. Avenues to submit stakeholder comments will be highlighted on website.

The State of Alaska will manage inquiries and communications with citizens and stakeholders of Alaska. Avenues to submit stakeholder comments will be highlighted on website.

Both B.C. and SOA have governing legislation pertaining to public records and requests for information. Sharing of draft, or confidential information by the SOA or B.C. will be consistent with B.C.'s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Alaska Public Records Act.