

SUMMARY: BC/AK Bilateral Working Group

Thursday, January 26, 2017 - 2:00 – 4:00 PM PST; 1:00 – 3:00 PM AKST

Location: Cabinet Boardroom, Premier's Vancouver Office, 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC

Teleconference: Dial-in: 1-877-353-9184 Participant ID: 2234568

PARTICIPANTS:

British Columbia:

- Deputy Minister of Environment Wes Shoemaker (Chair)
- Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines Elaine McKnight
- Assistant Deputy Minister Mark Zacharias, Environmental Protection Division
- Anthony Danks, Executive Director, Strategic Policy
- Lisa Paquin, Director, Intergovernmental and External Relations
- Kathy Eichenberger, Executive Director, Columbia River Treaty Review Branch, Ministry of Energy and Mines (*by phone*)
- Robyn Roome, Regional Director, Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment (*by phone*)
- Fraser Marshall, Executive Director, Corporate Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Energy and Mines (*by phone*)

Alaska:

- Commissioner Larry Hartig, Department of Environmental Conservation (*by phone*)
- Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels, Department of Natural Resources (*by phone*)
- Kyle Moselle, Large Mine Project Manager, Office of Project Management and Permitting, Department of Natural Resources
- Terri Lomax, Section Manager, Alaska Monitoring and Assessment Program, Department of Environmental Conservation (*by phone*)
- David Rogers, Director, Department of Fish and Game (*by phone*)

SUMMARY:

- Discussion on differences in meeting protocols in BC and Alaska; agreement for BWG Chair to provide secretariat support and summaries of BWG meetings.
- Review of draft Working Guidelines and key deliverables of the Technical Working Group on Monitoring (TWG-M).
 - **ACTION:** BWG to review TWG-M Working Guidelines, and to confirm TWG-M deliverables described in 2015 MOU and 2016 SOC, in particular the “Program Description,” “Action Plan,” and “Work Plan.”
 - **ACTION:** TWG-M to develop a draft program description, proposed monitoring plan for the next two years outlining what BC and AK will collaborate on by April 5, 2017. The BWG clarified that implementation of monitoring does not have to wait for the BWG to approve of the final Plan.
- Reciprocal Procedures are in the drafting process, and will be submitted to BWG for review.
- Discussion on the Communications Plan.

- Agreement for BC and Alaska to maintain separate SOC websites but to collaborate on a joint newsletter. BWG will work through privacy and tech concerns to eventually have a shared website and/or data.
 - **ACTION:** BWG to review the Communications Plan.
- On Feb 9th, BC representatives will participate on a Transboundary Mines Panel at the 19th Alaska Forum on the Environment.
- **ACTION:** BWG to reconvene for a follow-up meeting to discuss progress and provide direction to the TWG-M in March, 2017.