

## Obtaining Information from the SWIS, AMS and Compliance and Enforcement Databases

The ministry maintains several databases with information about sites in British Columbia that are or may be contaminated. The Site Registry is one, and information about it is provided in our Fact Sheets [20](#), [24](#), and [26](#) and [Administrative Guidance 4](#).

Other key databases – the ones discussed in this fact sheet include:

- Special Waste Information System (SWIS),
- Authorization Management System (AMS),
- Environmental Violations Database (EVD), and
- Quarterly Compliance and Enforcement Reports.

On request from a client, the ministry will search the SWIS databases and provide a site report for a particular property. Clients may search the other databases themselves by accessing the ministry's website.

### What type of information does each of the above databases contain?

**SWIS** – This database maintains information related to the generation and transportation of hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste Regulation. It includes registrations of hazardous waste generators, records for hazardous waste transport licences, and hazardous waste transport manifests.

*Example:* If you want to find out whether a company with operations at a particular

property has the authority to transport hazardous waste or has manifested shipments of hazardous waste from the site, ask for a search of SWIS.

**AMS** – This database contains information on waste discharge permits, approvals, orders, and regulated sites under the *Environmental Management Act*. Clients may search four [Excel \(DataMart\) spreadsheets](#) which were created by searching AMS with different search criteria.

*Example:* If you want information about a site where waste discharges have occurred under regulation – for example, through the issuing of waste discharge permits for the site – then you should search the “EM all Discharges” spreadsheet.

**EVD** – In addition to information on violations under a number of B.C. statutes, the [Environmental Violations Database](#) contains information about violations under the *Environmental Management Act* related to pollution and contamination having been caused by specific companies. Note: searching by civic address is not available.

*Example:* If you want to find out whether there have been any past convictions relating to pollution or contamination at a site, you can search EVD and then review the results by geographic zone or city/town.

## **Compliance and Enforcement Reports –**

These [quarterly reports](#) are available in pdf format and contain [information](#) under the headings orders, administrative sanctions, tickets and court convictions.

## **How do I request a database search?**

Searches for information in the SWIS database can be requested by submitting a [Site Information Request Application form](#). Fill in Sections I and II of the form, providing a site address and/or location description, as well as a company name. Then submit the completed form by e-mail, fax, or regular mail – addresses and the fax number are shown on the bottom of the form.

## **What will I receive in response to my information request?**

For a request from the SWIS database, an Excel spreadsheet will be e-mailed to you first, summarizing the available information for the site you specified. You will also receive a reference sheet describing the terms (often acronyms) appearing in the column headings of the spreadsheets.

## **How long does it take to receive a report?**

Processing a site information request usually takes two weeks.

## **What does it cost to request site information?**

Fees charged for a database search vary by the action requested. See Section V of the Site Information Request Application form for a list of the fees.

You do not need to pay for a search request when you submit an application. Rather, you will be invoiced after your search has been carried out. The fees apply whether or not information is found for the property in question.

## **Where can I find information about a site on Provincial Crown land?**

The Site Registry contains information on a number of sites on Provincial Crown land.

Also, the Crown Land Restoration Branch in the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is creating a database of information on identified high-risk contaminated sites on provincial lands. To learn more, visit their [Program website](#).

## **Where can I find information about a Federally owned site?**

[The Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory \(FCSI\)](#) is accessible free of charge.

*For more information about site information requests, contact the Site Information Advisor at [Advisor.SiteInformation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Advisor.SiteInformation@gov.bc.ca).*

*For general information on contaminated sites, contact the Environmental Emergencies and Land Remediation Branch at [site@gov.bc.ca](mailto:site@gov.bc.ca).*