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Land Based Spill Preparedness and Response in British Columbia

Policy Intentions Paper for Consultation

BC Ministry of Environment

January 2013



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History

- B.C.'s Environmental Emergency Program originated in the early 1990s
- The Ministry has commissioned several contracts over the last 5 years to better understand areas of gaps and concerns, as well as options for a new model.
- Increasing industrial activity, including oil and gas, brings increased risk of spills from all transportation sectors.





Environmental Emergency Program

B.C. is committed to the protection of our environment from harmful spills through Leadership, Organization, Team Work, and Shared Responsibility.

Lead provincial agency for any spill causing pollution, including;

- oil and hazardous material spill incidents
- gas and gas leaks



Provides support to other provincial agencies for flood hazards, landslides, dam safety issues, seismic threats, clandestine drug lab clean up, dumping incidents, fires and other events on requests.



Our Response Model

The Responsible Party (the spiller) is “responsible” for addressing their spill

Ministry of Environment provides:

- Regulatory oversight
- Technical assistance
- Direct response activities if required
- Leadership for a successful response

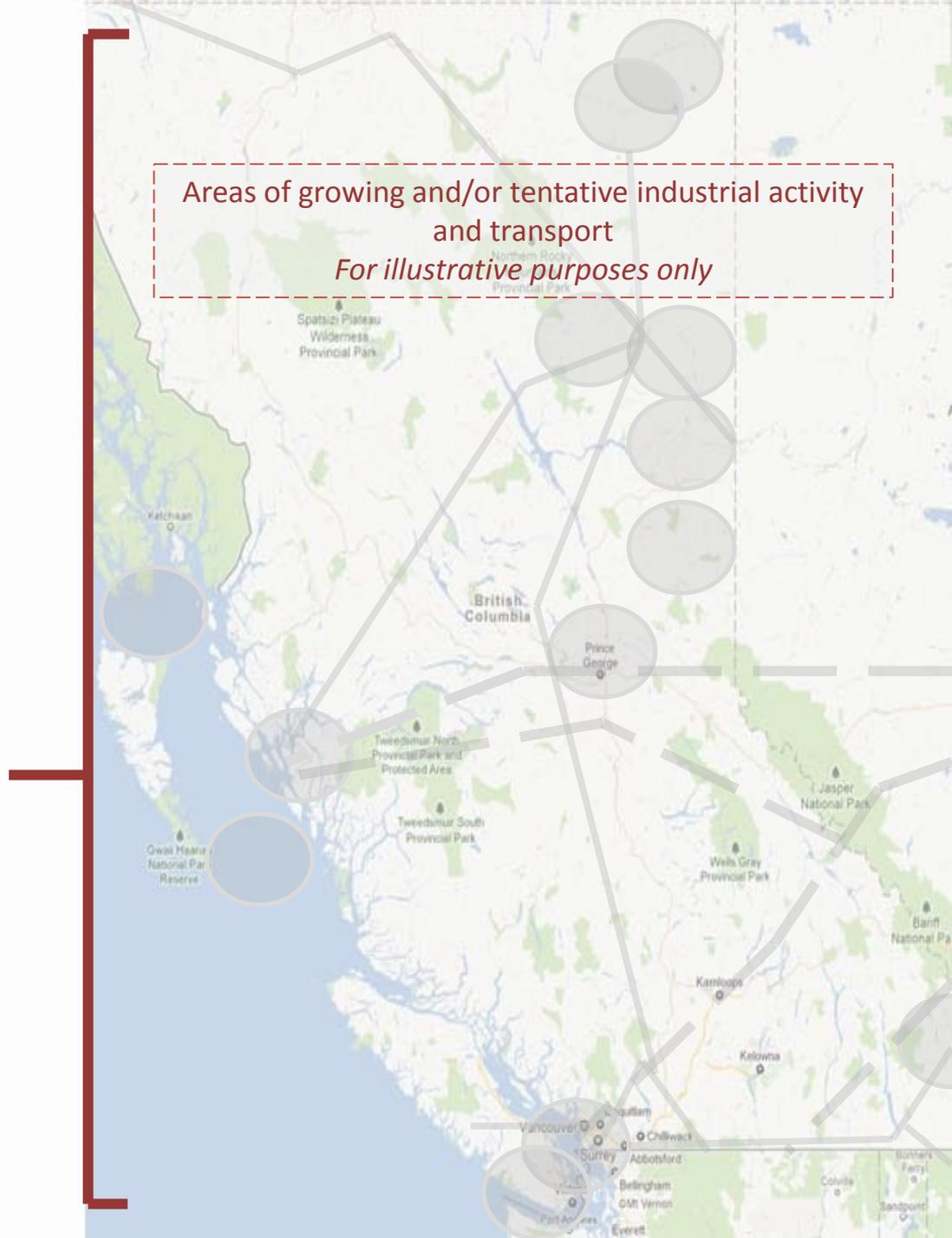
We promote:

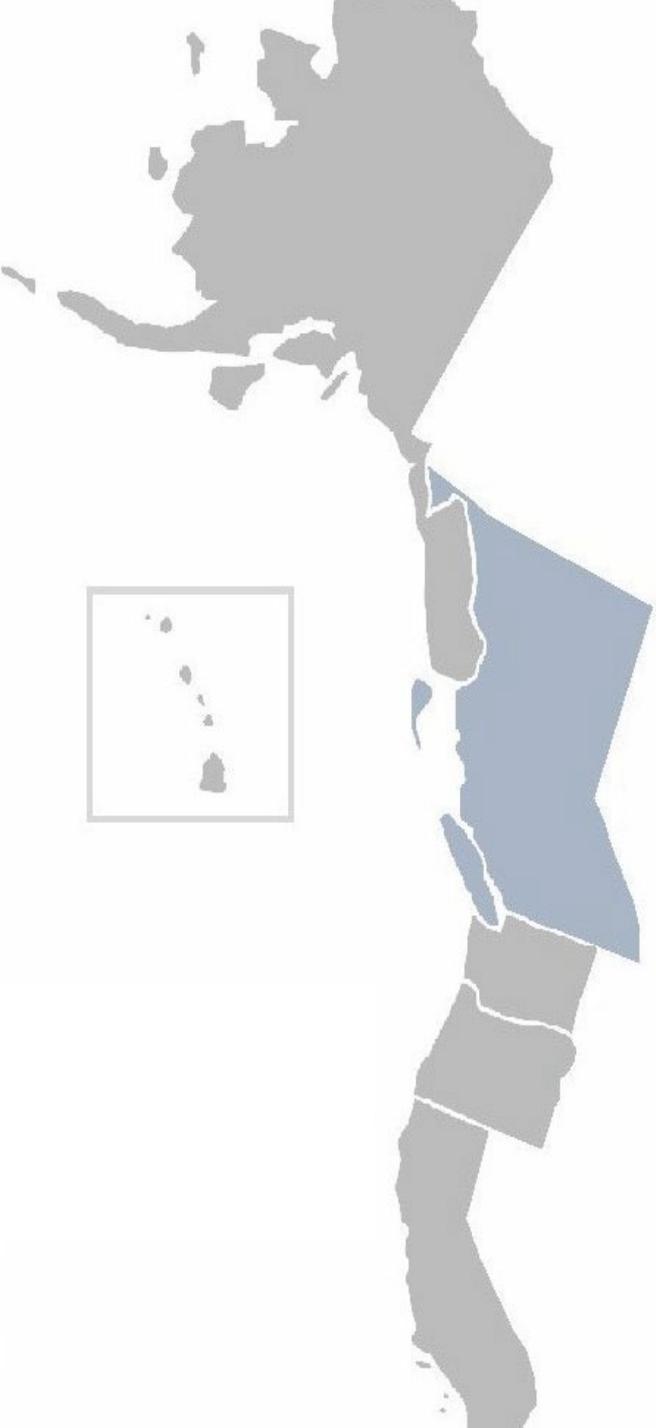
- Industry stewardship
- Planning, prevention and preparedness



Risk in BC

- Approx. 3,500 notifications on environmental emergencies per year – 90% minor.
- Increasing industrial / transport activity, particularly oil and gas, port development
- Diverse environment; terrain, weather, and natural hazards.



A map of the Pacific Northwest coast of the United States, showing the coastline from Alaska down to California. The map is divided into several colored regions representing different jurisdictions. A small inset map in the lower-left corner shows the Hawaiian Islands. The background of the slide is a light blue gradient with a faint circular pattern.

Spill management in neighbouring coastal jurisdictions...

- Incorporates **industry funding** into **government program** budgets and **spill response funds**;
- Have **more emergency response staff** and more robust prevention, preparedness and response work.
- Require **coordinated industry geographic response** plans; and/or,
- Require membership in a **collective spill response organization**.



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Requirements for B.C. to Consider Support for Heavy Oil Pipelines

1. Successful completion of the environmental review process. In the case of Enbridge, that would mean a recommendation by the National Energy Board Joint Review Panel that the project proceed;
2. World-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for B.C.'s coastline and ocean to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines and shipments;
3. World-leading practices for land oil spill prevention, response and recovery systems to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines;
4. Legal requirements regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights are addressed, and First Nations are provided with the opportunities, information and resources necessary to participate in and benefit from a heavy-oil project; and
5. British Columbia receives a fair share of the fiscal and economic benefits of a proposed heavy oil project that reflects the level, degree and nature of the risk borne by the province, the environment and taxpayers.



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Step 1: Intentions Paper

- Public intentions paper posted November 28, 2012
- Comments on the paper are due February 15, 2013.
- For a copy of the paper and response form, please visit
http://wwwd.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/spr_eep/response.htm.



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Intentions Paper Overview

- Background
 - Mandate and responsibilities
 - Current status
 - Principles
 - Challenges
- Federal Responsibilities
- Industry funded spill response organizations in B.C.



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Ministry Intentions

1. World leading regime for spill preparedness and response
 - Government to develop world leading standards to ensure a level playing field for industry
 - Work with industry to establish a framework to meet standards





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Ministry Intentions

2. Develop rules for restoration of the environment following a spill
 - Including restoration of damaged species and habitats
 - Reconciliation for loss of public access and use





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Ministry Intentions cont'd

3. Effective government oversight of industry spill response
 - Institute a fair and efficient funding mechanism with industry support
 - Establish a provincial spill response fund
 - Enhance government preparedness and response capacity.





Next Steps

Step 2: Initial **meetings with various industry associations** and their members to review the intentions paper and discuss other opportunities for engagement – late Jan/early Feb

Step 3: **Establish a working group** with representatives from the B.C. government and key industry associations – late Feb onward

- Review **intentions paper responses**
- Design an **industry funded spill management proposal** that responds to challenges in B.C.
- Work on other policy intentions



Next Steps

- Step 4: Host symposium on spill preparedness and response – March 25th – 27th, Vancouver area.
- A “call for papers” has been put out with a return date of Jan 25th. Located at http://wwwd.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/spr_eep/response.htm
- Step 5: Finalize policy development and **propose legislation** - date tbd



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- Questions
- If you are interested in participating in the key industry associations and government working group, please contact Teresa Conner at teresa.conner@gov.bc.ca