

ENGAGEMENT IN FALL 2017/WINTER 2018

Updates on upcoming engagement to be provided soon.

PAST ENGAGEMENT

The ministry designed a five-phase engagement process to discuss the proposed legislative and regulatory changes with industry, communities, First Nations, first responders and the public. All input informed the development of regulations. Presentations, summary reports and other engagement materials are available for public review and will be updated as consultation continues.

1. Public input on a third intentions paper

On April 5, 2016, the Province announced the launch of public engagement inviting British Columbians to review and comment on a new intentions paper around spill preparedness and response in B.C.

The intentions paper summarizes amendments to the Environmental Management Act (EMA), introduced on Feb 29, 2016 and passed on May 10, 2016 (see news release), which provided the legal foundation to establish enhancements to the management of environmental emergencies in B.C.

The public comment period for the Spill Response Third Intentions Paper ran from April 5, 2016 to June 30, 2016. Stakeholder submissions and public responses to the discussion questions remain available for public viewing.

2. Regional meetings with First Nations

The First Nations Fisheries Council coordinated six regional meetings with First Nations. Meetings were held in Fort St. John, Kamloops, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Nanaimo and Richmond.

3. Technical Working Groups and ongoing meetings

In 2016, Technical Working Groups provided valuable input to the development of the recently approved spills regulations. Technical Working Groups represent diverse experts in the field of spill preparedness and response, as well as critical groups impacted by the spill of hazardous substances in B.C. Recommendations will be used to inform the regulations that enact the legislation.

By early 2018 additional working groups will be established to inform development of the next phase of regulations.. Potential topics include:

Geographic response planning

Responder training

Response times

Other staff to staff meetings with other regulators, industry associations and other interested parties are ongoing.

4. Summary Engagement Report

Additional prior stakeholder discussion papers and related documents are posted on the Engagement Materials webpage.